

# Bries Breeze

APRIL 2006

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

## CELEBRATING WHAT'S RIGHT WITH ROOI ELS

As I am compiling this edition of the Breeze, I am struck by the love and appreciation for Rooi Els expressed in the articles, photographs and poems shared by all contributors. Is it perhaps this shared appreciation which connects and weaves each of us into a real community?

These pages bear witness to a commitment towards building a community of care for others and for the environment. One only has to read about the gift of a tree left on someone's stoep, or of involvement in less privileged communities through KAWS and Bambinani, to realise that each of us has a contribution to make. And in our stories about caring for the environment, one cannot help noticing the common thread of wonderment and joy in the appreciation of our abundant plant and animal life.

Appreciation is such a powerful thing. Whatever one pays attention to, flourishes. I sometimes think that NOT paying attention is perhaps the greatest evil of all, giving rise to disrespect and much unnecessary suffering in the world.

Paying attention is the willingness to hear, to see and to feel; knowing that there is so much beauty and good in the world - it just has to be discovered and appreciated. I am reminded by the words of Henry Miller "The moment one gives close attention to anything, even a blade of grass, it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself."

This certainly doesn't mean that we have to be blind to the destruction, suffering and injustices of our world. By celebrating what's right, we find the energy and resources to face and change what's wrong.

ESTELLE RAYMOND  
EDITOR (E-mail: [eraymond@mweb.co.za](mailto:eraymond@mweb.co.za))

PHOTO: BRUCE KELLY

"HOE STIL KAN DIT WORD AS SEDOOS GAAN LÊ; WIE KAN DIT MOOIERS ASSIE TORTEL SÊ?" -BOERNEEF

# FROM THE CHAIR

The new Council has been elected and everything has changed, and yet nothing has really changed? We have a new local government, voted in with promises of new levels of transparency and better service levels; we remain privileged to live in one of the most beautiful areas on earth and face the same challenges if we want to keep it that way. We want and need "good" local government and we want the character and beauty of our town and its surroundings to be preserved.

Given my broadened perspective since becoming manager of the Overstrand Conservation Foundation, it has become clear to me that things have indeed changed, and not necessarily because we have a new majority party in Council. There are exciting but challenging opportunities to ensure that what is important to our area is preserved while at the same time developing the area to grow the local economy.



ROB FRYER

I believe that often the interests of conservation are best served by conservationists engaging proactively in planning sustainable development rather than by just opposing non-sustainable development proposals made by developers at the point at which they have already invested substantial time, effort and money and have submitted their plans for final approval by the authorities.

The Western Cape Provincial Government released the final version of the Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework (WCPSDF) in November 2005. From both the conservationist's and the developer's perspective, this should be seen as a masterpiece of forward-thinking policy because it has been written using the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere guidelines for the sustainable use of the environment. Of course many developers who want quick money see it as anti-development and challenge it as impractical.

It is imperative, if the political will to implement and maintain the WCPSDF is not to wane, for conservation oriented organisations to enter proactively into the process of planning sustainable development that will promote economic growth and upliftment of people who are not currently economically active in the community. Otherwise, the preservation of the character and beauty of our area will certainly be lost under pressure from developers who claim they are creating jobs for the unemployed (while actually enriching themselves at the expense of the community).

Both the Rooi Els Ratepayers' Association and the Rooi Els Conservancy executive committees made strong submissions to the Overstrand Municipality concerning the shortcomings of the draft Overstrand Municipal Spatial Development Framework (OMSDF) as it affects Rooi Els.

The Overstrand Conservation Foundation, of which both RERA and Conservancy are members, submitted a detailed analysis and commentary on the whole OMSDF with recommendations for amendments to bring it into alignment with the WCPSDF.

ROB FRYER

## LIDMAATSKAP OF SKENKINGS

REBV BANKREKENINGNOMMER:

ABSA 29-0016-6152

TAKKODE 334-712

STUUR LIDMAATBESONDERHEDE AAN: DIE SEKRETARIS, REBV, POSBUS 89,  
BETTY'SBAAI, 7141.

# GESPREK MET LOUIS

LOUIS VAN HEERDEN IS ONS NUWE MUNISIPALE WYKSRAADSLID.  
ONS HET HOM 'N PAAR VRAE GEVRA:

VERTEL BIETJIE VAN JOU AGTERGROND - WAAR KOM JY VANDAAN EN HOE HET JY 'N KUNSTENAAR GEWORD?

Ek's in Pietersburg gebore (nou Polokwane) en was daar op skool. Ek het op die ouderdom van vier begin verf. My ma het werklik geglo in ekstra lesse - so ek het ekstra kunslesse geneem - ook klavierlesse, sanglesse, tennislesse, swemlesse, boks en elokusie! Na matriek op die ouderdom van 16 het ek 'n verpligte 9 maande diens in die vloot gedoen waarna ek op Pretoria Universiteit BA Kuns en HOD studeer het. Daarna is ek vir 'n jaar België toe as deel van 'n kulturele uitruil-program. Ek het daarna skoolgehou by die "Pretoria Boys High School" en kuns en Afrikaans onderrig. Ek het ook 'n honeursgraad in Kunsgeskiedenis voltooi. Ek het Walter Batiss en Larry Scully opgevolg as hoof van die kunsafdeling.



In Pretoria het ek vir Prof Nancy van Schaik ontmoet en ons is later getroud. Ons het Sandton toe getrek toe sy by Wits klasgegee het en ek het my daarna voltyds aan kuns en kunsadministrasie gewy. Ek was nasionale president van die Suid-Afrikaanse Kunsvereniging. Ek en Nancy was vanweë ons onderskeie beroepe bevoorreg om heelwat tyd in Zurich en in Parys deur te bring. Nancy is 'n genetikus.

## MEET LOUIS VAN HEERDEN: OUR NEW WARD COUNCILLOR

HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO LIVE PERMANENTLY IN BETTY'S BAY? HOW DID THIS INFLUENCE YOU ABOUT PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT? AND WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO ENTER LOCAL POLITICS?

We purchased a small cottage in Betty's Bay while on holiday and added to it, intending to use it as a holiday home. After Nancy retired, we realised that there was no reason to stay in Sandton and decided to move to the Cape. I have always been a keen gardener; our garden in Sandton was dominated by beautiful big trees and a collection of some 400 Camelias.

Betty's Bay was a different kettle of fish - no trees, strong winds and salt spray. On one of the first walks I took, a small lady wielding a saw popped out of the bush and informed me that when walking in Betty's Bay, one should always carry a saw to eradicate the aliens! I later learned that she was Jill Attwell, the first of the many dedicated conservationists who became our friends and mentors in this area.

As an artist, I am inquisitive by nature and joined many local organisations. In my naivete I talked a lot in those meetings, which resulted eventually in my being elected to chair them. Through my involvement with KOBIO we fought many battles to prevent unsuitable developments such as Arabella Phase II. I became convinced that the only way to preserve this part of the world was by adherence to Biosphere Reserve principles and local structure plans. I have questioned whether there was real political support for our conservation ideals. To change this is the main reason I have entered politics.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE ROOI ELS COMMUNITY AND HOW WILL YOU INTERACT WITH US?

It is important to me to represent all the people of Hangklip and Palmiet. Rooi Els is to me the most attractive of the three Hangklip villages. It has a strong conservation ethic and for this you must be congratulated. Rooi Els will have representation on the Ward 10 Committee which I will chair. I urge people not only to attend Ward Committee meetings (which are open to the public), but also to submit items of concern. I undertake to be available for frequent visits to Rooi Els to get first-hand knowledge of local problems.



# ROOI ELS RATEPAYERS' 33RD AGM

Despite the blustering South Easter the turnout at the RERA Annual General Meeting on 28 December 2005 was good. Rosemary and Ian Lewis had kindly put their home at our disposal and there was ample room for everybody in their spacious upper room.

Rob Fryer presented his Chairman's report. He noted that although the Kleinmond/Hangklip officials have worked hard through the year to address issues raised by us, still we struggle to achieve what we want. The reasons for this are vexed as we cannot access the public accounts to establish where the money is being used. Ward Councillors suffer similar frustrations. He observed that 2006 will see modest improvement in service delivery as a little money has been allocated to Rooi Els. However, funds for stormwater and water reticulation are likely to be approved and we have been allocated R100 000.00 for street paving. The same amounts have been allocated to Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay. This will enable 75 metres of surfacing. At a previous workshop priorities were identified as being:

- the dangerous section of Roella Road leading into Clarence Drive,
- Porter Drive between Clarence Drive and the first speed hump,
- the link between Porter Drive and Ocean View Drive, and
- Bathers Road and other main routes into the village.

The Exco was mandated by the meeting to address these locations when the funding comes available. This was subject, however, to the stipulation that width should be restricted where sensible in order to achieve more length and that the surfacing method should take cognisance of optimal drainage.

The Spatial Development Framework has been published for comment. Rob Fryer reported that fundamentally, the framework was in line with our ethos, although he has noted various inaccuracies and omissions. What is critical is the determination of the urban edge as this will limit development. Approval for the rezoning of anything outside the urban edge is unlikely to be granted.

There has been no effective delivery from the municipal Conservation Department for the past year and the groundswell of discontent is so great that the problem must be resolved soon. From the floor it was asked whether we could lobby for the Conservation portfolio to be placed under the Municipal Manager and it was clarified that this has been partially addressed.

Ian Richter, the Treasurer, reported that the financial situation is good. Income in the year was R29 270.11. The publication and sale of the book on the History of Rooi Els was a boost.

In discussions, it was observed that in the past year Rooi Els has been cut off twice, once by the road wash away and once by fire. Indications are that we are ill-prepared if we are cut off for an extended period. It was agreed that Exco should pursue the possibility of joining forces with Pringle Bay to form a Fire Protection Society. Once done, the Society would be tasked with identifying the resources required.

Rob Fryer advised the meeting of the refuse removal regulations which are being drafted and which contemplate compulsory baboon proof bins, with the withholding of collection if none is used. An alternative option is central collection only. The meeting was evenly divided on the issue.

Break-ins and efficiencies of the security companies have been mapped and it is clear that properties without an alarm system are especially vulnerable. Also the lack of clear identification of properties makes them difficult to find. A standard identification decal to attach to properties was proposed, but rejected. However, the Exco was mandated to approach the 3 security companies operating in the Village to ascertain the merits of having one uniform contract for the whole Village.

DI PERTON

## 2006 REBV UITVOERENDE KOMITTEE

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# BEWAREA IS ENTOESIASTIES

Die nuwe komitee het 'n vol en aktiewe program vir die jaar saamgestel en is verbind daartoe om saam met almal in Rooiels by te dra tot die bewaring van ons omgewing. Die Bewarea logo by die ingang van Rooiels word op Saterdag 15 April onthul. Alle Rooielsers en gereelde besoekers aan Rooiels word uitgenooi om die geleentheid by te woon en 'n heildronk op die Bewarea te drink. Ons nooi ook graag almal uit om aan te sluit by die Bewarea en te help om die natuurlike landelike aard van Rooiels te bewaar.

