

Bries Breeze

APRIL 2004

ROOIELS BELASTINGBETALERSVERENIGING (REBV) POSBUS 89 BETTYSBAAI 7141
ROOIELS RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION (RERA) PO BOX 89 BETTY'S BAY 7141

Op Rooiels leef ons na aan die elemente. Mens is hier des te meer bewus van water, wind, aarde.. en nou ook vuur. 'n Veldbrand het op Vrydagnag 30 Januarie oor die kleinhoewes aangewaai gekom en alles - ook Klein-Hangklip swart en weerloos agtergelaat.

Die vuur het die sondes van vele jare blootgelê. Daar's diep letsels, spore waar voertuie meer as 15 jaar gelede onwettig die veld platgery het in hul ywer om kreef en perlemoen uit te haal. Daar lê bierbottels, wynbottels, ondermaat perlemoen-skulpe, stukke afval-yster en waterpype wat argeloos agtergelaat is. Die veld het vergewe maar nie vergeet nie.

Die vuur leer ons hoe skielik en onverwags die dood kan kom, oor die verganklikheid van alles. Ek klim Klein-Hangklip uit en tel 'n wit dassie skedel op onder die arende se nes. Op die kaal aarde sien ek al die mooi klippe vir die eerste keer raak - elkeen uniek gevorm en geverf. Daar's dinge wat onvernietigbaar is. Dit is ook so met die gees en waardes van Rooiels.

Teer klein plantjies kom orals op. Hulle wonder nie of hul die hitte en wind gaan oorleef nie. Hulle groei en floreer eenvoudig net, sonder om te wroeg oor die volgende vuur of oor 'n ontwikkelaar se stootskraper. Hulle doen net dit wat hulle kan, altyd getrou aan die lewe. Hoop kom in klein dingetjies. Skielik besef ek dat dit nie gaan oor die uiteinde nie (waar is die einde in elk geval?) maar om daardie klein dingetjies te doen wat ek kan, om die wêreld net 'n fraksie beter agter te laat. Iets kleins en ongesiens soos om 'n Rooikrans saailing uit te trek, 'n bottel te herwin, 'n strooitjie op die strand op te tel, 'n swarttobie te versorg, 'n brief te skryf of aan die Bewarea deel te neem. Die wêreld word verander deur klein dingetjies.

Ek sien dat iemand op Rooiels bietjie vir bietjie begin het om die bottels en ander rommel uit die swart veld op te ruim. Want dit is 'n tyd van weer begin. Die siklus van dood en nuwe lewe begin weer van vooraf. En ons het die geleentheid om dit beter te doen die keer.



ESTELLE RAYMOND (REDAKTEUR)

FROM THE ASHES - BRUNSVIGIA ORIENTALIS

FROM THE CHAIR

A major feature of the landscape of Rooiels is community participation. We are a community with diverse views and the ability to express them vigorously! A uniting vision is that of conservation of our natural environment and perhaps also our quiet way of life.

In order to support this interest in Rooiels, RERA organised a series of workshops last year to involve the community in issues around the vision and the conservancy. Both tasks are ongoing.

The new RERA committee is hoping to support this interest in Rooiels with two new initiatives. The first is an open invitation to all Rooielsers to meet the new Executive personally, together with their vital links to the Ward Committee process through Estelle Raymond and the Conservancy through their interim steering committee.

The second initiative is an attempt to achieve better participation in portfolios held by Executive Members, so that decision-making can benefit from the ideas of others. Each portfolio holder has compiled objectives for their area of responsibility and issues of concern within the portfolio. Rooielsers are asked to e-mail or mail their ideas and concerns to the relevant portfolio holder directly. We are hoping the debate will be as interesting as the views held.

JULIA AALBERS

RERA EXCO & COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

HACKS & WASTE REMOVAL:

Shirley Richter - Tel: 028-273 8027 or irichter@mweb.co.za

- To maintain cleared public areas
- To offer an alien plant removal service to plot owners, ensuring that as much of the fynbos is retained as possible
- To liaise with job creation projects such as PROTEA
- To ensure accessible and affordable waste removal and recycling in Rooiels

CONSERVATION:

John Hoffman - Tel: 021-650 3400 or hoff@botzoo.uct.ac.za

- To support the registered Conservancy and the Rooiels Nature Reserve Advisory Committee
- To engage with homeowners regarding conservation priorities, such as removal of invasive alien vegetation and the proposed marine reserve

ROADS & SECURITY:

Rob Fryer (Secretary RERA) - Tel: 028-273 8059 or fryer.rob@worldonline.co.za

- To improve traffic calming throughout the village
- To maintain the character of Rooiels road system
- Paving of Roella Rd and Porter Drive to speed bumps
- Maintenance of road verges by landowners
- Defining through-fares and lesser roads

COMMUNICATION:

Julia Aalbers (Chairperson) - Tel: 021-976 4378 or jaalbers@icon.co.za and
Andreas Claassens (Vice- Chairman) - Tel: 028 273 8472 or comzone@global.co.za

- To ensure ongoing dialogue with all interest groups

TREASURER:

Shirley Richter - Tel: 028-273 8027

SMALLHOLDING & COUNCIL LIAISON:

Mike Harrison - Tel: 028-273 8569

- Liaison with smallholdings
- Monitoring of Council decisions

FEDERATION OF RATEPAYERS:

Shirley Richter - Tel: 028-273 8027

- To participate and support the Federation in its actions in the interest of the Hangklip communities

BUILDING:

Grizelda Hall - Tel: 021-674 4637

- To promote appropriate land use in the village so as to minimise building impact on the environment
- To promote consultation with neighbours when new buildings are envisaged

CBD:

Hettie Claassens (*ad hoc*) - Tel: 028-273 8472

- To develop and maintain attractive entrance

TOLL ROAD WATCH:

Geoff Harris (*ad hoc*) - Tel: 028-273 8164

SECURITY SUPPORT:

Basil Moss (*ad hoc*) - Tel: 0832800163

- Liaison with private sector security firms

BREEZE:

Estelle Raymond - Editor (co-opted) - Tel: 0832309658

WARD COMMITTEE:

Estelle Raymond - Tel: 0832309658

- To improve relationships with other communities
- To take budget requests to Ward Committee
- To provide Rooiels input to joint decision-making regarding the Ward.



DIS AMPTELIK: ONS IS 'N BEWAREA!



"EK WIL GRAAG DIE GELEENTHEID NEEM OM JULLE LEDE WAT GESAMENTLIK DIE VERANTWOORDELIKHEID AANVAAR HET, OM NATUUR- EN OMGEWINGS-BEWARING OP HUL EIENDOMME TE BEVORDER, GELUK TE WENS. ONS IS OORTUIG DAT DIE BEWAREA-KONSEP IN DIE WES-KAAP SAL GROEI EN FLOREER.

DIE GESAMENTLIKE TOEWYDING EN INSPANNING VAN GRONDBESITTERS SOOS JULLE SAL UITEINDELIK 'N BEDUIDENDE ROL SPEEL IN DIE BEWARING VAN ONS NATUURLIKE ERFENIS WAT TOT DIE VOORDEEL EN DIE PLESIER VAN HUIDIGE EN TOEKOMSTIGE GESLAGTE SAL WEES. ONS WENS DIE ROOI ELS BEWAREA ALLES VAN DIE BESTE"

Met hierdie fantastiese woorde word ons BEWAREA deur die Hoofuitvoerende beampste van Kaap Natuurbewaring gedoop! En dit alles te danke aan almal wat die idee ondersteun en almal wat hulle insette gemaak het. Daar was hard gewerk oor die laaste twee jaar, maar, siedaar, die Bewarea is 'n werklikheid. Die oorspronklike idee om so 'n tipe bewaringsbeweging in die dorp te stig, kom al 'n lang pad.

DIE EERSTE ALGEMENE VERGADERING VAN DIE BEWAREA VIND PLAAS OM 11HOO OP SATERDAG 1 MEI BY 164 PRIESTLEYAWEG, (DEBBY SE HUIS), WAARTYDENS 'N BESTUURSKOMITEE GEKIES SAL WORD. ALMAL IS BAIE WELKOM.

THE ROOI ELS CONSERVANCY IS GROWING FAST

Fifty-eight properties are now subscribed to the Conservancy. It is hoped that the number will grow. Now, more than ever, we need your ideas and input as regards how to manage the Conservancy so that more and more people adopt the Conservancy lifestyle. Rooi Els could become the prime example of how a community can solve the challenges that living with nature provides to the benefit of humans and nature. It is hoped that this small beginning will flourish so that we can share with all, the glory of this unique biome and hold it safe for those who come after us.

Someone once said: People can be divided into three groups those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wonder what happened. Let's be joyful that Rooi Elers are the ones who make things happen. A big thank you is due to all of you who have made it happen and welcome to all who are yet to join and who will help to continue the work that has been started.

