

Bries Breeze

August / Augustus 2000
Rooiels Ratepayers Association
PO Box 89 Betty's Bay 7141

Redaksioneel Editorial

*Keep the snakes out of paradise:
We live amongst plants
Which date from before the ice
age...
Where Nature is in control
And we are the privileged guests
In a tiny corner of the planet,
Almost untouched by human greed.
We step out of our front doors in the
morning,
In awe... ..
And tread softly,
Lest we trample a treasure.*

Trix Pienaar

The high level of enthusiasm among your new editorial team can be gauged by this bumper, second issue of Bries/Breeze. Our problem is not *finding* material - its having to leave so much out!

The experience of an idyllic Indian Summer that lasted from May to July has inspired us to put pen to paper and write about the Rooiels we love. The days were cool, still, sunny and clear, and each one ended in a dramatic spread of fiery colours above False Bay. As I write, the days have turned grey, providing the perfect backdrop for leucadendrons releasing captured sunshine in bursts of bright yellow (hence the name Sunshine Conebushes).

The baboons continue to frustrate, annoy, amuse and delight us, though there have been times when they have stayed away for weeks. This has coincided with reports of residents shooting at them and is

sad news indeed. We would expect more enlightened behaviour from people enjoying the unique privilege of staying in a biosphere reserve.

The delayed winter seemed to keep the whales away, but it was only a couple of days after the inland mountains were sprinkled with snow that these huge, gentle creatures began to laze and display close to our coast.

After several days of spectacularly heavy seas, we woke one morning in the middle of July to find oil from the sunken "Treasure" polluting our beach. It had taken a few days of strong north-westerly, and then westerly winds to carry the slick around the Cape Peninsula and into our laps. The local conservation authority quickly had a clean-up team on our beach, but the rocks have the pox and will carry scars for years to come. This experience was a sober reminder of how fragile our ecosystem is, and how vigilant we must be if we are to preserve the pristine natural beauty around us.

Ons het besluit om twee nuwe rubrieke in te sluit en versoek julle deelname. *Charlie's Corner* kyk na menslike gedrag uit die oogpunt van 'n wyse bobbejaan en mag daarin slaag om ons Rooielsers meer verdraagsaam teenoor ons histories ouer inwoners te maak. *Magic Moments* is bedoel om interessante, klein, betowerende pittigheid te boekstaaf wat deel vorm van ondervindinge in Rooiels.

Ons is 'n nuwe span wat ons voete probeer vind, en dit vreeslik geniet om interessantede te versamel wat van belang is vir ons lesers.

Jenny Stark

Our Vision.....

***An ecologically
well balanced area
Where man and nature
thrive in harmony***

From the Chair

The Municipal demarcation boundaries have been finalised and, like it or not, Rooiels, Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay, Hawston and Fisherhaven, around to Houw Hoek have been amalgamated into one ward. This vast area will fall under one controlling body - the Greater Hermanus Municipality - and will probably be the responsibility of one Councillor. For one person to represent such a vast area is an almost impossible task and so it becomes more important than ever for the Rooiels community to work together as a team. This is the only way we will be able to preserve Rooiels as most of us would like it to be.

Security is a growing problem. We have held several meetings with the Local Authority, other Resident and Ratepayer Associations, Private Security Companies and distributors of equipment. Investigations are progressing well as per the mandate given to RERA at our AGM of December 1999.

By all accounts the new road circle on Anenome Road is working well. Jenny B Landscapes has kindly donated a landscape design for the entrance to Rooiels. We will be planting indigenous flora according to this professional plan, to beautify the entrance and business area. Limited funds mean that the project will have to be done in stages, but I believe that the final outcome will be well worth the wait.

I wish to thank all those property owners and residents who have helped maintain the beauty of Rooiels, and to the many hackers who give so freely of their energy and time in the

Rooiels social event of the month - the Saturday hacks!

Basil Moss

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Van Ons Raadslid

Local Government Changes and Environmental Issues – a challenge to Rooielsers

A young Ovambo in Namibia shows us the "petrified forest" and explains in easy concepts, the mystery of the Pleistocene period, moving glaciers and frozen trees. The audience is global – Dutch, American and South African. It is his emphasis that shows ownership; no pieces or chips of forest emerge from his pockets to be traded for a quick dollar profit.

Our challenge in Rooiels is a similar one – will you trade our relatively unspoilt coast with its otters, oystercatchers and eagles for a quick profit? Will you trade your "rights" to property development in exchange for the protection of a unique eco system that is so close to the sprawling concrete of Cape Town?

Enough of Romanticism! Natural environments are protected by hard work, attention to detail, foresight and "be damned, we can do it" courage. I hope some thoughts on strategies to avoid damaging changes will provide a catalyst for protection.

1. In the past we have been Rooiels-focused. Now we need a team of interested citizens to monitor any development in the Hermanus-based Council that will create damaging

precedents for Rooiels. The by-words will need to be watch, warn and take action by lobbying, activism and legal action if needs be.

2. Support KOBIO and the internationally registered biosphere by raising funds for them and strengthening their community links both in and outside our area.
3. Seek new community links with other villages situated in international biospheres in Africa and other developing areas, by Internet and websites. If St. Lucia can become an international issue, Rooiels and our biosphere could be marketed equally well to international conservationists.
4. Seek innovative ways to engage our under-employed communities in small business development with an eco-tourism slant so that poverty will not degrade the natural environment. Affluence, of course, can be just as damaging.
5. The recent regional SDF (Spatial Development Framework) process will soon be finalized in a report that is binding on the new Council (see Hangklip-Kleinmond Council decision – Feb/March 2000). It is vital that Rooielsers familiarise themselves with this document and that sufficient copies are made available to all the interest groups that participated in the process.
6. With Seawatch's new focus on education, Rooielsers will have to try to fill the gap left by Seawatch's now less emphasized area of activism (although I am assured that this is still an area of emphasis for Seawatch).

Nou ja, daar is vele uitdagings wat op ons wag, maar ek weet dat Rooiels 'n besondere groep inwoners het – beide permanent

en naweek-mense op wie ons natuurlike omgewing kan staatmaak

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Portfolio Reports

Waste management

Saturday 3 June was World Clean-up day and the Hack Group turned their attention to removing the litter sprouting under, in and among the fynbos of Rooiels. It's not ever pleasant cleaning up other people's mess, but it is lovely to see a clean village and there are sometimes unexpected surprises. Mary Rabie picked up R20 and Marius Weyers went home carrying a number of ticks in interesting places. Thank you to everyone who participated with smiles and enthusiasm.

**REDUCE,
RE-USE,
RECYCLE**

The Keminks spent some time in Holland this year and brought back photographs of First World garbage stations - smart little log cabins that need only candles in the windows to complete their charm. Many a Cape squatter would eagerly swap his shack for one of these. One of the ways the ingenious Dutch finance these rather expensive stations is through heavy fines - up to R1500 for putting your garbage bags on the sidewalk for collection, outside of narrowly specified times!

I have reports that weekenders from other areas are using our wooden bins to deposit their garbage and when the bin capacity is exceeded, they simply leave the bags on the road. To make matters worse, baboons can easily reach in and feed from over-filled bins. Some residents have closed up the bins in desperation! We have appealed to the Municipality to put bolted flaps over the holes, requiring a two-handed action to open, in the hope that this will outwit the baboons. Now we have to find ways of persuading our neighbours to dispose of their garbage responsibly. Perhaps we can learn from the Dutch?

Jenny Stark

IMPORTANT!
International
Beach Clean-up Day
23 September 2000
See you on the beach!