Die Bewarea organiseer vanjaar die Kapgroep (die Rooiels "Health & Hackit") en gaan aktief probeer om alle openbare ruimtes vry hou van indringers. Ons hoop ook om ons fondse te versterk deur privaat-eienaars by te staan om hulle erwe skoon te hou - kontak ons asseblief as jy hulp nodig het. Kontak ons ook gerus met jou voorstelle en idees.

## LIST OF PORTFOLIOS

### LIAISON (ESTELLE RAYMOND)

- General publicity (Kay Leresche /Chris Burlock)
- BRAG (CB)
- RERA (Debby deVries)
- RE Boat Club (Dick Lockley)
- OCF / KOBIO / KBR Company (CB)
- Other Conservancies (ER & DdV)
- Estate Agencies (CB)
- Municipality/Government (ER)

### ALIENS (WERNER MODINGER)

- Hack group
- Grasses and weeds removal (CB)

### FLORA (DEBBY DEVRIES)

- Nature Reserves/Public open spaces (ER)
- Paths/hides (DL)
- Herbarium (DdV)
- Fire (DL)
- Flora-Assist/Indigenous gardens (DdV)

### FAUNA (JENNY STARK)

- Baboon issues (JS)
- Fauna-Assist (CB)

### MARINE (DICK LOCKLEY)

- Anti-Poaching (Evette Weyers)
- Marine Reserve

### MEMBERSHIP (KAY LERESCHE)

- Membership recruitment (KL/CB)
- Member newsletters and communications (KL)

### SIGNAGE (SANDRA YEO)

### SUSTAINABLE LIVING (ROSEMARY/IAN LEWIS)



## NOTE OF APPRECIATION

AMONGST THE MANY WHO QUIETLY GO ABOUT LIVING THE CONSERVANCY LIFESTYLE, THE CONSERVANCY WOULD LIKE TO SINGLE OUT THE WISCHNEWSKI'S OF ERF 240 AND THE AUGOUSTIDES' OF ERF 239, FOR THE BEAUTIFUL REHABILITATION OF THEIR GARDENS AFTER BUILDING OPERATIONS WITH INDIGENOUS VEGETATION.

The Conservancy will be appealing to everyone to "Adopt a Road" in an effort to enhance the fynbos corridors. Adopting a road will involve removing invasive aliens, picking up litter and sometimes even "gardening" - cutting back old growth and establishing plants indigenous to Rooi Els. We are also keen to include "Adopt a Beach" where areas can be kept litter free and the pieces of plastic and nylon string, so dangerous to sealife, is reduced. While the Conservancy recognizes that people prefer their own garden styles, we do ask that they don't include those alien invaders that spread to the fynbos and encourage them to also include some of the fynbos species indigenous to Rooi Els. Please contact us with your ideas. Contact the relevant member directly or contact the Secretary at [kayml@telkomsa.net](mailto:kayml@telkomsa.net) or write to P.O. Box 343, Betty's Bay 7141.



EKHART EN SANDI SCHOONWINKEL IS BESIG OM DIE BEWAREA-LOGO STEWIG OP SY PLEK TE KRY VIR DIE ONTHULLING OP 15 APRIL

## CLEANING UP AT THE TRADITIONAL BEACH AND VILLAGE CLEAN-UP DAY IN JANUARY



DICK LOCKLEY, ERNST THOMPSON EN  
PIET UYS MET 'N BAKKIEVRAG ROMMEL



ROLAND DE VRIES



IN THE ROUGH: IAN RICHTER

## BOULED OVER BY THE GIRLS

The afternoon of 27 December 2005 was set aside for the Boule and Jukskei players to display their talents on the lawn at the Modinger's. Due to the condition of the pitch it was decided not to host the jukskei as this would damage the grass beyond repair.

Under the watchful eye of Ernst Thompson 14 "teams" registered for the first round of Boule, Petanque or iron ball rolling - call it whatever you want - this is fun!

The competition was to be run on the round robin system. The tense mood of the players quickly changed for the first round losers - directly in relation to the consumption of some cool refreshments. The spectators also had a hand in this.

Some "underhand" moves were observed where teams tried to outsmart their opponents by playing long heads and then short ones. One could also clearly see who had secretly practised beforehand.

After a few tense games the semi's were won by André & Werner and Alison & Helen. The final was the best of the day where the scores saw-sawed all the time. Eventually the girls won the last set by beating the men in a long head and by that regaining the title they lost last time round.

PIET UYS



BOULE CHAMPS ONCE AGAIN:  
HELEN JONES & ALISON AYER



# CHRIS GILMOUR KREEFKOMPETISIE

Die kreefvang kompetisie, op 28 Desember 2005, was gehou in baie winderige omstandighede. Seker maar omdat dit die eerste keer is wat dit nie deur die Brinks gereël is nie. Op Woensdag oggend het die Komitee besluit om voort te gaan met die kompetisie aangesien die weervoorspelling vir die volgende dag nog meer wind aangedui het. Dit blyk agterna dat dit die regte besluit was.

Die vangste is ingeweeg op die gras voor die huis van die Vissers en deelnemers en vriende het hulle reeds vroeër daar tuisgemaak om die soutwater af te spoel, die wind in te sluk en sommer net om te gesels. Die kreef was seker maar moeg baklei teen die elemente aangesien daar min grotes was, maar dit het geen afbreuk gemaak aan die opgewondenheid tydens die prys uitdeling nie.

We will have to persuade Andries to again do the organising so that good weather is a given. Southerly winds gusting for days on end were the norm this year and boating days were far between. Some says that the weather was the worst they experienced in 20 years. Compared to previous years fewer boats entered, partly due to the weather but also due to the fact that eight boats from last year were not available on the day. Nevertheless 53 crew members were prepared to brave the wind and water in search of the elusive big one.

Sponsorships exceeded our wildest dreams and we have to thank Gert Coetzee, Johannes Visser en Willie Rossouw for their efforts in obtaining these donations. Kevin Douglas also contributed generously. Stephanie Bishop (Gilmour) did the honours of handing over the prizes. First prize for the biggest crayfish and the Crayfish King trophy went to Doug Dewey and his crew. Johannes Visser had the biggest group of four and Willie Rossouw had the biggest group of eight. The prize for the biggest group of twelve went to John Biesman-Simons and for the biggest group of sixteen to Derek Esterhuyse. Trevor Hoeben had the biggest group of twenty. Booby prizes were "won" by Alison Ayre, Helen Jones and Geoff Titley.

PIET UYS  
ROOIELS BOORKLUB



JOHANNES VISSER ONTVANG TWEDE PRYS  
VAN STEPHANIE BISHOP



THE RESULTS ARE ANNOUNCED



CRAYFISH KING DOUG DEWEY AND TEAM  
WITH THEIR PRIZES



ERNST THOMPSON  
ENE KONSENTRASIE BY DIE  
INWEEG

# KLEIN HANGKLIP MAGIC AND MASOCHISM

In the last edition of Breeze, Geoff Harris wrote eloquently- poetically even - about the tradition of a hike up Klein Hangklip to witness the sunrise on January 1st. I was hooked!

I was a little worried as to how the very late wining and dining on New Year's Eve would affect my, normally, robust constitution. Of course, I could have been abstemious, but I'm weak-willed when in convivial surroundings. Thus, I joined Geoff and other Rooielers at 04.45 outside the Drummond Arms somewhat hungover. I was accompanied by friends in an equivalent state, but some years younger! Once the climb started, I was amazed at the speed of the vanguard up the eastern flank of Klein Hangklip in what Geoff calls an easy 30 minute walk. Geoff! Even 7kgs lighter and sober, and without a camera bag on my back, I would never describe it as an easy walk. However, you aficionados are a fit lot and I struggled up in the rear, with several stops to admire the view. Well why not? Walking is meant to be pleasure not purgatory.

It was worth the effort. Geoff described, to perfection, the silence that falls just as the Earth moves sufficient to allow the first rays of the sun to burst over the Kogelberg. It is a magic moment.

SANDRAYEO



WAITING FOR THE FIRST GLORIOUS RAY OF LIGHT!



...HERE COMES THE SUN! FIRST SUNRISE OF 2006 OVER THE KOGELBERG

## THE SUN

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN  
ANYTHING  
IN YOUR LIFE  
MORE WONDERFUL  
THAN THE WAY THE SUN,  
EVERY EVENING,  
RELAXED AND EASY,  
FLOATS TOWARD THE  
HORIZON  
AND INTO THE CLOUDS OR  
THE HILLS,  
OR THE RUMPLED SEA,  
AND IS GONE—  
AND HOW IT SLIDES AGAIN  
OUT OF THE BLACKNESS,  
EVERY MORNING,  
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE  
WORLD,  
LIKE A RED FLOWER  
STREAMING UPWARD ON ITS  
HEAVENLY OILS,  
SAY, ON A MORNING IN EARLY  
SUMMER,  
AT ITS PERFECT IMPERIAL DISTANCE—  
AND HAVE YOU EVER FELT FOR  
ANYTHING  
SUCH WILD LOVE—  
DO YOU THINK THERE IS  
ANYWHERE, IN ANY LANGUAGE,  
A WORD BILLOWING ENOUGH  
FOR THE PLEASURE  
THAT FILLS YOU,  
AS THE SUN  
REACHES OUT,  
AS IT WARMS YOU  
AS YOU STAND THERE,  
EMPTY-HANDED—  
OR HAVE YOU TOO  
TURNED FROM THIS WORLD—  
OR HAVE YOU TOO GONE  
CRAZY  
FOR POWER,  
FOR THINGS?

-MARY OLIVER



# LOVING THE SILLY SEASON AT ROOI ELS!

With no hustle-bustle shopping malls to jangle jingle bells into my unwilling ears, Rooi Els is (in my opinion) the most sensible hideaway to spend the 'silly season'. Peace and quietude (except for the wind) and an absolutely fantastic Christmas program, make Rooi Els an irresistible combination. You'd go far to find another place with such a fab holiday programme and for free.

