

BRIES

DECEMBER / DESEMBER 2017

brugges

News from the Rooiels Conservancy, Ratepayers' Association,
Security Association and Boat Club

Nuus van die Rooiels Bewarea, Belastingbetalersvereniging,
Sekuriteitsassosiasie en Bootklub



NEW DRONE | DETERIORATION OF DUNES

SPOTTED AT THE LEOPARD CAMERAS | SECURITY REFLECTIONS

THE FIRE | DIE FYNBOS NA DIE BRAND | BABOON PROJECT

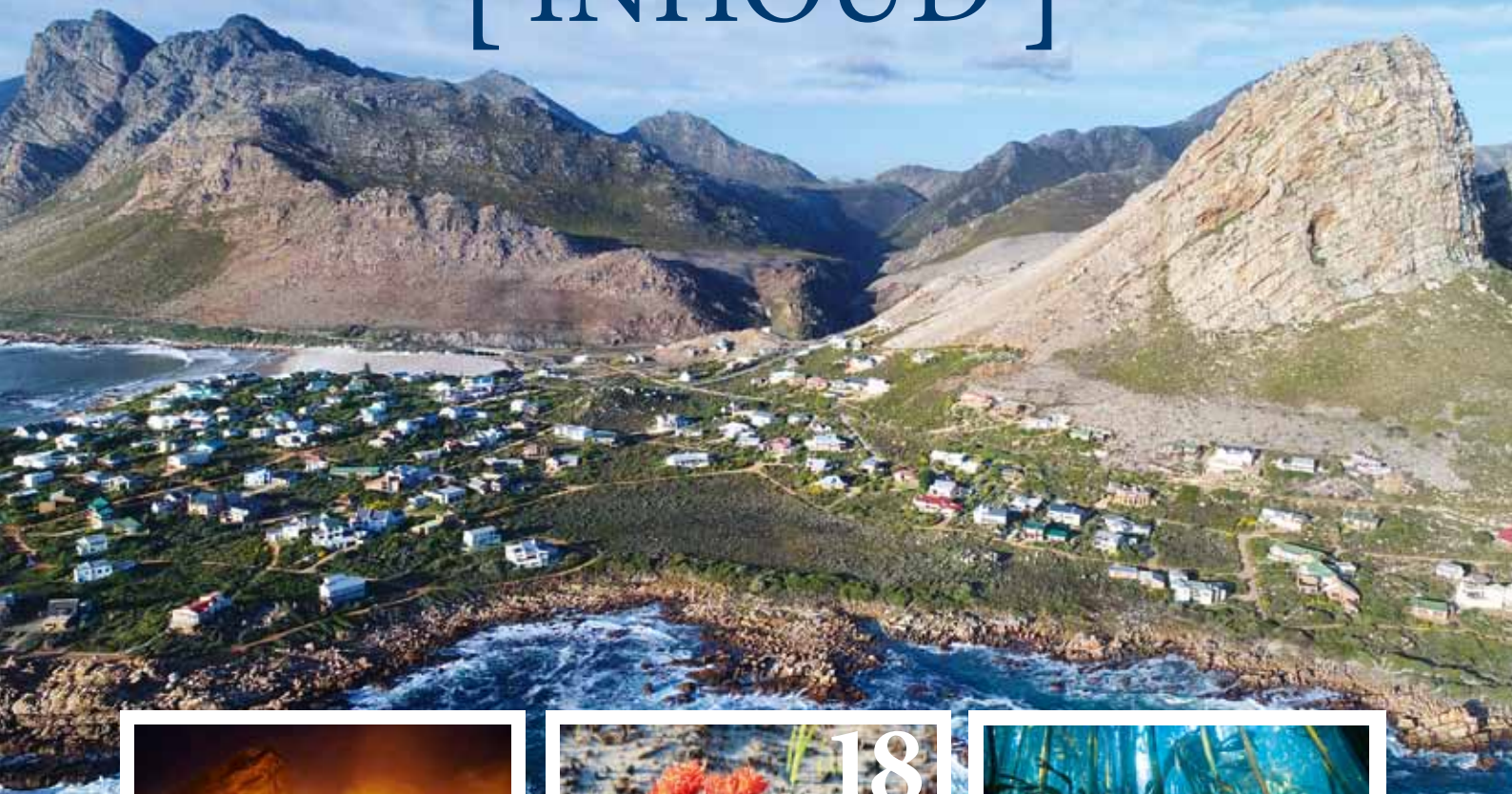
DROWNED WHALE AND OCTOPUS FISHERIES

MEET THE ARTISTS | VAKANSIEPROGRAM | NUWE INTREKKERS

'N TERUGBLIK OP DEURSLAGGEWENDE JARE VIR ROOIELS

Photo taken with
REC's new drone

[INHOUD]



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VOORBLADFOTO
Dawid van
der Merwe



[FROM THE RERA TEAM]

The Rooiels Ratepayers' Association (RERA) Committee of 2017 has a small, but dedicated, team of people who work hard to ensure that Rooiels interests are represented at a Ward 10 level as well as municipally and provincially. RERA has also made every effort this year to continue a policy of supporting Rooiels special interest groups, while also attending to our main brief of representing the broad interests of Rooiels Ratepayers within the Vision for our village. While local government is an easy target for criticism, it is very evident that they are experiencing cash and personnel resource constraints. This means that it is increasingly challenging to obtain consistent municipal services that we used to take for granted.

WARD 10

Rooiels falls within Ward 10 of Overstrand Municipality, which ward consists of Rooiels, Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay and the developing areas of Kleinmond - Overhills and Proteadorp. At a recent Ward Committee meeting the capital plans approved for 2018/2019 did not include any capital allocation for roads in this area. The community members on the Ward committee expressed their anger at this lack of investment in the area which has been an ongoing feature of the past four years. While senior public officials, including the Mayor, have visited the area to appraise themselves of the roads situation, we hold out little hope of a radical change in approach. It should also be noted that a small allocation of R400 000 has been given to our area to reduce dust from gravel roads using a "tar spraying technique". This will be done on selected roads (2.9 km) in Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay, but is not an option for our village.

Normal maintenance of Rooiels gravel roads will continue. RERA, together with the Rooiels Conservancy (REC), have developed a very good relationship with the working Municipal Service staff who are faced with a lack of supervisory staff which makes our combined efforts to improve grading techniques very difficult. We are hoping to assist the Municipality next year with a programme of keeping drainage systems open and functioning in a new community-municipal collaborative effort. Please attend relevant AGM's to learn more about these efforts.

At the Ward Committee meeting of 12 September, Mr Lakey, Municipal Manager for our area, was tasked to submit documentation to Council about the management of the Rooiels slipway. This is a follow-up to the meeting of 13 June in which the Municipal Manager, Councilor and Ward Committee agreed to the broad management for the Rooiels slipway which was presented by the Rooiels Boat Club Executive. This matter is currently under revision.

VILLAGE INITIATIVES

Within our village it is evident that there is a strong community spirit that encourages collaboration and participation. Never has this been more important. While RERA is the official voice to the outside world, how we work together as a community to build relationships and protect our interests remains the single most important way that we can ensure that we continue to enjoy a beautiful, tranquil and safe environment. We wish to congratulate and thank all those who have given their time, skills and money to maintain our extraordinary lifestyle. It is a rarity in this modern world and has no price tag.

SOME OF THE INITIATIVES THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

- An investigation into the fire. We hope that the findings and recommendations will increase our capacity to manage disasters in the future. >

- A working/lobby group for improving safety on the R44/Clarence Drive as it runs through our village, has engaged with several officials and local and provincial government in an attempt to find workable traffic calming solutions.
- Regular consultation and collaboration with other Rooiels organisations (REC, RESA and REBC) help to minimise overlap and ensure that our limited resources are used appropriately in a focused manner.
- We would also like to congratulate the Whatsapp group "The Village People" for the continuous updating of daily life in Rooiels. It makes it easier for people who do not live here full time to stay in touch and feel part of the community.
- We may soon welcome a new Rooiels Art Project (REAP). See more about our artists elsewhere in this Breeze.
- Please keep outdoor lighting to a minimum so that everyone can enjoy the night sky.
- Please keep your dogs on a leash in all public areas. We are expecting record crowds over Christmas and New Year and uncontrolled dogs are a problem.
- Please get to know your neighbours and find out their contact details.
- Please pick up any rubbish you might see in public places and deposit it in public bins.
- Please attend the AGMs of the Rooiels organisations that ensure that your investment in a home in Rooiels continues to be a valuable one. Participate and become a member. We need your support.
- Please have a wonderful holiday – may it be safe and blessed!

THE HOLIDAY SEASON

We all look forward to spending some time in Rooiels at the end of the year. To make this as pleasant as possible here are a few guidelines.

A full Chairman's Report will be available on the Rooiels website www.rooiels.org after the AGM which will be held on 21 December at 18h00.



NOTICE OF RERA **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday 21 December 2017 at 17:30 for 18:00 at Erf 231 Ocean View Drive (Voigt home).

In terms of our constitution motions and issues for discussion must be sent to the secretary (rerarebv@gmail.com) at least seven days beforehand.

Membership subs are R150. Please do an EFT: Rooiels Ratepayers Association, Nedbank Corporate Saver Branch, Branch code 198765, Savings account no 9019464920 (Reference Erf no and name).

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REC Activities

The Rooiels Conservancy has been working on the following during 2017:

- Roads and road reserves
- Building issues
- Input into slipway environmental considerations
- Dune rehabilitation: assessment & planning
- Packing up eco-centre and exploring new opportunities
- Hacks
- Baboon management
- Increasing Vision awareness
- Reports and liaison with SANBI regarding the Rooiels Wetland
- Reports and liaison with CapeNature: smallholdings & open space CBA overlays
- Water test results: Buffelsrivier WTP & Estuaries
- Boardwalk maintenance
- Estuaries management workshop: input into future management plans



Joselyn Mormile and Dr Laurel Serieys of the Urban Caracal Project at the October talk



Vincent van der Merwe of the Endangered Wildlife Trust speaking about his work with cheetah at the August talk

The Conservancy's **New Drone**



Nikou Nourbakhsh, Marti Louw, Illah Nourbakhsh, Mitra Nourbakhsh, Duncan Hiles and Joselyn Mormile

A huge thank you goes to Illah Nourbakhsh and family for their generous donation of a Phantom 4 drone to the Rooiels Conservancy. Duncan Hiles, Wolfgang Steinbach and Joselyn Mormile have been trained to operate the drone, which will be used exclusively for conservation purposes. So far, the drone has been used to photograph the Rooiels cape fur seal colony and to help assess the extent of the spread of pine trees near Pringle Bay that are planned for removal. Some future planned uses include an assessment of post-fire plant regrowth in the wetlands area and potential early fire detection, among others.

Saying Goodbye to the Eco-Centre

We said goodbye to the Eco-centre in June. The Eco-centre was created in 2003 to share information about our local ecosystems and the surrounding biosphere reserve. It contained displays of information on all sorts of flora and fauna, from sea life to fynbos.

The Eco-centre will be moving to the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden in Betty's Bay to the stone cottage alongside what was the gift/bookshop with adjoining garden centre just inside the main gate. We are waiting on the completion of renovations before our collections will be displayed and will announce its debut! Contact has also been made with BotSoc Betty's Bay and a recommended representative from Pringle Bay to consider participating in the Eco-centre to promote the different environmental perspectives of all three villages adjoining the core Biosphere Reserve in this area.

We wish Wimpie and his team all the best with his venture into an expanded shopping centre. Thank you as well to all who helped in any way to keep the Eco-centre alive. Your hard work building and maintaining this wonderful collection has not gone unnoticed.

Rooiels Conservancy Wildlife Research Talk Series

The Rooiels Conservancy held a Wildlife Research Talk Series over the past several months. The talks, which were organized by REC committee member Joselyn Mormile, were held at the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden in Betty's Bay. Speakers were students/professionals from the University of Cape Town's Department of Biological Sciences, the Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa (iCWild) and Stellenbosch University's Department of Botany and Zoology.

The evenings were organized to fundraise for some of REC's many community projects. Funds were raised specifically for new supplies for our camera trap project and new equipment for the dedicated individuals that participate in the invasive plant hacks. Speakers have included Vincent Naudé who spoke about his PhD work on leopard skin trade and genetics. Joselyn Mormile spoke about her PhD work on the Rooiels baboons and explained the type of data she collects every day. Vincent van der Merwe spoke about his PhD work on cheetah metapopulations, genetics and management. Dr. Laurel Serieys spoke about her organization, the Urban Caracal Project, which promotes research and conservation of the Peninsula's caracals. The talks, which were open to the public, were well attended and enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who came out and contributed to make the fundraisers a great success! We would also like to thank our donors, Creation Winery and Shannon Winery, who graciously donated several cases of wine for the evenings.

WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The fifteen months that have passed since my election as councillor for Ward 10 in Overstrand Municipality were certainly much more demanding and challenging than the normal expectation of chairing ward committee meetings, providing input for the Integrated Development Plan and Budget and working through the agendas for portfolio committee and council meetings.

With regard to Rooiels, the fire of 19 and 20 March was a traumatic event. Personally, on the Sunday, I had to drive through flames and thick smoke to fetch my wife in Somerset West and on our return we shared the anxiety and uncertainty of the Rooiels community evacuated to the coastal road while the combatting of the fire in the village took place. This was the first time to my knowledge that a whole town was evacuated in Overstrand and arrangements were made for residents to sleep over in a resort in Gordons Bay, if necessary.

It was a miracle that only two houses were lost if all circumstances are considered, but even so there is still an aftermath in the sense that we have not found suitable housing for the two elderly ladies (and their cats) that lost their uninsured home and most of their belongings in the fire.

Encouraging, however, is the way the firefighting was organised, with support from the city and elsewhere and the whole Hangklip-Kleinmond community, who never stopped providing food, refreshments and even medical aid. And with nine fires in total in Ward 10 this

year, I can assure you this was not a once off happening!

Community safety is one of my two top priorities and I am glad to report that we have made great progress during the past year. We have active neighbourhood watches in Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooiels, with the last-mentioned the leader in technology and an organisation to be proud of.

The Community Policing Forum is functional again and on Mondays the whole security community meets with the Police to discuss issues of concern. While crime levels at one stage dropped to the lowest in the Overberg, we have had the shocking murders of the 11-year-old Gershwin Johnson on his way to school and the 50 year old Ferra Thompson in Pringle Bay to show us that one can never rest on your laurels with regard to crime.

Another way in which neighbourhood watches showed their mettle was the search for little Louise Fowler, who was washed off rocks in Betty's Bay. Although she was not found, this effort in a small way helped console her parents and family.