Duine

Kusgebied is 'n kwesbare bate

Om 'n kuseiendom aan Rooiels se skouspelagtige kuslyn te besit is 'n voorreg wat min mense beskore is. Dit is ook 'n verantwoordelikheid omdat die kusgebied, en veral die kusduine, uiters gevoelig is en baie maklik versteur kan word. Erosie word dikwels slegs teengewerk deur die hoog-gespesialiseerde en aangepaste plantegroei wat hier voorkom. Die beskadiging van duine en vernietiging van duinplantegroei kan waaisand veroorsaak. Die vernietiging van hierdie habitat bedreig ook klein soogdiere en voëls, soos die rare Swartobie (African Oystercatcher). Alhoewel almal natuurlik graag 'n eie "private" toegang tot die

strand wil hê, is dit nie wenslik in hierdie sensitiewe ekosisteem nie. 'n Proliferasie van paadjies wat dieselfde gebied bedien moet sover moontlik voorkom word en sodanige paadjies moet met die mins moontlike nadelige gevolge vir hierdie sensitiewe ekosisteem beplan en uitgelê word. Met hierdie doel voor oë; het Craig Spencer, natuur-bewaringsbeampte van die H-K munisipaliteit, onlangs 'n baie professionele en deeglike studie gedoen oor bestuur van toegang tot Rooiels se kusgebied. Dit behels onder meer die toemaak van sekere voetpaadjies, formalisering van ander paadjies

Groot gedeeltes van die huidige kusgebied het eens deel uitgemaak van die seebodem. 'n Daling in die seevlak het dit blootgelê en groot gedeeltes het uitgestrekte waaisandduingebiede geword. Met verloop van tyd is hierdie ewige bewegende sandmassas vasgevang deur 'n dun bedekking plantegroei wat bestand is teen die aanvalle van son, wind en soutsproei. Hierdie plante is aangepas om in sand te groei wat arm is aan voedingstowwe en spoorelemente en dikwels hoë soutkonsentrasies bevat. Wanneer hierdie plante eers vernietig is, kos dit dikwels baie moeite, geld en geduld om hulle te hervestig.

en die skep en beheer oor klein parkeerplekke (meestal vir nie meer as 4 motors nie) om bestaande toegangspunte tot die see te benut. Die verslag kan van die REBV of van Craig (Tel 028-271-4010) aangevra word, en u kommentaar en voorstelle sal baie waardeer word.

Kaap Natuurbewaring het die volgende riglyne vrygestel by die ontwikkeling van kuserwe:

- Moenie steil sandhellings ontbloot of daarop bou nie. Oppervlakhumuslae kan nie maklik vervang word nie.
- Moenie u erf onoordeelkundig "skoonmaak" nie. Melkhoutbome word byvoorbeeld deur wetgewing beskerm en mag nie sonder 'n permit beskadig of versteur word nie. Inheemse kusplante is nie onkruid nie, maar 'n waardevolle bate wat nie maklik vervang kan word nie. Dit kan tot 10 jaar neem vir 'n erf om na bouwerk te herstel.
- Gebruik plaaslike inheemse plante (verkrygbaar vanaf die kwekery by Harold Porter botaniese tuin) vir hervestiging. Hulle is die beste aangepas by die plaaslike klimaatsomstandighede en verg min aandag. Plante wat goed "werk" as sandstabiliseerders is Suurvye (*Carpobrotus spp*), seeplakkies (*Scaevola plumieri*) en gousblomme (*Gazania*). Melkhout (*Sideroxylon inerme*), kanferbos (*Tarchonanthus cam-phoratus*) en Taaibos (*Rhus spp*) vorm mooi en geharde bome en windskerms.
- Gebruik inheemse gras soos buffelsgras en kweek vir grasperke. Dit het minder sorg en water nodig as uitheemse soorte (soos kikoejoe) wat reeds in die fynbos as indringerplant geklassifiseer word.
- Moet liefs nie kunsmis gebruik nie. Die fynbosplante is spesiaal aangepas by hierdie grond wat arm aan spoorelemente is.

Estelle Raymond

Please inform your builder

Preventing poaching, pollution and dumping by on-site workers is HIS responsibility.

Roads

To toll or not to toll ?

The N2 national road will be tolled sometime in the near future. The planned tollgates are to be at or in the vicinity of the R300, at or near the R44 turn off for Gordon's Bay and Kleinmond and at Botrivier. There is at this stage no indication of the charges at these tolls. With the N2 being tolled it is feared that traffic will make increased use of the R44 and Clarence Drive to escape the toll fees. Of great concern will be the increase in lorries and trucks slowing down the traffic with no chance of overtaking on the narrow winding road and the damage to the road surface by heavily loaded trucks. One solution to this problem would be to toll the R44 - these tollgates would not only control the traffic but also in all probability have a beneficial spinoff in crime prevention.

A committee was elected to identify the problems and issues that should be investigated if the R44 was to become a toll road and to report back to the Crime Preparedness Committee. This report will be made towards the end of July.

Before any decision is made there will have to be extensive input and consultations with all sections of the community and interest groups.

In short -
Is a toll road feasible?
Is a toll road viable?
Is a toll road sustainable?
Can we afford a toll road?
Can we afford NOT to have a toll road?

A further question: if the R44 becomes a toll road who will manage this? This could have interesting prospects!

Bill Rabie

Tekens

Algemene inligtingsbord

'n Sub-komitee met Louise du Toit, Geoff Harris en Hettie Claassens as lede, het in Maart vanjaar die volgende riglyne voorgestel vir die oprigting van 'n inligtingsbord vir Rooiels.

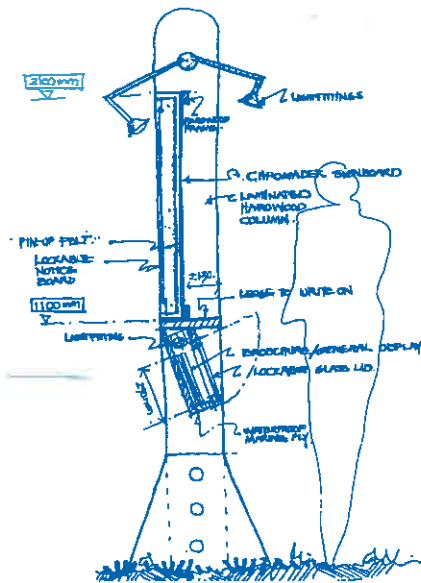
- A commercial Map Board to be placed in the garden area near the Telkom kiosks.
- Road names to be displayed with B&B sites indicated with the first letter of their names.
- Names of B&B's to be displayed alphabetically under a reflective international B&B sign.
- Safe display and storage for B&B brochures to be incorporated.
- Sensitive lighting required for reading of the map and brochures.
- Fire hydrants to be indicated.
- Emergency service numbers to be displayed, e.g. Sea Watch.
- Existing village notice board to be sited alongside or incorporated.
- Any board for signs in Rooiels need to be environmentally friendly, sensitive and durable, bearing in mind our extremely severe climatic and other conditions. Due to the lack of street lighting, consideration needs to be given to night time visibility and ease of reading.

Me Lizl van der Merwe van die argiteksfirma Africa Architects het pro deo ontwerpe voorgelê wat deur die uitvoerende REBV komitee goedgekeur is.

Inwoners van Rooiels het geleentheid gehad om kommentaar te lewer en insette te maak. Die planne is deur Julia Aalbers aan die Hangklip/Kleinmond Munisipaliteit vir goedkeuring verwys. Die REBV wag nou vir

terugvoering van die Hangklip/ Kleinmond Toerismeburo en die bestuurskomitee van die Kogelberg Biosfeer vir hulle insette. Daarna sal met die vervaardiging en oprigting van die inligtingsbord voortgegaan word.