On Christmas eve Granny Lynn and Grandpa Geoff's 206 Harveya road's walls stretched to accommodate 13 of us. Of course we did seem to do the inevitable eating er... let's make that overeating. But then how does one resist Granny's homemade ice-cream, crunchies, Christmas mince pies, Christmas cake and shortbread and Grandpa's fab fudge? And I haven't even mentioned the gammon, roast lamb and so on and so on that seemed to roll out the kitchen in a never-ending stream. And we definitely noticed that the bottles we recycled had increased and that was despite the fact that many of them were used to bottle wonderful homemade ginger beer! We didn't quite make the Carols by Candlelight on the programme but with Grandpa leading the merry band on his guitar, there were happy voices singing all the traditionals almost every evening.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WE DID MAKE IT TO THE SAND SCULPTING FESTIVAL WHERE OUR TWO TEAMS CONTRIBUTED A 'PEACE TO THE WORLD' THEME AND A 'ROOI ELS SPECIAL' RACING CAR COMPLETE WITH TRACK. WHAT A FABULOUS EVENT AND EVEN WITH GREAT PRIZES.



We visited the 5<sup>th</sup> biosphere exhibition and if we ever needed any motivation to fall in love with Klein Hangklip all over again, we surely found it there in amongst magnificent jewelery, photographs, pottery and sculpture.

The Harris household entered three teams into the Boule competition - our youngest being 6, the oldest 67. I was fortunate enough to be teamed with the 6-year old who saved my bacon by scoring 9 of our 11 points thus ensuring we were only pipped by a narrow margin. Whew - thank goodness for 6-year olds! Next we tottered along to the Baboon Buzz where we were most wonderfully entertained and kept well informed by Chris and Sandra (the latter with a baboon mask on). And now I know that the average weight for a adult male baboon is about 32kg whereas the female is only about 16 kg. I did notice though that only the younger children were happy to hop on Chris's scale... no guessing why for members from our household?



Old year's eve saw the Harris clan all writing down things from 2005 that they would like to forget and handing them to Grandpa to burn ceremonially. This was followed by each person making a list of their hopes, dreams and expectations for 2006 and then sealing them into individual bottles for opening on the eve of 2007. And had you been watching our balcony at midnight you would have seen a jolly countdown (mostly by the children), the popping of a cork and sparklers. The next morning very early at 4.30am we were up to join Grandpa and another 12 people heading up the Klein Hangklip to view the very first sunrise of the New Year. What a splendiferous view we were all privileged with.



Finally, we joined Evette at her annual sea workshop, where we learnt about kelp, perlemoen, welks, crayfish, limpets, seaweed and a host of other little sea creatures. As I watched the eager little faces bringing Tannie Vett yet another treasure, I couldn't help thinking they would remember more from that fun and interactive 2-hour outing than I'd did from ka-zillions of biology lessons.

As I look at the Christmas programme, I see so many wonderful events we just never got to... I guess there's always next year.

CARI CORBET-OWEN

IN MEMORIAM:  
JAAP VENTER

OORLEDE 18 DESEMBER 2005 IN ROOI-ELS

Jaap het die gawe en genade gehad om die betekenis van 'n sinvolle en blymoedige lewe te ken. Met 'n bedrywige lewe as prokureur en baie aktiewe rolbalspeler op Somerset Wes, was Rooi-Els vir hom en Clarissa 'n kosbare wegbreek-geleentheid. Rooi-Els het hulle wye belangstellings soos 'n handskoen gepas. Houtwerk, draaibankwerk, skilder, staptogte met kiere en pet, voëllewe dophou, kuier en grappies maak saam met die kinders en kleinkinders, self instandhoudingswerk doen en om die see, walvisse, sterre en kleurespel met sonsondergang te geniet, was balsem vir die siel. Sy ruim en natuurlike wynkelder tussen ons Kaapse rotse is seker die interessantste een en met die meeste karakter op Rooi-Els.

Clarissa en die kinders kan getroos wees dat hulle baie mooi tye saam met 'n besondere mens beleef het.

PIERRE DU TOIT



IN ROOIELS MAAK DIE NATUUR MY SIEL OOP, MY SINTUIE WAKKER, GEDAGTES NAAK,  
EMOSIES ROU, BESTAAN KLEIN, KENNIS ARM, LEWE RYK.

MAAR HOEKOM JUIS HIER?  
IS DIT DIE WIND WAT MENS SO UITMERGEL DAT JY ONTVANKLIK RAAK?

DAT JY RAAKSIEN:  
DIE EENVOUD VAN 'N BOBBEJAAN SE VINGERPUNTE; SY AMBERBRUIN OË?  
DIE MUIHOND SE ONSKULDIGE GESIGGIE?  
DIE SLANG SE SPOOR?  
DIE DONKERNAG SE LIG?  
NIETIGHEID?  
OORVLOED?

SY TRAP HAAR RITME UIT, ONGEAG MY TEENWOORDIGHEID.  
SY NOOI MY IN, OMARM MY.  
MAAR LAAT MY NET SO MAKLIK GAAN.

-ENETH KRUGER (UIT MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIË)

# OM 'N BOOM TE PLANT...

Ek het vir 13 jaar op Rooi-Els gewoon. Naweke het ek in die dorpstuin gewerk en almal wat verbystap, het met my kom gesels oor die plant van 'n fynbos tuin. Ek kon van die goed uitwys: kyk, hierdie gladiolus blom teenaan die see, daardie vygie bly dag en nag oop, daarom heet dit die altydvygie. Hier is 'n plakkie wat in 1624 beskryf is deur Justus Heurnius wat Tafelberg uitgeklim het tydens sy reis na die Ooste en dit groei ook op Rooi-Els. Hier is balsemkopiva, die wondergeneesmiddel, en daar is wildeadagga, dit help vir rumatiek, en daar is kooigoed, wat brongitis verlig. Die oumense het matrasse daarmee gestop. Mense het vir my plante en geld vir die tuin gegee, en ek het goeie gesindheid ervaar.

In Desember 2005 trek ek na Bettysbaai. Hier moet ek nog tuin maak, en voel alleen en vreemd op die perseel waar ek bly. Die sand dwarrel op die stoep en die buffelsgras swaai heen en weer in droë, geel slierte. Die wind skeer vanaf die berg en ruk-ruk aan die dak. Dit beur deur die skoorsteen en kreun deur die kaggel en bars in by die grot van my hartseer huis. Die hond lê met sy neus op sy voorpote en die storms woed in my.

Eendag toe ek by die huis kom na 'n lang stap, het iemand 'n boom op die stoep gelos. Dit is 'n mooi groot boom, 'n kusvaalbos, wat goed hier aard. Dit is windbestand en kan 'n mate van seesproei hanteer en dit maak kapokbolletjies in die laat-winter, sodat die suikerbekkies en tinkinkies en bandkeeljantjies daarvan versamel om hulle neste mee uit te voer. Die blare van die boom is blinkgroen bo en fluweelsag silwergroen aan die onderkant en as die wind waai, sien mens die knipoog van die twee soorte groen. Helder en sag, helder en sag, en die omlinging van die blaas is skerp gekartel en duidelik.

Daar was geen aanduiding wie die boom gebring het nie. Ek het gekyk in die grondpad, maar niemand het 'n boodskap in die sand gelos nie. Nêrens is daar in die stof teen die venster geskryf nie, of is 'n nota op 'n stuk papier onder 'n potplant gelaat nie.

Ek was spyt dat ek die besoekers gemis het. Ek sou so graag met hulle wou gesels. Hoekom het hulle vir my 'n boom gebring? Het hulle plante by die natuurtuin gaan koop, en op die ingewing van die oomblik by my pad ingedraai en die bourommel bedek met waaiende sand en kaal klip gesien? Of het hulle aan my gedink? "Sy het getrek. Kom ons gee vir haar iets wat haar sal laat tuis voel in die plek waar sy nou bly. Iets wat sy altyd kan hou. Kom ons gee haar 'n boom."

Ek wou nie tuinmaak nie. Ek het nie aan die boom geraak nie en dit het bly staan op die stoep in die warmte en die wind. Die blare het slap in die hitte gehang en die wind het die bogrond uit die plantsak gewaai sodat mens die wortels kon sien, en dit was droog en dit was swart en dit was dood. Die boom het swaargekry.

Maar drie dae later het ek die graaf en die kompos en die boom gevat en uitgestap in die tuin. Daar het 'n skroeiwind van die berg se kant gewaai en die son het warm op my skouers gebrand.

Ek het die plantsak afgesny en die boom geplant en dit met Bounce Back en Seagrow gevoer. Ek het die gat opgevul en ligweg die grond vasgedruk, versigtig om die wortels nie seer te maak nie. Ek het die stam met 'n paal gestut dat dit kan sterk staan teen die wind en die storms. Ek het emmers vol water nader gedra en in die los grond gegiet en droë blare en takke gestrooi dat dit die vog kan behou. Ek het die graaf en die kompos weggepak en op die stoep gaan sit en na my boom gekyk. Ek het 'n tuin gehad. Op die dak het die kransduif haar kuikens gevoer en agter die huis kon ek die dikkoppe by hul nes hoor roep en Boetman het waai-sterf by my kom staan.

Ek sal die boom koester, het ek gedink. Ek sal proteas en aalwyne plant vir die suikerbekke, ek sal bietou en blombos plant vir die insekte, en daar sal seeghwarrie en taalbos en kershout wees waar die muisvoël en paradysvlieëvanger en janfrederik kan broei. Ek sal 'n tuin maak van plakkies en salie en vygies en strandasters en malvas en madeliefies, sodat die bandkeeljantjies en tinkinkies kan kom jag onder die insekte, en in die laatwinter bolbekke vol wol in my geskenkboom kom pluk. Tussen die bittergousblom en die wildeknoflok sal die rooipootakkedis wegglipe en 'n bloukoppoggelmander kan uitklim op 'n klip en kom sit in die son.

Daar is baie volksname vir die *Brachylaena discolor*: kusvaalbos, wolbos, kapokbos. Hierby wil ek voeg: klim-uit-jou-simpel-bui bos. Dankie-vir-wat-jy-doen bos.

Daar is terapie daaraan om 'n boom te plant. Om te sorg en te vertroetel en te geniet. 'n Geloof in die toekoms. 'n Plan om te bly, of 'n nalatenskap vir hulle wat ná jou kom bly.

Ek sal hom dophou en elke dag gaan kyk of ons wortel geskiet het, ek en my boom, en ek sal snoesig in my huis van kapokwol en tinkinkievoor bly. Die sand en die stof kan maar oor my waai en die reën kan van die berg se kant af kom en die lote kan afbuig tot teen die grond; die blare sal steeds vir my flikker: blinkgroen en vaalgroen en silwergroen, en sterk.

DINEVANZYL ©

Naskrif: *Dankie Pierre en Louise du Toit, dit was toe al die tyd julle wat die boom gebring het. Maar dankie eintlik vir veel, veel meer. DvZ*



# STRIVING TO BE A CARING COMMUNITY

THE ROOI ELS TEAM CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF EXPLORING A VISION FOR ROOI ELS, LED INTO THE PROPOSED VALUES STATEMENT WITH THE WORDS: "ROOI ELS STRIVES TO BE A CARING COMMUNITY" ... SO THE BREEZE WILL STRIVE TO BRING YOU NEWS OF PROJECTS WHERE ROOI ELSERS CAN LEND A HAND.