To make progress with my other priority goal, namely economic growth and job creation, is unfortunately much more difficult. Two small cooperatives were established with the help of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve Company and a food garden and nursery has been set-up at Mthimkhulu Village in Kleinmond. There is also potential in the so-called Community Works Programme. However, it seems that we need much more energy and drive from the community to make this succeed.



Fanie Krige

Encouraging, however, is the way the firefighting was organised, with support from the city and elsewhere and the whole Hangklip-Kleinmond community

Frustration about unemployment and bleak prospects is one of the main causes of the violent protest action we have experienced recently in Overhills and Proteadorp, also part of Ward 10, although there are also other issues. We will have to do something drastic to bring about change.

In closing, I was asked to say something about what is in the pipeline for Rooiels. We are currently reviewing the IDP and Budget for 2018/19 and decided that we must use part of our ward specific allocation of R500 000 over the next two years to complete the paving of Anemone Road. In the current financial year R50 000 was set aside for providing ditches on certain roads.

Rooiels is represented on the Ward Committee by Julia Aalbers, but residents are most welcome to contact me as well.

Fanie Krige (Ward 10 Councillor)
Ph: 082 773 7749 | e-mail to sdkrige@gmail.com.



MEDIA RELEASE | Roadworks on R44 | 20 October 2017

The Department of Transport and Public Works has started periodic maintenance on the R44 between Rooiels and Gordon's Bay. This R59 million project is expected to be completed in mid-2018. The project will include crack sealing, patching, asphalt overlay, and repairs to culverts and gabions. Half-width construction (involving the closure of one lane) will take place in sections with stop/go controls to manage the flow of traffic. Motorists can expect a 15-minute waiting period at stop/go points.



Deterioration of plant cover on dunes



[ROOIELS DUNES IN A CHANGING CLIMATE]

If you are a regular walker from the slipway to the Point footpath around to Rocklands Road, you may have noticed the changes that have been taking place to the dunes over the last year or so?

Changing weather and seasonal wind patterns together with rising sea levels and several years of reduced rainfall amounting to drought conditions have had a marked effect on the dunes along this stretch of our coastline over the past few seasons:-

- Walking along the beach from the slipway towards the Point, root systems of the dune vegetation have been exposed by rising tide levels that are now eating into the foot of the dunes.
- The dilapidated slatted fence protecting the expansive blow-out area towards the Point that was rehabilitated by REC members during Chris Burlock's tenure many years ago has rotted away leaving the sea-facing area exposed to the elements, with the beginnings of another blowout appearing.
- New blow-outs have now appeared along the stretch from the dilapidated fence to the bench at the Point exposing large tap-roots of dune vegetation to excessively hot late summer winds, followed by a recent storm which opened up the blow-outs to the further ravages of the accompanying northerly gale.
- There is little hope of recovery for the dune vegetation in the new blow-outs without emergency rehabilitation work that will need to get underway without delay to fill the blow-outs with rooikrans cuttings and secure with anchovy netting to allow natural capture of sand with the on-coming summer winds.

Janette Yeats



NOTICE OF REC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday 19 December 2017 at
17:30 for 18:00 at Erf 66 Harveya
(Charalambous home).**

Membership subs are R150.
Please do an EFT:
Rooiels Conservancy,
Nedbank Corporate Saver Branch,
Branch code 198765,
Savings account no 9019647510
(Reference Erf no and name).

PLEASE DON'T FENCE ME IN!



In Rooiels we try to avoid or minimise fencing, keeping this special place as natural and free as possible. The free movement of fauna is the chief reason, though not the only one. We have seen baboons cornered by fencing (when they grow old and less agile) and savaged by dogs and mongooses cornered by solid walls. Recently small buck have been spotted at night – what would happen to them if they were chased into a fence?

Fencing off areas for our dogs is the responsible thing to do, but there is another way to contain our dogs without impacting negatively on the free movement of fauna. You do a much smaller job which costs way less: just fence a small area attached to the house and not stretching around your boundary, leaving space all the way around for the animals to move freely. That way nature wins too! This concept is contained in the Living the Vision document to be found on the Rooiels website.



Drones and the Law

Drones, or Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), provide some wonderful opportunities for photographs and data collection and are a part of the new world. But they can be a nuisance and dangerous and they fall under quite stringent legislation – much to the relief of those of us who do not want our peace shattered and the animals scattered by their buzzing across our view at weekends!

Under legislation introduced in July 2015, it is illegal to fly within 50m of any person who is not under your control – nor is it legal to fly within 50m of any building without

the permission of the owner of the building, nor within 50m of a public road, and not within 10km of an airport, helipad or airstrip. They must be flown in daylight in clear weather conditions and must be less than 7 kg in mass. The drones can only be flown within Restricted Visual Line-of-sight of the operator. You can access the legislation on the Rooiels Website through the Directory or in the section on Living the Vision in Rooiels, or you can get it directly from the Civil Aviation Authority website.

Kay Leresche



Kay Leresche

Ons nuwe kennisgewingbord en dorpskaart



Ons het gedink dis oor en verby met die ou bord. Die kaart was al lankal onleesbaar. Die Munisipaliteit het nie oor die fondse beskik om hom te herstel nie. Hoe nou gemaak?

Willie Boltmann en Wolf Steinbach het die besigheidsarea van die dorp bekyk en besluit om dit netjies te maak. Toe kyk hulle na die ou kennisgewingbord en kom tot die slotsom dat die kas nog mooi solied was en dat hulle dit nie wou afbreek nie. Willie is baie handig en hy besluit om te red wat hy kon.

Die eindproduk van sy werk staan nou weer trots teenoor die Drummond Arms met die nuwe dorpskaart wat met moeite en toewyding bekom is deur Janette Yeats met die hulp van Lee-Ann Rauch, Senior GIS-tegnikus, Overstrand Munisipaliteit.

Willie sê die onkoste het R2000 beloop. Ons moet net hier noem dat die oorspronklike bord en kaart destyds meer as R40 000 gekos het!

'n Opregte dankie aan Wolf, Willie en Janette.

Anuta Scholtz



Cali and new-born Cody

PHOTO: JOSELYN MORMILE



Repairs to boardwalk

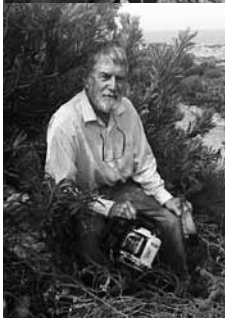
RERA and REC recently had the boardwalk between Rocklands Road and the sea below erf 239 repaired at a cost of R1 680.00. Fifteen rotten and missing boards were replaced in the interests of the safety and comfort of property owners and visitors.

Jane Henderson,
Linda Butler, Margie
Ellis and Jill Lockley

Dick Lockley and
Linda Hiles

[THE HACK GROUP]

Aliens have the ability to store vast seed banks which are stimulated by fire. If you walk through an area that our March fire went through, see for yourself how many seedlings are now coming up.



Stalwarts: Anuta Scholtz,
Diarmuid Baigrie and
Geoff Harris

The Hack Group has been operating in Rooi-els for many years. In fact, at the farewell party for Alastair and Jane Henderson held in July this year, Alastair was quite adamant that he and Jane had been hacking here for over 40 years. They will certainly be missed by all of us who have enjoyed their company and their hard work at the hacks every month. Alastair remarked that if he did not attend the monthly get together he got withdrawal symptoms! He was always the last to finish hacking and had to be persuaded to join us for the tea. Despite Jane's hip and associated health problems she proved a dab hand with the tree popper and hand saw and her determination to finish the task was an inspiration to us all. They left for Melbourne after having owned a house in Rooi-els for 40 years – sad to see such old timers leave us, but their grandchildren in Australia beckon.

Jill and I have been active members of the Hack Group for at least 30 years. During this time we have met many staunch Rooi-elsers who enjoy their monthly exercise and know that they are all contributing to the healthy state of our own environment by eliminating alien vegetation. The hack also provides all participants with social interaction as, not only does one work alongside and with fellow hackers, but after the work is finished all hackers are hosted to a tea which is thoroughly enjoyed by us all. Members of the community take turns to host these teas and volunteers are always needed.

The aim of the monthly hack is to remove invasive alien plants which include Rooikrans, Port Jackson, Manatoka, Australian myrtle, New Zealand Christmas trees (our problem with this particular tree is very minor compared to the major threat that Betty's Bay faces) and a host of other minor invasives. Aliens not only spread faster than our indigenous fynbos but have two other major disadvantages – they burn with far greater intensity than fynbos does, thus spreading the fire very rapidly, and also consume far more water than local vegetation. And in these times of climate change with increased temperatures and less rainfall, water conservation is paramount.

Please note that in our large and devastating fire of 19 March this year we would have suffered far greater damage to homes and buildings than we did if the Hack Group had not, over many years, successfully eliminated aliens from most of the surrounding area. I shudder to think what would happen to parts of Betty's Bay, and even Pringle Bay, if a fire should take hold in some of the polluted areas of those villages where Rooikrans and Port Jackson are rampant.

After the fire the Hack Group has found itself in the enviable situation of having to look for work, i.e. most of the aliens have either been removed by us or have been successfully eliminated by the fire. But beware: a surprise is in store for us all! Aliens have the ability to store vast seed banks which are stimulated by fire. If you walk through an area that our March fire went through, see for yourself how many seedlings are now coming up. The late rains are really getting them going and unless we take urgent action we shall be kept busy hacking for years to come.

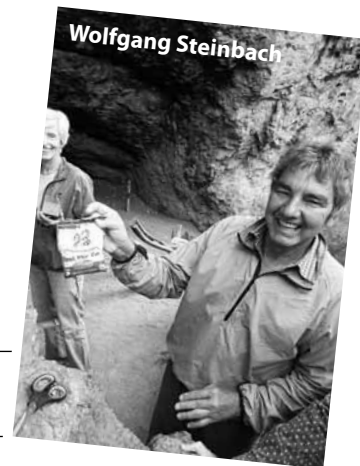
When Jill and I first bought here in 1974 there were large forests of Rooikrans with whole erven covered in aliens. One inhabitant was very active in those days getting to grips with the scourge of Rooikrans seedlings. She was Ulrike Potgieter who lived at 189 Harveya. She set herself a target of pulling out 100 Rooikrans seedlings a day. We would see her every day in a different part of the village. She was a fascinating person whose life Gerard Scholtz has captured in a novel recently re-published (Lig wankelend). We all need to follow her example and set ourselves targets to uproot these seedlings now! They are at our doorstep already and come November will be establishing themselves again.

Please join the hack group and do your bit to preserve Rooi-els as an alien-free environment. We meet on the first Saturday of every month with tools and equipment provided to all willing hands.

Dick Lockley (Hack Convenor)

SPOTTED

CAPTURING OUR WILDLIFE ON CAMERA



Wolfgang Steinbach and Jill Lockley have been monitoring the leopard activity at the Rooiels Cave since 2012 on behalf of the Rooiels Conservancy (REC) and have built up an impressive portfolio of photographs of leopard visits. When Linda and I moved permanently to Rooiels at the end of 2013, I felt very privileged when they asked me to join their team as a technical advisor.

It has entailed regular visits to the cave to harvest the next crop of photos, experiment with different camera and sensor settings, learn from the resulting images and try to improve our chances of getting the perfect shot. It's now nearly four years on, and we are still trying – we have a large library of leopard snouts and tails, but we also have a collection of clear broadside images. On average we have been to the cave once a month and we have always had at least one leopard visit on each occasion. The visits are always short; usually just passing through, or having a quick look around.

REC has provided most of the funding for consumables (batteries, SD cards and the ubiquitous cable ties), but there have also been several individual donations for the purposes of replacing the cameras. When we replaced a couple of the cameras for more modern ones with (we hoped) improved performance, we decided to try and capture some of the activities of the otters in the village. We mounted two cameras on the path down to the lagoon where there were signs of periodic otter activity, through footprints in the sand and often fresh scats. We had several weeks with no results. Well, no otters, but plenty of swimmers and dogs to keep the cameras busy. One summer's evening we finally got what we had hoped for – a

long (7 minutes) visit by a family of six adult otters showing great interest in the cameras, and marking their territory with a rhythmic dance with copious spraying.

Soon after, the two cameras were stolen over an Easter weekend. We had been aware that there was a risk, but had tried to reduce it by placing the cameras in the evening and removing them early in the morning, but it was clearly not enough. Willie Boltmann of Bonny Banks came to our rescue with a well-designed and crafted steel box with a secure attachment to a pole which was set in concrete. This has done the trick as we have not had any more losses since then.

We don't get photos on these cameras as frequently as we do at the leopard cave, but every so often there are "hits", with energetic otters interacting, chasing each other and doing the marking dance.

The cameras can be very rewarding, as shown by some of the results on the Rooiels website (www.rooiels.org) and the Facebook page. They can be extremely frustrating as well, because the options for setting them up are very limited. The flash can only be controlled in two ways. First, there are three modules that can be fitted: visible light, infra-red and black (far infra-red). Second, you position the camera a given distance from where you anticipate that the subject will be when it triggers the motion detector.

We have many photos that would have been really good close-ups, but they are totally overexposed because the subject is too close, or dark and gloomy with a

faint impression in the distance.

We have been sending the images to the Cape Leopard Trust Boland Project, where our contact people are Jeannie Hayward and Anita Wilkinson. Recently we received an email from Jeannie with a meticulously detailed analysis of every leopard visit that had been caught on camera over the past six years. We had been aware that there was more than one, but found it very difficult to compare spot patterns when there was even a small difference in aspect. We were astonished to learn that we have had no fewer than four regular visitors during that period. According to Jeannie, the following leopards have been recorded at the cave:

Scott (BM12), had been visiting intermittently since 2011. He is a big, strong, very dominant male with a very large territory throughout the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve.

Ruby (BF22), an adult female who had been visiting since 2013 to present.

Rafiki (BM32), the most prolific visitor between Nov 2015 and June 2016. He seems to be a fairly young, small male, most likely trying to establish a territory.

Diego (BM27) is another big dominant male whom they have picked up in the Kogelberg reserve above Kleinmond, on Groenlandberg in the Elgin Valley and on Vergelegen in the Helderberg Basin. He has only been to the cave 3 times. It seems likely that Diego might be trying to oust Scott from part of his territory – but this remains to be seen.

Jeannie cautioned us against creating a false impression about the numbers of individuals in the region:

“... the results need to be interpreted with care. It is not accurate to just say that 4 leopards are visiting the cave at any one point - it needs to be explained by saying that there had been one dominant male and female over a long period, plus a possible young hopeful for a few months, plus another dominant male who could be trying to push the first one out. Otherwise it sounds like the mountains are just crawling with leopards and there are loads everywhere”.