DEBBY DE VRIES (028) 2738 037 / CHRIS BURLOCK (028) 2738 278

AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONSERVANCY IS EXTENDED TO ALL : TO BE HELD AT 11HOO, SATURDAY 1ST MAY AT 164 PRIESTLEYA ROAD, (DEBBY'S HOUSE), AT WHICH THE CONSERVANCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE ELECTED.

"WHO OWNS THIS LANDSCAPE?
HAS OWNING ANYTHING TO DO WITH LOVE?
FOR IT AND I HAVE A LOVE AFFAIR, SO NEARLY HUMAN WE EVEN HAVE QUARRELS."

-NORMAN MC CAIG



DIE BRAND VAN 30 JANUARIE

In hierdie geweste ruik mens dikwels die rook in die lug lank voor jy die vuur sien en op daardie Vrydagmiddag het die rook dik in die lug gehang bokant Pringlebaai se afdraai-pad. Teen die aand het ons die vuur oor die berg sien klim, aangehits deur 'n matige Suid-Ooster. Die brandslaners het van heinde en verre gekom om te help. Natuurbewaring het besluit om die vuur sy gang te laat loop, oor die kleinhoewes oppad Rooi Els toe. Die huise moes net beveilig word.

Maar 'n brand laat hom nie voorsê nie. In die vroeë oggend-ure het die vuur die Suidelike rand van die dorp bereik. Sommige mense het hul honde in hul motors gelaai en weg geparkeer van die gloeiende as en vonke wat die vuur vooruitgeloop het. Mense het egter gebly en hulle huise beskerm. Die brandslaners het hard gewerk en voorbrande is op verskeie plekke gemaak, op presies die regte tye. Teen dagbreek was die vuur hoofsaaklik geblus en die bergreeks na Pringlebaai was 'n grys maanlandskap. Slange, skilpaaie en klein gediertetjies het die prys van die vuur betaal, maar die voëls en kleinwild het vermoedelik weggekrom.

The recovery of nature started immediately and the wetland on Erf 324 started sprouting greenly within days. Soon people found species blooming that are only seen after fires. There is the photographic documentation of this recovery at the Biosphere Eco Center, contrasted with the photos of the spectacular fires raging on Klein Hangklip that night. Regeneration is everywhere in evidence.

EVETTE WEYERS

WHAT IT WAS LIKE FIGHTING THE FIRE

I arrived from Cape Town just before sunset to help. I joined a Working on Fire crew near Pringle Bay for about an hour until they were recalled and then watched a Cape Nature Conservation crew making a fire break around Dr. Greeff's house beside Clarence Drive. After that I went to Rooiels where CNC were preparing fire breaks above the town. I took lots of photographs as I followed the crew up Klein Hangklip from the Niemeyer's house till they had completed the firebreak at about three in the morning. Then I went down to the southern coastal edge of the town as the fire came in from the south. I saw a raging inferno approaching Mike Harrison's house which stands on it's own on the coastal plain south of Rooiels. I heard from Frank and Estelle Raymond that he was there on his own and so I went to find out if he was doing OK. On the road out I came across three firemen and we tried to get through to Mike's house on his driveway. However the intense heat and smoke were too great and we had to turn back. The firemen returned to Rooiels and I waited until it was clear enough to get through.

After reaching Mike's house I was amazed by the calm manner in which he fought the fire. He had a bandana over his mouth and a garden hose in his hand and he was watering the fire as if he were gardening on a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon. He had been on his own when the inferno I saw from Rooiels had swept in but now we both fought it as the fire arced round to the west of his house. Even though I was fairly well equipped with protective gear the heat, smoke and showering sparks were at times overwhelming. We took it in shifts to control the fire with a bucket and a hose until dawn when it finally abated. Mike's water pressure had been poor all through the fire and just before I left we discovered that the heat had ruptured his plastic water mains pipe. Walking up Mike's driveway back to Rooiels I was struck by the devastated landscape all around me. Small patches were still burning on the Klein Hangklip range and the land was covered by ashes and glowing embers. The sky was almost black with smoke.

I hiked up Clarence Drive to the top of Rooi Els pass and was greeted by the sight of a whole mountain ablaze in the early morning light. Officials had decided to burn off the rest of Klein Hangklip since it no longer posed a threat to the town and needed to be burned for ecological reasons. It was all over in about 30 minutes as the fire swept up the eastern flank of Klein Hangklip and smoke billowed high into the morning air.

The next day the fire stood up outside Pringle Bay and I went to help as it spread to the west along Buffels River towards the sea. The Pringle Bay Fire Brigade were there and we managed to stop it from crossing the river and spreading into Pringle. It was over soon since the fire had no where to go as everything else had been burned up the previous day. I was then sent to Rooiels where I checked the fire line for Mark Johns of CNC and helped Frank and Estelle dousing flair ups near their house. After that I went home and rested.

JAN DEKKER: WCNCB HONORARY NATURE CONSERVATION OFFICER

HOE ONS DIE BRAND BELEEF HET



ED MC NEIL

"I fear nothing - but that night I was frightened and was ready to leave. When you hear that noise you just know you have no control. The backburn behind me lit all the houses in an orange glow. It felt like being in the middle of an inferno with fire on both sides."



HELP FROM THE
MARINES

WARNO STEENKAMP

"Nadat ons sedert 5-uur die middag van 30 Januarie die vordering van die brand angstig gevolg het, beland ons ná 12 die nag op ons stoep, en wag ons lot af. Ons maak solank 'n botteltjie wyn oop want die senuwees knaag. Teen 2-uur die oggend daag Jan Malan op vir morele ondersteuning, want toe kom die voorbrand van Clarence weg se kant af, en die groot brand van Pringlebaai se kant op ons af. Teen 3-uur die oggend, en na nog bietjie wyn, kom die brandslaners teen ons oprit opgejaag. Toe eers kon ons sien hoe hulle die veld aan die brand steek en agterna van die onderkant af doodslaan sodat dit berg se kant toe, weg van die huise brand. Eers toe kon ons ontspan en gaan slaap. Ons dank aan almal wat gehelp het om ons huis te beskerm."

JAN MALAN

"Ek het gesien die mense weet wat hulle doen; hulle KEN! Ek was glad nie bekommerd nie."

"IT DOESN'T INTEREST ME WHO YOU KNOW OR HOW YOU CAME TO BE HERE. I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU WILL STAND IN THE CENTER OF THE FIRE WITH ME AND NOT SHRINK BACK."

- ORIAH MOUNTAIN DREAMER:
THE INVITATION



BRANDSLANERS NEEM 'N BLAASKANS



MARTHIE HATTINGH

"Ek het twee gevoelens oor die vuur. Daar's dood en daar's weer lewe. Toe ek hier aangekom het het dit vir my gevoel soos dood. Al sewe heuwels het gesneuwel, maar hulle sal weer opstaan."

HELEN NIEMEYER

"The fire-people were absolutely fantastic. I didn't panic for one second. Jenny Stark came up to take photographs of the fire. I remember John chatting to Jenny about the leopards in the Kalahari with the fire blazing away in the background."



LOUISE DU TOIT HELP BLUS VURE WAT TELKENS WEER OPGEVLAM HET

ONTMOET VIR JAN KOEKEMOER OVERSTRAND SE HOOF UITVOERENDE BEAMPTTE

Jan Koekemoer is 'n ervare hoof uitvoerende beampte; hy praat reguit en met integriteit. Dit is ook duidelik dat die ideaal van uitnemende plaaslike bestuur hom steeds aangryp selfs na ongeveer 30 jaar betrokkenheid in plaaslike bestuur.

Jan het aan die Potchefstroomse Universiteit studeer en daar sy B Juris voltooi, daarna sy LLB deur UNISA en sy Meestergraad ontvang aan die RAU. Later praktiseer hy in Pretoria omgewing waar hy hom veral toespits op regsaspekte van plaaslike regering.

In 1997 kom hy Kaap toe as Hoof Uitvoerende Beampte van die Suid-Skiereland se Munisipaliteit (later deel van die Kaapstad se metropool) waar hy in Tokai woonagtig was. Jan en Maresa wou graag 'n vakansiehuis in die Hermanus omgewing bekom. Skaars 5 jaar later vestig hulle hul familie in Voëlklip op Hermanus.

Jan, Maresa en klein Ernst (5 jaar) geniet die buitelewe en natuurlike omgewing. Jan ondersteun die beginsel van 'n Bewarea. Hy het in Pretoria deelgeneem aan die oprigting van een. Hy is ook 'n voorstander van die Verbeteringsdistrik-konsep, waardeur inwoners van 'n bepaalde dorp groter seggenskap en beheer kan hê oor hoe hul fondse aangewend word. Hy stel dit onomwonde dat hy glo aan die bewaring van die uniekheid en behoud van die karakter van die onderskeie dorpe in die Overstrand.



JAN, MARESA & ERNST

Jan stel sy mikpunte hoog, hy wil die beste Munisipaliteit in die land vestig met professionele amptenare wat in voeling is met die gemeenskappe aan wie dienste verrig word.