## BABINANI:

**BAMBINANI** is a new crèche and day-care facility that has just been built in Proteadorp, Kleinmond. They are in need of (new or second-hand) cots, foam mattresses, blankets, towels, toys, etc. Donations can be dropped off at the Child and Family Welfare office, Kleinmond. (Turn left into Protea Road just after passing the Cemetery in Kleinmond, and first left into the car park that serves the welfare office, the Clinic and KAWS.)

## KAWS ADOPTIONS:

Now that Kleinmond Animal Welfare Society (involving Rooi Elers, Estelle le Roux, Chris Burlock and Di Perton,) has a 'physical home', often destitute or sometimes irresponsible animal owners bring in pets for KAWS to destroy. "As animal lovers it just becomes too heartbreaking to destroy beautiful, healthy puppies and kittens, dogs and cats," says Estelle le Roux, "so we desperately try and find good homes for these innocent victims."

Young Tessa is one such case. Her owner lives in a shack attached to a Proteadorp home and the landlord has forbade dogs. She is an exceptionally loyal, quiet and gentle, spayed female Alsation. Although she is being kept at KAWS, there are no kennelling facilities and each night she is reluctantly locked into a small cage in the surgery's recovery room.



TESSA LOOKING FOR A HOME

"We urgently need a foster home or even a new, caring home for Tessa," says Estelle. If Rooi Elers could please speak to family and friends, we need help to find her a new owner...as well as homes for two small-breed puppies and five beautiful kittens."

All adoption animals from KAWS are sterilized, dewormed and vaccinated. If you can help please call KAWS on (028) 271 5004.

## CARING FOR THE SEA

### SEAWATCH NUMBER HAS CHANGED

You might have noticed that the SEAWATCH notice boards have been removed. They are replaced by municipal notice boards with the MARINE'S number 082 854 1948 and the NEW SEAWATCH NUMBER 082 9949300.

SEAWATCH started in 1995/6. It was geared towards raising the awareness of the public about sea life and the dangers of poaching, and towards increasing law enforcement. SEAWATCH successfully involved the public in the protection of the sea, and the public reported poaching which led to arrests.

### MIKE & LINDA TANNET

The area most targeted by poachers remains the marine reserve in Betty's Bay where Mike and Linda Tannet work for SEAWATCH full time. Due to their tireless work Mike and Linda were nominated, and were finalists for the mayor's Environmental award in 2005.

Your vigilance in spotting poaching and reporting it is vital and much appreciated. We have had some good successes in catching poachers in Rooi Els. Please report poaching to Seawatch or the Marines.

EVETTE WEYERS

# BABOON BITS

## CHILD INJURED BY BABOON AT KOGEL BAY

It was with great concern that we learned of a child seriously injured by a baboon on Saturday, 4th February 2006. On the same day, the Biosphere Reserve Action Group began to establish the facts of the incident. Witnesses reported that there had been ongoing fighting between two male baboons during the morning. Four-year old CJ Adams was playing with a group of friends close to where his parents were starting a braai fire. Suddenly one of the male baboons was seen with his head down, charging towards the children. According to Dr Dave Gaynor (one of SA's leading primatologists), CJ got in the way of a fighting baboon. His wounds were serious and consisted of two deep, parallel lacerations across the abdomen. CJ was airlifted to the Children's Red Cross hospital and underwent surgery. He was discharged a week later.

There are two important lessons to be learnt from this unfortunate incident.

### 1. KEEP FOOD AWAY FROM THE BABOONS!

Even though this attack was not directly related to food, none of the refuse bins at Kogel Bay are baboon-proofed and on weekends and public holidays there is food in excess, which attracts baboons to the area. This is irresponsible negligence on the part of the authorities.

### 2. FIGHTING BABOONS ARE DANGEROUS!

When baboons fight, baboon mothers flee with their babies and the youngsters scatter. We should take our cues from this and keep well away from fighting, adrenalin-charged baboons.

*[We are encouraged to learn that the authorities are now asking for quotations to install baboon-proof bins in the Kogel Bay recreation areas. There should be no delay in implementing this.]*

## BABOON WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN ...

The Biosphere Reserve Action Group has ongoing workshops for children that are provided free of charge by two very busy, but very dedicated Rooielsers - Chris Burlock and Evette Weyers. At the time of the Kogel Bay incident they were, in fact, running a workshop for about 20 children from Greyton. Rewarded with snacks for correctly answering questions, the children were soon taught to part with their prizes when approached by the BIG BABOON, (Evette wearing a life-like baboon mask). Besides stressing how we can keep our food away from them, in the light of the Kogel Bay incident, they are now placing more emphasis on the need to stay away from fighting baboons.



CHRIS BURLOCK PRESENTING A BABOON AWARENESS WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN

## BABOONS CHALLENGE OUR BEST EFFORTS ...

The practise of gaining access to houses by removing sliding doors has been perfected by the stronger baboons in both the Pringle Bay and the Rooi Els troops. Witnesses have told us that it takes only a few minutes for a single baboon to bend a door frame enough to gain entry and it seems that no standard frame is strong enough to withstand the strength they can wield, even if they only get their fingernails into the crack between the doors.

I have seen a top-of-the-range door, promoted as being reinforced and burglar-proof, removed with apparent ease by a baboon. The problem is that the reinforcing is along the horizontal segments of the aluminium frame, and it is the vertical segment that is being bent.

Nearly 3 years ago, Dr Dave Gaynor told us that the only effective way of keeping baboons out of our homes was by using electric wires. These can be discreetly placed on the top floor of double-storey homes and those who have them say they are very effective. The baboons sense the current and stay away - without having to learn the hard way by touching the wires!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PERSON AT THE MUNICIPALITY TO CONTACT REGARDING BABOON MATTERS, IS NOW A 3RD YEAR ZOOLOGY STUDENT WHO IS WORKING IN THE DECS FOR A YEAR.

HER NAME IS CHRISTINE GELDENHUYS AND SHE IS ON 24-HOUR CALL AT: 072-776-4250.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF..

# BABOON BITS CONTINUED

## HAVE THEY BECOME NOCTURNAL?

We have also had reports of baboons seen in the village after dark. Estelle le Roux, investigating why her dogs were barking, found one in her garden at 22:15 and Chris Burlock came across another one after 8:00 pm. There have been several other similar, but unconfirmed reports. [Please let me know if you have come across baboons after dark as I would like to document all such incidents]. Of course, this is bad news for those of us who open our doors and windows on summer evenings, in the evidently mistaken belief that the baboons are all tucked up in their mountain beds!

## WILL THEY SOON BE FAMOUS...?

The past few weeks has seen a French film crew following the Rooi Els and Pringle Bay troops up the mountains and around our homes. Thousands of metres of footage was shot, not only of the baboons, but also of Jo and Margaret Hensen [what makes THEM so popular with the camera men?]. And of course, when they were ready to film the baboons playing with the Fryer's dogs, they simply refused to cooperate - although they had happily been doing so a few days earlier. And as for jumping off the bridge into the lagoon - the baboons ignored this suggestion as if it was completely ludicrous [although Frank and Estelle Raymond swear they have seen them do it!]

JENNY STARK



## OUR 'FRENCH FILM STARS' ARE A 'HIT' WITH THE CREW

The experienced Baboon Watching French Film Crew returned to Rooi Els and Pringle Bay recently, to do a follow-up on their previous work.

They stayed in a very baboon friendly beach house in Pringle Bay: not a bar or window lock anywhere.

Early one morning, the hairy 'stars' of the film got fed up with waiting around and so, spotting a very nice bowl of fruit, and various other things, on the breakfast bar, invited themselves in via an open bedroom window.

The French Film Director wandered, sleepily, into the living area to see a contented group enjoying all the grub around. Unfortunately, as can happen if it's your 'first time', she shrieked. (In case anyone might wonder about my use of the words 'first time', I am referring to horror rather than ecstasy.) The camera and sound men heard the shriek and rushed down from their rooms, clothed only, Tarzan like, in their underpants, but carrying their very hit-tech equipment. At least one young baboon was not amused at having the sound boom thrust at him, and promptly evacuated his bowels.

We understand a lesson has been learned by all concerned. *C'est la vie!*

SANDRA YEO



# CARINA'S EPIC SWIM FROM ROOIELS ACROSS FALSE BAY

Carina Bruwer, Capetonian marathon swimmer, in February managed to swim the 35km across False Bay successfully, becoming only the third person ever, and the first South African woman, to do so. She started from Rooi Els around 06:45, and walked ashore at Millers' Point 10h58mins later.

"I feel ecstatic, emotional, and very relieved. I was on standby to swim for a month, and I became quite obsessed. To me it is a huge achievement, as the Bay has beaten me and many other swimmers before", said Carina. Carina attempted the crossing in March last year, but got hypothermic after swimming for 5 hours. The temperature then was 14-15 degrees.

Crossing False Bay - in distance similar to the English Channel, represents one of the ultimate tests for marathon swimmers in the world. Apart from the grueling distance, the swim is fraught with dangers, including strong currents, unpredictable winds, icy waters, and the ever present danger presented by the fact that False Bay has one of the highest populations of White sharks in the world.

These conditions have gotten the better of most of the 20 swimmers who have attempted the crossing in the past. The swim has been completed successfully twice: first in 1989 by the world-renowned Belgian swimmer Annemie Landmeters, and in 2004 by South Africa's own distance swimming ace Steve Klugman. In an interview after his epic crossing two years ago, which took 14h15, Klugman said "I am insane. I will never do it again; for those who are looking at attempting it, good luck!"

Carina says it was an easy swim - almost too easy as her mind kept drifting to other things... such as sharks! "My support crew was great, although there were a few anxious moments when during the first couple of hours, the GPS failed in thick mist."

Carina is a professional concert flautist. She obtained her music degree cum laude from Stellenbosch University. She is performing at Rooi Els on Saturday 15 April in celebration of the unveiling of the new Conservancy logo. Join us at 17:30 at Café Rio where she will give a concert.



SETTING OUT IN THE MIST FROM ROOIELS



WITH HER MAGIC FLUTE

PEOPLE USUALLY CONSIDER WALKING ON WATER OR IN THIN AIR A MIRACLE. BUT I THINK THE REAL MIRACLE IS NOT TO WALK EITHER ON WATER OR IN THIN AIR, BUT TO WALK ON EARTH. EVERY DAY WE ARE ENGAGED IN A MIRACLE WHICH WE DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE: A BLUE SKY, WHITE CLOUDS, GREEN LEAVES, THE BLACK, CURIOUS EYES OF A CHILD - OUR OWN TWO EYES. ALL IS A MIRACLE.