Below are representative photos of the four visitors. The photos of Scott and Rafiki were taken about six months apart during 2016. The closest that we have to an encounter between two leopards was on 9 May 2016, when Ruby was photographed at 18:20, followed by Rafiki two hours later.

An interesting byproduct related to the camera traps is evidence of just how many other animals are active in and around Rooiels. Over the years we have “trapped” baboons, dassies, porcupines, genets, grey mongoose, water mongoose and klip-springer in the cave. The otter cameras, situated within the village have caught the same list, except for klipspringer. We are indeed fortunate to be living in a place with so much wildlife at our doorstep. Let’s do whatever we can to keep it this way. If you do have the need to fence your property, keep pathways open between your property and your neighbours, public areas and the roads. Keep your dogs under control and on a lead. If you come across the camera traps, look, but keep out of the cameras’ field of view. A message to the voyeurs out there: selfies and belfies (bum selfies) stop being clever and funny very quickly!

Thanks to Jill and Wolfgang for accepting me on the team; to Willie Boltmann for his impenetrable steel boxes and the use of his home as a power and signal source; Kate Barker and Joselyn Mormille for getting the pick of the photos onto the village website and the Rooiels Wildlife Facebook sites; Jeannie and Anita of the Cape Leopard Trust Boland Project for analysis and comment on the photos and the generous members of the Rooiels community for continuing support, donations and interest.

Duncan Hiles



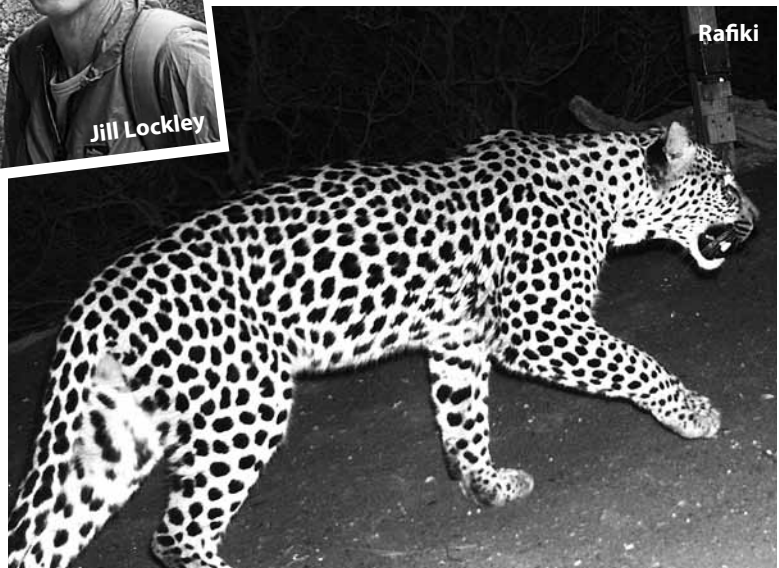
Scott



Ruby



Jill Lockley



Rafiki



Diego



Do lights really secure against crime?

The potential for crime in Rooiels is stimulated by the fact that our village is situated in a prime fynbos habitat where many plots are vacant and covered in indigenous vegetation. Moreover, most houses are unoccupied for large parts of the year. Yet, the surrounding fynbos is, ironically, one of our most valuable assets and the Hack Group and home owners alike work hard to preserve it. Another invaluable asset is the dark, night sky that contributes to a magic and tranquil atmosphere and provides opportunities for those interested in astronomy or simply gazing at the stars. These factors contribute to the wonderfully unique character of our village. Few people have the privilege of being in such close proximity to urban areas, whilst enjoying such natural beauty!

Some residents, including police officers, are of the opinion that more lights will contribute towards security against crime. However, this view is flawed. First, the entire area will have to be lit to make such lighting effective. We only need to look at our brightly-lit cities with their rampant crime statistics to see the folly of this reasoning. Moreover, criminals also need light to do their deeds, and if the area is generally dark they will have to work by bright moonlight, or provide their own light source and will therefore be more readily spotted. Furthermore, infra-red binoculars, a useful tool in combating crime, cannot function effectively when there is extraneous light.

Lights that are left burning will hardly deter criminals. Rather, they advertise that the occupants are scared and/or that the house contains valuable items – factors that motivate a determined burglar. With this kind of advertising, burglars may mark the place for a future visit, often during the day. It is a fact that many, if not most crimes in the Hangklip area are perpetrated during daylight hours.

Outside lights that are left to burn all night are inconsiderate to one's neighbours, constitute a contravention of a municipal regulation, and represent wasteful consumption of energy. Approximately 40% of such light is simply scattered into the atmosphere outside its target area, where it serves no useful pur-

pose. We can ill afford such wastage with the sorry state of electricity provision in South Africa being what it is. Perhaps more importantly, the generation of electricity relies upon the use of finite resources and is responsible for the causation of several kinds of environmental pollution.

Outside lights that are left to burn all night are inconsiderate to one's neighbours, a contravention of a municipal regulation and a wasteful consumption of energy.

Light pollution is a menace to both professional and amateur astronomers. Moreover, too much night-light can negatively affect certain animals by, for instance, creating an imbalance in predation conditions. It also leads to the destruction of useful insects.

If lights are nevertheless believed by house occupants to be a crime-combating strategy, it will make much more sense, both from a security as well as from a financial perspective, to install lights that are automatically activated by movement. However, please take care that these are carefully placed so as not to disturb your neighbours.

Prof. Andre Rabie

This article was written in response to a SA Police Service "IMBIZO" held at the Crassula Hall in Betty's Bay on Wednesday 27 June 2012. The intention was to provide residents with a forum to present their concerns to the Police - "especially in the face of the dramatic increase in crime in the area including the repeated theft of telephone cables".

Prof Andre Rabie is concerned that one of the first crime prevention strategies proposed by both the police and others at the meeting was the installation of streetlights. RERA and REC have been at the forefront of fighting light pollution in Rooiels for many years now and we should not think that this battle is over... Ed

TIPS ON HOW TO LIMIT THE LIGHT EMANATING FROM OUR HOUSES:

- Avoid switching on outside lights – even when shaded they are offensive.
- Sensor lights should be angled downwards so that they do not spill light beyond the boundary of the property.
- All lights should be shielded so that the source of the light is not visible beyond the boundaries of the property.
- Close your curtains when inside lights are switched on.
- Switch on only essential lights – don't light up your home like a ship sailing the high seas.
- Switch on your lights and then take a walk around the block and check what impact they have on the surrounding environment – you owe it to the rest of Rooiels!



SECURITY



RESA – SECURITY REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST YEAR

It is hard to believe that it is just over a year since a community meeting was held in the wake of the spate of crime that had hit Rooiels in 2016 – including an incident which tragically resulted in the passing away of a long-standing Rooiels resident. The outcome of that meeting was the full support of the community to proceed with plans to significantly enhance security measures in Rooiels.

The RESA Operations Committee was expanded with the addition of volunteers who joined to contribute to the RESA objective of making Rooiels a safer place for all. A number of key initiatives were identified and prioritised and plans were put into place to make these initiatives a reality. ASK Security had at this stage been providing night time Rooiels based responses services for a few months and the volunteer Rooiels Patrol Group was established to provide high visibility patrols in and around the village as a deterrent to possible criminal activity. The Patrol Group has a core of dedicated patrolers who are supported by occasional patrolers who fill in when they are in the village. A big thank you to this group of people providing a wonderful service to Rooiels.

Communications in the village have been enhanced through the use of WhatsApp cellphone technology and the installation of the Rooiels radio network. RESA obtained its ICASA licence and a dedicated frequency and the radios are a great tool for the patrolers but were also very useful during the March fire when all other communications had gone down. We encourage all Rooielsers to consider acquiring a radio and joining the radio network. We are grateful to John Kleyn of Somerset West Neighbourhood Watch for all of the time, support and assistance he has given to RESA in the establishment of the radio network and its licensing.

A key initiative was the installation of a CCTV surveillance camera system throughout the village. Thanks to the generosity of a number of residents, RESA was able to install cameras at all of the key entrance points to the village and have a motion sensor camera covering the main beach. Through further financial contributions by homeowners a wireless network to support camera monitoring was put in place and further camera installations at key



Mark Butler receiving the registration certificate of the Rooiels Neighbourhood Watch at a function in Paarl on 3 July 2017.

monitoring points are currently being put in place. This is a very effective tool in the efforts to enhance security. A gate has also been installed on Porter Drive and its purpose is to be able to limit access to and from the village in the event of an incident that warrants such action.

RESA has now been accredited as a Neighbourhood Watch by the Western Cape Dept. of Community Safety and is an active participant in the Joint Operations Committee with SAPS in Kleinmond and the Kleinmond Hangklip Community Police Forum. The RESA office is active and busy and is there to serve the

community. We thank Ina van der Sandt for her efforts in making it an efficient and welcoming place.

None of what RESA does would be possible without the incredible support we have received from the Rooiels Community. Our paid up membership is currently 165 homeowners and we have a target of 200 by the end of 2018. That will be over 80% of all homes in Rooiels but it will obviously be better for all if we have 100% participation and that is the next objective.

The upshot of all of these initiatives was a dramatic reduction in crime incidents in Rooiels in 2017 but we must remain alert and vigilant to sustain this. A big thank you to the RESA Operations Committee for the time and effort that they all contributed to making Rooiels a safer place for all. It has been a very busy year for RESA and much time is given to RESA activities by the Ops Comm group on a willing and selfless basis and this is greatly appreciated. The RESA Operations Committee members are Diarmuid Baigrie, Shelly Blake, Willie Boltman, Mark Butler, Duncan Hiles, Peter Koning, Dick Lockley, Hilgard Muller, Ernst Thompson and Wessie van der Westhuizen. We wish all Rooielsers a safe and secure 2017/8 festive season. **MARK BUTLER**



How the man under the bed became the man in the ceiling

At 05:45 one morning a positive response by ASK's Chris lead to him finding a toilet window forced open and knife lying under the window on the outside. He heard movements in the house, upon which he called Wayne Kruger to assist. They found the suspect hiding under a bed. He refused point blank to come out. The two ASK men sprayed the room with pepper spray, locked the door and left the window open for the man inside to make his escape and right into their arms. Nothing happened. By then the SAPS had been summoned to assist. They entered the house and the man was no longer under the bed. He was now in the roof! Again he was entreated to come out. Again he refused. So the officers extracted him from the manhole in the ceiling and arrested him.



DRIVING BLOCK WATCH FUNNY

Dick and Jill tell this story of one night on block watch, years ago. They spotted a car driving extremely slowly through the village and they tailed it. Up this little road, around the corner and down the next. This went on for some time. The suspect car suddenly stopped and the driver approached them. His request was a simple one: all he wanted was to be able to relieve himself in private!

[ON PATROL]

Peter Koning, the seeker for 40 active Romeo radios in Rooiels

THE POETRY OF PATROLLING

THE 40 ROMEOS

*The airways howled and snarled down the alleyways and paths of Rooiels
And through the squelch of radio waves comes the plaintive call
'Radio check, Radio check, any Romeos out there?'
The deadly silence is followed by more squelch and hissing
and then a burst of over and outs and not hearing you clearly
crackles over the air as the South Easter and the Northwester
and any other wind that has been invited to Rooiels for the night
blows half of the messages away into otters gat
or smashes them against Roman Rock that stand firm
protecting the brooding rock of Klein Hangklip.
The plaintive call to the 40 actual Romeo radios is reduced to
two to four actually answering.
O Juliet where art thou?
We need you back, to liven up the Romeos.*

PATROL SNIPPETS

*Foot patroller found
in the dead of night.
One man,
two Labradors,
one jack russel,
one Siamese cat chased
by the wind.
All in that order.
All in single file over
30 metres.
Unique to say the least.*

URGENT RADIO CALL 1

*"Help, 'have two torches
walking through
the bush in Klein Rooiels!"
Three cars respond to find
two residents returning
from Fish and Chips
evening.
So we let the torches
go as they were
accompanied
by humans.*

URGENT RADIO CALL 2

*Poachers on the beach
Lights on the beach
One Romeo sits
at Parking 1
On guard
One Romeo observes
on cameras
Three hours later
Two fishermen stroll
off the beach
Welcome to patrolling.*



Even in the sleepy town of Rooiels there was ardent protest in unison with the rest of the country on 7 April 2017 against corruption and state capture.

THE FIVE PILLARS OF OUR SECURITY ROOIELS SECURITY CONCEPT



The Rooiels security concept is based on an integrative approach that has five main areas or pillars that integrate with each other, to enable the complete network to function.

Currently this integration of the network has not yet been completed but is progressing at a reasonable pace. Once completed, the operational efficacy will be tested and improved upon and constantly reviewed to fit in with the realities on the ground. Household security is still the primary step for all residents. Secure your windows and doors, make sure that your alarm is functioning and use it at night and during the day.

PILLAR ONE of the integrated security concept is high visibility patrolling with flashing lights. The concept behind this is deterrence and area domination through visibility and actual physical presence in the area carried out by the Patrol Group (REPG).

PILLAR TWO is the Block Watch (REBW) which acts as the eyes for the Patrol Group and ASK Security with feedback to the Patrol Group to determine if and what action needs to be taken to a report that comes in. That is why posting on the Block Watch needs to be relevant and appropriate. Every cell phone beep sets off actions and unnecessary beeps disrupt the monitoring of the system.

PILLAR THREE is the CCTV surveillance system that is currently being expanded so that we may track and trace suspects entering and moving through the village during day and night time.

PILLAR FOUR is the CCTV Remote Monitoring Group [RMG]. This is a small group that we hope to expand upon to monitor cameras from home and report in to REPG group and to ASK depending on the time of night or day. This group does not reduce the need for patrollers as high visibility patrolling is the mainstay of all neighbourhood watches.

PILLAR FIVE is the Intelligence group, which is linked to the Community Policing Forum, Joint Operations Command and the RESA office [Ina van der Sandt] who does CCTV footage reviewing every day. The latter is very time consuming but brings out many interesting events that happen in the village in the wee hours. This is also the all-important fundraising area.

The current challenge is to get all these aspects to work together efficiently. The Patrol Group is working well. Block Watch is working well. Some leeway is given to inappropriate and mistaken posts as this is a community-based forum which is very important to the functioning of the other four pillars. More CCTV cameras have recently been installed, thanks to generous donations. Thank you for your fast response to this appeal. The Remote Viewing group will soon be expanded.

We are hoping to establish a response team for daytime emergencies when ASK is not around. Please note that during the day ASK does not come out to check suspicious events as they are a response company for emergencies. Thank you to all for your participation in one or more of the above pillars of our security. Without your participation we cannot succeed.