UPDATE ON ERF 324

Opposition is mounting to the proposed subdivision of the pristine slopes of Klein-Hangklip. More than a hundred objections were received in response to the developer's Environmental Impact Report. Objectors included organisations such as the Hangklip Heritage Trust, KOBIO, the Wildlife & Environmental Society, Pringle Bay Ratepayer's Association, Federation of Ratepayers' Associations, Hangklip Environmental Action Group, Cape Bird Club and Habitat Council.

RERA's comments were as follows:

- The report abounds with more than 90 factual errors, many of which have repeatedly been pointed out.
- The public participation process has been flawed and characterised by a lack of respect for the sentiments expressed by the public. Only those comments and corrections favouring the developer seem to have been incorporated in the report.
- The assessments contained in the tables of impacts are unscientific.
- The report (which should be scientific) contains an insidious pro-development bias or "spin". Statements are manipulated to create certain sympathies.
- The bulk of the development is to take place on pristine land on which the Red Data Book Species *Diastella* occurs. It falsely creates the impression that a map detailing the *Diastellas* (suiting the development!) had been drawn by botanist Nick Helm. Nick Helm has since placed on record that he is in fact opposed to any development on the slopes of the mountain and that the map is seriously incorrect. He has also recommended that no action be taken for a period of two years after the fire, in which a new botanical assessment of the sensitive property must take place.
- Certain vital environmental studies have not been done, making a mockery of the integrated impact assessment principle. (E.g. the drilling of bore-holes for water supply.)
- It is of concern that the matter was referred for review by an independent consultant, before the closing date for comments by interested parties. A fair review cannot take place on an incorrect report without the benefit of opposing views.

EASTER TEA: "OLD" ROOIELSERS WELCOME NEW



LONGSTANDING ROOIELSERS JONATHAN & KAY COOPER WITH MARIE & DAVID PHILLIP WHO HAVE OWNED A HOUSE HERE SINCE 1967



CHAIRPERSON, JULIA AALBERS CHATS TO RENNIE MOIR AND GRANDSON ANTON. RENNIE AND WEATHERMAN KEITH HAVE BUILT IN ANEMONE RD



NEW RESIDENT ANNE JONES FROM JO'BURG WITH JO HENSEN AND ANTHONY URBANIAK



NEW PROPERTY OWNER IAN LEWIS AND ALISTAIR HENDERSON

RERA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DEC 2003

At a lively AGM, debate ranged from the impact of the proposed toll road, baboon monitors to concerns about lack of facilities for Rooielsers and their visitors.

Estelle Raymond, outgoing Chairperson noted that the new Exco would need to develop strategies e.g. a private-public partnership, to provide for a community centre: "Rooielsers need a venue for community meetings that would also serve as an eco-centre to encourage and support eco-tourism in the Kogelberg Biosphere." The need for other facilities for visitors such as toilets in the CBD provoked good-humoured discussion that the local businesses need to pool resources and develop solutions together. On the long term, this was something that could be provided for with the eco-centre / community centre.

RERA has made progress with regard to the Conservancy, improvements in the CBD, the installing of speed bumps, the development of guidelines for builders and the ongoing protection of adjacent smallholdings from inappropriate development.

Baboons in the village and their increasing adeptness at entering properties for food, provoked heated discussion, ranging from 'but they were here first' to concern about the potential for violence at the interface between man and baboon. Evette Weyers asked all who were interested in the concept of baboon monitors to contact her - the idea was warmly welcomed. But a request for a show of hands from those willing to pay for this service received somewhat less acclaim!

Our grateful thanks to Hannah and Nic Augustides for the use of their home for the meeting.

"BOULE" - ROOIELS STYLE

DIARMUID BAIGRIE'S LAWN HOSTED THE ANNUAL ROOIELS BOULE ("PETANQUE". TO THE PURISTS) COMPETITION, WITH OLD AND YOUNG ROOIELSERS ENJOYING THE CHALLENGE. ANDRIES AND MADELAINE BRINK ARE YOUNG OLD ROOIELSERS. THEY HAVE BEEN COMING TO ROOIELS SINCE THEIR TEENS, AS HAVE HEIDI (RYKE) AND KEN ANDERSON. DICK AND JILL LOCKLEY BOWLED WITH PRECISION AS DID ANDRE AND DINE WAGENER, BUT THE EVENING BELONGED TO FIRST TIME BOULE PLAYERS HELEN JONES AND ALISON AYERS WHO WALKED AWAY WITH THE LIQUID TROPHY.



ANDRE WAGENER & ERNEST THOMPSON CONTEMPLATING



ROOIELSERS TOEING THE LINE



DICK LOCKLEY IN ACTION



TEAM TALK: MADELAINE & ANDRIES BRINK, HOLMER & JULIA AALBERS AND LINDA & DUNCAN HILES

SANDKASTELE

Ons bou sandkastele op 30 Desember 2003.

Die dag is windloos en die gety laag. Vanaf 10:00 begin kleuters, tieners, die bo-18's aangedrentel kom met emmertjies en grafies; ook skulpies en bamboes vir versiering. Dit begin bou: sand word gegrawe; water geskep, aangedra; handjies en hande fladder, vorm en vee, vryf en versier. Ons hoofstrand word 'n fantasie-reliëf van talle kastele omsingel van gragte, meerminne, 'n vis, 'n voël, selfs 'n karretjie en 'n hart. Evette Weyers beoordeel innoverend en elke deelnemer word 'n pryswenner! Elkeen kry ook 'n lollipop van Margaret en Jo Hensen se winkel.

Dit was lekker. Dankie aan alle deelnemers groot en klein wat bygedra het tot hierdie dag van pret in die son.

LIDA VAN DYK



TEAM SPIRIT!



VAN DER MERWE KASTEEL



BEACH BUGGY



THREE LITTLE MERMAIDS

ROTSPOELE: 'N VENSTER OP DIE OSEAAN

Mens hoef nie met 'n duikpak die koue waters te trotseer om die see te ontdek nie. Jy kan tjoepstil langs 'n rotspoelletjie sit en kyk na die dramas wat hom in die klein wêreldjie afspeel.

Neem nou maar die pragtige blomagtige anemone wat ander poelbewoners sal vang, verlam en insluk. Hulle pomp telkens hulle lywe op met water om te funksioneer.

Seekastaiings (*sea urchins*) met hulle stekels bied skuilplek vir die perlemoen larwes. Op sy beurt verberg die seekastaiing homselfs soms deur klein klippies en skulpies in sy stekels vas te hou. Maar as 'n kreef op die toneel verskyn verslind hy gou die seekastaiing, wat saam met mossels onder sy gunsteling kos tel.

As jy 'n ruk stilstaan in 'n poel sal jy dalk voel hoe een van die nuuskierigstes van die see jou betas met 'n tentakel; 'n seekat - een van die beste toneelspelers in die see. Hy kan sy kleur blitsig verander en sal homself ook in die vorm van 'n seebamboes, rooiaas of selfs 'n klipkous voorstel. Seekatte het oë wat baie soos ons eie is. Verder is hulle net so intelligent soos ons honde en leer maklik nuwe dinge aan. Hulle smulkos is natuurlik kreef. Kyk net hoe spat die krewes onder die rotse uit as 'n seekat daar inloer!

Die argitektuur van die kreature wat 6 uur onder die koue, soms stormagtige water leef en dan weer vir 6 ure aan felle sonlig blootgestel is, is ewe interessant. Neem nou maar die eenvoudige perdevoetjie (*limpet*) of klipkous met sy spitsdak huisie wat riffels op het om die sonstrale terug te kaats. Probeer hom kaalhand loswikkell en jy vind uit hoe stewig hy op die rots vassit.

Daar is verskeie soorte perdevoetjies met baie interessante lewensstyle. Party kweek 'n hele tuintjie alge om hulle wat hulle gedurig korter eet sodat hulle kan aanhou groei. Hul tonge is byna 2 maal so lank soos hul lywe en is 'n skerp vyl waarmee hul plantmateriaal van die rotse af vyl.

Hulle verdedig hulle areas en sal indringers, soos kussing-sterre, wegstoei. Een vyand wat hulle nie kan wegstoei nie, is egter die mens. Die perdevoetjies begin nou die onderspit delf. Tans word baie van hulle uitgehaal om as kreef-aas te dien vir die kreeftrekkers. Die perdevoetjie doen haar bes om te oorleef en produseer 6 miljoen eiertjies in haar leeftyd, maar hieruit sal net TWEE so groot soos syself word. Die res word opgeet.

Daar is nog vele ander poelbewoners, soos krappe en die wulke met hulle toringskulpe. Hulle is die hienas en leeus van die poele en vreet al die karkasse op of val self ander skulpe aan en boor gate deur hulle doppe om by die vleis uit te kom en gooi soms salpetersuur in om die vleis op te los.

Europeers wat onlangs op Pringle was, was absoluut verbaas oor die hoeveelheid lewe in ons poele want dis al lankal uitgeroei in dele van Europa. Gaan loop op die Strand se rotse (en dele van Kleinmond) en jy sal sien dat dit al jarelank 'n maanlandskap geword het. Al die poele is kaal gestroop en lewe kom nie maklik terug nie.