Hettie Claassens



Proposed signboard

2) they do an environmental project and 3) a community project. They also partake in a weekend expedition along the sea. The program will eventually involve kids of all races from Gordon's Bay to Hermanus. We need more people to help with this project.

OP 2 Augustus word SEEWAG se voorskoolse program, nl. die Otterprogram, van stapel gestuur. Al die natuurlesse is klaar uitgewerk deur Joey van Wyk, eertydse skole-inspektrise en opvoedkundige. Die voorprimêre skole in Pringlebaai, Kleinmond en Proteadorp gaan betrokke wees. KOBIO sit ook hand by met die projek en verskaf al die onderwysmateriaal (vergrootglase, magnete, ens)

Evette Weyers

ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP ON THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM PLEASE CONTACT ANNEMARIE AT 273 8256 OR CALL 083 212 2253

Hacks are a longtime Rooiels tradition. It started when Rooielsers became more conscious of their environment. Prof. Kay de Villiers, Dolf Diederiks, Eldie Brink and Charl du Plessis (the RERA Exco) started the hack group. They hacked once or twice a year. Jean Cowen recalls going for refreshments afterwards to Prof. de Villiers's house where they busily counted the saplings pulled out by children who received 1c/sapling. (This was in 1980). After 1985 the Cowens became very active in the hacks. Prof. Denis Cowen was on the RERA Exco and managed to organize a truck to cart away the Rooikrans on hack days. Attendance was up to 35/hack and included people from all walks of life. At that time you could be surrounded by up to four professors, sweating away while attacking invasive aliens. Refreshments afterwards were always a jovial get together.

Jean Cowen convened the hacks from 1995 to 1997. She increased them to 7 a year and sent out regular hack letters. The 1996 Exco included Jean, Diarmuid Baigrie, Gerard Scholtz, André Wagner, Frank Raymond and myself. We supported Jean in increasing the hacks to once a month.

The use of big chain saws started about 9 years ago and made a huge difference, especially with the big trees. The Hack Group was making serious inroads into the Rooikrans.

With the help of our councillor, Julia Aalbers, RERA obtained some of the Somchem money to clear badly infested erven.

A mature Rooikrans tree produces 40,000 seeds annually, that remain viable for 70 or more years.

Seawatch/Seewag 2000

SEEWAG het 'n baie suksesvolle fondsinsamelingsete gegee op 6 Mei in Bettysbaai. Die bekende aktrise, Trix Pienaar, het stories voorgelees uit die Bettysbaai skrywer, Alsoon Wessels, se boek. Daar was ook gedans en lekker geëet. Net oor die R5,000 is ingesamel. Dit sal beslis herhaal word. Ons het weer befondsing vir 3 jaar by WWF gekry. Ons twee opvoedkundige programme gaan egter heelwat meer geld benodig.

SEAWATCH has launched its Educational Program 2000 with the "Orca Club". Kids who join the Orca Club have to do different projects: 1) they learn a new skill involving the sea,

Hacks

"Mad dogs and Englishman go out in the midday sun"

When you see hacking activity here in RE you may ask, "Why do people give up a Saturday morning to chop down trees and uproot saplings?" Hackers might give you some environmental reasons such as "The fire hazard of Rooikrans is immense" or "Rooikrans takes over our remarkable fynbos and their insects". One hacker might explain that it is a fun community activity. People get to know each other while, united as a group, they eradicate a known common enemy: Rooikrans, Port Jackson, Myrtle, Eucalyptus or New Zealand Christmas trees.

Ernst Thompson, got the contract and cleared large areas around the business centre. Preventing serious infestation outweighed objections to this money being used to clear private properties.

**Om 'n saailing
uit te trek
vat 'n sekonde.
Om 'n rooikransboom
uit te roei,
neem 'n bietjie,
baie langer**

Anuta Scholtz, who had moved to Rooiels, took over from Jean Cowen for two years and now Ernst Thompson is leading the hacks. He is a landscape architect and a forester. We are in good hands.

The present core hackers include men with chainsaws, the dependable hackers who always turn up and many more who hack occasionally. It happens the first Saturday morning of each month, regardless of weather conditions. Hackers don't all arrive at the same time and leave in drips and drabs, but that is just part of the pattern. (Some enthusiasts like Koos Smit and Diarmuid sometimes find it hard to stop hacking.) The Rooiels Ladies Group, started by Lynn Harris and Joan Faure, now takes care of the all-important refreshments.

We are now one of the least infected towns in this area. Come and join in the hacks and bring your children along to weed out the seedlings. Join us for refreshments afterwards. Enjoy with us the satisfaction of participating in a group effort to improve our town!

Evette Weyers

HACK DAYS

**First Saturday
of
Every month**

Magic Moments

Evette Weyers tells of her recent encounter with our resident otters...

"Recently while diving here in Rooiels I saw 4 otters having a feast of sea cucumbers. Slowly I swam closer to these shy creatures. Some of them were curious but cautious and peered at me, then dived back into the water. The largest one actually swam straight towards me, where I hovered observing them, and submerged a metre away from me. I watched him investigating me, underwater. I felt totally blessed. These shy creatures are some of the first to abandon an area when development and pollution disrupt it. The otters I saw have a den in the Rooiels reserve and we often hear them at dusk, whistling to each other. Declaring this area a reserve was a wonderful idea!"



Cape Clawless Otter

"Etlke jare gelede" skryf Evette, "terwyl ek in my ateljee gewerk het, sien ek hoe duisende voëls die see bombardeer-duik. Daar moes baie kos gewees het! In my werksoorpak en met my 2 honde agterna, hardloop ek af see-toe. Die hele baai is vol triljoen klein blink vissies en daar is 'n jagfees soos min aan die gang. Die jagkoors werk

aansteeklik en ek hardloop huis-toe om 'n emmer te gaan haal. Terug in die yskoue water, oorpak en al, is dit egter te moeilik om die visse met 'n emmer uit te skep. Ek hol weer huis-toe en bind 'n ou dun gordyn se een kant om my middellyf. Weer terug in die water. Om my duik die voëls in, en is later so dik gevreet dat hulle hul mae moet skoonmaak met die uit-die-water-vlieg om dan weer te duik om NOG te vreet. Groter visse raap die kleintjies op en langs my klim 'n seekat oor die rotse op soek na 'n beter jagkans in die vlak poele. Ek sak af in die water en hou die gordyn soos 'n net uit. Toe ek regop kom het ek 'n hele voorskoot vol klein wriemelende sardientjies. Met gevulde emmer is ek terug huistoe, bel vriende en vier heerlik fees op die oorfloed van die see!"

Building a rock seat in the garden was backbreaking work! But finally it was over and Hennie Wilkens went out late one autumn afternoon to enjoy his handiwork. Drika brought out the tea, and together they sat quietly gazing at False Bay laid out beneath their feet. The tight buds of *Protea repens* were just beginning to open, revealing sticky treasures to hovering sunbirds. A Lesser Double-collared Sunbird, having supped on 'bossiesstroop', paused for a moment to watch Hennie, and then flew up to land on his head. Hennie's impulse was to reach up and hold the shimmering bird in his hands. But he knew that magic moments are always fleeting and the only real way to capture them is to hold on tightly to the precious recollection.....

SEAWATCH

**Fundraising Dinner: 25 Nov
Joey van Wyk: Tel: 272-9322**

Boekresensie

Kringtang, Kreef, Krappe en Alle "Cool" Kusgoete

Jan Rabie: *Die Seeboek van die Sonderkossers*. Tafelberg, Eerste Sagtebanduitgawe 1984
 Jan Rabie: *'n Boek vir Onrus*, Human en Rousseau, 1982

Soek jy 'n jeugboek wat vertel van ons eie wonderlike kus? Jan Rabie se *Seeboek van die Sonderkossers* vertel die verhaal van drie kinders en 'n pa se avontuur onder die sterre. Hulle neem geen kos saam nie en leer om van die veld en die see te lewe op hul kusekspedisie rondom Hermanus. Jan Rabie is by uitstek die kenner van arikreukels tot bietoubessies en tontels tot seesellei.