Peter Koning

MANDELA DAY

A group of Rooiels ladies descended on Bambanani Day Care on Mandela Day, with a bakkie of very useful odds and ends including a carpet, a little cupboard, bags of toys, clothes, paints, CDs and cake and biscuits. We were also thrilled to learn that a few kind donations were made into the Bambanani bank account, and that a heater is on the way. The generosity of those who gave is deeply appreciated, and the staff at Bambanani were very grateful. We spent some time playing with the babies and chatting to the special, committed staff members. Fanie Krige and Mary Hull (Ward Committee member for Protea dorp) visited too. It was great to see that our initiative gave the crèche some exposure on a wider level. We are so aware of the scale of poverty and despair in our country, and it is such a privilege to share a bit of love and light, so once again a big thank you. Ongoing donations to the crèche will always be appreciated, for those who feel inclined.

Linda Hiles and Shelley Blake



The handover with RESA and REBC committees represented.

Working together to donate a freezer to Pringle Bay Fire Station

While dropping off food at Pringle Bay Fire Station, Wessie van der Westhuizen asked Dimmie Francis, the fire support coordinator, if there was anything the fire station needed that would be of assistance. She said they were desperate for a freezer as leftover food could not be stored, ice was melting as was ice cream delivered for the fire fighters. Wessie passed this on to me and I in turn asked John Biesman-Simons if the Boat Club would join RESA in making this possible. He agreed, so RESA and REBC bought the chest freezer jointly and delivered it to the Fire Station and handed it over to Clayton and Dimmie Francis. They were very grateful. **Mark Butler**

NOTICE OF RESA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 20 December 2017 at 10:00
at Erf 124 Priestleya Road (Butler home).



WEBSITE
www.rooiels.org

The Rooiels website (www.rooiels.org) really needs input from you. We would like to continuously update, grow and improve the website. If you have any interesting articles, or you can put together some new or updated sections, or fill in the gaps, your contributions are encouraged. The Rooiels Website has information from Rooiels organisations and there is key information relating to emergencies, tides, weather, maps, contacts and life here. Most of the website is dedicated to our environment and has sections for Nature, Blogs, Field Notes and Galleries that bring to life the leopards, birds, baboons, flowers and glory of the nature all around us. Please get active; it helps to motivate us too. Give comments on the Blogs, and send us photos, news, articles and suggestions – email rooielsweb@gmail.com
Kay Leresche



THE DANGERS
OF ROOIELS
CLARENCE DRIVE:

Is bureaucracy the greatest?

WE NEED A SOLUTION!

PHOTO: KAELEN DELONG

An open group of concerned Rooielsers met a number of times this year looking for ways to get the authorities to address the unsafe conditions of Clarence Drive (R44) as it passes through Rooiels.

Lets be clear about this: it is a mistaken perception that Clarence Drive bypasses Rooiels, it bisects our village. This portion of Clarence Drive (from the 60km/h sign on the hill on the Pringle Bay side to the end of the first parking area after the bridge over the Rooiels river), is really part of Rooiels village and can be considered to be the main road of our village, with homes in Rooiels situated on both sides of it. Some properties have been given Clarence Drive street addresses by the municipality, so that there are a number of Rooiels driveways directly onto the R44.

Unfortunately, many cars that travel along Clarence Drive through our village do not adhere to the 60 km/h speed limit. This speeding is a life-threatening danger to pedestrians – as there is no sidewalk and no pedestrian crossing. Many Rooielsers need to cross this stretch of road daily, some of which are elderly people, others families with young children, prams and dogs.

Even vehicles wishing to turn off are at risk, as there are no dedicated turning

lanes. There have been around 30 accidents in the vicinity of the R44 bisecting our village over the last few years.

It is estimated that 90% of all road kill in Rooiels takes place here. Wild animals moving up or down the Rooiels River valley into the core zone of the biosphere reserve need to cross this stretch of road. Numerous baboons, snakes, water mongoose, otter, porcupine, dwarf chameleons and grysbok have all met a cruel and unnecessary death on this road. There are insufficient warning signs that there are frequently baboons in this area, or that this is a biosphere and that caution should be taken to slow down.

Clarence Drive has been designated as a Scenic Drive and in 2015 was voted “Most Scenic Route in the World”. Slow down. Appreciate.

We estimate that the temporary speed camera, has on average 100 speeding records per day – and this is only over a limited part of the day! Clearly a speed camera alone, is not enough incentive for motorists to slow down.

In February we started writing to Provincial Roads outlining our situation, however received no satisfactory

response. Simultaneously to this, we were in communication with Clive Roos (Head, Ministry of Transport and Public Works). The outcome was a meeting with Harold Williams and Overstrand Traffic in March 2017, who told us the following:

- There would be monthly operations in Rooiels for the Sunday motor cycle challenges.
- Overstrand Traffic and Provincial Traffic patrol the area daily during peak hours and will, where possible, do it more frequently.
- Currently speed measuring operations are being done in the 60km/h zone through Rooiels with a non-permanent camera. The only reason why the permanent camera that used to be there was removed, was because the contract of the service provider expired. One of the instructions given to the new service provider was to erect a permanent camera on the R44 in Rooiels.

We indicated that while speed cameras were essential, they were not sufficient in solving the speeding problem and that we would like the authorities to explore structural solutions, to which Mr Roos replied that this is not an area the ministry gets involved with. He passed on the name of a head of department to whom we wrote, however with no response to our mails or follow-ups.

In the meantime we launched our “Hands and Crosses” project. The white crosses with the animal silhouettes and the brightly coloured hands of caution certainly attracted attention and had a positive impact in slowing down some cars at least.

We also managed to set up an unofficial meeting with one of the senior members of Hatchet Consulting, responsible for the maintenance of the road in our area. We gleaned from this meeting that:

- The idea of a subway under the road was not an option – there is solid rock which will make this exercise incredibly costly and unlikely. A bridge over the road would be in the region of R20 million, not a viable option either.
- Speed bumps are restricted by law on provincial roads.
- It was indicated as a good idea to investigate the viability and costs of a traffic circle.
- We would not be permitted to build a walkway over the drainage system on the side of the R44 as it would limit the drainage system.

In August, we met with Mr Titus, senior superintendent of Overstrand Traffic. We were told:

- Only one camera is planned for Rooiels.
- The Public Prosecutor grants permission as to where a camera can be erected.
- In the case of Rooiels, unfortunately the “rules of a bend” apply - a camera can only be erected on 80 meters of straight road. The new fixed camera will be erected where the old one was (i.e. where the portable camera currently is).
- The new camera will be a permanent fixture with night time capabilities. The commitment from the supplier/contractor for erection of this camera is mid November 2017.

We finally had a meeting with a private road engineer. While the meeting was useful, the outcome was that we really do have limited options in terms of a solution. Herewith a brief summary :

- The road engineer discussed our issues with the Provincial Roads department, who appeared to be fully aware of the speeding problems on Clarence Drive through Rooiels and was aware of previous correspondence in this regard.
- He informed us that the road authorities are not keen on fake cameras (one of our suggestions) and it would be unlikely that you would obtain approval

to erect such a camera. (This is contrary to the information we obtained from Overstrand Traffic at our meeting.)

- In terms of our suggestion of traffic islands and circles, we were advised that with any such structure, street lighting would be required.
- Flashing lights at each approach would be a viable option. We are however aware of light pollution concerns.
- There was concern about the fact that there were at least five properties with direct access onto the R44 and whose addresses are formally listed as being on Clarence Drive.
- Speed bumps on provincial trunk and main roads are not permitted. Rumble strips can be considered, however the noise factor would need to be assessed.
- In terms of a pedestrian crossing, these would only be permitted where there is adequate sight distance on each approach, which the case of our village is definitely not available. The same comment applies to traffic lights, which would also require street lighting.
- Four way stops require sight distance (and also street lighting).
- Side walks with barrier kerbs are not possible as there appears to be inadequate space within the road reserve.
- With regard to large signs at each approach to the horse shoe bend, it was noted that the Provincial Roads Department is very strict in approving any signs that are not standard and are not included in the South African Roads Traffic and Signs Manual.

Our private road engineer suggested that we write a letter to Province highlighting our concerns, as well as approach Overstrand Municipality Traffic Department and suggest to them that a second permanent camera be installed on the Gordon's Bay approach to Rooiels. He also suggested we recommend erecting specially worded signs at each approach informing motorists that they are just about to enter an area with pedestrians and that there are wild animals crossing.

RERA also pursued this matter at Ward Committee level and a memorandum is being compiled about the problems on the R44, which the Minister of Public Works is willing to consider.

We have also drafted a comprehensive letter detailing our concerns, earnestly requesting assistance from Provincial Minister Donald Grant.

Shelly Blake and Kevin Phillips
(on behalf of the R44 Action Group)



Hands & Crosses

The R44 Action Group, in association with the Rooiels Conservancy, completed a project which was to serve as a measure to reduce speed on the trunk road that passes through our village. This was accepted as being a short-term measure while we fought our way forward towards permanent, structural solutions that would calm speed effectively.

With the kind and generous donations of Ben de Klerk, Willie and Denise Boltmann, Riël and Estelle Buys, and the tireless work of Wolfgang Steinbach, we had professional signage fashioned on white crosses representing and remembering the carnage of fauna on our roads. We also added some bright halting metal hands encouraging motorists to reduce speed on this stretch of road. We expected that these alerts would cause curiosity and draw the attention of motorists, naturally resulting in reduced speed. We also hoped that these signs would raise awareness and consciousness of the impact of speed.

An unveiling of these signs took place before the Easter weekend, with a lovely social gathering of the community. Indeed the project was a success and created much interest from curious road users. While some hands were slyly pinched, many motorists would stop and take photos, and we do believe there was an impact of sorts and awareness being created.

Sadly, following ongoing negotiations with Provincial Traffic in a move towards a more permanent solution, we had to agree to remove the signage, which we were informed was not legal.

Shelley Blake



THE MARCH 2017 **ROOIELS FIRE**

Sunday 19 March 2017 will be remembered as the day that a wildfire caused damage and destruction in Rooiels. The fire started late morning at a point just off the R44 in the small holdings area between Rooiels and Pringle Bay. The exact cause of the fire is not known but the conditions (heat and strong winds on the day) resulted in the fire rapidly spreading out of control. In a relatively short period of time it had reached Rooiels. It moved around Klein Hangklip and crossed the R44 into Klein Rooiels. The homes of Miggie and Debbie Silbernagel and that of Lorna Lindsay were totally destroyed as the fire spread. Many other homes also sustained varying degrees of damage.

The Pringle Bay volunteer fire station as well as Overstrand fire services responded and these were later backed up by fire services from Gordon's Bay, Somerset West and Cape Town. A number of fire engines and vehicles were deployed to Rooiels from the City of Cape Town as well as from the Overstrand. The City of Cape Town fire engines were crucial in preventing the fire crossing the R44 into the village. The Village was evacuated early and fortunately there were no injuries or loss of life. The fire burnt above the last row of homes below Klein Hangklip causing damage as it spread and then burnt into the smallholdings area towards Pringle Bay where it raged for the night. There was no loss of property in the small holdings area which is amazing and a credit to the fire teams. The next morning aerial support arrived and the fire was contained.

Rooiels responded in a very positive way and there was a visible village community spirit in spite of the stressful condi-

tions. The village responded very positively to the requests for water and food for the fire fighters. The fire fighters were well trained and very co-operative, but given the different fire support groups, co-ordination was a problem at times. The large City of Cape Town fire engines were ill-suited to our narrow roads. The fire hydrant outside the Drummond Arms became the best refilling point with the strongest water pressure, but together with the fact that this area was the designated evacuation point, caused major congestion. The availability of an adequate supply of maps of the fire hydrants is currently being addressed. The evacuation process needs to be reworked and the collection of more information on vulnerable residents, pets, etc who may need assistance, is in progress. In areas where the Rooiels roadsides are overgrown with high fuel loads this is being tackled with input from REC. The RESA office worked very well as an operations centre and support base for the fire teams in the village. Landline and cell phone communication was lost but the Rooiels radio network worked well and the office wireless phone was an essential communication tool for the fire teams.

There were many lessons learnt through this experience and a task team supported by RESA, RERA and REC are now working together to have a co-ordinated response and action plan in place in the, hopefully unlikely, event of a repeat of the March fire. As part of this process, we are sharing observations and information, in order to be more prepared in future.

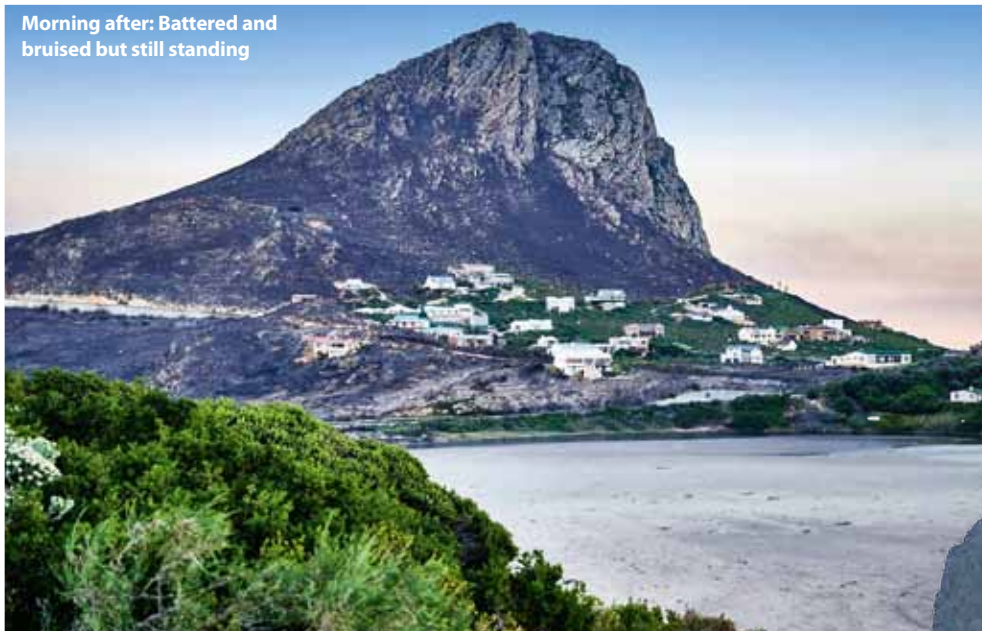
Hilgard Muller

PHOTO ABOVE AND BOTTOM RIGHT: JENNY STARK
 PHOTO RIGHT AND MIDDLE: DAWID VAN DER MERWE



Calamitous beauty

Morning after: Battered and bruised but still standing



The aftermath: Rooielsers get together at the slipway to share stories and a sundowner.