Ons het waarlik nog 'n paradys hier en elkeen kan help om dit aan te hou laat floreer: Bly by voorgeskrewe kwotas. Moennie seesterre of lewende goed uit die poele haal nie. Lig ander in wat met messe groot areas mossels afskraap van die rotse of knersend oor mosselbanke loop.

Ek dink as landbewoners is ons gewoon aan hoe vinnig 'n bees, hoender of skaap groei en beseft nie hoe stadig seelewe groei nie. Ons moet katvoet loop in hierdie ander wereld van die see want uit onverskillige onkunde kan ons 'n baie sensitiewe balans vertrap. As jy 'n knewel van 'n kreef vang kan hy 30 jaar oud wees en daardie groot perlemoen het waarskynlik 20 jaar gevat om so groot te word. Mens wil jou hoed afhaal en dagsê vir die veterane wat so lank oorleef het en die pot vrygespring het.

EVETTE WEYERS



EVETTE WEYERS VERTEL VAN DIE SEE TYDENS 'N SEEWERKSWINKEL AS DEEL VAN DIE AFGELOOPE DESEMBER VAKANSIEPROGRAM.

THE BOAT CLUB - CRAYFISH COMPETITION



DAVE SWANSON BAGGED THE BIGGEST FOUR AND WON THE CHRIS GILMOUR TROPHY



JOHN BIESMANN-SIMONS AND CREW WON THE PRIZE FOR THE BIGGEST CRAYFISH

THE BOAT CLUB COMMITTEE: BASIL MOSS (CHAIRMAN), ERNEST THOMPSON (SECRETARY), JOHANNES VISSER (TREASURER), ALBIE STALS (SAFETY) AND PIET UYS (PRO)

THE OCTOPUS - INTELLIGENCE UNDERWATER

An octopus is one of the most inquisitive sea creatures. If you see a small one under a rock, dangle your hand in the water, nearby. The octopus will extend a tentacle and touch your hand, and if you remain passive, will try to pull your hand under the rock for a closer look.

They (along with squid and other cephalopods) are considered to be the most highly evolved of the invertebrates, with advanced eyes. These are quite similar but superior to our own as they don't have a blind spot. They also have highly developed brains. And are quick learners able to distinguish between shapes, textures and colours. If you put a live crab in a bottle in the tank housing an octopus it quickly finds out how to unscrew the lid to get at the crab. They are known to figure out how to dismantle pumps in their tanks.

As adept "actors" they rapidly change shape to resemble a piece of kelp, a large limpet, a rock or anything else. They can change colour very rapidly by contracting the cells (in their skin) that contain pigment (chromatophores). They are predators who live on crabs, lobsters and small fish. When they in turn are pursued by larger predators they shoot out ink to hide themselves and mask their scent.

They are bottom dwellers and move along by pulling themselves along with their tentacles, attaching them to rock faces or they swim by means of jet propulsion.

EVETTE WEYERS

DID YOU KNOW ?

ROCK LOBSTERS ARE THOUGHT TO BE CAPABLE OF LIVING TO AGES OF 50 YEARS OR MORE.
(COASTCARE FACTSHEET SERIES)

THANK YOU TO THE BOAT CLUB FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EDITION OF THE BREEZE

ENTERPRISING & INNOVATIVE NO. 38 ROOIELS ART GALLERY & LOUNGE

"An oasis to nurture us" - we fondly think that Rooiels is that to many of us. A recent overseas visitor to Rooiels found that oasis at the Jones' Fine Art Gallery, Lounge & Dining Room, and recorded her best wishes for the success of this new venture in the visitors book.

Taking the initiative, Anne Jones of erf 117 was quick to engage her daughter Christine Jones and Marie Scheffer both with Hons (Fine Art) Degrees from the University of Pretoria, to set up an attractive venue and art gallery. Engineer dad, Ernest took "the old masters" under his wing. Even "granny" Jones was enlisted to help providing recipes for the delicious cakes that accompany the coffee and tea.

Marie Scheffer notes that they are a gallery with a desire to be supportive to young (and older) artists. Already they have works from well-known local artists, Naomi van den Heever (ceramics), Edmond Gerber (chiefly wild-life artist) and Sonja de Villiers (water colours) and Harem (abstract oils).

There are many treasures in the gallery and a few gems from Rooielsers - Erna Pienaar's still life's are beautifully crafted and local landscapes by Sybil Summerson (Alison Ayers' mother) are strongly drawn. Christine's work shows talent and empathy, while Anne's are more romantic - to my novice's eye.

So when next the South Easter blows for days and cabin fever seems inevitable, pop into the other oasis in the village and return refreshed!

JULIA AALBERS



CHRISTINE JONES & MARIE SCHEFFLER

VIER ROOIELSERS WORD BOTANIESE GIDSE

Rooielsers Lida van Dyk, Debby de Vries, Hettie & Andreas Claassens het onlangs na 'n intensiewe kursus van 5 maande as vrywillige toergidse vir die Harold Porter Botaniese Tuin gekwalifiseer.

Kontak een van hulle gerus as u gaste het of dalk net meer wil leer van die geskiedenis van die Harold Porter tuin, die geomorfologie van die area, plantsisteme, plantidentifisering of die medisinale gebruike van ons fynbosplante.

LIDA: 028-273 8444
HETTIE: 028-273 8472
DEBBY: 028-273 8037
ANDREAS: 082 787 5714



HETTIE CLAASSENS & DEBBY DE VRIES NEEM ROOIELSERS EN HUL BESOEKERS OP 'N BEGELEIDE TOER VAN HAROLD PORTER AS DEEL VAN DIE REBV VAKANSIEPROGRAM. SORS VAN REENEN IN VOORGROND.

THE POWER OF APPRECIATION

IN THE PREVIOUS EDITION OF 'THE BREEZE' WE ASKED FOR YOUR INPUT AS TO WHAT IT IS THAT YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT ROOI ELS. HERE ARE THE RESPONSES OF 4 WOMEN:

TINEKE HONIG

What do you value most about Rooi Els?

The rural atmosphere.

What do you want Rooi Els to be like in 15 years' time?

Hopefully, not too many more houses and no subdivision.

What can you do to achieve this?

Stick to the Rooi Els values myself.

What else can the community of Rooi Els do?

Contribute financially to the baboon monitoring programme.



RUTH MATTISON

What do you value most about Rooi Els?

It feels like a sacred place. It is here that we have the opportunity to learn how to live in harmony with nature in the 21st century.

What do you want Rooi Els to be like in 15 years' time?

A place where people can come & see & learn & experience a balanced, simple eco-friendly lifestyle. We who live here will practice living as a community that values people and the environment. We will be linked to and be part of a conservancy that protects the Kogelberg from Gordons Bay to Hermanus. Our World Heritage Site will be a pristine environment that acts as seed base for our local flora. We will be used as an example by government to help other communities achieve similar goals.

What can you do to achieve this?

Help where appropriate and encourage others to discover and share a vision that protects our natural environment. Live and practice behaviours that are eco-friendly.

What else can the community of Rooi Els do?

Work together. Educate people who come here. Establish links with other conservancies. Actively lobby local, provincial and national government.

ANEEN DIEDERICKS

Wat waardeer jy die meeste omtrent Rooiels?

Dit is so ongerep! Saans kan jy jou verbeel jy bly op 'n plaas - geen straat- of buiteligte nie en 'n hasie wat op die gras speel. Bedags bobbejane, muishondjies en Pappa & Mamma fisant met 4 kleintjies!

Hoe wil jy hê moet Rooiels lyk oor 15 jaar?

Asseblieftog, net soos dit nou is!

Wat kan jy doen om te help om dit te bereik?

Inkommers op 'n mooi manier te vra om ons dorp te waardeer en die natuur te bewaar.

Wat behoort die gemeenskap van Rooiels nog te doen?

Hou net 'n wakende oog oor ons natuurlewe om te verhoed dat ons dorp ontaard in 'n besige dorp soos Kleinmond of Hermanus. Die rus en stilte hier kry jy nerens anders op aarde nie. 'Sal ook eendag vir ons kleinkinders wil wys hoe lyk 'n perlemoen of kreef (nie net prente en ou skulpe nie).

HETTIE CLAASSENS

Wat waardeer jy die meeste omtrent Rooiels?

Die landelike atmosfeer en die behoud van die ongereptheid van die natuur - geen onderverdeling, behoud van fynbos op erwe, ens.

Hoe wil jy hê moet Rooiels lyk oor 15 jaar?

Soos dit vandag lyk, met herstel van beskadigde dele.

Wat kan jy doen om te help om dit te bereik?

Beplan en ontwikkel die fynbostuine by die ingang. Help met uitroei van indringerplante.

Wat behoort die gemeenskap van Rooiels nog te doen?

Saam te staan om die visie 'n werklikheid te maak.



"WE COULD BE THE STORY OF HOW A SMALL COMMUNITY LIVES IN AN ECOLOGICALLY BALANCED WAY TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL - NOT JUST FOR OUR TIME BUT FOR THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN."