THICH NHAT HAHN

# BIRD CHAT

TIME NEVER STANDS STILL IN BIRDING - INDEED MANY BIRDS HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO STAND AFTER ONE OF THE WINDIEST SUMMERS FOR YEARS IN ROOI ELS!

At Christmas a young Blue Crane was 'blown down' and it or other individuals stayed in the area for a few days, though perfectly healthy it needed a beach break too and rested-up before leaving with the 'Gauties' in early January.

Also during this period the keen eyes of Rina Thompson found an Oystercatcher's nest roughly in the middle of the main beach. This was no mean feat - they are remarkably difficult to locate with their typical seaweed dressing and well camouflaged chick and egg. It is now estimated that there are no more than 6000 worldwide of which 75% are in Southern Africa. Of these the highest concentration is on the Western Cape coast. They are near-threatened globally.

Taking this one nest as an example perfectly illustrates the bird's problem. Uninhabited or sparsely populated areas are fine but not beaches in the height of the summer season... Added to this are the high water mark and tidal variations and that the pair don't usually breed until they are 5-7 years old. 1-2 eggs is the usual with an incubation period of 27-39 days by both parents. As the chick is precocial it has to develop much more before hatching, in comparison to, say a Cape Bulbul, which is altricial and helpless at birth and needs an incubation period of only 11-13 days.

Though it hatched we do not know if the Oystercatcher chick survived, being precocial it would have moved according to the parents demands so there is every reason to believe it did initially. However there is probably only a 20% survival rate for the young. The second egg was quite another matter, it didn't. There is usually a gap of only a day between hatching, we know that the highest tide of December probably overwhelmed the nest either destroying the egg or washing it away. The Thompsons are to be congratulated for allowing the rest of us to see a nest, we personally do not know of another example here in 19 years, and that's why we need your observations to assist us to keep our records up to date.

There has a marked increase in Kelp Gulls in our area, their strident calls a 'worrying' noise. They are highly opportunistic birds and are very partial to black bags and general rubbish. Under no circumstances should they be fed. Their faecal matter is destructive to whatsoever it lands on.

Roberts VII has come in for some flak for the non-inclusion of Afrikaans names. On the face of it that seems a trifle unfair - after all, contribution by Afrikaans-speakers to the scientific community has been extensive. Roberts VI remains the chief reference book for the Afrikaans names as indeed it does for the other indigenous names. The other bone of contention is the removal of the number system. Birders are divided about the solution. We favour an alphabetical system, which is how books are indexed anyway. An up-to-date free bird list compiled by Helen and myself can be found at the village shop, though a donation to the NSRI would be appreciated.

Rooi Els birding doesn't necessarily mean terra firma only. Over the crayfishing season we've had some interesting sightings at sea. The Lockleys were also at sea during a particularly blustery day when we saw a shearwater, but which one? They got a better look at it than we did and because of the diagnostic yellow bill were able to identify it as Cory Shearwater. Extra eyes equal better ID - this is especially true in awkward or difficult conditions. On several occasions we have been able to watch penguins at close quarters from the boat. These are African Penguins (R.V11) previously known as Jackass Penguins (the same as the breeding colony at Betty's Bay), so-called for their braying call. It's also a privilege to be able to see the seabirds going about their daily lives, terns, cormorants, gulls catching the small fry near the surface and on a couple of occasions having dolphins near-by too.

As the summer gives way to autumn, look for the last swallows to fly north and the more permanent return of the Gannets to False Bay. The fire oranges and pinks of autumnal hues become more common than the dusk blues and aquamarines of summer. Time for a sweater now and then and the silhouettes of the cormorants homeward bound from their fishing grounds. Another season is beginning.

ALISON AYRE

"IF I HAD INFLUENCE WITH THE GOOD FAIRY WHO IS SUPPOSED TO PRESIDE OVER THE CHRISTENING OF ALL CHILDREN, I SHOULD ASK THAT HER GIFT TO EACH CHILD IN THE WORLD BE A SENSE OF WONDER SO INDESTRUCTIBLE THAT IT WOULD LAST THROUGHOUT LIFE."

RACHEL CARSON

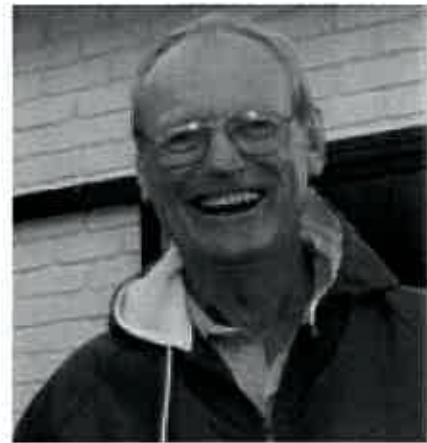
## THE PLIGHT OF THE AFRICAN BLACK OYSTERCATCHER...

### HOW CAN WE BE MORE CONSERVATION MINDED?

At Rooi Els we have one pair of African Oystercatchers that are frequently seen on the main beach, on the rocks around the slipway and at the point. This past season they attempted to breed on the main beach which is an action built into their way of life and something their predecessors have done for hundreds of years. One can say that their selection of breeding site is not the most sensible but it is a habit deeply ingrained in the Oystercatcher, i.e. to find a spot on a beach just above the high water mark and lay their eggs. This nest is exposed to all sorts of dangers which might not have existed many years ago such as human beings and their constant companion, the house hold dog frequenting this area.

This season our resident oystercatcher pair laid two eggs in a scrape on a little sand hillock on the main beach. Two chicks hatched and we saw them clearly from Werner Modinger's house on 27 December 2005. Alas, their time was to be short-lived. No one knows what happened to them but one can surmise that the activity on the beach at Christmas time with the dogs and people running around disturbed the parents who would have flown off leaving the chicks defenceless. But it need not necessarily have this ending every Christmas.

Oystercatchers breed every year between November to February and usually lay one to three eggs in a hollow scrape on the beach. Betty's Bay have had some success with signposting the nesting places and following an active policy of Oystercatcher Nannies who police the site and ask people to avoid the area and to ensure their dogs are on a lead. And they have seen the end results with chicks that have fledged and survived to increase the overall Oystercatcher population. But unless there are many volunteers for Oystercatcher duty this policy will be difficult to follow.



DICK LOCKLEY

SO WHAT IS THE ANSWER?  
CAN WE IGNORE THE PLIGHT OF THE  
OYSTERCATCHERS WHICH HAVE NOT  
RAISED CHICKS AT ROOI ELS FOR YEARS?  
REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE ONLY 6700  
ODD OYSTERCATCHERS IN SOUTH AFRICA  
AND THEY REMAIN ON THE  
"VULNERABLE" AND "NEAR-THREATENED"  
LISTS.

I am encouraged by the success achieved in Cape Agulhas. I quote from a recent article in the Cape Times :

*"With the help of Cape Nature Conservation Pienaar had signs made displaying big pictures of the birds which he posted at each nest. On the signs were instructions that people should leave the area immediately so as not to disturb the birds. To Pienaar's delight, holidaymakers and fishermen alike responded positively and steered clear of the nests with the result that by next summer all the breeding pairs laid eggs and 11 hatchlings survived into adulthood."*

The article goes on to say: *"Pienaar's experience at Cape Agulhas shows that people are mostly ignorant about the threat they and their dogs cause to the birds and that if they are alerted to the real facts, they generally co-operate"*.

Can we in Rooi Els too try our utmost this Christmas season to allow the African Oystercatchers to breed successfully on our beach? What can we do to assist the Oystercatchers? Please let the Rooi Els Conservancy Committee have your thoughts on this.

DICK LOCKLEY





# War On Weeds!

## ROOI ELS DECLARES WAR!

Our village is being invaded by an increasing number of 'seedy foreigners'... and they are trying to take it over! They've sneaked into our peaceful village hidden in paving sand or under vehicles and have been setting up an 'underground' army! The Rooi Els Conservancy urges everyone who loves Rooi Els, has a garden, or enjoys a stroll to try and nip this invasion in the bud!

Each year we want to target 3 of these weedy characters.

For 2006 we are going to try and 'take out' some of the most easy to recognise, insidious invaders. Show no mercy! Ruthlessly uproot them foreigners! If you don't have the 'pull power', go ahead - behead them!

Here's your id sheet...please study these faces! If you see one, please do not hesitate to



### **HORSEWEEDS**

**(*Coryza sumatrensis* and *Coryza bonariensis*)**

Originally from the Americas, these rangy, flowering weeds are causing havoc in farmlands and are known to harbour the 'kromnek' wilt virus. You will find them on bare disturbed ground. Ideally pull them up before they flower. If in seed, please bin or burn the flower heads.



### **BUNNY TAIL GRASS**

**(*Lagurus ovatus*)**

This fynbos enemy is of Mediterranean extraction and despite its pretty face it is a heartless weed. It is in seed now...so when pulled out or beheaded, please bag the heads and burn them (safely, please!) or get them out of the village with the garbage.



### **FOUNTAIN GRASS**

**(*Pennisetum secaceum*)**

This tall, attractive ornamental grass and its little brother, FEATHERTOP (*Pennisetum villosum*), was brought in from North Africa as ornamentals... but escaped into the wild. Both can replace indigenous vegetation! Fountain grass in particular has a strong pioneering nature and can endanger our fynbos.

# LIFE-AFFIRMING FYNBOS REGENERATION

We appeal for photographs and "sharp eyes" to track the changes in the flora as a result of the fire. We have a chance to contribute to better understanding of fynbos. There is also the opportunity to identify rare or new species. After the last fire one species considered extinct was rediscovered. This is a particular appeal to people living in Klein Rooi Els and others where the fire came close to home - please keep a photo record of the flowers when they come up in your gardens and make a note of the date.

COULD YOU PLEASE BRING OUT ANY PHOTOS YOU MAY HAVE FROM BEFORE THE FIRE?

We are looking for overall views of the area as well as some that are more specific to the plants. It is very important to indicate when and where they were taken - if you remember. If not, look at the map and indicate which zone you think it was taken in. If you have a photo already, it would be most useful if you could take a photo from the exact same spot once or twice a year for the next five years. This is known as a fixed-point photo record. Even if you don't remember the exact date, or you won't be in a position to continue to photograph from the same spot over the next five years, please let us have a look at your photos. You may have a photograph of just that one spot we are missing!

When you go for walks, make a note of unusual plants and photograph them if possible, or just let us know what you saw and in which zone you found it. There is a map with zones marked up in the Eco Centre. Please note the presence of aliens and let us know so that the Hack can do some clearing! In the winter season we will be going on identification walks on specific transects at regular intervals over the next few years. Please would anyone willing to join in let us know.