Die boek is destyds met die Scheepersprys bekroon en is herhaaldelik herdruk.

In *'n Boek vir Onrus* dek Rabie dieselfde omgewing met die klem op Onrus en sy bekende mense soos Uys Krige. Dit maak 'n natuurlike hebbende se hart warm. Lees daarin van seebamboes en sandviooltjies en bergpruime, basbessies en bobbejaantjies, van die Khoi-Khoi se *Trachyandra* (hotnotskool) en ons eie *Carpobrotus* (suurvye). Die boek is geskik vir tieners tot tagtigers.

Albei boeke, wat die enigste boeke in so 'n vorm oor ons stuk kus is, is geïllustreer deur Rabie se vrou, Marjorie Wallace.

Louise du Toit

Open your arms
to change...
But don't let go
of your values

By invitation

By Ouma se Poeletjie

My vroegste herinneringe van Rooiels (1956) as 'n twaalfjarige dogter is die heldergroen onge-repte natuur op 'n fel son dag. Die paadjie na ons erf (272) was 'n tweespoor duinepaadjie. Die enigste lewe in die omgewing was vissermanne wat soms hulle nette in Bakkiesbaai gespan het. My ouers, Skakel en Freda Kriek, was lief vir kamp en saam met hulle het ons baie genotvolle ure in die buitelig deurgebring.

Op die see, regvoor ons huis, is 'n groot rots wat net soos 'n man se gesig met 'n moesie lyk, en daar is die kombi getrek en afhangende van die wind se rigting, Suidoos of Noordwes, is 'n vuurskerm dan met klippe gepak. Ja, die Suidoos het toe al soms die wêreld vir ons moeilik gemaak! Ek herinner my dat vriende van my ouers, oud-joernalis Dreyer en sy vrou Ansie een hele nag, sy met haar lang wit nagrok, om en om hul Goliatkarretjie en tentjie soos 'spoke beweeg het om die tentpenne in 'n stormsterk Suidoos vas te slaan. Met dagbreek die volgende oggend het hulle vertrek en nooit weer op Rooiels kom kamp nie.

Ons enigste vars water was 'n fonteyntjie regvoor ons wat met springgety altyd onder water was. Ek was altyd afgevaardig om die fonteyntjie te help oopkrap en skoonmaak sodat ons maklik van die sagte, soet, bruin water kon skep. In droogtejare moes ons verder aan oor rotse klim om water, onder by die see regoor die Raymonds se huis, te gaan haal. Die fontein was standhoudend. Dit was 'n hele missie!

Ons het baie berg geklim en klipspringers was volop teen die

hange van die Kleinhangklip-berge. Die troppe bobbejane was menssku en het nie gepla nie. Ons kinders het snags langs die kombi in die buitelig geslaap en dan het die muishondjies aan ons kom ruik. Ek onthou nog hoe ek my kop vinnig onder die kombiers moes inruk. Die witkruisarende was daar, maar was nog nie 'n bedreigde spesie nie en maar net een van baie soorte voëls. Ons het geweet dat daar luiperds in die berge was maar eers baie jare later, toe een Jan Malan se poedelhondjie in die pad weggeraap het, werklik kennis geneem dat Rooiels ook hulle gebied is.

Nie een van ons was duikers of vissermanne nie, maar met 'n gewone stok, 'n vislyn, 'n hoek gemaak met 'n kopspeld en 'n klip as sinker, is klipvissies en sandhaaie gevang en weer teruggegooi in die see. Ons het in die rotspoele baljaar en gebrand dat ons net voor hospitalisasie omgedraai het! Daar was nog nie 'n sonblokmiddel nie. Een van die poele noem ons steeds OUMA SE POELETJIE, want daar kon my Mammie veilig uit die gesig na hartelus in die water ronddryf. Die aande was die mooiste, en veral met donkermaan was dit 'n onvergeetlike ervaring om onder die oop naghemel na die sterre te lê en kyk – die suiderkruis, die drie konings, die melkweg en die helder Sirius.

Later jare, in die vroeg sewentigs, was daar al heelwat huise. Oor naweke, as die Suidoos dit toelaat, was dit 'n joligheid op ons tennisbaan en Pieter Fourie en Liz Dick was onder die gereelde spelers. En so, byna ongemerk, het die ongereptheid wat ons so bekoor het, plek gemaak vir 'n meer sosiale karakter en is die stil helder dae, die pikdonker nagte onder 'n sterbelaaide hemel amper vir altyd verby.....

Elsabe de Beer

Tourism

"Tourism is the engine which will drive South Africa in the New Millennium";

"Tourism creates jobs";
"Tourism is the 'clean industry' answer to SA's job-creation problems";

"R160 million to attract tourists".

When one considers the gradual but ghastly alternative for oneself and family, these and other headlines and quotations should inspire us to contribute towards this soft solution that our country so desperately needs to overcome our massive job-creation and related crime problems.

Here in our area, we have the potential to attract and entertain a certain type of tourist – the 'eco-friendly' type; and create jobs while we do just that. Our very 'rurality' is one of our main attractions and is supported by an array of experiences and activities: Whales, Baboons, Clawless Otters; Penguins; Vlei Horses; Fynbos and the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, to name a few. Our hiking and biking trails and marine resources could match anything found elsewhere. The entrance along Clarence Drive is arguably one of the finest marine drives in the world. So what's the problem?

We are! Understandably, we would like to keep this paradise all to ourselves – a deep, dark secret! 'Tourists' equate to 'terrorists' in many minds. However, we need a wake-up call if we believe that we can avoid the oncoming wave – we need to learn to surf, and **more importantly, to choose the company with which we surf!** Controlled, sustainable tourism, aimed at people who, like us, choose to love and co-operate with nature rather than rape it, is the driving force of the Hangklip Kleinmond Tourism Bureau.

Unfortunately, without the understanding and co-operation of the local people and our 'resident' tourists (i.e. those who visit their holiday cottages once or twice a year), we are not going to achieve that objective. So weigh up the alternatives and then start thinking how *you* can contribute to the **solution** and not remain part of the **problem**.

Geoff Harris

(Geoff Harris has, until recently, been the Rooiels representative on the H/K Tourism Board Exco).

Not for the fainthearted!

The dust of Rooiels has a way of discolouring your feet and toenails a distinctive reddish colour. And that is how we left in the heat of February for a year in Korea – with red feet and toenails! After a few days the colour was still there. Then I took the brush and scrubbed and scrubbed. I sat looking at my white feet and was suddenly overcome by nostalgia. The Rooiels dust was gone, the last physical bond scrubbed away. That was only the beginning of a difficult time of adapting – a time in which many culture shocks had to be absorbed.

When, after four months in another country, you are asked for some impressions, you realize that what you know is heavily out-weighed by what you don't. Our experience and accumulation of impressions is greatly hampered by our lack of knowledge of Korean, but that is not the only stumbling block. It is difficult to understand the culture or the mind of the Koreans and that is probably our greatest problem.

At first, the 5000 year old culture and history of Korea fascinated us and we were impressed by the Koreans – an homogeneous people who cling to their traditions despite globalisation

and years of colonialisation by China and Japan. We were engulfed by this diaspora and attempted to "go native" – especially in terms of food. As we began to peel away layer after layer of strangeness, culture-shock struck – wave upon wave engulfed us, while we clung to our view of Mount Suri, and then to each other and then to a photo collage of Rooiels (thoughtfully included in our luggage by the Coetzees of Waaigat). And to everyone's e-mails.