ROOI ELS AUTUMN

TODAY

HERE

THE WIND HAS GONE

THE TIDE IS OUT

THE SEA IS FLAT

THE MOUNTAINS ARE BLUE,

TWO DOLPHINS IN THE BAY

TWO DOLPHINS AT PLAY.

SEAGULLS SIT THE BEACH

TERNS TURN AND TURN

CORMORANTS HANG THEIR
WINGS

MIGGIES CREEP UP MY NOSE.

TODAY

HERE

THE SAND IS COLD

THE SUN IS WARM

THE ROCK IS HARD

THE KELP SMELLS.

NOWHERE A CLOUD

NO-ONE TO DISTURB

SO I SIT AND SIT.

E.D.G.

GUESTHOUSE MEMOIRS

WHAT DOES A NATIVE
AMERICAN "INDIAN" AND
THE IRISH REPUBLICAN
ARMY HAVE IN COMMON?

ANSWER: ROOIELS OF
COURSE!

PIERRE & ENETH REMINISCE
ABOUT SOME OF THEIR
INTERESTING GUESTS WHEN
RUNNING A B&B IN ROOIELS.



THERE'S A (RED) INDIAN ON MY STOEP!

It happened the day after Christmas. Late afternoon, just as you start thinking about that cool, quiet moment of contemplation after the heat of the day, a motorcycle pulled up in front of the house. "Guests!" shouted my husband to alert me that a guest was arriving for the night. Moments later a tall, athletic, confident man strided into the house. With a red face. Very red.

As it turned out, Dr Gregory Frazier was from Yellowtail, Montana, touring South Africa, soaking up indigenous culture and comparing social issues here with the experiences of his own Sioux people. And the redness was the harsh African sun that added to his cultural features. I felt quite sorry for the bloke.

And envied his long silky-straight black hair that reached halfway down his back.

What an amazing evening we spent on our stoep overlooking the cooling peace of False Bay... sharing thoughts, fears, hopes, frustrations, and a bit of heartache too.

As he departed the next morning there was the metal of hope and mutual understanding that strengthened our handshake, and linked continents.

IERLAND

Snaaks hoe mens stereotipeer. Ons gaste uit Ierland is twee stil maar trotse mense en Pierre en die man staan tot die vroeë oggendure en gesels... kyk albei vir lang tye stil oor die sterlig-baai uit. Na hulle vertrek vertel manlief my dat die paartjie albei aan die IRL behoort. Dadelik spring mens se kop: bomme, barrikades, bloed...

"Is hulle in aktiewe diens," vra ek.

"Nee, maar ingeskrewe lede. Hulle reken geweld is nie nodig nie. Joe sê vir my hulle gaan eenvoudig oor die generasies heen die Engelse 'outbreed'!"

PIERRE & ENETH KRUGER

LIFE WITH TOBY

SMALL BLACK OYSTERCATCHER

HATCHED: 20 DECEMBER 2003

BROUGHT INTO A HOUSE ON THE EDGE OF MAASBAAI
ON 23 DECEMBER BY A DOMESTIC CAT.

The fluffy little chick was bemused but unharmed. If the Standers had looked for his parents the birds would have accepted him back. Unfortunately no one could contact Sara just at that moment to ask for that advice, so he ended up with Cathy in Somerset West who fed him on frozen mussels.



When Sara was able to contact Cathy they agreed that he would have a better chance on our balcony in sight of the rocks at low tide, with the sound of the sea and the South Easter ringing in his ears. All the mussels, limpets and worms that he needs are right there in our Marine Reserve. So with Craig's (Nature Conservation) blessing we fetched the 30% of his body weight in seafood that he required every day.

Sara created a complete beach on the balcony sand base, shallow seawater filled wading pools, kelp, shells and stones. The kelp came up complete with Sand fleas (isopods) which the little chicks love. The labour of love that Sara has put into this includes opening a dozen mussels a day, cutting up the limpets when he was small and breaking open the polychaete worm corals for what has become his favourite food.

Limpets are an essential part of his diet and he soon learned to remove them from their shells. It was quite amazing to watch as his little beak, operating like a jig saw, cutting away the limpet mussel from its shell. More surprising still, once it was loose, even a 50c piece size limpet went down the hatch in one swallow.

To teach him to feed on the low tide rocks we erected a plastic mesh play pen and took him down most days in a budgie cage. We tried to include a rock pool each time because he just loves to bath. He soon learned to attack the small limpets and very tiny periwinkles so the lessons were working.

Then came the terrifying day when he was fully fledged and trying out his wings. A few flaps, a light South Easter and he was airborne and out of the playpen on the beach. We just did not know what he would do or how far he would fly. With our hearts in our throats, knowing that he was not yet able to feed himself, he did his first circuits and bumps and landed close to his base. The blue bucket that he is imprinted on, acted as a marker to lure him, a little surprised, back to his playpen. Each day after that his circuits became more adventurous and now he is doing about three circuits and 3 or 4 flights a day. The rest of his time on the rocks is spent looking for limpets and a variety of other things. His technique for removing the small limpets is impeccable and as his beak strengthens he'll attack the bigger ones.

After all this effort the greatest joy is to watch him fly a circuit right out to sea, back over the waves, swoop past the dunes and land at Sara's feet. The final chapter is still to come! Will he take off on his own fully able to handle the big wide world. He has already had to contend, both on the ground and in the air with the neighbouring pair of Oystercatchers. He's learning....



SARA AND RICHARD STARKE, BETTY'S BAY

11 MARCH 2004

Terrible news...Sara called this am...Toby was killed by a genet last night.

Sara had loosened the wire netting over the second story balcony two days ago as Toby was now taking flights from the balcony and back...and a genet made its way across the roof and siezed the sleeping Toby. Sara checked on the bird and found the genet with Toby's neck in its mouth. He was dead.

The previous day toby had eaten 67 limpets in one hour on the rocks, having finally learnt to put his whole neck and head behind levering limpets off the rocks, and not just his beak. He had also saw off the male Oystercatcher which had been threatening him each time Sara took him onto the beach... and now this success story ends in a split second.

CHRIS BURLOCK

"WE CAN DO NO GREAT THINGS,
ONLY SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE"

MAGIC MOMENTS

The 25th February 2004, after the good old "Cape Doctor" had almost blown us off the face of the earth, turned out to be what I call one of those golden days at Rooi Els.

Carol-Lynne and her son Jordan (our grandson) and I packed up a picnic basket, bucket and spade and made our way down to the slipway beach. Taking in the breathtaking scenery and watching Jordan playing happily in the sand, out of the blue we were joined by three otters who swam towards the shore. On seeing our dogs, who were unaware of their presence, the otters changed course and swam towards the kelp forests.

We were thrilled to have such a close sighting. One of the otters appeared to be slightly smaller. We decided we had seen parents with a young one. What a blessing...What a privilege!

We were just marveling over the encounter when Donne, our dashund, picked up her ears and took off in the direction of the sand dunes, half way along the beach. She had spotted a baboon sitting on a dune taking in the scenery. On seeing Donne he came scampering down and the game began.

They played for several minutes then the baboon made its way towards the rocks with Donne in hot pursuit! Being agile, the baboon had a huge advantage over Donne with her short little legs. We became a little concerned when Donne had to swim in deep water to get to the next lot of rocks while the baboon just leapt from one to another, checking to see whether his friend was still in the game.

An exhausted Donne and a satisfied baboon returned to shore, both lying on the sand for a few minutes, then departed on their separate ways. The baboon then joined the troop which by now was foraging in the rock pools. We were taken note of but not once did they try to come to our picnic spot or worry us in anyway. Our cool box was kept firmly closed and having no food in sight, we could all enjoy God's creation in harmony.

Jordan, aged 15 months was totally captivated and delighted with the "Mmmurs"(monkeys) and tried to tell a builder whom we met on the road home in his baby language all about the "Mmmmmurs" on the beach pointing with his little finger in the direction of the slipway beach.

It is my prayer that we can all learn to live with God's creatures and nature respecting one another. It is indeed a privilege to live here in Rooi Els.

LYNNE FRYER



i thank You God for most this amazing day
for everything which is natural which is infinite
which is yes!

- ee cummings

AUSTRALIAN HELP FOR HEALTH & HACKITT CLUB

PROMISING PROSPECTS FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF ROOKRANS

Rookrans, *Acacia cyclops*, is one of several Australian acacia species that were deliberately introduced for different purposes such as dune binding, tannin extraction & pulp production over a century ago. They are now causing severe environmental degradation as they form extensive thickets that smother indigenous plant species, create fire hazards and choke watercourses.

The main method for counteracting the problem has been physical removal of the plants or to burn the thickets. Besides the expenses incurred when adopting these methods, only temporary relief is achieved because carpets of seedlings arise from the massive seed banks that have accumulated in the soil. Help is at hand in the form of two insect allies, a seed-feeding beetle and a gall-forming fly.