## REPORT OF FINDINGS TO DATE

There is amazing growth and regrowth in the fire areas, particularly in the marshy belt along the main road from Rooi Els to Pringle Bay. The light rain we had around 19<sup>th</sup> February caused a flurry of regeneration.

Janette Yates was the first Rooi Elser to report the spectacular showing of red hot poker (*Kniphofia uvaria*) in January. *Mimetes cucullatus* is resprouting in many places and what looked like *Serruria* seedlings, but we will have to wait for flowers to be certain. Various *Leucodendrons* and other protea species are there but difficult for us amateurs to identify until they flower.



HYMANTHUS  
CANALICULATUS



DROSERA LEAVES



GLADIOLUS BREVIFOLIUS

There was much excitement as on February 23<sup>rd</sup> for the first time we saw *Haemanthus canaliculatus* spread over a small area. They are distinguished from the more common *coccineus* by the spathe bracts that are narrower and taper upwards.

*Canaliculatus* flower only after fire so it will probably be many years before they flower again. Thanks to Basil Moss for lending us his GPS.

*Drosera* rosettes caused much excitement to this amateur who thought they were flowers but on closer inspection it turned out that the rosettes of green with little red soft and slightly sticky spines were leaves not petals. In due course, provided we do get a little more rain, we hope to see which *Drosera* it is

Quite a few other very small and isolated plants are flowering *Gladiolus brevifolius* with its delicate pink bells, what was possibly *Thunbergiella filiformis* with those minute little white flowers bunched together and then a yellow daisy probably *Ursinia quinquepartita*. One little *Nemesia affinis* with its soft velvety pegs was defying all the black around it. We have some photographs and will get them all properly identified and recorded.

It is life-affirming to feel so close to the wonder of nature and the rebirth of the fynbos. Please take great care walking in the area to avoid destroying any of these little plants coming up.

Anyone with photos, aliens to report or interesting news please either email Kay Lereche at [kayml@telkomsa.net](mailto:kayml@telkomsa.net) or telephone Mary Comrie on 028 2738648/ 083 7922206

KAY LERECHÉ

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO LIGHT POLLUTION

We, like many other Rooi-Elsers, I expect, have a Wild Card. Such a wonderful idea for South Africans to participate in the many facets of "being wild in Africa"! The news booklet that members are sent threw up an exceptionally interesting article on light pollution by an astronomer. (For the record, the full title was "Pollution we are all guilty of: Light Pollution" by Bill Hollenbach and it appeared in Wild in Africa Vol 2 No. 2). Having read the article it made me think of our local situation and the Rooi Els Vision document, which makes specific reference to light pollution.

LIGHT POLLUTION IS AND WILL REMAIN A PROBLEMATIC AREA UNTIL PEOPLE REALISE THAT WE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

I quote directly from the article:-

*"It is, unfortunately, the "modern design and fashion" to have your house or office building illuminated to the extent that it looks like a Mausoleum. (It is actually much easier for burglars to identify your property and access points and the presence of guard dogs. It actually makes homes burglar - friendly!) With proper design, the building can be illuminated, more than enough, with less power and not be invasive at all..."*

Granted this article was written by an astronomer whose primary objection to excessive light is the "loss" of the night sky but it raises far more issues than that alone. Rooi Elsers have the privilege to live in a Biosphere and we are a Conservancy. I have never been able to fathom out why leaving on an all too frequently badly-placed outside light when the owners/occupants of the house are inside, serves any purpose at all - except to disturb, impinge on the quietude of other residents as well as lighting up the area for persons of less honourable character. Most Rooi Elsers bought property here for its natural beauty, which includes the dark hours too and this isn't helped by searchlight strength "downers", sidelighting that the Gestapo would have loved to possess and so-called "security lights".

It is a sad indictment of architectural design that little or no notice of this problem is made note of prior to construction at the planning stage. We have been informed with the budget that Eskom tariffs are set to rise over the next 3 years, so perhaps we should think of light pollution as an investment incentive, use less lighting and save money (unless, of course, you are Eskom shareholders)!

Remember too, the power supply problems that the Cape and Gauteng suffered earlier in the year. Certain aspects of these problems could have been prevented by better home management and indirectly curbed some of the appalling waste of electricity that occurs in and around the Mother City.

Check it out yourself, do I really need *all* these lights on tonight? How many televisions can I watch at the same time? Did you know that up to half of "wasted" electricity is lost through appliances being left on "stand-by"?

We have many "niggles" and moans that we can do little about, but this does not apply to lighting in our own homes, unless of course it's one of Eskom's "necessary" turn offs. Nobody wants to return to the Dark Ages but maybe it's time we all took a good look at ourselves and decide to make a difference!

With the threat (or should that read promise?) from Eskom of "further restrictions", perhaps we could return to candle power for lighting. Candles are much more romantic, people always look better in candlelight and we always remember *how many* are ignited. And with light pollution dramatically reduced, yes we'll be able to see the stars, not just the ones in our eyes!

ALISON AYRE

## BAIE DANKIE AAN ONS GEMEENSKAPS-TUINIERS!

OOR DIE JARE HET MENSE SOOS HETTIE CLAASSENS EN DINE VAN ZYL 'N REUSE ROL GESPEEL IN DIE UITLEG EN INSTANDHOUDING VAN ONS FYNBOSTUINE BY DIE INGANG VAN ROOIELS.

ONS SÊ NOU TOTSIENS AAN DINE EN SÊ HALLO AAN JANETTE YATES EN JILL LOCKLEY.

JANETTE EN JILL IS WERKLIK FYNBOSKENNERS. JANETTE IS DIE "KONVENER" VAN DIE KIRSTENBOSCH PLANTVERKOPE EN JILL WAS 'N TOERGIDS OP TAFELBERG.

# PROTEA PLANTING PLAN TO REHABILITATE DEGRADED URBAN AREAS

Our aim is to improve degraded urban areas of Rooiels through to Kleinmond by planting attractive indigenous species with the help of volunteers. At the moment we are concentrating on various proteas, leucodendrons and leucospermums endemic to this area.

We meet once a week on Thursdays at 10am for residents and Saturdays at 2pm for weekenders for about 2 hours, from mid- January through to May when planting starts after the first decent rains. The aim is to teach the volunteers all the steps needed for the successful propagation of the target plants.

With a collecting licence from the relevant authority the volunteers are shown where and how to collect seed heads from plants . We store them for a week or two until they release their seeds and are able then to sort the viable from non-viable, this stage lasting for a few months.

The pre-treatment and sowing stage follows and the volunteers take the seed trays home and look after them until the seedlings are at the right stage for planting. Planting out is done by shaking the seedling loose from the seed-tray soil and making a hole in the ground with a sharp stick. At that stage the seedling is on its own - we do not water it as it is winter and it must develop it's own root structure to take it through summer. Timing of the germination of the seeds is vital as the seedlings need as much time as possible of the wet weather.

Using volunteers the cost of a seedling is approximately one cent. It is possible that there may be a 25% die-off, however most of this is due to mice and buck.

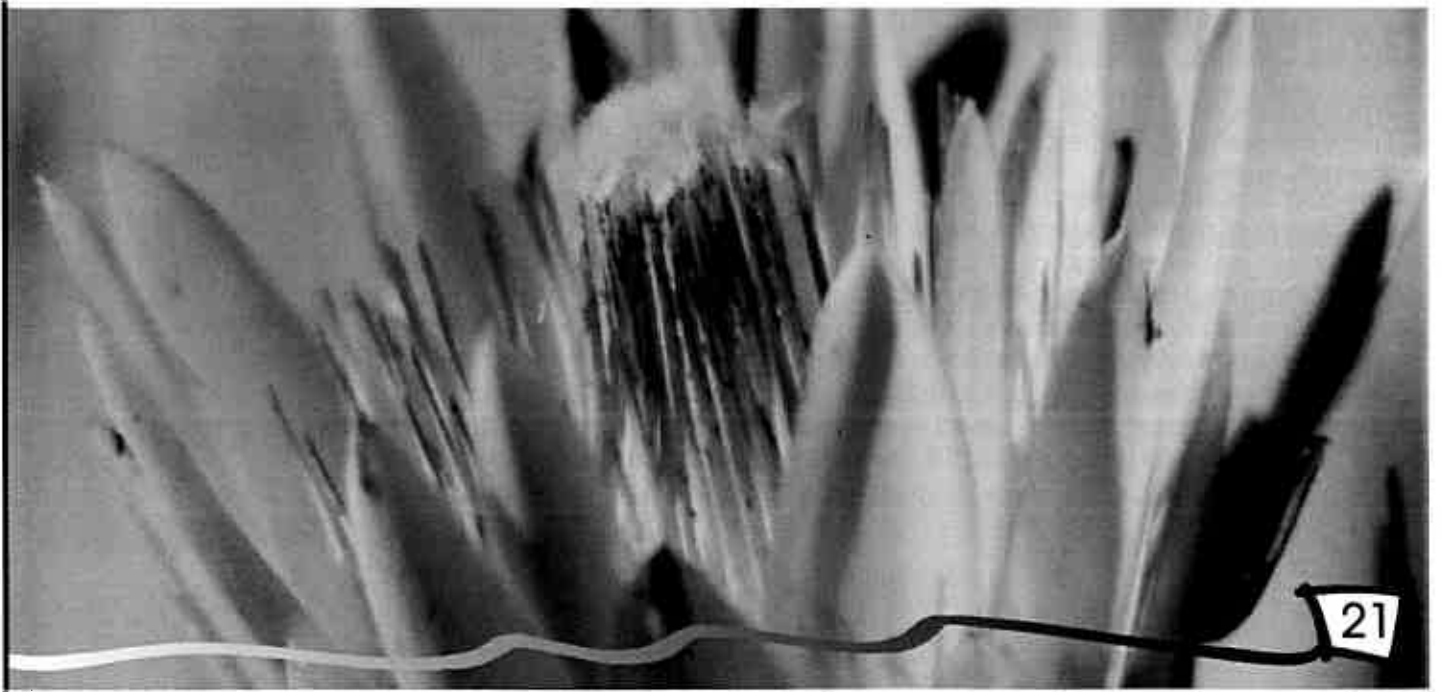
The volunteers have been planting seedlings out into their own and neighbours' gardens, alongside their own roads, public places, and in fact any urban area that needs beautifying. We are hoping that after some years of this there will be many thousands giving us a show. This last year we planted about 8000 seedlings with 12 volunteers and it follows that more volunteers equals more seedlings.

The work of volunteers varies as some prefer sorting seeds and sowing them to collecting the seedheads in the bush. You don't need to know the different plants, that will be taught and you don't have to belong to the Botanical Society. The cornerstone of the Protea Planting Plan is to keep things simple and informal.