Winter was dry and hazy and turned the huge city a deadly grey. A month later thousands upon thousands of magnolias, azaleas, wild plum and cherry trees burst energetically into bloom – in the backyards, along the streets and on the highest peaks. Spring winds brought the dreaded "yellow dust" from the man-made deserts of China, filled with disease. At times, people have to wear masks out of doors and they sweep up buckets of fine sand off their balconies.

And then there are the traditional markets. In the narrow, congested alleyways seafood in every imaginable form can be seen: seaweed, sea anemones, sea worms, sea snails, octopus, squid, fish, shellfish.... You walk down an alley and see live octopus being chopped into bite size chunks, then dipped, still squirming, into a chilli sauce and popped into eager mouths. Miniature octopi are eaten whole and live. Everywhere you go, vendors can be found selling seafood from their carts – mounds of dried and flattened fish, seaweed and octopus. Our neighbours keep a turtle in a sterile fish tank outside their front door until they are ready to feast on it over the week-end. Every time we pass by, we cringe. At night we lie in bed wondering how much longer, Lord? How

much longer can the earth and the ocean survive?

Our students tell us that dog meat is a delicacy. At first we thought they were teasing, until Gerard saw the dog farm not far from here. Dozens of large, yellow dogs on chains. They 'taste best' and are 'good for the health' he was told. Shortly afterwards he saw the carcasses hanging from hooks in the local market. With ears intact, shaved smooth and paws chopped off. At the next opportunity he broached the topic of animal rights with his students – all businessmen. And then he had to hear that to increase the health-giving properties, dogs are tortured before being slaughtered. This increases the endorphins in the meat, which makes it more healthy! When he told them that we eat mutton, they felt ill. Two different worlds, two different cultures.

One weekend we travelled to Mt Sorak, one of the many national parks in Korea and it's only biosphere reserve. Mountains and forests of unimaginable beauty. Buddhist temples, hundreds of years old. Lonely, twisted cedar trees against the crags, in the mist. In the soft light, we began to see something of the inspiration behind oriental art. But, we were trampled. We had to wait our turn to climb peaks. There were seafood stalls along the trails and electronic games in the waiting rooms. It felt like a carnival. And we said thank you for the peace of Rooiels and that, until now, we have kept at least some development at bay.

This is the Land of the Morning Calm with contrasts that send you reeling. It's the land of the Yin and the Yang and of ancient religions. It is a land where old traditional folk wait on their haunches for the traffic lights to change, wearing cell phones around their necks.

We allow ourselves to be caught up in the sensitivity of Chinese poetry. And find ourselves searching for Rooiels and missing our baboons and the wind-tossed fynbos. And longing for blue skies.

We feel privileged to be able to experience this rich society. Even though the vendors drive us crazy as they drive around with their tinny loudspeakers blaring. Even though we can't fathom the oriental mind.

We find ourselves beside strange rivers in this Babylon and yearn when we remember Rooiels.....

Gerard and Anuta Scholtz

Charlie's Corner



"There's another thing I don't understand about the 'gladde lywe' - their inconsistency. One day they set out a whole bag of food for us and when I take, they smile. The next day, I bring a couple of the girls along to join in the fun, and they scream at us like demented dervishes.

Then there's the fruit - food from the gods, if ever there was! They place these tempting bowls in front of their windows but go berserk if we help ourselves. Strange attitude that. I mean, crushed scorpions are delicious, and if a 'gladde lyf' wanted a few, that's cool. Okay, so they hoard

their god-fruits. But plants - you'd think they owned these too! Like this one garden with watsonias that I've been watching. The day finally arrived when I considered them perfect, so I set about nibbling. Imagine my astonishment when I see out the corner of my eye the 'gladde lyf queen', magnum in hand. Then she starts firing into the air.

"Betty's Bay is wall-to-wall watsonias", she screams "and you come to Rooiels and eat mine at R8 a bulb!"

"Strange logic. Can't she work out how much eating I'd have to do to walk to Betty's Bay? And by the time I got back home I'd be in energy-deficit. By the way, I didn't eat all the watsonias - left some for the moles to enjoy."

(Anecdotes are written as told to us and do not necessarily reflect the editor's preferred approach).

Features

"Suikerbos, ek wil jou hê.."

It's that time of the year again. The white flowers of *Protea repens* (Suikerbossie) brighten all of Rooiels - and the sugarbirds are loving it. This species of protea was formerly known as *Protea mellifera*, meaning "full of honey". This evocative name goes back to the days of "bossiestroop" – the thick syrup condensed from the "suikerbossie" nectar. In these old days, the Cape Flats and lower slopes of Table Mountain were covered with this protea, and gallons of nectar were collected simply by snapping off the flowers and tipping their contents into a bucket. Now alas, this "full of honey" protea has retreated to the few natural sanctuaries left.

For the Cape Sugarbird, the flowering of *Protea repens* signifies romance and great excitement. It's mating time. One can now see them all over Rooiels noisily sitting on their floral conquests. Or is it the protea with its avian conquest? For the lifestyles of the Cape Sugarbird and that of proteas are inextricably intertwined.



The Sugarbird follows the flowering patterns of proteas, even to the extent of moving around the countryside, tracking the proteas as they come into flower. The Sugarbird visits over 300 protea blooms every day and is sustained by a dependable supply of nectar and an assortment of insects such as bees and beetles that also visit the blooms. Rich in protein, these insects are caught and fed to the Sugarbird chicks.

Protea repens does not, of course, provide all this good food for purely altruistic reasons. The Sugarbird is attracted with the clear purpose of pollinating blooms. If you look closely at a Sugarbird in a protea patch, you will see that its forehead feathers are matted with yellow pollen. The Sugarbird acts as a joyful and noisy "courier service" for protea pollen and receives a feast for its troubles.

(Adapted from : *Between Two Shores* by Michael Fraser and Liz McMahon, David Phillip Publishers.)

Estelle Raymond

*We have our own expert!
Kate Henderson has recently
completed her MSc on the
Cape Sugarbird*

Dagsê Perlemoen!

Perlemoen word al vir die laaste 125,000 jaar geëet. By Klasies naby Humansdorp was dit al 30,000 jaar gelede 'n smulger. Hier in ons omgewing dui die skulpreste dat perlemoen sedert 3,000 jaar gelede uitgehaal was deur onder andere, die grotbewoners in die Rooiels rivierloop.

Perlemoen het vir eeue oorleef en floreer. Die huidige aanslag van die mens bring die uitsonderlike spesie egter naby aan die randjie van uitwissing. Tans is perlemoen die duurste skulpkos (per kilogram) in die wêreld en dus baie aantreklik vir smokkelaars en stropers.

Perlemoene is ook kwesbaar want dit plant net een nag per jaar voort wanneer die osoon konsentrasie en die temperatuur van die water presies reg is. Dit begin met 'n paar wat hulle saad in die water inskiet, gevolg deur 'n kettingreaksie totdat die water in die hele baai melkerig wit word. Natuurlik heerlike proteïenkos vir ander spesies. Boonop vind bevrugting nie maklik plaas as die perlemoene nie dig bymekaar lê nie. Dan eet die oorbloed van honger krewes ook beide die klein perlemoentjies asook hulle skuilplekke, die seekastaiings, op.

Perlemoenplase is 'n moontlike redding van perlemoen want as deel van hulle permit moet elke plaas 'n voorafbepaalde persentasie van die perlemoen terug in die see plaas. In Port Nolloth, waar perlemoen jare lank totaal uitgeroei was, het die metode die perlemoen weer hervestig.