FIRE & Fynbos

Erica brachialis

PHOTOS DINE VAN ZYL

Fynbos is an intrinsically highly flammable vegetation. The finely branched structure of many of the plants and the accumulation of dried plant material around them ensure that, once ignited, the flames will be well sustained.

With such a tinderbox, and the help of the ever-present Cape winds, a lit fire can spread rapidly across the landscape. Ignition is caused naturally by lightning strikes that occur predominantly in our Autumn months and are timed to coincide with the coming rainy season

The plants in the fynbos as such all have life-rejuvenating strategies that are completely tied to these periodic burning events. The fires however do have to occur at distant enough intervals to allow for the plants to accumulate sufficient stores of seed, either in the canopy of the plant itself or within the top layer of the underlying soil.

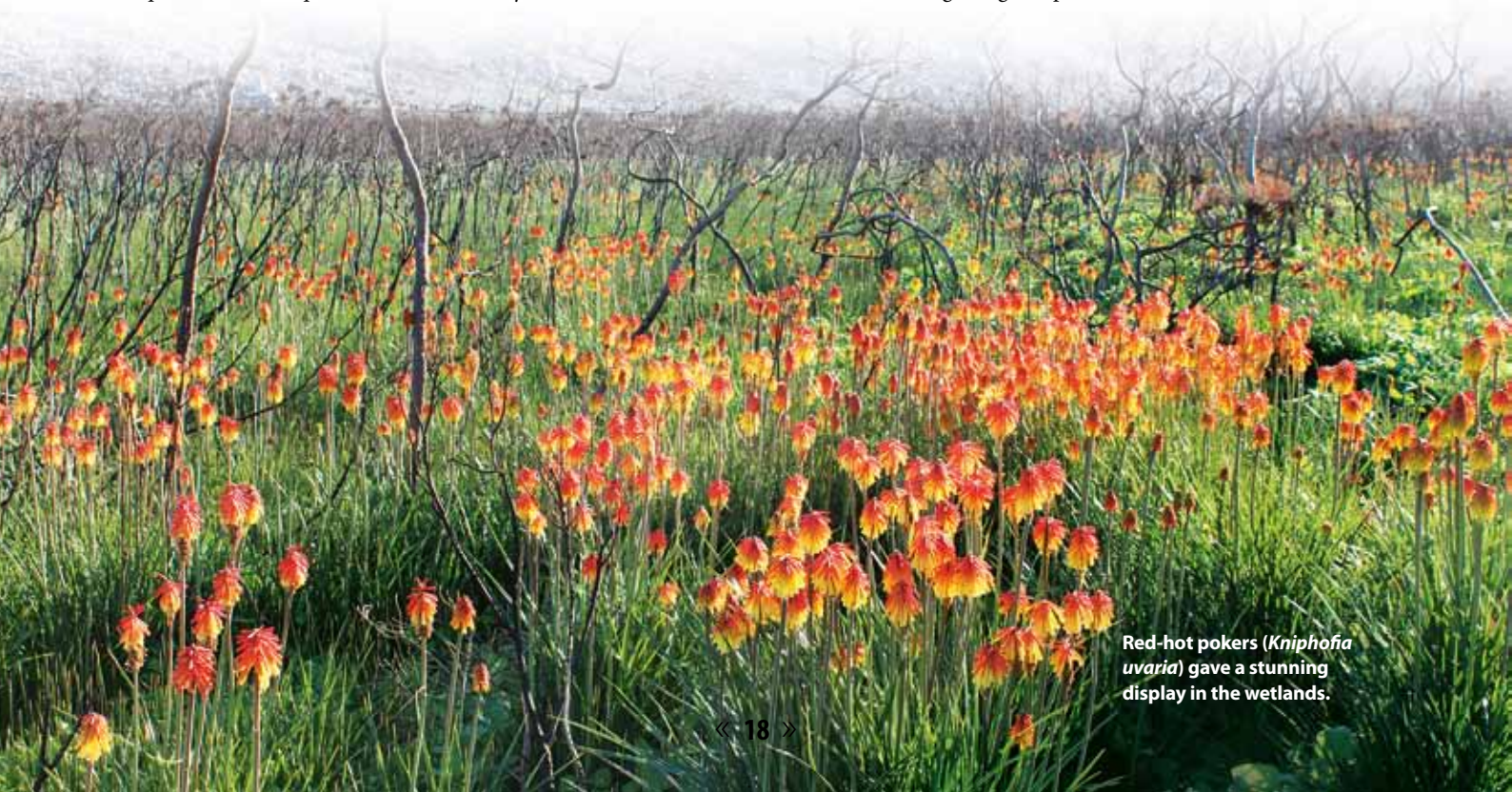
In the bleakness of the post fire environment, the Protea and Leucadendron species rapidly open up to release the seeds that have been stored on the plant over the past number of years. Others sprout from tubers that have been protected from the fire underground or buds from branch tips that have remained unburnt. The magnificent adult trees of the pincushion *Leucospermum conocarpodendron* successfully survive a moderate

intensity burn by protecting their young budding ends.

The big surprise after a veld fire is always the many bulbous plants of the Iris family that flower with spectacular gesture in the first succeeding spring. Many of the species have only this single window of opportunity to produce their seed.

The seedlings that germinate from the soil in the newly exposed landscape include the many different species of fynbos Erica. Of much interest in the Rooiels area is the curious and rare *Erica brachialis*. This woody Erica holds out in rocky areas along the coastal line of Rooiels where fires less frequently pass through or are not as intense. The adult plant may recover from a scorching burn by shooting from its fibrous woody trunk. Individual plants may therefore grow to an impressive age and size in a vegetation that readily favours a more rapid turnover of mature plants. Plants of this Red-listed threatened species have also been protected on the residential road verges of the village.

Amida Johns, Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve



Red-hot pokers (*Kniphofia uvaria*) gave a stunning display in the wetlands.

DIE FYNBOS HET SY EIE TYD

Erica Thomae is a rare species found only in the Kogelberg area.

In die herfs van 2017, toe die bye zoei en die suikerbekke tjir in die veld, is ek met my kamera die fynbos in. Op die tweespoorpad na Pringlebaai het die kol-kol dig gestaan, die Botrivierprotea, suikerkanne en tiervoete het geblom en die skaars *Erica thomae* het in plate van wit, ligpienk, donkerpienk en beetrooi in die bries gebewe.

Twee dae later het alles afgebrand.

Na 'n week is ek weer die veld in. Die kol-kol was verwoes, die proteas tot swart takke verbrand, die *Erica* was weg. Net een dwerg-speldekussing was oor. Al die geel- en rooistompies was verbrand. Oral was kaal klippe, sand en roet; 'n verskroeiende aarde in stilte gehul. Daar was geen voëls en geen ribbok wat kug nie. Die miershope was swart en stom.

Ek het geweet dit sal weer regkom en die veld sal herstel. Ek het geweet dit sal weer reën en alles sal regkom.

Twee weke later het die protea-koppe wat nie heeltemal verbrand het nie, oopgebars en saad oor die veld gestrooi.

Daarna het die wind verskriklik gewaai en dit het woes gereën. Die bo-grond het weggewaai en daarmee ook baie van die saad. Daar was verspoelings. Bo teen die kranse het die bergaalwyn moedig vasgeklou, maar die nerina-bolle het oopgeewaai en het bo-op die grond gelê, gekook deur die hitte van die vuur. Dit het soos gaar uitjies gelyk.

En tog – tog het 'n enkele nerina geblom.

Ek het gereeld gaan kyk. Hier en daar het klein stopseltjies biesies

opgekom. 'n Poeierkwas het astrant teen die kaal gebrande grond geblom. Proteasaad het ontkiem soos hare op 'n hond se rug en perdekopok het boumateriaal vir die terugkerende voëltjies verskaf.

As mens van Rooiels af die berg opry, lê daar 'n vleiland aan die linkerkant, waar die Prince of Wales *Erica* en die kol-kol weggebrand het. Niks kon jou voorberei op die gesig wat jy nou sou aanskou nie: plate vuurpyle van helder oranje so ver soos jy kon sien.

Op die tweespoor kon mens angeliere ruik – eintlik die sterk geur van die ruiktrewwa-orgidee – en daar was ook die skaars rooi-trewwa, 'n pragtige pienk orgidee.

Die koningsprotea, geel tolletjiesbos en rooistompie loop mooi uit. Die pienk malva, so kenmerkend aan ons gebied, kom wyd op en volgende jaar gaan dit pragtig wees.

Die miershope lyk nog net dieselfde, maar dit is misleidend, want aan die onderkant krioel dit van die blinkswart miere. Hierdie outjies kan baie tevrede met hulself voel, want dit is hulle wat baie van die fynbossade ondergronds neem waar hulle die voedsame omhulsel afkou. Daar lê die saadjie, netjies geplant. Na 'n brand en goeie reën, ontkiem die saad.

Die *Erica thomae* het nog nie opgekom nie. Dit is 'n skaars spesie wat net in die Kogelberg-gebied voorkom – en daar is maar 10 kolonies hiervan, nou minus een. Kom ons kyk volgende jaar.

Ons moenie haastig wees nie, ons moet net wag. Volgende jaar gaan 'n mooi jaar wees en die jaar daarna nog mooier.

Dine van Zyl

BOTANIESE NAME

Kol-kol (*Brunia*); Botrivierprotea (*Protea compacta*); suikerkanne (*Protea repens*); tiervoete (*Protea neriifolia*); pom-pom speldekussing (*Leucospermum oleifolium*); geelstompies of rooistompies (*Mimetes cucullatus*); bergaalwyn (*Aloe succotrina*); nerina (*Nerine sarniensis*); bloedblom of poeierkwas (*Haemanthus canaliculatus*); perdekopok (*Lanaria lanata*); Prince of Wales-heide (*Erica perspicua*); vuurpyle (*Kniphofia uvaria*); beueltjieblom (*Watsonia coccinea*); rooi ewwa-trewwa (*Satyrium carneum*); ruiktrewwa (*Satyrium odorum*); biesiesriet (*Bobartia indica*); koningsprotea (*Protea cynaroides*); geelbos (*Leucadendron*); pienk malva (*Pelargonium cucullatum*).



- 1 This mountain aloe (*Aloe succotrina*) was determined to survive. 2 The red ewwa-trewwa (*Satyrium carneum*) is endangered due to urbanization.
- 3 The April fool (*Haemanthus canaliculatus*) found from Rooiels to Betty's Bay is an endangered species. It flowers only after fire.
- 4 The green orchid (*Satyrium odorum*) smells of carnations. 5 Protea seeds were soon scattered in the veld.



Joselyn Mormile



Indy and Nona

The Rooiels Baboon Project

PHOTO JOSELYN MORMILE

A It is hard to believe that I celebrated my one-year anniversary of living and working in Rooiels this past July. The time seems to have flown by. A year may have come and gone but every day I am still learning more about the baboons and their intricate lives in Rooiels. This year has presented the troop with new challenges as well as positive developments, and has provided exciting insights for my research.

For those of your who are new to Rooiels, I am a PhD student at the University of Cape Town's Department of Biological Sciences and the Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa (iCWild). My research focuses on the Rooiels baboon troop when they are present in the village. I specifically study the Rooiels baboon troop because it is the only known urban landscape where residents and baboons seem to maintain a certain degree of coexistence. In the face of increasing worldwide urbanization, Rooiels is a leading example of what it means to adapt to sharing space with wildlife and protecting the local environment.

Births, Deaths and Injuries

Since the last published Breeze in December 2016, the troop overall has a net gain of one baboon for a total of 25 baboons (as of October 1st, 2017). Four females lost infants to road accidents (Maybelline (Mac, October 2016)), Cali (Flower, October 2016)), Sage (Sassafras, November 2016)), Vanelippe (Valentino, April 2017)). A fifth female, Barbara, lost infant Beatrice one day after her birth due to suspected natural causes in April, 2017. Births since the last published Breeze include female Noelle (December 30th, 2017, Mother: Nona), female Marlowe (June 21st, 2017, Mother: Maybelline), and male Squash (August 12th, 2017, Mother: Sage).

During the course of the year, several baboons have suffered injuries. Alpha female,

Regina, nearly lost her infant daughter Rooiela to a road accident in May 2017 when she took a rough tumble under a bakkie on Clarence Drive, leaving her injured. Fortunately, she made a rapid recovery with no lasting injuries. Maybelline's infant daughter Marlowe had a very close call in October 2017 when she was also hit by a car but luckily survived with no injuries. Barbara, Cali, Charlie and presumably Cliff were attacked by dogs over the course of the year. Despite of extensive injuries, all four also made full recoveries.

Rooiels is a leading example of what it means to adapt to sharing space with wildlife and protecting the local environment

Immigrations and Emigrations

Three of our baboons have been elevated from juvenile to sub-adult status this past year. Female Amie has recently begun her estrous cycle. Sub-adult females will display perineum swellings for up to a year to two before they will conceive. Due to their increased body weight, fully descended testicles and nearly full-grown canine teeth, males Charlie and Indy have also recently been bumped up from juvenile to sub-adult status. While males leave their natal troop soon after reaching sexual maturity (to prevent inbreeding), it will still be a year or more before Charlie or Indy emigrate to another nearby troop. In the meantime, you may see these two or the two slighter younger males, Jack and Benji, wandering away from the troop on their own more frequently in preparation for leaving home.

In January, the troop gained an adult male baboon named Chancer. For approximately three weeks, Chancer stuck around with the troop in Rooiels. The behaviour of the females, some of the older juveniles and

even Cliff indicated that Chancer was a male known to them previously. Chancer was what I would deem a "truly urban baboon". With an adamant focus on accessing human foods in the village, he reminded those who crossed paths with him how important it is to keep human foods out of sight and homes secure. Chancer's time with the troop was also insightful for me. While the Rooiels baboons will jump at the opportunity to gain human foods if given the chance, their general purpose for visiting town every day is, in fact, to forage in the abundant fynbos on properties. This is only possible because of resident awareness and cooperation in preventing these opportunities. Chancer's urban foraging tactics and tense demeanor perfectly illustrated what happens when the delicate balance between humans and baboons is disrupted as a result of their easy access to human foods, whether intentional (purposefully feeding baboons) or not (unsecured homes or bins).