Both insects originate from western Australia where they feed exclusively on rookrans in its natural range. Together with other insect species and diseases (known as natural enemies), the beetle and fly suppress the growth and reproductive potential of rookrans and prevent it from becoming abundant in Australia. This in part explains why most plant species never become particularly abundant until moved between continents by man. Such relocations segregate the natural enemies from their host plant and allow vigorous growth and copious seed production in the new country. In the process the plants proliferate and out compete the native counterparts to the detriment of the environment and people.

The fly is a tiny, mosquito-like, midge which lays its eggs in the rookrans flowers. The grubs which hatch from the eggs chew their way into the plant where they secrete a chemical which alters the growth of the plant and causes the flowers to become unnaturally swollen and deformed. The grubs of the midge tunnel and develop within the swollen mass of tissue, which is known as a gall. The galls are green initially but turn brown and harden on reaching maturity. They can be seen readily as clusters of small (grape-size) cone-like swellings on the shoots of the plants. Adult flies emerge from the galls laying eggs on the next generation of flowers.

Although it is early days since the initial release of the gall midge near Stellenbosch, the flies have proliferated and have dispersed over hundreds of kilometres during the past year.



The main effect of the damage caused by the gall midge is to reduce the number of seeds produced. It is too early to tell how effective the midge will be in preventing rookrans from producing seeds, but it is likely that some flowers will escape.

This is where the seed beetle comes into the story. The seed beetles feed on and lay their eggs in the ripening seeds. A monitoring programme has shown that under favourable circumstances the beetles will destroy over 99% of the developing seed crop. Indications are that once the two insects are widely established, rookrans will be incapable of producing many viable seeds.

Rookrans seeds are attractive to birds which disperse them over considerable distances. The lack of seeds will remove this resource and limit long range dispersal and help to contain infestations of the weed within the current distribution. This will protect areas not yet invaded by rookrans even if nothing else is done to counter the weed. The damage caused by the insects will be particularly beneficial when plants are felled and removed because there will be limited germination of seedlings in the cleared areas and hence greater chances of permanently excluding the weed.

The release of the gall midge and the seed beetle is just one of several biological control projects currently being conducted against invasive alien plants in South Africa. For more information visit the web pages of the Agricultural Research Council and the Working for Water programme.

JOHN HOFFMANN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ZOOLOGY DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

BIRD CHAT

FIRE is a four letter word! A raging killer, no respecter of life in any form or shape - yet in Fynbos it is critical for rejuvenation and regeneration.

Thomas Carlyle once wrote that "*Fire is the best of servants, but what a master!*" Anyone who witnessed or was party to the events of that January evening must have been both awe struck , frightened and humbled by one of Nature's most dramatic displays.

But it has only changed Rooi-Els temporarily.

Even as I write flurries of rain has begun to breathe new life into the soil, patches of green are beginning to reappear. Who knows what treasures it may bring forth; in the Hex River valley recently a botanist is thought to have discovered a new *Disa* after just such a fire.



CAPE ROCKJUMPER

We will never know the full death toll of fauna that night and the temporary movement of birds to other areas will cloud the issue.

The Rockjumpers and Ground Woodpeckers have disappeared - perhaps to the other side of the main road or even the old Somcem site.

"Our" side of Rooi-Els has seen more Sugarbirds and Orange-breasted Sunbirds of late, jealously guarding any source of nectar. I was delighted to see both of these together with Cape Siskin (Roberts 874), Malachite Sunbird , the endearing Cape Bunting (Roberts 885) and a Kestrel in, on and around Erf 324 on February 29th. The Kestrel has been seen more on this side recently. Presumably food is more readily available here.

Other notable observations over the last two months have been that since the closure of the Betty's Bay dump site there have been far fewer Hadeda and Sacred ibis in the area. Bird life is never still, we say our goodbyes to the summer species (two legged ones too) and though still battered by south-easters we await autumn and return of the winter's north-westerns which in turn will bring our winter species.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Have you seen the ukhozi (Xhosa) lately? Perhaps the uKhozi (Zulu) or better still Witkruisarend (Afrikaans) or Black (Verreaux's) Eagle (English)? It is obvious from the simple example above we will recognise a bird by the name our own culture has given it and not necessarily by any other name.

In this example I have left out the "proper" name for this magnificent bird I saw defiantly flying over the nest sites on the 29th. Mention *Aquila verreauxii* in a mixed international group of ornithologists and they will all know what we're talking about.

In the 1750's a Swedish botanist called von Linne developed a taxonomy system based on Latin and ancient Greek working on the theory that a scientist would be able to comprehend the description by the use of these two universal if "extinct" languages. Though English is now seen as the universal language, it has not always been so.

The South African birders bible, Roberts, lists as many versions of the given birds name as are known. Thus there is a Shona word for the Black Eagle but not for the Black Oyster-Catcher, but then there aren't Oyster-Catchers where Shona is spoken! However names are being reviewed to bring them into line with international taxonomy groups, especially English names.

Take our local and familiar seagull *Larus dominicanus* (R312) began life as the Southern black-backed gull, became a Kelp Gull and is now a Cape Gull, but it's Afrikaans name Swartrugmeeu has remained the same.

The two that really confuse are the Greater Striped (Roberts 526) and the Lesser Striped (Roberts 527) Swallows. The actual reasoning for the names is the size of the bird, greater is 20cm, the lesser 16cm, - however just to make it "simpler"

the Greater Striped has smaller (i.e. lesser) stripes on the breast than the Lesser which has larger (i.e. greater) stripes. Simple isn't it!

Happy birding!

ROOI ELS REPTILES & OTHER CUTIES (PART 1)

HAVE YOU HUGGED A REPTILE TODAY?

Most of you will know the Bloukoppoggelmander, which is ubiquitous at Rooi Els, but you might ask what other reptiles we have around in our little community. Right down at the coast Rooi Els is a little lacking in lizard species, at least those which are easily observed - in comparison with plants and birds, of course - but the ones we have are pretty showy.

Starting with the Bloukop, more formally known as the Southern Rock Agama (*Agama atra*). This is a grey-brown triangular-headed beast that sizes you up by doing press-ups. The males have blue heads and when excited (or irritated) this colour suffuses from their heads down their bellies and into their legs. The blue is used in breeding displays: males out-blue each other and so maintain a territory (which contains several female-territories and their occupants) and bluely attract females. The females generally have grey heads but they too become slightly blue under the throat and onto the chest when irritated by handling.

Bloukops are inquisitive lizards that sit out on the tops of rocks and let you observe them. If you approach too closely they will do a runner into a crack or hotfoot across open ground if no crack is immediately available. This is one of the few lizard species in South Africa that does not lose its tail as an escape mechanism. Females lay a clutch of eggs in the ground (7-18) from which the young emerge after two to three months. Juveniles can be as little as five cm total length, adults can reach 20 cm (including the tail).

There is a strange myth in Africa that the bite of an *Agama* is venomous. This is quite untrue. No lizards in South Africa are venomous. However, some can give one a good hard warning bite on capture!

Another well known Rooi Els lizard, a nocturnal inhabitant, is the Marbled Leaf-toed Gecko (*Afrogecko porphyreus*). It likes to hide in cracks in houses above and below doors, next to windows, in cupboards and comes out at night to snack on unwary insects. This is a delicate creature with varied patterns on its soft, pinkie-grey back, and typical gecko toe-pads. It is only about six or seven cm in total length. If you pick up a gecko to move it, it will probably squeak at you, so don't be surprised and drop it - and watch the tail! Geckos lose their tails very easily and you may just end up holding a detached, wiggling tail if you happen to grab it by such.

If you look into thin horizontal rock cracks, with a torch, even quite near the sea, you may find one, two, five up to eighteen wee geckos snoozing during the day. They are not territorial so have no problem sharing a good crack. Each female lays two hard-shelled eggs which hatch after about two months, so look out for eggs in the cracks, too.



KATE HENDERSON

The Red-sided Skink (formerly in *Mabuya*, now *Trachylepus homalocephala*) is another common resident around houses. This one is a stripy number, dainty and slender in comparison with its cousin the Cape Skink (*Trachylepus capensis*). Red-sided Skinks often sneak around on the brickwork and bask on your verandas. The males develop bright red sides and hind legs when in breeding colour, otherwise just a red tinge near their back legs. They grow up to 15cm in maximum length, smaller than the portly Cape Skink which grows up about 20 cm.

Another way to tell the two skinks apart is by looking at their stripe-patterns. Cape Skinks have a pale stripe running down mid-back and one at the top of each side, with intervening olive-brown stripes, chequered with darker spots. Red-sided Skinks have plain brown backs and two pale stripes on their sides, separated by a broad, dark band. It is the lower pale stripe that becomes red in breeding males. Cape Skinks tend to sun themselves in your garden and seem less inclined to climb the brickwork. Both skinks sometimes sneak inside to check for insect snacks. Both skinks drop their tails readily when grasped by that end.

The breeding biology of these two skinks is quite different at Rooi Els. Red-sided Skinks lay a clutch of around 10 eggs in the ground, out of which juveniles of 6 - 7 cm emerge about three months later. Cape Skinks give birth to 5 - 18 live young, also 6 - 7 cm, around three months post mating. In other areas in the country, however, Cape Skinks have been known to lay clutches of eggs in the ground.