As jy as duiker sukkel om so 'n ou groot perlemoen los te wikkel van sy rots, groet hom gerus eers. Hy moes baie gevare trotseer om so groot te word en hy is dalk heelwat ouer as jyself, miskien selfs 60 jaar oud!

Evette Weyers

Lepelhout, alias Rooi-els

Die pragtige boom waarna ons klein paradys vernoem is, word in klam bergwoude dwarsoor die land aangetref, dikwels saam met stink- en geelhout. Dit is 'n immergroen boom, tot 8m hoog met spreidende takke wat op vlak rotsplekke en in windkolle tot 'n bos groei.

Hulle is 'n prentjie in die herfs wanneer die pienk blomme soos kerse vertoon. Die donkergroen blink blare is getand. Groot steunblare omsluit die knoppies wat baie na lepels lyk. Die boom kan hieraan alleen uitgeken word. Vandaar die mooi vroeë volksnaam. Daar is 'n enorme klomp vruggies waarvan baie deur voëls opgevrete word. Voëls en wind versprei die saad. Dit is 'n vinnige groeier en word beskou as 'n weerstandige boom in brande.

Rooi-elshout is 'n ligte tot 'n ryk rooi harderige houtsoort en word pragtig bewerk in meubels. 'n Mooi voorbeeld van die rooi-elsboom staan in die kloof by die Clarence-gedenkteken op pad Gordonsbaai toe of by die ingang van Harold Porter waar hulle soos hare op 'n hond se rug groei.

Hoe om te plant

Onthou, die boom is tuis in 'n vogtige woudarea. Maak in die skadukant van die erf 'n gat van 'n halwe meter vierkant. Dis nou vir 'n plant in 'n sakkie. As dit 'n jong boompie, is moet die gat natuurlik heelwat groter wees. Baie kompos is die wagwoord. Gee hom aanvanklik goed water, maar moenie verdrink nie. 'n Aanvulling van superfosfaat sal

groeï aanhelp volgens Karen Behr, kurator van Harold Porter Botaniese Tuin, MITS, beklemtoon sy, dit NIE naby fynbos is nie, want fynbos en fosfate is nie vriende nie. Sy sê dit sal baie help as daar eers 'n bosserigheid soos 'n keurboom (*Vergilia*) of 'n karee soos *Rhus lucida* geplant kan word om die Rooi-els te beskerm teen wind en sout van die see.

Koop plante by die Harold Porter of Kirstenbosch. Al hoe meer kwekerye hou deesdae ook inheemse plante aan.



Rooi-els

Louise du Toit

Bird Chat

What a glorious Autumn we have had! Wonderful, Rooiels days.

So many Rooiels species choose the June/July period as nesting time (and not all of them ornithological!) Our 3 sunbirds (lesser double-collared, orange-breasted and malachite) and the Cape Sugarbird, all rely on the abundance of ericas, aloes and proteas in flower for a rich food supply for their youngsters. They all become aggressive, jealously guarding their territories. Watch out friend and foe alike! Look for rapid flight, showy aerial displays and lots of raucous calling. Robins, Cape Bulbuls, Cape White-eyes and Rock Pigeons can be seen displaying to each other.

Winter in False Bay brings back the whales and, after severe

Northwesters look out for pelagics from their oceanic home, looking for "more sheltered" waters. Three species of petrels can be seen (White-chinned, Southern Giant and Greatwinged), the Sooty Shearwater and two species of albatros (Shy and Blackbrowed). The petrels and shearwaters have a very distinctive flight pattern gliding just above the wave crests. A good pair of binoculars are needed to get a definitive sighting! All three bird groups are mainly scavengers and will steal from other gulls and follow trawlers for easy pickings. Not quite how Coleridge described the albatross! Often, a Jackass Penguin will be seen on the beach - usually rather tired because it has come from the Betty's Bay colony which is one of only three mainland breeding colonies in the world. The name comes from the males "braying" in their courtship display. They are the only endemic penguin in Africa and are on the vulnerable species list, their numbers having dwindled by 75% in the 20th century. The catastrophic oil spill from the sunken Treasure (some treasure!) has affected "our" colony too, and prompted the opening of a penguin cleaning facility in Betty's Bay. Spring, when it does arrive, will bring the usual flurry of breeding. Alterations in breeding months are following the changes in climatic conditions. We also do not yet know how many birds are having second or even third clutches.

The whitefronted Sandplovers seem to have FINALLY realised that laying their eggs in a scrape on a footpath or below the tide line is NOT a good idea. They have now moved up the dune, but so far we seen only young birds - no scrapes. "Our" pair of Oystercatchers, Blacksmith Plovers and Egyptian Geese are usually seen on the beach. The

former's nesting sites are also on popular beaches with the result that their numbers are dwindling and they are on the Endangered Species list.

So keep on bird watching - there is LOTS to see!

Alison Ayres

'n Kuiken vir 2000?

Die witkruisarende het vanjaar regtig woer-woer met ons gespeel. 'n Mens het nie geweet wat om te maak van hul afwesigheid eers nie, en toe skielike ernstige vergroter en blaarbelyning van nes nommer twee in Mei.

In die week van 21 Mei is hulle 'n paar maal gesien paar. Daar was ook twee waarnemings in dié tyd dat hulle dassies vreet naby die nes. Daarna was daar stilte -alhoewel hulle onder ons neuse begin broei het.

'n Eier neem 41-44 dae om uit te broei. Op 12 Julie is vir die eerste keer in weke 'n gewerskaf opgelet en tegelyktydig het 'n kuiken kenmerkend hard gepiep-skree. Die ouers het mekaar afgelos en kos aangedra.

Toe weer senutergende stilte! 'n Arend is in dié tyd in die middedorp gesien wat probeer het om 'n kransduif te vang. Geen voël is nog naby Bakkiesbaai se sterk kolonie dassies opgemerk nie, dalk weens boubedrywigheid. Kom ons bly hoop dat ons vanjaar tog vir die eerste keer sedert 1997 weer 'n arendjie sal bykry. Witkruisarende se gemiddelde aanwas per jaar is maar 0.5....

Share your knowledge
And achieve
Immortality!

Die Hart van 'n Dorp

(Bron: *Die Storie van Waai-gatbaai*" deur Rita Blake

Hoekom verskil Rooiels en Kleinmond, Pringlebaai en Gordonsbaai so hemelsbreed? Wat gee aan 'n dorp sy eie spesifieke karakter?

Mense bly al eeue lank in die gebied. Die Khoisan wat oor 'n tydperk van 6,000 jaar die grot in die Rooiels rivierloop bewoon het, het min impak op die omgewing gehad. So ook die wegloper slawe en bendes wat later hier skuiling gesoek het. Nog later het vissermanne en hul families per boot hiernatoe gekom vir 'n naweek of vakansie. In die tyd toe die hele gebied deel geword het van die Hangklip plaas het permanente verandering begin. Die gras is gereeld afgebrand vir weiding vir die beeste. Die plaas is later onderverdeel en in 1942 is Rooiels as dorp uitgelê. Die eerste Rooikrans bome is in 1946 geplant.

In die vroeë 50s was die eiendom aktief bemark. Die area is opgetower as die "Kaapse Riviera" met vliegveld, golfbane, ens. Stel julle Rooiels nou voor as 'n "Riviera" vir stralejakkers met hotelle, disko's, 'n hawe vol bote, tennisbane waar die reservaat is en sekerlik 'n casino.