Fortunately, because of Rooielsers' experience and forward thinking, I strongly suspect that Chancer soon grew tired of his poor luck at gaining human foods and left Rooiels. After a little investigation, I discovered that at the start of February, Chancer immigrated into the Pringle Bay troop. A few months later in April, his body was discovered on the mountain slopes on the edge of town. Pringle Bay baboon monitors suspect that he died as a result of injuries sustained from fighting with the alpha male of the Pringle Bay troop. I was unfortunately unable to weigh in on his cause of death due to decomposition. What I can say is that the lives of "truly urban baboons" often end in euthanasia or retaliatory killing. An important phrase comes to mind, "a fed baboon, is a dead baboon".

The Research Itself

A lot of residents are curious about what ex-

actually it is that I actually collect all day long.

I am investigating the troop's behaviour, activity budgets, diets, interactions with people and dogs, use of horizontal and vertical space as well as their social networks. Additionally, my project is interdisciplinary in nature and will involve a resident questionnaire that will serve to help me understand your individual experiences and attitudes towards living with baboons in Rooiels. I collect four different types of data. This data includes GPS location of the troop, scan data (data on the troop as a whole every 30 minutes), focal data (data on one individual for 10 full minutes) and proximity data (who hangs out with whom, which is collected with the focal data). Since January, I have collected over 15,000 lines of behavioural data. In the beginning of August, Kaelin DeLong joined the project as my research assistant. She has enabled me to significantly increase my data collection and has proved to be extremely valuable.

Diet

It has been exciting to watch the troop's diet change over the course of the year in response to changes in fruiting and flowering fynbos and fire. Contrary to common misconception, baboons fare very well in the fynbos post-fire. Fynbos is a highly fire-adapted type of vegetation. After burning, the seed banks of fynbos species that utilize a seeding strategy are left exposed.

Birds, baboons and other mammal species then enjoy this plentiful buffet of seeds. The troop did not come to the village the day of the March fire but they did return the following morning. They immediately began feeding on protea seeds along the slopes of the mountains along the dirt road to Pringle Bay.

GPS Collars

In May I fitted alpha male, Cliff, with a GPS collar to provide information about the troop's whereabouts outside of town. His collar was removed after he suffered a wound to his neck presumably from a dog, to allow the injury to heal sooner. At the end of August I collared the alpha female, Regina, instead. The collar data has shown me that the troop's core home range focuses almost entirely in and around the village. Recently the troop took a trip out of town towards Kogel Bay and I was excited to see Regina's collar indicating on the map where they had gone. I look forward to sharing more information on the troop's home range, and my research as a whole, during future talks.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support my research here in Rooiels.

Your generosity and interest in my work have made my experience successful, exciting and rich. Feel free to contact me at joselyn.e.mormile@gmail.com or 060 497 9066.

Joselyn Mormile

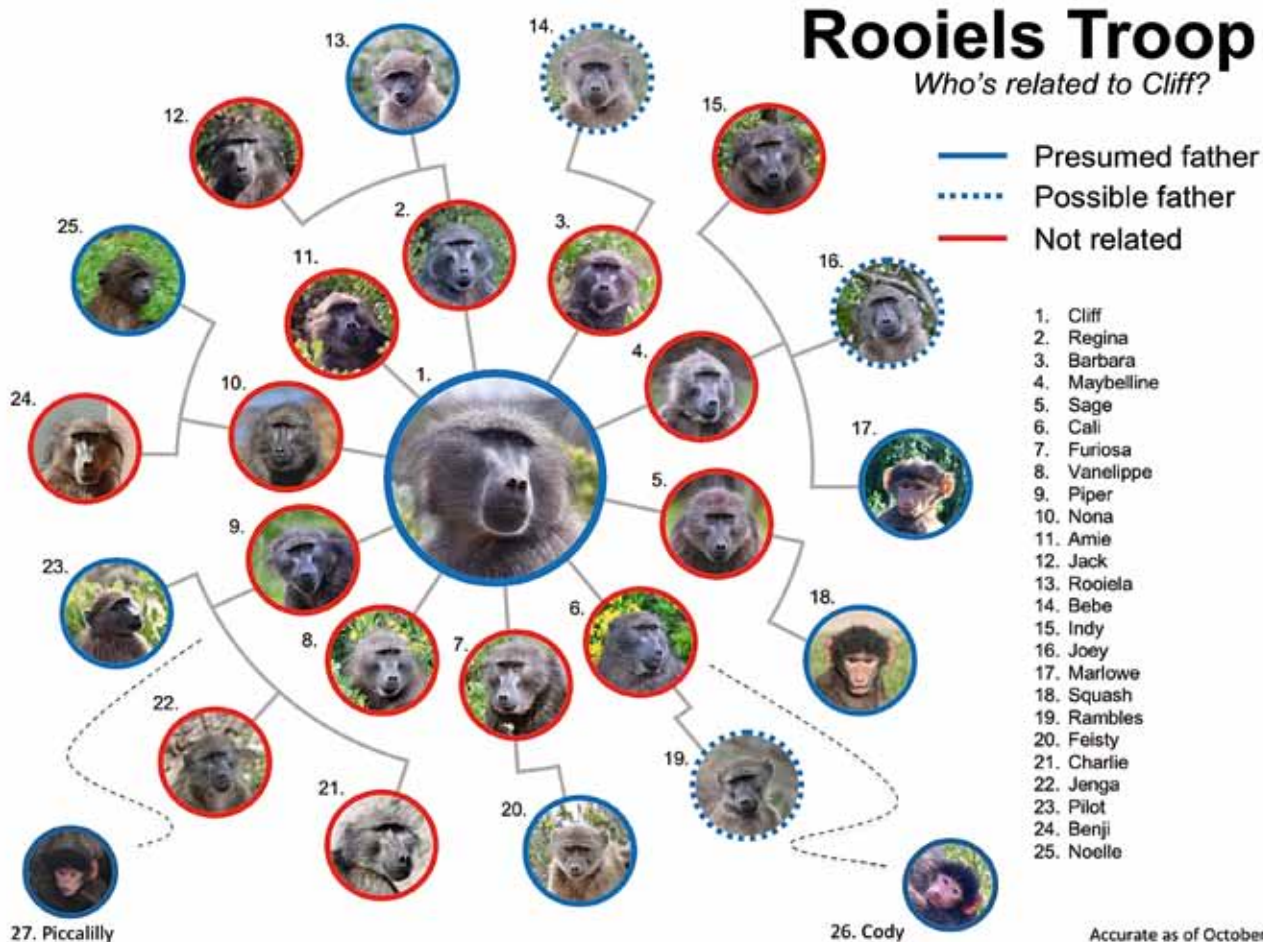


Kaelin DeLong

Hello, Rooiels!

My name is Kaelin DeLong and I am Joselyn Mormile's new baboon research assistant. Yes, that means there are officially two crazy Americans collecting data on baboons around town! Primates have always been a source of fascination for me. Compared to the Neotropical monkeys I previously worked with, I have found baboons infinitely more enjoyable to study due to my ability to see their subtle facial expressions and body language without having to peer upwards through dense vegetation! I recently graduated from Boston University with my bachelor's degree in biological anthropology and plan to continue my education further in the form of a Ph.D. Working with Joselyn and the baboons will help me achieve that goal, and has thus far been one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. Thank you all for welcoming me so warmly. Your sense of community and love of nature is inspiring and something I hope to carry with me throughout my life. I sincerely look forward to the friendships, the braais, and the stories this summer will bring. See you around!

Kaelin





Orange breasted sunbird

BIRD CHAT

Well, it's that time of year again and I'm back to having no avian assistant again. Sadly Gertrude "disappeared" during one of the many renovations of housing in Rooiels. I assume the worst. I miss her withering humour and her candid comments, but I digress! If any of you are in contact with a suitable secretary bird I would be most grateful. On second thoughts, sharing a qwerty board with a Secretary Bird (*Sagittarius serpentarius*) in the true sense might not be a good plan. These charismatic, rather unconventional birds are near threatened, nomadic and expert snake killers with forceful stamping foot action so the qwerty board could be in trouble. In the distant past they were known and seen in Rooiels, which isn't their usual habitat as they prefer the open veld. The last one I saw earlier this year was in the wheat area on the Swart River Road parallel to the N2.

It's Oystercatcher breeding season again and I appeal to everyone to remember the vulnerability of these Rooiels specials. Their Red Data Status is NT (near threatened) and perversely LC (least concern) so quite rightly you may well ask how can that be? Having flunked out of Darwin School, miserably failing the nesting exam, they insist on nesting on open sandy beaches during the main December holiday periods! The eggs, usually a clutch of two or three, naturally fall prey to baboons and otters (who delight in eggs), in addition to spring tides. Untrained and free-running dogs, which we all know contravenes Overstrand by-laws, are also responsible for casualties. However we are graced with no less than four pairs of these strikingly handsome birds in the village and this pattern is repeated in other areas, e.g. the Baden Powell Drive beaches where there are many pairs. Hence it is of "least concern". Though common, the White-fronted Plovers are also victims of the fact that they are ground nesters. All birds are subjected to nest predation. In Rooiels boomslang and mongoose account for a large percentage of, but not all, fatalities. Sadly, pets are now making an impact. The Wagtails who reside in the garden have sought the additional protection from a yucca for their nest!

Natural disasters take a heavy toll on wildlife and the village was more than made aware of that in March with the devastation of the worst fire

in Rooiels in 30 years. The Rockjumpers habitat on the track to Pringle Bay was totally destroyed, but six months later they started to return having sought the safety of other montane areas. These birds are also NT / LC and bring dozens of globe-trotting "twitchers" to Rooiels. This area was home to Victorin's Warbler, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Cape Sugarbird, Cape Siskin and Ground Woodpecker, which are all endemics (only found in SA). The Orange-breasted Sunbirds and the Sugarbirds would have been badly affected as they are winter breeders, having lost their primary food supply in addition to nesting sites. Verreaux's Eagles, VU (vulnerable) LC, though not affected directly, were indirectly affected as dassies – their chief food source – were impacted by the fire. This is also the only area where the Sentinel Rock-thrush can be seen – which has been seen there every month since June. Interestingly they do move to treeless open ground in the winter, especially areas that have been burnt.

Early September brought the welcome return of White-rumped Swifts and Greater Striped Swallows and the not so welcome breeding Pin-tailed Whydah. The males are unmistakable in their striking breeding plumage and easily overlooked out of breeding. They are brood-parasitic finches whose chief hosts in this area are Waxbills and Orange-breasted Sunbirds. Unlike Cuckoos, the chicks do not eject the eggs of the host bird, rather being raised together. Drongos have been making regular appearances in the village all year. Easy to identify with their distinctive forked tail, being all black and noisy. They are insectivorous and partial to bees.

Birds, as well as all wildlife, are being affected by the increasing human element and rapid development of Rooiels from a rustic and rural coastal village, into a much more urban based society. As home owners we would all do well to remember we are only the custodians of this special place for those who will follow us. Rooiels does not belong to us and as such we should go to great lengths to protect it, avoiding any form of destruction of habitat and environment which includes noise and light pollution. The magic of a starry night always reminds me of why I have the pleasure of living here. On that sombre, but thought-provoking note, I wish you all a happy and joyous holiday!

Alison Ayre



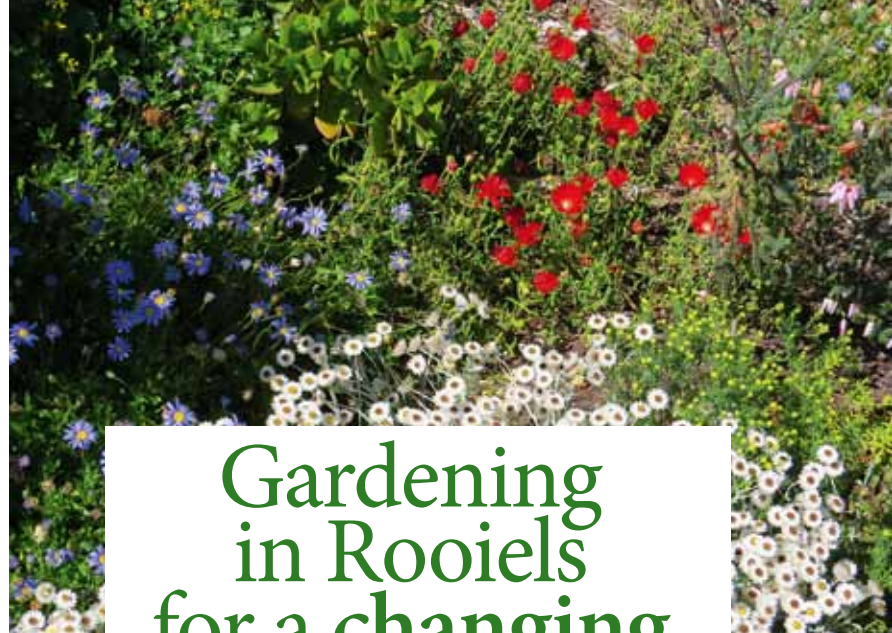
DAVE's NEW BOOK ON GARDENING IN ROOIELS

Dave de Klerk started gardening on his plot (erf 94) in Rooiels in 2010. After much trial and error, he started having more and more success with a wide variety of indigenous plants. He then decided to produce a book documenting his experiences.

Orms in Cape Town produced the layout and printed a limited quantity, charging R350 per copy. Dave makes copies available to anyone who wishes to purchase the book, at the same price. He can be contacted at davedek@iafrica.com.

Dave's original idea was to wait until the end of 2017 to have more and better pictures of his plants as most of these plants bloom after the winter rains. However, he became impatient and finalised the book in April! Perhaps an updated version will be appropriate at some future date.

Some recent photos from his garden are shown below. Compare them with the picture he took of the site before the garden bug bit!



Gardening in Rooiels for a changing climate

Gardening in Rooiels is a character-building exercise – but rewarding when you succeed. Hot, dry, windy summers are hard to overcome but, with a little ingenuity and quite a lot of will power, the results are definitely worth it.

Look around at the gardens and pristine fynbos in your area and see what flourishes. The choice of plants is important. Plant fynbos which is hardy. There are a variety of aloes, succulents and plants like cotyledons and mesembes that tolerate the wind, the heat and the lack of water. Crassulas also grow well here. Aloe succotrina grows in this area and is found on the top of Klein Hangklip. Have a look at the nest of the Black Eagles (now called the Verreauxs' Eagle) and you will see a lovely line of this aloe stretching below the nest.

Pelargoniums are hardy and very colourful. There is a local pelargonium, *Pelargonium cucullatum*, which grows wild in Rooiels. This is a must for any garden.

Felicia aethiopica, another local plant, is hardy and flowers prolifically in spring. It is mauve in colour and can be seen all along the road to Gordon's Bay. It has seeded itself all over my garden and is doing very well.

Arctotus and gazanias are easy to propagate and give spring and summer colour to the garden and form good ground covers.