KATE HENDERSON & MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM

IS IT A GRASS, RESTIO OR SEDGE?

The question that has been raised recently, is whether that pretty little grass or the tatty self-seeder that pops up so easily in the garden, actually belongs in the Fynbos Biome? The other question asked, was whether these grasses are becoming invasive in Rooi Els?

Recently 11 specimens of 'grasses' were collected from various sites in Rooi Els. These were taken to Harold Porter Gardens for identification.

Three of the examples were identified as grasses not being fynbos endemics.

The fountain grass (pronkgras) Family Poaceae, *Penisetum setaceum*, is often still used as a soil stabiliser and as an ornamental grass in gardens and by flower arrangers. A naturalised North African grass, it has long plumes of fluffy, light seeds that are carried for kilometres by our strong winds. It is about to be declared an invasive weed that should be removed as soon as they are seen, as they are extremely difficult to remove once they are mature plants.

The use of poisons to eradicate invasive plants of any kind is discouraged as they create further problems in the Fynbos Biome.

The Bunny-tail grass, (Family Poaceae, *Lagurus ovatus*) and Bewertjies or Quaking grass (Family Poaceae, *Brixa maxima*), both introduced from the Mediterranean are a familiar sight. They are weeds, but not considered invasive as they are not competitive if controlled. Removal by hand and the cultivation of the ground usually eradicates them.

The fourth specimen of interest turned out to be Narrow-leaved Clover (Family Fabaceae, *Trifolium augustifolium*) and not a grass at all. It is, however, a weed and a pest to farmers as it invades grazing pastures. Removal by hand is a difficult task as the spiny seed cases are a deterrent to easy removal. Because of this it is best to eliminate these before they spread.

Two specimens were unable to be identified as their habitat and flowering heads were not described. However, the other specimens that were collected are all fynbos endemic grasses. Please note that there are restios and sedge species in Rooi Els that most people incorrectly think are grasses. In spite of the sometimes scraggy, untidy appearance of some grasses, they form part of a bio-diverse system and it would be best to leave these in situ as removal would expose the soil to the high winds which dries and remove the topsoil. Also bear in mind the myriad fauna that feed and shelter in grass from the tortoise to the crickets to the stick insects.

Often grasses appear first after fire. In the Fynbos Biome, restios will follow these in the open veld. This pattern is disturbed in villages where development has occurred and along verges of roads where constant cutting back and clearing of vegetation, favours the grasses.

If in doubt about 'grasses' on your property, pay a visit to the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens with a specimen, (but only if the plant is plentiful as you may be removing something important), or take a photograph of the plant. Try to do this when the plant is in flower or has a seed head. Make a note of the habitat.

A display of problem grasses in the eco-centre or on the notice board is planned.

The following are Fynbos endemic grasses:
Family Poaceae - *Tribolium uniolae*
- *Cymbopogon marginatus*
- *Pentaschistis densifolia*
- *Stipagrostis zeyheri* (Bushman grass)

DEBBY DE VRIES

SUGGESTED READING:
THE ECOLOGY OF FYNBOS - RICHARD COWLING
SOUTH AFRICA'S UNIQUE FLORAL KINGDOM RICHARD COWLING, DAVE RICHARDSON
GRASSES OF SOUTH AFRICA GIBBS, RUSSELL ET AL
PROBLEM PLANTS OF SOUTH AFRICA CLIVE BROMILOW

'N SKENKING VIR PUBLIKASIE VAN DIE BRIES?

REBV BANKREKENINGNOMMER:
ABSA 29-0016-6152
TAKKODE 334-712

OF STUUR AAN:
ROOIELS BELASTINGBETALERSVERENIGING, POSBUS 89, BETTY'SBAAI, 7141.

KEN ONS STERRE: DIE GROOT HOND EN DIE WIT DWERG

Dit raak nou winter en daarmee saam verdwyn Orion en ander konstellasies soos Taurus en die Sewe Susters vir eers vir 'n paar maande uit ons sterreheemel. Diegene wat laat gaan slaap sal teen 11.30 saans reeds die Skerpioen sien, 'n duidelike teken dat winter op ons is. Orion en die Skerpioen is byna regoor mekaar in die ruimte, uit die aarde se oogpunt waargeneem. Daarom kan die twee selde saam gesien word. Dis net in April en Mei dat 'n mens vroegaand vir Orion vir oulaas sien waar hy in die weste ondergaan, terwyl die Skerpioen reeds in die ooste opkom.



ORION EN DIE GROOT HOND (OF IS DIT 'N HAAS?)
BETELGEUSE IS DIE STER IN ORION REGS ONDER

As ons die Babiloniers en die Grieke se verbeeldingsvlug aanvaar dat die sterrebeeld Orion soos 'n jagter lyk, dan kan ons seker maar saamspeel dat die jagter ook honde moet hê! (Onthou, die mense in die Noordelike halfmond sien die sterrebeelde andersom, regop en nie ondersteo soos ons nie.)

'n Entjie regs van Orion se onderste skouer, Betelgeuse (die helder oranje ster), verskyn daar 'n helder ster. Of mens kan 'n lyn trek deur Orion se gordel se drie sterre, die Drie Konings, tot by daardie selfde helder ster. Dit is Sirius.

Sirius het die ou mense hulle verbeel, is die kop of oog van die jagter se groot hond: Canis Major. Sirius beteken "die een wat vonkel". Geen wonder nie, want Sirius is die helderste en blinkste ster in die aarde se uitspansel. Sirius is 'n blou-wit ster en relatief na aan die aarde - sowat 8,5 ligjare ver.

In 1850 het die Duitse sterrekundige, Bessel, die kop van die hond dopgehou. Eers wou Bessel nie sy oë glo nie, maar mettertyd raak hy al hoe meer oortuig: Sirius beweeg. Waar al die ander enkel sterre in die konstellasie skynbaar hul posisies ten opsigte van mekaar handhaaf, beweeg Sirius stelselmatig heen en weer. (Hierdie beweging kan nie met die oog of met 'n verkyker waargeneem word nie.) Na jare se waarneming het Bessel tot die slotsom gekom dat daar 'n ander onsigbare ster, om Sirius moet wentel en dat die onsigbare ster se aantrekkingskrag veroorsaak dat die hond se kop beweeg.

Mettertyd is Bessel as korrek bewys. Sirius het 'n suster ster. Maar tot sterrekundiges se verbasing is dit 'n sterretjie skaars driemaal so groot soos die aarde... Maar daardie ster het 'n massa wat 25 000 keer soveel soos die van die aarde is, al is dit net driemaal groter! Dit beteken dat as 'n mens 'n albaster van daardie ster se materiaal kon maak, sou niemand op Aarde sterk genoeg wees om hom op te tel nie! Hierdie ster is 'n sogenaamde "wit dwerg".

Daar is gevind dat daar miljoene sulke sterre in die hemelruim is. Geleerdes reken dat sulke hemelliggame ontstaan as 'n ster met verskriklik baie materie en gas begin. Uit so 'n reusegaswolk ontstaan 'n ster wat spontaan ontbrand as die waterstof genoeg drukking en hitte ontwikkel. Nadat al die waterstof na helium omgesit is, vind verdere sametrekking en kernreaksies plaas. Dis 'n kookpot waarin helium omgeskakel word na suurstof, en verder na stikstof, suurstof, koolstof tot by die swaar metale soos nikkel en yster. Elke proses gaan gepaard met ontsettende hoeveelhede gas en materie wat in die ruimte ingeslinger word.

Ten spyte aan die verlies aan energie en materie, bly daar altyd 'n groot hoeveelheid materie oor wat weer saamtrek: 'n digte kern waarin uiteindelik geen kernreaksie meer kan plaasvind nie. Hierdie kern krimp nog kleiner en kleiner, saamgetrek deur sy eie ontsettende aantrekkingskrag. Uiteindelik bly 'n ster oor wat dalk net 'n paar kilometer in deursnee is, maar met 'n massa wat byna onberekenbaar is. Sterrekundiges noem hierdie soort sterre "wit dwerge" - die "lyke" van eens ontsettende groot "rooi reuse" soos Betelgeuse.

UIT "KEN ONS STERRE - 'N GIDS VIR DIE GROENTJIE" DEUR FRANZ CONRADIE,
ISBN 0-620-15932-4, KRANSBERG KOMMUNIKASIES.

DIE GEHEIME ORDE:

DINGE IS ANDERS IN DIE FYNBOS AS WAT DIT MET DIE EERSTE OOGOPSLAG LYK



'N KAAPSE SUIKERVÖËL BENUT 'N SPELDEKUSSING PROTEA - OF IS DIT EINTLIK ANDERSOM?

In die fynbos van die Wes-Kaap kan mens nooit seker wees nie. Dis 'n wêreld waar dinge nie altyd is soos wat dit lyk nie. Hier bestaan stelsels wat die plante al vir miljoene jare aan die gang hou. Dis stelsels wat jou sal verstom!