Contact me at 0282729778 or [bulbin@iafrica.com](mailto:bulbin@iafrica.com)

ROBBIE THOMAS

THANK YOU TO ROOELERS LYNN HARRIS AND KOOS SMIT WHO ARE WORKING ON THE PROTEA PLANTING PLAN THIS YEAR!





# THE SOUTH EASTER ...

SOME SAY THAT THE WIND IS BORN IN ROOI ELS, BUT YOU ONLY NEED EXPERIENCE ONE REAL SOUTH EASTER TO KNOW THAT ROOI ELS IS NOT A WIND NURSERY AND THESE WINDS ARE NOT NEWBORNS.

NO, SOME OTHER, GENTLER PLACE GIVES BIRTH TO OUR WINDS.

There they begin to grow and gust, swirl and strengthen. Testing their power in some faraway place, only the strongest and most determined are chosen to move faster and faster across a vast, flat space, twirling and dancing, skipping, sprinting and surging - growing stronger all the time.

At some point, the 'kid winds' fuse, become unimaginably large and later quite unstoppable. Now huge and unmanageable, they speed across the Indian Ocean towards the Cape mountain ranges, where jagged rocks cleave and carve and smash them, splitting them into slimmer and faster streams that whip around obstacles and then reunite in whirls and thrusts and spins of accelerating power, each tugging in its own direction, all in the mainstream South Easter.



JENNY STARK

This is the South Easter that hurtles over Klein Hangklip and the Kogelberg and then tears through the road cutting and along the Rooi Els River and over the beach and out to the sea. It carries with it huge quantities of sand, whips the incoming waves backwards and drives the water into scores of ghostly dervishes that spiral across the agitated sea in a strange, uncoordinated dance.

THESE ARE THE "RUKWINDE" OF ROOI ELS, THE HUGELY POWERFUL SQUALLS THAT GUST AND TUG AND MAKE THINGS WHISTLE AND BANG AND SLAM. THEY PUSH US AND SHOVE US, AND POUND AT OUR EARDRUMS. THEY ROB US OF SLEEP AND MAKE US IRRITABLE.

They uproot lawns and direct carefully laid topsoil through glass and bricks and cement, onto our carpets and into our beds. These are the winds that keep us imprisoned in our houses for days on end. We long for outside, yet keep our eyes averted to avoid seeing the windowpanes bending. They lift off roofs, overturn caravans and suck out windows. They loosen rocks that tumble down the mountainsides and drive small fires into raging infernos.

But, they put the clouds into fast-forward mode, folding and unfolding in quickly changing patterns. They sweep the roads and the verges, pick up all the plastic bags and deposit them on the other side of False Bay. They polish the beaches and sparkle up the sea. They turn the air to crystal and bring the stars closer at night. They give us the fascinating genetic adaptations of the Cape Floral Kingdom. They make us feel small and powerless and help us keep a sense of proportion in the greater scheme of Nature.

AND THEN THEY STOP. ALWAYS SUDDENLY, ALWAYS SURPRISINGLY.

When it is over, there is always a pause as if all living creatures are holding their breath. Will the calm last? Then, the plants straighten up, the birds and animals come out to feed and the people start to smile. We don't talk much.

We open the windows and walk around our houses.

We marvel at the passion that was and at the wonderful sound of stillness.

JENNY STARK

"WINDS. TO BLOW US DOWN AND THEN TO BRING US HOME. TO BLOW US BACK UNTO OURSELVES. FILL OUR SAILS AND BRIM OUR HEARTS."

- SUSAN ST. JOHN RHEAULT

# HOEKOM DIE WIND WAAI



DINE VAN ZYL

Mens leef met die wind. Dit ruk aan die huis, pluk aan jou hare, bepaal jou gemoed. Die Noordwes bring die winterreën en die ganse en die perde op die see, en die onweer wat klam in jou klere sit en taai aan jou vensters klou.

Die Suidoos waai jou moederlooslik. Dit draai die skroewe uit die dakke en die sand vreet gate in die pleister teen die mure, dae en dae aaneen.

Mens raak gewoon aan die wind. Jy raak gewoon aan die bee-baa-boetsieman wat stof en gruis die lug inskiet as hy dans in die pad, aan die waterspoke op die see, soms een, soms 'n brigade wat opruk vanaf die rif tot teen die berg.

Sodat as dit stil is. Skielik stil. Mens opkyk, onrustig, en besef: die wind waai nie. Eers dán onthul die dag homself aan jou in sy skoonheid en klaarheid en silwer en stilheid. En weet jy hoekom die wind gewaai het.

DINE VAN ZYL ©

## UIT MY DAGBOEK: NAG VAN VUUR & WIND

WOENSDAG 8/11/2005

Dit sal onthou word as die dag van die groot brand op Rooiels toe ten minste 2 huise in 'n stormsterk Suidoos tot op die grond afgebrand het. Johan is gister op Stellenbosch geopereer, 'n knieervanging en ek en Saartjie (hond) en Frankie (kat) is alleen op Rooiels. Dis nou 7:40 nm en die rukwinde laat die fondasie van ons huisie op erf 272 bewe. In die weste gaan die son bloedrooi onder en na die noorde is die lug donker van die rook... Ons drie het onself in die kamer teruggetrek en lê styf teenmekaar op die bed.

Ek is die middag 1:00nm hospitaal toe. Die oggend het daar so 'n effense rokie oor Pringlebaai gehang. 4:00nm op pad terug na Rooiels luister ek op RSG "die pad tussen Gordonsbaai en Rooiels is gesluit..." Ek druk egter deur, maar stop by die Steenbrasbrug - donker grys, rooi en wit wolke borrel oor die see by Klein Hangklip. Ek besluit om om te draai want wat sal van Johan (met 'n afbeen) en die kat en die hond word as ek en die kar voortydig veras word- 'n dubbelle verlies! Sir Lowry's is my voorland. Ek kom 6:20 nm op Rooiels aan - met polisiebegeleiding vanaf Pringlebaai. In Rooiels se kloof borrel rook en vlamme uit en op die nek het die vuur pas oor die pad gesprong... Ek het by die huis al die tuinslange uit. Die krag is af en dis net ons drie in 'n tierende Suidoos... En nou is dit te donker om te skryf en die selfoon se battery is pap. Hier is darem drie stukkies kerse! Sela.

DONDERDAG 10/11/2005 ONGEVEER 1:30 VM

Een harde knal ... Ek dog die dak is af! Die een suidooster venster lê aan miljoene skerwe oor die hele huis gesaai, die bakamer se luik is in die dak ingesuij en ek gryp net die badkamer se deur toe, maar die suigkrag van die wind pluk dit aanmekaar oop. Ek los gou en gaan druk die alarm knoppie en gryp weer die deur toe. Ek stuur skietgebedjies op en kry uiteindelik vir Pierre du Toit met my pap selfoon in die hande wat sê hy sal dadelik kom. Ek moet net vasbyt! Ek bel vir Chrisjan in Johannesburg vir morele ondersteuning. Intussen dryf die wind nat sout vlae deur die oop vensterraam. Ek skuif die meubels weg, gooi kussings in die kamers, pak al wat kan wegwaai in die kaste weg en klou tussen in aan die badkamer se deur, want ek is bevrees die dak is volgende...



ELSABE DE BEER

Dis nou 3:40 vm. Pierre en Wayne het met groot gesukkel gesaag, gemeet en gepas die venstergat met 'n ou kasdeur en klaat- en marantiplanke toegekap, maar ek is bevrees die Suidoos is te sterk vir sulke groot vensters, almal gaan uitwaai. Net die Vader in die Hemel kan nou nog red. Die halfmaan verdwyn bloedrooi agter die westerkim. Teen 5:30 begin ek al die glasstukke opvee - die groot wit emmer is voll! Die wind tier nog steeds, fluit om die hoeke, ruk aan die oorblywende vensters en fondasie. 8nm: Steeds rukwinde. 'n Tydelike ruit is deur Kleinmond Hardeware vroegoggend ingesit en Jurie Gouws, ons bouer het plankversterkings teen die ander vensters met groot klippe vasgepak. Ek is doodbang, lê al met die kat en die hond in die bed en bid dat die wind moet gaan lê.

VRYDAG 11/11/2005

Die wind is stiller. Johan kan huis toe gaan. Ek pak op!

# MEET THE LEWIS FAMILY

WE ASKED THE LEWIS FAMILY WHAT THEY APPRECIATE MOST ABOUT ROOI ELS.  
HERE IS WHAT THEY SAID:

Our love affair with Rooi Els began two years ago and is still in the passionate stages. Our Friday afternoon packing is a hasty affair, all of us rushing to get to our weekend retreat. The first sight of Klein Hangklip is always a thrill, and the right hand turn off the R44 is a signal that RELAXING has begun. Relaxing for our family is a combination of boogie boarding, swimming, body surfing, sand castle building, bike riding, walking, playing pool, doing jigsaw puzzles and loafing around reading books.

OUR FAVOURITE THINGS ABOUT ROOI ELS:

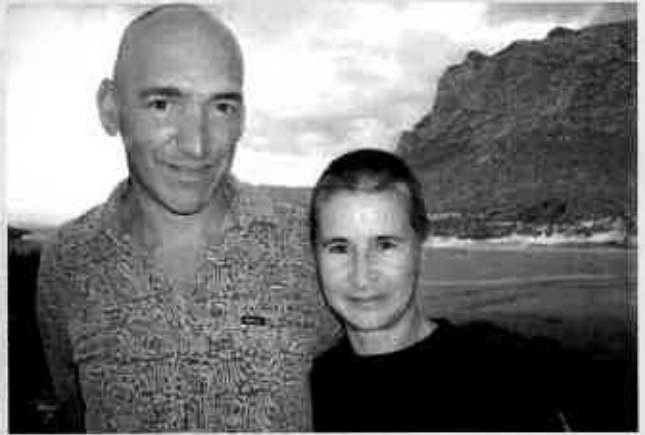
Ian: Starlit walks at night, pure body surfing

Alison: BIG scary waves in the South Easter, no South Easter

Storm: Catching waves, riding my bike,

Finn: Making pancakes for breakfast, seeing the baboons

Holly: Bobbing beyond the breakers



IAN AND ROSEMARY LEWIS

## FROM DUMMY TO BOOGIE BOARD...



JANUARY 2004: STORM(7), FINN(4) & HOLLY LEWIS  
(WITH DUMMY)



JANUARY 2006 AT ROOI ELS: STORM, FINN  
AND HOLLY

## INSIG EN IAN

INSIG TYDSKRIF IS AS DIE BESTE TYDSKRIF VIR 2005 AANGEWYS EN TER VIERING DAARVAN HET HULLE 'N KEUR UIT DIE ARTIKELS SEDERT 2000 GEPLAAS. DIE ARTIKEL OOR ROOI ELS SE IAN RICHTER IS OOK DAARIN. DIE ARTIKEL WAS DESTYDS OOK IN DIE BRIES GEPLAAS.