Plants tolerate wind to some extent but flourish when given protection. Mulching is very important. The lower part of the plant needs a barrier from the wind and sometimes just a rock or a piece of wood is sufficient. Temporary wind breaks of wooden palings can be erected and removed when the plant has grown. Make your own compost from plant material from your garden and use kitchen waste. Cover the latter to prevent ba-boons from raiding your compost heap. Keep the compost heap covered with black plastic to retain moisture and to promote decay. Anyone wanting a garden that is easy to maintain must keep it simple and follow the basics of mulching and protecting the young plants.

And remember not to garden the road reserves – they belong to the municipality and it's essential that they be kept natural as they are the seedbanks of the future.

For in-depth information acquire a copy of "Gardening in Rooiels" by Dave de Klerk.

Jill Lockley



COLLATERAL damage

(Extract from an article for the Daily Maverick, with permission)

Are we taking an environmental risk for Japanese sushi? This is a story about a filmmaker, a fisherman, DAFF and one of the most intelligent animals on Earth.

It's hard to find an animal more unlike a human than an octopus. Their line split off from ours around 400-million years ago and were the first intelligent beings on the planet, beating us to it by around 100-million years.

They have a beak like a parrot, a mouth in their armpits, ink like an old-fashioned pen and they breathe water. They have three hearts, nine brains (including one in each arm) and are so utterly different from vertebrates that if we want to figure out how to communicate with aliens they're a good place to start. They also have 10,000 more genes than us, some of which they can edit as needed.

In the smart department octopodes are up there with dolphins, chimps and parrots and are aquatic geniuses in solving three-dimensional problems. They can open screw-top jars and complicated latches, escape through tiny holes (no bones) and have been known to recognise human friends after six months' absence.

They communicate how they feel in technicolour skin patterns that make a chameleon look like a faded watercolour. The European Union acknowledges their sentience by making it illegal to perform surgical operations on an octopus without anaesthesia.

Pringle Bay filmmaker, Craig Foster, is scientific adviser to BBC's Blue Planet 2 and is shooting a film highlighting the uniqueness of octopodes. He free dives in False Bay every day. Returning to the same spot each time, he built up a relationship with a startlingly intelligent octopus of the species *octopus vulgaris* (the last word meaning

"common"). He named her Superstar. She welcomed him with flashes of electric colour, trusted him and took him hunting.

These octopodes do have a problem, though: us. People eat them deep-fried with a dash of soy sauce or boiled in sake and rice vinegar after removing their eyeballs, beak, innards and eggs. Sushi is an option.

In False Bay an "exploratory" licence for octopus has been granted to a fisherman, Gary Nel. He is not a bad guy, just someone who's been hauling food out of the sea for much of his life. He was the first South African fisherman to do the whale detangling course run by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Every year, for nearly 19 years, Gary Nel has legally been catching up to 30 tonnes of octopus in False Bay. In terms of his licence, that's less than half of what he's allowed. It sells for about R100 a kilogram. Japan imported 80,000 tonnes of octopus last year.

He was given his exploratory licence by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the idea being to use the information to see if fishing octopodes was viable and could be declared a legitimate fishery with set quotas.

The parameters of the experiment were



Heartbreaking photo of a drowned Brydes whale, presumably entangled in the ropes of experimental octopus traps just outside Rooiels. Taken with a drone on 14 May 2017 from Rooiels by Hougaard Malan (son of Chris and Anita Malan).



minutely defined. Trapping-pot size, pot numbers, depth placement, careful documentation of catches, sex ratios, population size, diet and respect for spawning seasons. This would be checked by a fishery control officer from the department who would note catch methods, catch weights and appropriate transfer of skills to previously disadvantaged locals. This data would include economic, scientific and environmental information and if adverse effects on the octopus population or the environment were found, the department reserved the right to terminate the fishery. Anne Oosthuisen of Rhodes University did a detailed study of the potential for such a fishery.

In legislative terms, the DAFF's initiative was a textbook case of how to do it right. But how long does it take to get it right? The question now is how many octopus you need to kill in order to find out how many you can kill without jeopardising their survival?

The scientific data collection system, was simply unworkable. DAFF has since eased the parameters for its collection as it doesn't

have the staff to do regular spot checks on trips anyway. So Gary Nel collects his own data and hands it to them.

"They're compiling it," he tells me. "But if they're not ready at the end of this five-year period, they'll roll my exploratory licence forward again. They should have evaluated the data by the middle of this year but that's obviously not going to happen."

The scientists at DAFF are not yet in a position to come to any conclusions of the data. Angus McKenzie of DAFF tells me "We'll only really know when we've had a good look at everything combined. There's been no scientific oversight for the past eight years or so. It's not a priority project."

So after a second five years the fisherman got yet another exploratory licence and now is in his third term of such licence.

An important question in all this, is the effect on the octopus population of 30 tonnes being hauled out every year. It's in the fisherman's interests to consider this population to be large, but he doesn't really know for sure.

Craig Foster isn't buying that.

"DAFF don't know the effects of trapping

octopus. Every time I dive there are fewer and fewer of them. Now there's a second boat in the water. They drop pots every few metres along lines that are half a mile long. They're not only catching octopus, they're entangling whales.

"And the idea that this is a humane way to catch octopus is absurd. Imagine thousands and thousands of highly sentient wild creatures trapped inside tiny plastic boxes for days on end, terrified, waiting, slowly starving. This is absolute torture for a creature with a mind that rivals high-intelligence mammals.

"It's illegal in Europe to carry out scientific studies on octopus without sedating them, but it's somehow okay to torture them for days in traps, just to make money and satisfy restaurant goers in Japan who have no clue about the horrors they're encouraging."

But there's a more important question and it's about morality. Should we permit large-scale hunting and possible local extinction of a highly intelligent, sentient species before we know enough about it to make that call?

Don Pinnock

(See also <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2017-08-17-the-morality-of-octopus-hunting-in-false-bay/#.WZUYc2f9mUk>)

If you're interested in eight-legged cephalopods, read *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery. Also have a look at Craig Foster's recent presentation to Parliament at <http://www.motherchannel.com/craig-foster-octopus-teacher-origin-man/>

KOGELBERG FISHERIES RESEARCH PROJECT



WWF-SA launched a program to catalyse the development of credible fisheries improvement projects, in an effort to contribute towards addressing overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices. The program is designed to target small-scale fishing communities to implement structures that promote socio-economic prosperity from the fishery, sustainable use of marine resources and inclusion of local fishing communities in resource monitoring and management.

One of the WWF pilot study locations is in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, extending from the Steenbras River to the Bot River Estuary. Small-scale fishers from Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay and Kleinmond are included. The Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve was the first biosphere reserve to be declared in Southern Africa and forms part of UNESCO's world-wide network of Biosphere Reserves. Biosphere reserves need to promote and pioneer all possible avenues of sustainable living in their role of "showing the world how to survive".

During the 2014 fisheries improvement project benchmarking workshops, the small-scale fishers in the Kogelberg Region argued that their needs should be included in management decision-making, a sentiment strongly supported by researchers and key stakeholders like CapeNature and the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve Marine Working Group. It is essential that through meaningful engagement with small-

scale fishers, they become recognised as legitimate stakeholders who have a genuine claim in the co-management of small-scale fishery. The fisheries improvement project initiative allows honest conversations regarding the sentiment of fishers and community members towards conservation, sustainable fisheries, illegal fisheries and resource management concepts. Key concerns raised during the engagement process included:

- Inadequate knowledge regarding the collapse of the rock lobster and abalone populations;
- Rampant and uncontrolled crayfish and abalone poaching;
- Inadequate information on linefish stock;
- Inadequate monitoring and control of the Betty's Bay Marine Protected Area;
- Inadequate information on habitat protection and change as a result of intense poaching;
- Lack of trust between community and law enforcement; and
- History of unjust resource permit allocations and a lack of ownership of resources by communities.

WWF-SA, the Kogelberg small-scale fishing communities and the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve Marine Working Group are working collectively to implement the Kogelberg Small Scale Fishery Improvement Project action plan to help sustain the Kogelberg small-scale fishery. One of the

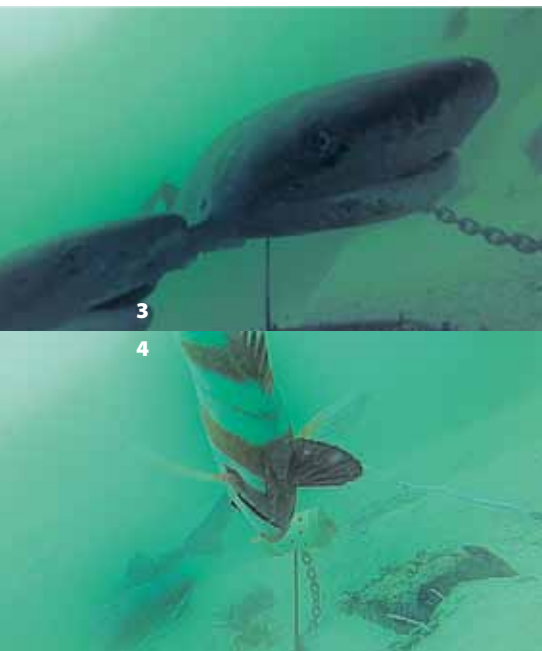
aspects of this action plan is an inclusive research and monitoring regime in the small-scale fisheries sector. This project utilises baited remote underwater video systems ("BRUVS") to conduct a multi-species survey in the Kogelberg Region.

The project is implemented by Moving Sushi (a local NPC), the South African Shark Conservancy, WWF, CapeNature, Overstrand Municipality and DAFF. It aims to introduce an inclusive sampling and monitoring system in the Kogelberg Region that will facilitate information sharing and encourage participation by the fishing communities in the process.

This joint research involves lowering a camera rig to the sea floor and recording approximately one hour of footage for later analysis of the habitat, number and behavior of the species recorded. The cameras are GoPro Hero3® or later models in the standard GoPro waterproof housing. The camera is mounted facing horizontally on one vertical arm so that the center of the lens sits 24 cm above the seafloor. A perforated PVC bait canister containing chopped sardines is attached to the other vertical arm 35 cm above the seafloor so that the camera and canister sit one meter apart.

Depth, geographic coordinates, and deployment and retrieval times are recorded at each site. After each sampling day, video footage is uploaded to an external hard drive. Sampling is seasonal, with two

1 Kelp forest is a key habitat in the region. BRUVs allow researchers to examine species in relation to habitat.



2 Returning to Kleinmond Harbor after a full day deploying BRUVs in the Betty's Bay Marine Protected Area. **3** Cow sharks attracted to the bait of the BRUV. **4** Cow shark with juvenile red stump nose.

winter (June – August) and two summer (November – February) sampling trips over the two-year project duration. Once analysed, the data will be presented on an online platform with open accessibility, so information regarding fish species, distribution, density, habitat type and effects of the Marine Protected Area in Bettys Bay can be instantly viewed.

BRUVs represent a simple, cheap technological solution which allows participation by fishers and community members in conducting critical resource monitoring research for a multi-species survey of fish and rock lobster in the Kogelberg Biosphere. Monitoring of linefish and rock lobster has historically relied on capture survey techniques. The baited remote underwater video system (BRUVs) has been proposed as a complement to the standard capture surveys. BRUVs have been tested as a standard, non-extractive methodology that can be applied throughout South Africa's near-shore areas.

Mike Markovina
(Fisheries scientist and conservationist)

Process of drafting a Management Plan for the Rooiels Estuary is under way

The Western Cape Government is in the process of developing a comprehensive Estuarine Management Framework and Implementation Strategy. A large portion of this work entails the development of Estuarine Management Plans. The development of such a plan is preceded by a scoping phase with the compilation of a Situation Assessment Report reflecting the current status of the estuary that, together with empirical data gathered onsite, will serve as the basis for the development of a vision and management objectives for the Rooiels River Estuarine Management Plan.

Here are a few random extracts from the draft Situational Assessment Report in respect of the Rooiels estuary:

Description

"The Rooiels River estuary is classified as a temporarily open/closed system. Very little information is available on the hydrodynamics. The mouth is at times in a closed state due to a sandbar that forms. However, this tends to be the exception; due to its small size the estuary is most often in a semi-open state as it meanders through an outflow channel to the sea."

Bridge

"The 1938 historical aerial photographs show that at that time, the river formed an extensive meander across the lower end of its floodplain. It is evident that with the construction of the bridge and embankment for the coastal road in the early 1950s, the main flow channel was relocated towards the northern side of the floodplain under the present configuration with a meander on the seaward side of the road embankment."

"The construction of the bridge is the main reason for change in the dynamics of the system."

Endangered White Steenbras

"A total of nine species were caught in the

2016 survey, bringing the total number of species recorded for the estuary to date to ten. Small white steenbras were found recruiting to the Rooiels River estuary. This endangered species is known to undertake spawning migrations to the Eastern Cape, which is thought to be the only spawning area."

Ecological Health Status

"The health condition (also referred to as the Present Ecological State) of an estuary is typically defined on the similarity of its current condition to an estimated natural condition. The health condition is described using six Ecological Categories, ranging from natural (A) to critically modified (F). The overall ecological health of the Rooiels River estuary is in a A/B Category."

Impacts or Potential Impacts

"In summary, there are no major pressures on the Rooiels River estuary. It is in a relative pristine condition although there is some concern regarding the presence of herbicides and pesticides recorded in the systems. Litter that is left by the picnickers or washed up by the tide is another form of pollution in the area."

"The Rooiels system ... could easily become degraded if over utilised. Septic tank drainage and storm water run-off from houses built against the southern slope, above the estuary, could result in the estuary becoming polluted. Of concern is also the narrow buffer zone along the edge of the Rooiels beach and the lower reaches of the estuary. This has allowed the urban core to extend up to estuary edge."

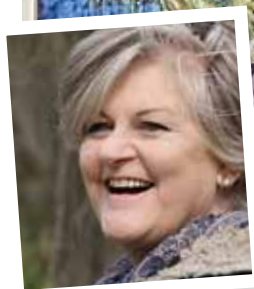
Should you wish to provide input or if you have historic lists of bird sightings, wildlife, or old photos of the estuary area please contact Tandi Breetzke at Coast-Wise Consulting (tandi@coast-wise.co.za)

LUMINESCENCE Some plankton is luminescent, and when mechanically disturbed produce what fishermen have, for ages, called "firewater". Plankton can control the production of light, switching it on or off, but the purpose of their luminescence remains obscure. Luminescence differs from phosphorescence in that it is the result of chemical energy being converted into light energy, while phosphorescence requires an outside source of light. This is why a display of plankton luminescence is best on dark nights when the sea is disturbed by wind and waves. **Jenny Stark**

PHOTO DAVID VAN DER MERWE



The creatives



Sonet
VAN DER MERWE

As far back as I can remember, I was surrounded by the smells and colours of artwork. My father, the late and well-known artist, Daan Vermeulen, had his Ad company studio at home. Later he dedicated his talents exclusively to large landscapes – mostly for corporate investors.