So is die brande wat elke paar jaar die gebied teister belangrik vir die voortbestaan van sekere fynbosplante. Spesies hier het aangepas om vuur te trotseer, en om dit selfs te benut. Sommige behou hulle sade totdat die brand verby is. Dan, wanneer die saadpeule afkoel, bars hulle oop en die saad word uitgeskiet om in 'n kaal gebrande gebied te ontkiem, sonder verdere brandgevaar en sonder kompetisie van ander plante.

Ander se sade het weer 'n spesiale soort bedekking, elyosome, wat of aan die kant of aan die punt van die saad voorkom. Die sade word dan deur 'n spesifieke miersoort op die grond versamel wat die elyosome eet wanneer hulle normale kossoorte skaars raak. Die miere berg die sade in neste waar dit beskerm is teen saadvreters. En dan - wanneer 'n vuur bo-oor die miernes trek - laat die temperatuurverandering hulle ontkiem en 'n nuwe plant kom op.

Dit was juis hierdie merkwaardige eienskappe van die plante wat die Sweedse botanis, Asa Hemborg, na Suid-Afrika se fynbos gelok het. Haar belangstelling lê spesifiek in die voortplanting strategië van sekere fynbossoorte. 'n Plant wat veral haar aandag getrek het, is een van die mees algemene fynbos-spesies, *Leucadendron xanthaconus*, of die blinkblaartolbos.

Die Kaap Plant Koningkryk het 'n groot genus van plante wat afsonderlike manlike en vroulike plante het. Net sowat vyf persent van die wêreldwye planteryk het aparte manlike en vroulike plante. Wetenskaplikes glo die groep het 'n hoër evolusionêre vlak bereik. Twee-geslag fynbos plante is veral interessant want die vroulike plante lyk heeltemal anders as die manlikes. In die geval van die *Leucadendron rubrum*, tolletjiesbos is die twee geslagte tot redelik onlangs as heeltemal aparte spesies ge-eien! Die vroulike plant het groot blomme en slegs 'n klein stigma om die stuifmeel vas te vang. Die manlike plant lyk heel anders hy dra massas klein blomme en produseer massas stuifmeel. Tolletjiesbos maak staat op windkrag om te kan voortplant.

Maar die blinkblaartolbos belang doen dinge anders. Die manlike plant is oortrek met pragtige klein geel blommetjies. Die blarekroon om die blommehoof is deel van die blom self, want hulle fotosinteer nie. Die vroulike blom lyk heel anders as die mannetjie plant s'n. Dis klein en keëlvormig en daar's ook baie minder. Sy spaar blykbaar haar energie vir voortplanting. Die uitdaging is klaarblyklik om die stuifmeel van die manlike na die vroulike plant te versprei aangesien hul soms baie ver uitmekaar groei.

Die stuifmeel moet die klein geel stempeltjies aan die ander kant van die keëltjie bereik. Om dit reg te kry, het die blinkblaartolbos 'n klein insek, die priakewertjie, in diens geneem.

VERVOLG: DIE GEHEIME ORDE

Die prias eet die stuifmeel op die blomme. Dis hier waar mannetjies en wyfies ontmoet en paar en dan eiers lê. Die larwes wat uitborei bly ook op die blomme en benut dit vir kos. Deur alles aan te bied wat die kewertjies vir oorlewing nodig het, verseker die blinkblaartolbos dat die stuifmeel versprei word.

Maar daar's net een probleem: die vroulike blinkblaartolbos plant bied geen kos aan vir die kewers nie, so daar's eintlik geen logiese rede waarom die prias die manlike plante sou verlaat om die vroulike plant ook te besoek nie.

Wetenskaplikes het probeer uitvind hoe die plant die kewers manipuleer dat hulle help. Ultra-violet lig lok dikwels insekte nader - so dit was 'n vertrekpunt. Langs mekaar lyk die ultra-violet refleksie van die manlike blom heelwat anders as die van die vroulike blom. Die vroulike blom reflekteer ultra-violet lig terwyl die manlike blom dit absorbeer. Maar dit bewys nog nie waarom die kewers van die manlike na die vroulike plante oorgaan nie. 'n Tweede eksperiment is begin om te sien watter kewers die plante besoek en of die weer miskien nie ook 'n rol speel nie. En net daar kom die deurbraak!

Op 'n sonnige dag besoek die kewers die manlike plante. Maar wanneer dit regtig stormagtig is, is daar geen kewers op die manlike plante nie, maar onder in die vroulike blom. Die manlike plante bied dus kos aan die kewers en die vroulike blom bied skuiling in stormagtige koue dae. Deur die kewer so te manipuleer oorleef op blinkblaartolbos nou al vir miljoene jare, maar daar is ander plante wat selfs nog meer fassinerende oorlewingstrategieë het.

Leucandendron salignum, die knoppiesgeelbos, is waarskynlik die mees algemene fynbos plantsoort. In die suidelike deel van die tolbos se verspreidingsgebied is manlike plante helder geel en die vroulike plante lyk hier ook kennelik anders. Dieselfde bestuifingsproses as by blinkblaartolbos vind blykbaar hier ook plaas, dit wil sê, die vroulike knoppiesgeelbos bied beskerming en die manlike vorm verskaf kos aan die priaskewers.

Maar daar waar knoppiesgeelbosse verder weg in die kouer dele groei, verloor die plante hulle helder geel kleur en is hulle rooi. Uit die plante se oogpunt is hulle verhouding met die prias, wat oor miljoene jare opgebou is, gebasseer op helder geel blomme, maar wat nou as die blomme nou vreemd begin lyk? Met prias wat gekondisioneer is om geel blomme te sien, hoe is dit dan dat die blomme nog steeds bestuif word as hulle so anders lyk?



DIE MANLIKE & VROULIKE BLINKBLAARTOLBOS
(LEUCADENDRON XANTHOCONUS)

Hoog bo in die Koue Bokkeveld, naby Ceres, floreer knoppiesgeelbosse wat die kleursverandering ondergaan het. Wetenskaplikes dink die rooi kleur beskerm die plant dalk teen te veel lig, maar dis nog nie 'n uitgemaakte saak nie.

Die Koue Bokkeveld het intense koue winters. Sneeu val gereeld hier en die temperatuur sak dan tot onder vriespunt. Sulke uiterstes het natuurlik ook 'n beduidende invloed op die knoppiesgeelbos se bestuiwers, die priakewers, wat gevoelig is vir temperatuurskommelings.

Prias tel beslis in die minderheid onder al die kewersoorte hier. Maar 'n verrassing - hier het 'n baie groter en taaier kewersoort, die bobejaankewer, die prias se plek ingeneem. Die bobejaankewer word juis veral deur die rooi kleur aangelok - knoppiesgeelbos se ander gewaad in hierdie streek. Selfs die vroulike blomme wat in die suide dig toe is, is hier groter oop om die groter kewer te akkommodeer.

Die knoppiesgeelbos kry dit weereens reg om te doen wat nodig is om die besoekers te manipuleer. 'n Treffende voorbeeld dus van hoe fynbos by veranderende omstandighede bly aanpas.

Die rooi knoppiesgeelbosse van die Koue Bokkeveld blom byna drie maande later as die geel suidelike bevolkings, en daarom vind daar ook geen genetiese vermenging tussen hulle plaas nie.

Sou 'n kewer in die toekoms dalk die oorsaak kan wees dat 'n nuwe plantsoort ontwikkel, of smee die plante dalk intussen ander planne? Wie weet - wag maar en sien!

UITTREKSEL UIT TV FILM: DIE GEHEIME ORDE
VERVAARDIGER: ANTHONY IRVING



FIRE DAISY

The 'high fallutin' name given to the bright pink daisy flowers that appeared within weeks of the fire that swept through the fynbos. between Pringle Bay and Rooi Els in January, is *Mairia coriacea*. Few people had seen the flowers before. The low clumps of flowers appeared without leaves. The only clue to the existence of the plant before the fire were a few shrivelled leaves that had survived the fire.

With these leaves and photos of the pink daisies, the plant was identified as a plant that had posed a mystery for some time. The plant, that had never seemed to flower, has fairly large, flat, dark green, leathery leaves with scalloped top edges.

It first produces flowers from the rootstock after fire with tiny vestigial leaves that are unlike the mature plant's leaves on the stems. These flowers mature and produces seeds within days. Pollinators are presumed to be insects and wind does the dispersal of the seeds. These flowers appeared without the benefit of rain.

This humble daisy uses fire to propagate its seeds and brings the first signs of life life to the fire desolated veld.



UNITED BY OUR PASSION FOR THE NATURAL SPLENDOUR OF ROOI-ELS,
WE PLEDGE THAT HERE..
NATURE WILL BE NURTURED,
FLORA, FAUNA AND MARINE LIFE PROTECTED,
OUR EVERY IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT LIMITED
SO THAT OUR LIVES.. AND THOSE OF GENERATIONS TO COME..
WILL CONTINUE TO BE ENRICHED THROUGH CARE