Die "Riviera" het egter glad nie gematerialiseer nie. Hier in die tuiste van die temperamentele Suidooster en loeiende Noordwester is sulke bemarkingsstrategieë vinnig weggewaa. Intendeel, Rooiels het reeds die toevlug van vissers, natuur-liefhebbers en stappers geword - mense wat die inheemse diere en plante raaksien. Dit het 'n dorp geword waar mense omgee vir die ryk erfenis van fynbos, kleinwild, otters, walvisse en dolfyne.

Ons as Rooielsers het bekend geword daarvoor dat ons baie

kwasterig raak as iemand met ons natuur wil peuter. Ons wou reeds weer die natuur herwin en het indringerplante begin uitroei op kapdae.

Verder het die REBV die skoolerf tot natuurresewaat laat verklaar en verhoed dat die hoofpad na Pringle toe deur die dorp loop. Rooiels was ook die eerste dorp hier rond wat 'n "Visie" opgestel het. Die Rooiels Visie is die bloudruk van die hart en siel van 'n dorp waar die mense in harmonie met die inheemse plante en diere, en met mekaar wil leef en gedy.

Wel gedaan Rooielsers dat julle hierdie fynbos-juweel nie in voorstedelikheid of in 'n stralejakkers-speelpark laat ontwikkel het nie, maar dit opgepas het om 'n dorp te word waar mense nader aan ongeskonde natuur kan woon en die natuur verkies bo die stad se gemak.

Evette Weyers

Living History

*To the attentive eye,
each moment of the year
has its own beauty,
and in the same field,
it beholds, every hour,
a picture
which was never seen before,
and which
shall never be seen again.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Africa is the cradle of mankind. Excavations of the Rooiels caves, middens and fish traps show that people have been living in and around Rooiels at least 5000 years ago. These "Rooielsers" must have looked upon the same mountains, watched in awe as the great breakers rolled into the bay in

winter and in summer cursed the South Easter which blew sand into their eyes. They must have known the forefathers of our present troop of baboons, the mongeese, dassies, otters, eagles as well as many other animals such as leopard and buck which have in recent times all but disappeared from modern Rooiels. They knew and looked upon the same fynbos, tenaciously covering this wind-swept landscape for millions of years.

This flora is so varied and idiosyncratic that it has been awarded the accolade of a "floral kingdom" – it is essentially unlike any other elsewhere. 68% of the Cape's floral species occur nowhere else in the world. The world comprises 6 floral kingdoms, which - with the exception of the Cape - cover vast areas such as the whole of Australia or most of the Northern Hemisphere. Fynbos has been on the earth a long time and contains plants that can be termed "living fossils". In stark contrast to the antiquity of the Cape flora, the flowers that grow over most of Europe, North America and Asia had to establish themselves after the glaciers and the Arctic ice-sheet last retreated, a matter of just a mere 10 000 years or so ago. As a result these plant kingdoms contain far fewer species and these are generally widespread. In the Fynbos biome geological and climatic history have combined to create soils in the fynbos region in which nutrients are in extremely short supply. Such soil often comprises of not much more than silica – glass in another form. And like, glass, this plant community, having endured and thrived under these harsh conditions for millennia, is at the same time extremely fragile under the threat of man's lack of consideration.

Now for the bad news: More than half of the Cape Floral

Kingdom has been irrevocably altered and the remainder is seriously threatened. Only a third of the original lowland fynbos remains. Already 41 lowland fynbos species have become extinct and another 173 species are threatened with extinction. Countless animal, bird and insect species will disappear along with fynbos and the habitat that it provides. Less than 2% of the original lowland fynbos is conserved in nature reserves. The rest is on private land. The continued survival of lowland fynbos is therefore largely dependant on private landowners – people like you and me.

Estelle Raymond

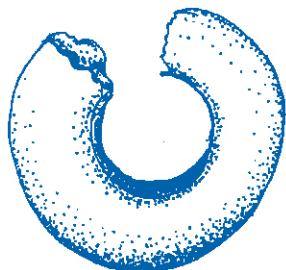
*These are islands in time --
with nothing to date them
on the calendar of mankind.*

*In these areas
it is as though a person
were looking backward
into the ages
and forward
unfold years.*

*Here are bits of eternity,
which have a preciousness
beyond all accounting.*

Harvey Broome

Steentyd werktuig duik op



Op sy kleinhoewe teenaan Rooiels het Mike Harrison 'n sugvoortjie gegrawe. Net daar in die vleigrond kry hy 'n

sementkleur deurboorde klip. Die skalieringetjie is so 6cm deursnee, 2.5cm dik en het 'n glad afgewerkte gat wat op sy wydste so 3cm breed is. Ongelukkig is die ring nie meer heel nie.

Toe dr Graham Avery, paleontoloog by die SA Museum, Kaapstad dit sien, het hy ons vermoede bevestig: dit is 'n werktuig van een of ander aard. Hy beskryf dit as 'n klein ring en as 'n ligte hulpmiddel om gewig te gee aan 'n stokkie waarmee wortels uitgegrawe word. In ons omgewing is waarskynlik bolle soos *Hypoxis*, *Moraea* en *Watsonia* vir kos gesoek en *Haemanthus* vir medisinale gebruik.

Die ring kom uit die Laat Steentyd (LST) 2000 of 3000 tot selfs 6000 jaar gelede of dalk so jonk as seshonderd jaar met die eerste kontak met blankes. (Die LST begin ongeveer 18 000 jaar gelede). Die feit dat die vindplek reg in lyn lê met die grot in die derde kop van Klein-Hangklip af en die naaste punt see toe, 'n baaitjie, versterk die herkoms van die werktuig. Die bewese kombuis (Eng. "midden") is lankal bekend. Mense het in vroeë omswerwinge maklik van die binneland kus toe gekom vanaf rivier se kant. Daar is ook vywers by Koeëlbaai en Pringlebaai. Die viswyer- en kombuisverskynsel kom wyd langs ons kus voor en strek ver met bekende vindplekke soos Die Kelders (Gansbaai) en Klasiesrivier (by Humansdorp) en verder noord.

Maar klink dit nie regtig na 'n geweldige klomp werk wat ingesit is in 'n ding wat hoeveel hulp uiteindelik gaan gee? 'n Mens wonder ook agterna of dit nie dalk eerder by 'n "visnet" as gewiggie onderaan gebruik kon gewees het nie. Louis Botha, volkekundige van die US meen ook ons ringetjie hoort eerder by LST visbedrywighede.

Louise du Toit

Property rights and responsibilities

We live at a time in our country's history where people are discussing and claiming their rights, enshrined in our new constitution. Some citizens contend that with rights come responsibilities. Everyone who stands on his rights should also shoulder his responsibilities.

What do property rights mean when you buy a plot in Rooiels? Living here next to the core of the Biosphere is totally different from living in a town where the indigenous fauna and flora had long since been eradicated. Here the piece of land you have bought existed in its natural state for many millennia. Because the Cape escaped the last ice age we have this amazing variety of plants, admired by other countries. Unfortunately only 6% of the original coastal fynbos is left in the Cape (due to development and encroaching alien vegetation). After you leave or die that piece of land you now own will continue to exist, though altered by your imprint.

Appealing to man's better instincts the Rooiels Vision contains a holistic view of living here. It formulates the practical application of having respect for our natural heritage of fynbos, and indigenous fauna. It asks you to take your neighbours around you into consideration when you build or light your garden. To tread softly and preserve the original wild beauty that so enchanted us to come here.

Evette Weyers

**A FAT Breeze/Bries,
For long winter nights**

From the ridiculous to the sublime

Or, The Greening of Rooielsers!