## MARIUS MAAK WEER SO! NOG 'N FLEUR DU CAP TOEKENNING VIR ROOI ELSER

MARIUS WEYERS HET DIE FLEUR DU CAP TOEKENNING VIR BESTE ONDERSTEUNENDE AKTEUR GEWEN VIR SY VERTOLKING VAN MALVOLIO IN SHAKESPEARE SE TWAALFDE NAG. MALVOLIO IS 'N GESOGTE ROL DAAR DIT EEN VAN SHAKESPEARE SE MEES KOMPLEKSE KARAKTERS IN SY KOMEDIES IS.



## ONTHOU IN BLOU EN HAIKU'S

Dit was weer die bloue. Om ons. Witmelkblou, seepsteenblou, magnesiumbotteltjieblou, onder en om ons. Bloue wat Aurora borealis strale flets soos die son dieptes en vlakke en roerings en strome intensifiseer. Ons het weer saam met die elegante seeskilpaaie by die Apo rif geswem. Tussen duisende visse van alle kleure en vorms gedryf. Oor korale wat oer en skokkend blou en pers en groen groei. En word die snorkelroggelritmes een met die deining. En sleeptou jy agter 'n seeskilpad aan. Soos 'n karavaan in 'n eksotiese waterwoestyn.

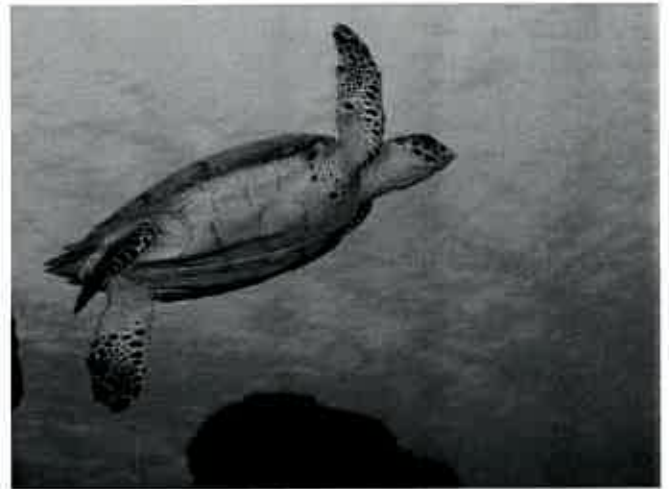
waar branders ontmoet  
by die aporif  
spoel jy ankerloos oor koraal

Ons het gisternag teruggekom van twee weke op die droomeilande van die Palawan en Luzonsee van die Filippyne. Saam met Johan en Mariette wat al 30 jaar die pad saam met ons leef. Wat gedienstig moes luister na al ons heen weer spoel op die ander eiland.

op 'n wit eiland  
spoel ons uit - dryfhout  
soekers sonder GPS

Ons slaap die eerste nag in Imelda Marcos se paleishotel in Manilla en stap die aand in Intramuros, die onverwagse ou Europa in die trope. Eet in 'n ouglorie restaurant met Spaanse binnehowe en trappe wat muf ruik. Ons reis en vaar weer na Coco Beach waar ons in 'n bamboeshuis op stelte bly met perlemoenskil as vensterruite. Ons eerste swem en snorkel in koraal weer. En die pêrelventers onthou ons. En Mariette lê die een snoer na die nader oor haar been om te besluit. Ou pêrelvraat mos. Die kleinkinders moet eendag wonder oor al ouma se pêrels. Vaar een aand na die Italiaanse restaurant in Puerto Galera waar ons weer soos konings eet en Barbera van Piedmont drink.

Daarna leef ons van banca tot banca (outrigger-boot soos 'n swaan), eiland tot eiland, see tot see en strand tot strand. Maar eers vaar ons na 'n lelike plek met die mooi naam Abra de Ilog Oorland verder oor landelike Mindoro met 'n bussie met gladde bande en later verder op tricycles 'n motorfietstaxi, en 'n banca tot op die eiland Pangat. Vuil, vuiler vuilste in die mooi wat ons nie kan raaksien nie. Daar is 'n papegaai soos in seerowerstories en 'n primitiewe kroeg vir die seelui en verlooptes van die wêreld wat goedkoop wyn en jenerewer drink. Ons ook. 'n Brander slaan een aand ons bottel rooiwyn om en al die wysheid vloei die see in.



Dis daarvandaan wat ons na die Apo rif vaar. Drie ure soentoe en weer drie ure terug. Die Aporif is 'n plek waar branders ontmoet. Dis 'n plek met die grootste see-biodiversiteit en sterk seestrome. Vier ure sleur die seestrome ons om die grootsheid van die skepping te beleef. Ons gee ons oor aan die ritme van die see, die gang van 'n seeskilpad, die heen en weer roer van see-anemone en die kleure van vis en koraal. En die blou. Die bootmanne is goed vir ons en ons snorkel byna reg om die eiland.

'n Hele lange dag se vaar in blou na Kubu Sa Dagat. Dan begin ons die Coron seestrate binnevaar. Geflank deur droomeilande wat op wit strande sweef en deur palmbome en drakeberge bewaak word. Ons gee ons oor aan die asemhaling van die boot, die see, 'n groot familie. Gebind deur blou en wit.

waterverfpapier  
drup van blou  
die see stoot branders uit.

Ons nader Kubu Sa Dagat met afwagting. Van ver 'n nepa houtvesting op pale in 'n baai. Omring deur elemente en see Oer en verweer. Dryfhouterig. Witgebrand. 'n Patina van son en see en omgee. Ons tuiste vir die volgende week. Snags klots die see onder ons deur die planke.

nepahut op pale  
drywend in die see  
visse knibbel uit my hand

VERVOLG OP BLADSY 26



## VERVOLG: GERARD & ANUTA SCHOLZ ONTHOU IN BLOU EN HAIKU'S

Ons raak lief vir die plek en sy mense. Die eiland op pale. Ons slaap buite in die wind en sien hoe die maan groei en ondergaan. Soggens vroeg wag ons die son in oor die water. Nog 'n dag in die paradys. Dan word die banca met kos vir die dag gepak en neem ons na eilande en strande waar water onwerklik deurskynend soos glas oor die skadus van palmbome uitspoel. Strandjies met wilde frangipani en flambojante in blom. Ons kroon Mariette as koningin op die teer Boholstrand op hulle huwelikshedenkingsdag.

water en land ontmoet  
kurwes van strand  
seekrap hardloop skuins verby

Ons vaar die sensitiewe Blue Lagoon geruisloos binne, ons asem ingehou. Omring deur lawakatedrale. En daardie blou. Daardie blou. Wat groen word en later wit en deurskynend week. Ons duik om aan skeepswrakke te raak. Ontdek nuwe seespesies. Verkneukel ons aan die 5 soorte harlekynvisse (egte-regte Nemo's!) wat hulle anemoonkolonies vuriglik beskerm.

Elke dag dryf ons oor koraaltuine. Ons voel verklaarbaar tuis soos tussen ons geliefde fynbos: oer, metafisies, kleurvol, teer. Een nag gaan slaap ons op 'n eensame eiland. Ons kan reg om die eiland stap en skulpe optel. 'n Ring van skoonheid. Weer in wit en blou.

Ons raak nie uitgesels nie. Spot en lag, preek en filosofeer, droom en reflekteer, onthou en vergeet, raas en lawaai. Heeldagdeur. En altyd dankbaarheid as ons bid.

soggens kniel branders  
dankbaar op die strand  
wit en blou breek heilig oop

Die deinings bly in my loop, sit of staan. Ek bly wieg. Die see in my ingebed en ingebid.

Toe is Johan en Mariette vort. Maar eers is daar trane die oggend toe dit nog donker is en ons van die klomp by Kubu Sa Dagat moet afskeid neem. Vir die kleine fraaie Bieng, ons kelnerin, is die oomblik te groot en sy huil en hardloop weg.



Ons volg 'n dag later. Vlieg met 'n klein primitiewe tuigie oor die Aporif en daar lê sy in blou, wit en turkoois. Ons sien die ragfyn koraalriwwe duidelik in strepe lê. En dan die krater langsaan waaroor die branders breek. Onwerklik teer. Geskape soos kristal.

Platgespoel deur see  
klippie op die strand  
wink en roep ons huistoe

En nou bly herinneringe, die blou en die seeskilpaaie oor. Die uitnemendste die blou.

Na die stilte van die eilande is ons terug in die groot geraas en opbou na die volmaan vir die raserige Lanternfees. Dag en nag beef en rittel dit klappers en vuurpyle wat soos bomme oopbars. Dit klap en knal en die bouse geeste vat alweer die hasepad. Saterdag is ons deur Taipei toe om na die lanterns op die groot Chiang Kai Shek-plein te kyk. Asemrowend is nie die woord nie. Mos die jaar van die hond, en maak hulle reuse lanterns wat soos honde lyk van draad wat met papier oorgetrek word. Duisende. Ons het saam met die massas op die mooi plein gestaan en kyk na die onthulling van die groot hond in 'n hoepel, wat verdiepings groot is en wat laserstrale uitskiet, en vuurpyle, en .... kom eenuur die oggend eers terug na die groot ervaring.

Sondagoggend ontsnap ons baie vroeg en nog moeg en deur die slaap na die Taoyenvallei se tuine met die tulpe. Soos Kirstenbosch in die trope, en net tulpe waar jy kyk in die berge, langs strome, onder varings, in massas, in beddings, langs wandelpaaie. Ons wens almal wat ons ken kon dit saam beleef.

GERARD & ANUTA SCHOLTZ  
SJINESE NUWEJAAR 2006

# ROOI ELS KIEKIES SILLY SEASON SNAPSHOTS



ROOI ELS STAND-UP COMIC  
ALISON AYRE



GOOD MORNING!  
LYNN & GEOFF HARRIS



PIET UYS WYS HOE DIT GEDOEN WORD



KERSINKOPIES? LIZETTE BRINK  
EN HONDE MET BEURSIES.



FIRST DAWN OF 2006  
ROOI-ELSERS AWAIT THE SUNRISE FROM THE  
TOP OF KLEIN-HANGKLIP



HET JY 'N LENING NODIG?  
KONTAK CARA BRINK





Photo: Sandra Yeo

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 AREA LIMITED  
OUR CUSTODIANSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT RESPECTED  
OUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT STRENGTHENED  
SO THAT OUR LIVES.. AND THOSE OF GENERATIONS TO COME..  
WILL CONTINUE TO BE ENRICHED BY OUR CARE



DANKIE AAN MARTHIE HATTINGH WAT HIERDIE UITGAWE VAN DIE BRIES GEBORG HET