When City Slickers choose to live in Rooiels it requires some adjustments, including a change of mindset that does have its lighter side! Keen gardeners have a hard time resisting the impulse to plant their own special favourites, but Rooiels has its own way of dealing with such romantic notions and is quick to teach us that determination alone is not enough! Last summer saw one resident's F1 petunias in full and magnificent bloom. After one night of a strong Southeaster, I was surprised to see the *Protea repens* around her house with large clusters of mauve and white blooms - until closer inspection revealed entire petunia plants, including the roots, caught in the fynbos! From a grand start of 5 magnificent hybrids, Corrine Lessing, another 'newish' resident, now faithfully tends a single remaining rosebush in her garden - but her tulips and irises will herald the Spring from pots placed in a sunny spot inside her home - safe from baboons, porcupines, and the wind. Like a few other Rooielsers, I have my indoor 'skelm' garden - a private place where exotics flourish in secret, steamy and breathless abandon (quite daring to grow exotics here - one never knows if they will mutate into INVASIVE ALIENS)!

Julle het dalk self gevind dat daar 'n afkeurende blik in die oë van 'n ou Rooielser is oor jou pogings om tuin te maak of iets dergeliks. Moenie alleen voel nie. Toe ek en Marius op Rooiels kom aanbou het, het ons aan die

begin 'n hele paar Rooiels taboes oortree. Onwetend en salig onbewus van die kenners se afkeur was ons baie tevrede met die Rooikrans se skaduwee en het ons ons buurman aangespreek toe hy van ONS Rooikranse wou afsaag! Boonop het Marius kikoejoe aangeplant om die waaisand te tem. Ons het basies net oë gehad vir die see en die diere en voëls. Eers later het ons gehoor wat 'n ewel Rooikrans is in die uitroei van fynbos en doodmaak van die grond. Ons oë het oopgegaan vir die fynbos se skugter skoonheid en veelsydigheid. Toe moes die Rooikrans bome uit en ons sukkel nou nog om van die kikoejoe ontslae te raak wat so onder die fynbos ingroei!

Die inheemse skoonheid van Rooiels kruip onder jou vel in en mens ontwikkel 'n arendsoog vir 'n Rooikrans- of Mirte-saailing wat jy onmiddellik uittrek om sodoende die voortbestaan van die Kanferbos, Wilde Salie en Steenbokkie boegoe, met hulle wonderlike geure, te verseker.

Jenny Stark and Evette Weyers

NUUSflitse

ANOTHER FATAL ACCIDENT ON ROOIELS CORNER, CLARENCE DRIVE

Every time we drove past the bouquet of long-stemmed red roses, propped up against the wall where Roella road meets Clarence Drive, we thought soberly of the two lives wasted in a head-on collision there just a year ago. They had scarcely faded when the scenario repeated itself in exactly the same spot. This time an English tourist, due to fly home the following day, died - her husband

and Joan du Toit of Kleinmond were injured. There are moves afoot to place speed reduction measures and bold signage before this very dangerous stretch of road. Something must be done before more lives are needlessly wasted.

TWEE RAMPE

Binne een jaar het 2 groot rampe die Kaap getref. Eers die vernietigende brande wat veral die skiereiland geteister het en Kapenaars opnuut laat besef het dat Rooikrans, Port Jackson en dennebome 'n enorme brandgevaar inhou. Hulle brand baie vinniger en warmer as fynbos. Die tweede ramp was die vragskip 'Treasure' wat naby Robbeneiland gesink het.

Met die geweldige storms en uitermatige hoë deining in Julie, het dik taai swart olie ook ons strand besoedel. Die munisipale span onder leiding van Darelle Snyman, het vinnig met opruimingswerk begin. Dis egter 'n ander storie op die rotse en klipstrandjies, waar die olie nog jare lank kol-kol gaan sit.

Die olie het die broeiende pikkewyne op Dasseneiland met uitwissing bedreig. Hulp het egter van verskeie oorsese organisasies gekom en die grootste voël-reddings operasie wêreldwyd is van stapel gestuur. Besoedelde voëls is ook tussen Bettysbaai en Kleinmond gevind en plaaslike inwoners het ook hulp aangebied. Die munisipaliteit het ingestem om een van hulle skure in Bettysbaai beskikbaar te stel. Die is omskep in kampe vir die pikkewyne en 2 klein draagbare swembaddens is aangebring om die herstellende voëls weer fiks te kry. Carol Walton, wat vroeër by SANKUB gewerk het, en ander SEEWAG lede werk ywerig om die skoongemaakte pikkewyne te voer, medisyne te gee ens. Honderd en vyftig van die pikkewyne is hierheen gebring

en inwoners in die geweste het hul hulp aangebied en werk selfs in skofte. Party pikkewyne is te verswak en maak dit nie; ander skop vas en byt deur. Sommiges het die Apollo olie ramp oorleef en word nou alweer skoon-geskrop. Dis 'n spanpoging van lokale vrywilligers wat die projek laat seëvier.

THANKS TO THE ROOIELS
BOAT CLUB FOR
SPONSORING THIS ISSUE OF
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Reël om siek of besoedelde
voëls soontoe te neem:

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Bettysbaai

Carol Walton 028 272 9978

Gordonsbaai

Anita Hvidsten 021 856 1566

Het jy geweet?

C LOUIS LEIPOLDT was 'n besoeker aan Rooiels. Later jare het Leipoldt in Seepunt geloseer by mev. Dorothy O'Connor. Micheal O'Connor, toe in Junior Matriek, onthou nog goed hoe hulle in 'n blou Studebaker in die September-skoolvakansie in 1945 hier kom kamp het. Die vier-stuks het tent opgeslaan aan die Gordons-baaikant van die rivier. Nee, hulle het nie uitstappies onderneem nie, maar

is deur die bobbejane vermaak en "it was quite windy"!!! Die pad om die kus was toe pas voltooi. Van 'n brug kan mev. O'Connor niks onthou nie. Waarskynlik was die houtbrug nog nie in plek nie.

Louise du Toit

In Memoriam

I remember the day -

*The tide was low,
Rock pools filled
With sodden masses of kelp,
Boulders draped with piles of
dripping seaweed.
Soft pink residues still splashed
the sky.*

*Filled with a sense of wonder
and renewal,
He ran.
His feet pressed marks into the
sand -
Writing his final script.
Now he lay in peaceful repose,
facing the sea.*

*And there rises again the
thought that kept recurring then,
That the sea is very ancient,
That it ebbed and flowed
Before man appeared
On the planet,
And will ebb and flow after he
and his works have disappeared*

*Something had passed that was.
In some fashion,
Great, mysterious and ancient,
Like the sea itself.*

Jenny Stark

(Adapted from: E. Linton, 'The Man
of Science and the Public'
Science 48 (1918), p. 33)

Xagene de Villiers en sy vrou, Hester, het in 1998 besluit om Rooiels hulle aftree-tuiste te maak. As boerseun van Ceres se wêreld het die berge, see en natuur hom hier so bekoor dat hy verlede jaar op vervroegde aftrede gegaan het en het hy en Hester hulle vroeg vanjaar permanent gevestig in hulle gesellige houthuisie in Ocean View-rylaan.

Xagene het drie hartstogte gehad in die lewe: sy skepper, sy gesin en die see. Op 20 Julie het X, soos hy aan ons bekend was, langs die see gaan draf en nie weer teruggekom nie. Soos hy gelewe het, het hy gegaan: stil rustig en mooi -- op die duinepaadjie by die see... Sommige van ons onthou hom met 'n kleindogter op sy skouer, bultaf teen Klein Hangklip, ander het oor bote of rugby of kreefkos met hom gesels, maar almal van ons hou 'n prentjie van die stil, vriendelike man wat ons nog graag beter wou leer ken.

ONS INNIGE MEEGEVOEL

*Aan Hester, Klein-X en Natasha,
met die verlies van 'n
dierbare maat en vader.*



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