From a young age we were encouraged to explore our creativity in a myriad of mediums. From painting to print making, from designing and making our own clothing, to the delicate craft of beadwork embroidery on our own wedding gowns.

After a temporary halt to my creativity, I am striving once again to explore my creativity in a variety of directions here in Rooiels. Recently we founded a handcrafters group – exclusively for the gifted hand crafters, knitters; embroiderers; crocheters and those passionate about learning a new craft. This inspiring group convenes bi-weekly and is abuzz with excitement and fellowship.

With the new studio I am looking forward to exploring new avenues in engraving and silver work and spending more time with acrylics on canvas. I am fascinated by the strength and delicacy of our bird life. The combination of their vulnerability and their audacity to see each day as the greatest opportunity gifted to them, inspires me to live with greater awareness of one's own vulnerability and strengths, the fleeting beauty around us and the pure pleasure of being alive.



David
VAN DER MERWE



From an early age friends and family joked that I was born with a pencil in one hand and a tool box in the other. I was a prolific pencil sketcher and fondly remember being the youngest student in Venter's art classes. At the age of 12, I joined a pottery studio, won my first prize the same year and worked on commercial architecture installations the following year.

My professional career started after completing military service. The art school in Bok Street was a unique place with a mix of potters, fine artists, illustrators and then the conservative ones of the lot, Product Designers. I was one of seven that graduated in 1986 and still practise today!

There isn't an industry sector that I've not played in, from automotive design to consumer goods; from delicate jewellery to mining plant equipment; from domestic architecture to product packaging. At a design studio in New York I learnt anew about refined form, balance and texture on projects for Kodak and Fujitsu.

In my spare time I explored other materials and processes. This included a number of bronzes for corporates, the most noteworthy a cheetah bust for De Wildt to raise funds.

I also have a keen interest in knives and swords – ranging from basket-hilted rapiers to delicate Persian influenced folders.

I'll never be a one medium man and would love to see the collaboration of artists with different skills and media come up with unique pieces that transcend their own boundaries.

The completion of our studio and workshop will see us set to indulge to a greater extent in these passions.





Gail **VAN LINGEN**

Gail van Lingen moved to Rooiels in January 2017. She is a well-known artist and has exhibited widely in both South Africa and abroad. She studied Fine Arts at Wits University in the sixties and worked for a few years in publishing before deciding to concentrate on painting full time. She paints mainly in oils and her subject matter varies from land and seascapes to still life and figure studies. She uses a palette knife and loves bright colours. Her favourite places to paint have been Zanzibar, Lamu and Morocco, Botswana and the Cape. It is the quality of the light in these places, and hopefully a palm tree or two, that inspires her.



This is but a sample of the artistic skills in Rooiels. We are blessed with a number of world-class photographers in Rooiels too, which we hope to feature in a future edition of the Breeze.



Denise **BOLTMANN**

I have found a new passion in my life since all my children left home, and I was able to dig deeper into what made my soul sing. I discovered that colour and working with it just opened a whole new world of possibilities. I started with a local art class and we dabbled in oil, acrylic and mixed media and generally just had fun. Never having done anything like this at school, the whole world of art opened up and I am totally hooked.



My son bought me a few sessions at a local mosaic studio for Mother's day a few years back and this is now my medium of choice – making beautiful things out of broken pieces is just fantastic. I am grateful to the many teachers along my journey for facilitating a personal revival by sharing their gifts with me. I have been ignited with passion and purpose – to express myself through art – after all, I am made in the image of "Elohim" – God the creator – and so are you. I encourage everyone to try a medium until you find one that makes your soul sing. In the words of Richard Mac Donald, sculptor, "art transcends all human boundaries. It is a gift of almost inexplicable, magical energy. When our hearts, through our senses, are touched by art, our lives are enhanced."

At my first exhibition I was so excited to sell my first painting for R4000, but was sad to see it go – only to discover when I got home that my darling husband had bought it for me. Ah, how sweet is that? He said now I can call myself an artist! I am excited to keep studying and growing and finding my creative voice.



For as long as I can recall, I had a compulsion to express myself in a "language without words". Art became, and still is, my voice.

Growing up surrounded by pets, animals became my natural subject matter of choice. I brought human characteristics and emotion into them, delighting all observers of my art. This affirmation solidified my career path.

Since becoming a permanent Rooi- elser nearly two years ago, the nature surrounding me has impacted my life in indescribable ways. I am amazed how the delicate looking succulents in our particular region are so robust. The movement and energy of these succulents have always caught my attention to such an extent that I briefly kidnap them to my studio, where they will take on a "dance of life" on the canvas before being returned to nature. Their new lime green shoots prove that perhaps they take in the creative energy of my studio.

Presently, I am drawn to African animals due to spending abundant time in the African bush. I have personally "met" every animal that I either draw or paint. This intimate connection forges the "language without words", allowing me to tell its story in a unique way.

I recently exhibited in New York at the Single Fare 4 exhibition and held a solo exhibition called Playing with Plants, at The Little Gallery at Imibala, Somerset West.

Last month I attended an incredible sculpture workshop in Tuscany, which has re-ignited this neglected passion of mine. I am frequently reminded that "breathing life" into clay is my foremost talent. I have started on a rather ambitious body of work with multiple oversized sculptures that will definitely keep me busy for some years. During my breaks, I will still be playing with oils, to create dancing plants on canvas.

Jennifer DEWEY

I am 57 years old, a wife, mother, grandmother and artist-at-large.

I have always been in love with art and all things related and have painted for many years. I studied Commercial Art and exhibited in Johannesburg with Artists Under the Sun at Zoo Lake for 15 years, also at various galleries.

Having moved permanently to Rooiels and having just completed a beautiful studio to paint in, I am all set to continue my art journey. What an inspirational place to do just that!



Fraser SHAW

I'm a Scots born artist who, along with my wife Angelle, am a semi-permanent resident in this wonderful village – soon to be full time in 2019. I have been Principal Teacher of Art & Design in a busy secondary school on the west coast of Scotland for the past twenty-four years, but have been painting and exhibiting extensively since 2010. My main focus of inspiration is drawn from the local environment, landscape especially. My interest is the visual impact of a bold, vibrant palette combined with surface texture using the medium of acrylic on board, applied predominantly with a palette knife. I'm also motivated by the quality of light on the landscape, especially its effect throughout the seasons.



Moving to Rooiels will present an abundance of new and dynamic visual stimuli completely different from that experienced in Scotland. I very much look forward to producing my own personal reflections of the rich and diverse tapestry of the Western Cape and beyond... and a studio which is wind proof.



Leeann BECKER

My affair with art began in 1981 when I was a Rotary Exchange Student. It was in the small town of Manchester, Iowa, USA that I signed up for Drawing 101 and I was never the same again!

On my return from the States, I studied Fine Art at the then Natal Technikon and through UNISA where I discovered the delights of painting and ceramics, both of which became passions. As my creative understanding evolved, I branched out into the realm of garden design after completing a diploma at the English School of Gardening, Chelsea Physic Gardens, UK.

I have participated in the Brett Kebble Awards, along with numerous group and a couple of solo shows.

Inspiration comes to me from many sources. The motifs for my oil paintings are varied but usually have a personal connection in some way. My use of paint is thick, expressive and most often, my paintings are not "beautiful".

My other obsession is ceramics and in particular, working with porcelain. I only do handbuilding and have recently discovered the magic of working with porcelain paperclay. My vessels are usually white glazed and are very organic and textured.

I teach both painting and ceramics in my studio in Plumstead. I encourage my students to open up to and express their own poetry in the creations and to put aside pre-conceived ideas of what works "should look like".





Ivan
BECKER

Many moons ago, when I was a child, I was ill and confined to bed. Aware that I was very irritable and annoyed that I could not play with my mates, my mother gave me two things to keep me occupied: a drawing pad and a guitar. I recovered, but the creative bug took hold and never left me.

Music and painting are my companions as they are always on hand to open up that place of peace and calmness when life gets a little stressful, a little unruly and I am able to escape into another world of rhythm and colour.

I am able to paint super-realistically but I find that I am drawn to working with random mark-making. Inspired by the works of Max Ernst, I draw images and textures from the paint which has been thrown onto the canvas then lifted and removed off with either crumpled newspaper or cling wrap. The marks left behind allow my imagination and intuition to take over, leading me into a world unknown.

I am looking forward to being able to focus full-time on being creative when we move to Rooiels permanently.



Maurice
BOSHOFF

Maurice is a lifetime multi media artist who has worked in many forms of visual and experiential art over the last 30 years. His classical training in fine art, sculpture, architecture, literature, poetry, archaeology and fine Italian culinary arts bring about his rather unique style of abstracted expressionism (oil on canvas). Play of light on colour and figure in nature inspires him and he particularly enjoys the unique natural light quality found in Rooiels. The multiple ways in which light in its many permutations unveils the beauty in natural and human made objects is infinite in its ability to inspire and amaze us all, he says. Once we have lived life, or at the very least tried our damned best to, can we in our very essence and pure abstracted form fulfill expression in its most meaningful function.

Through his art he strives to enlighten, enrich and elate the conscious and subconscious selves to explore and enjoy life more. He is of the opinion that only that which elevates us to a heightened awareness of our various levels of self are worth surrounding ourselves with. Nothing is in vain. No destination surpasses the journey.



Erna
PIENAAR

Erna Pienaar het Kledingontwerp aan die Kaapse Technikon studeer. Sy het 24 jaar ondervinding in die ontwerp en maak van uitrustings vir spesiale geleenthede soos troues en matriekafskeide. Vir ontspanning skilder sy graag wanneer sy by haar ouers op Rooiels kuier. Sy werk in verskillende media soos olie verf, akriel, houtskool en pastelle. Sy doen baie graag mosaïekwerk en put baie inspirasie uit die natuur.



Evette
WEYERS

Evette Weyers is a renowned sculptress who has been living in Rooiels with husband Marius for more than 25 years. She has exhibited all over South Africa, America and England. She loves her studio looking out across the nature reserve to Klein-Hangklip and in the other direction to her favourite diving cove. Her work cannot be limited to a specific genre but is always rich in symbolism reflecting Evette's love of nature and mythology. She also wrote a beautiful coffee table book about her work, sharing her stories and philosophy.



Om vroeër as sewe-uur in die vakansie op te staan, is vir 'n tiener soos om vir 'n vrou te vra hoe oud sy is! Niemand sê vir jou jy mag dit nie doen nie, maar dit word as vanselfsprekend gesien. Ons praat van 'n "unspoken rule". Maar dit tel net vir tieners wat nie kan deel wees van Rooiels se vakansieprogram nie.

Jani Badenhorst bo-op Klein-Hangklip

| Rooiels VAKANSIEPROGRAM |

Deur die rivier tydens die eko-stap met Amida Johns!

Party is al op die strand

Amida Johns lei ons deur die natuur-reservaat en vertel van die plante.



Ek is nogal die een wat voorgestel het dat ek en my ouers die voëls, plante en dierebesigtiging moes bywoon, maar as die alarm sesuur genadeloos afgaan, was daar 'n geweldige twyfel of dit tóg die moeite werd sou wees. Verál as jy, soos ek, nie 'n oggendmens is nie. Boonop is daar die vrees dat die dag 'n blote herhaling van die vorige jaar sal wees. Ek wou werklikwaar nie my oggend opgee om rond te loop en dinge te hoor wat ek klaar weet nie.

My deuntjie het sommer met die intrap-slag verander toe ons by die winkel aankom en wéér 'n vriendelike verwelkoming soos altyd kry. Dan tref dit jou sommer dadelik dat dit nie net gaan oor die aktiwiteit nie, maar baie oor die mense saam met wie jy dit doen. En waar gaan jy 'n beter groep mense kry as net hier in Rooiels?

My opstaanbekommernis was in elk geval heeltemal onnodig, want – en dit besef ek nou – die natuur verander die heeltyd. Selfs al wil jy, kan jy nie alles herhaal van die vorige jaar nie. En as jy wel 'n paar herhalings beleef, dan verander jy maar net van “student” na “master” vir die nuwe persoon langs jou deur te vertel wat jy reeds weet.

Met die stap so deur die natuurreservaat met Amida Johns, tref dit my dat ek besig is om dinge te leer wat die meeste van my klasmaats nooit sal weet nie. Ons almal weet tog dat boeke glad nie kan opmaak vir wat jy ruik of voel nie, maak nie saak hoe goed dit geskryf is nie.

Die volgende dag is ek weer vroeg uit die vere. Hierdie keer vir 'n vars item op die program (sien, dis nie net die natuur wat verander nie): Die stap van Rooiels na Pringlebaai onder leiding van Wolfgang. Die vorige aand was ek behoorlik voorbereid met “vroeg in die kooi”. Ek het klere, skoene, hoed en peuselhappies sommer klaar gereed gesit, want dié keer moes ons al kwart voor ses by die winkeltjie wees. Wat 'n geleentheid, want as jy een keer gesien het hoe om dit te

doen, kan jy later mos self die pad stap!

En daar gaan ons! Die ou openbare pad is vreeslik interessant. Jy sien omtrent voor jou oë hoe die tye verander het. Sommer so in die stap hoor jy die stories van hoe dit gelyk het voor die brug gebou is en jy kom gou agter waarom die dorpie lyk soos hy vandag lyk.

Daar is ook gepraat oor al die maatreëls wat ingestel is om ons natuur te bewaar. Die voordele en nadele van elke gebied is ook gewys, so as jy wil weet waar die beste plek is om 'n huis te koop, is dit die manier om meer inligting te kry.

Moenie dink dat dit net oor die geskiedenis van Rooiels gaan nie. Jy hoor vreeslike interessante stories oor allerhande diere soos die luiperd, otters en die magdom voëlspesies om nie eers te praat van al die plantspesies nie. Nou weet ek selfs watter plante ek eerder moet verwyder en watter ek moet hou.

Die uitsig van die pad af is iets waaraan ek maklik kan gewoond raak. Ek het weer eens besef hoe bevoorreg ons is om hier in die omgewing te kan wees.

Na die grondpad het ons afgedraai en die laaste entjie langs die see geloop. Pringlebaai het 'n pragtige strand wat ek nog nooit vantevore gesien het nie. Die koel seebries was 'n baie welkome manier om die stap af te sluit.

By eindpunt 356 Bistro het heerlike koffie ons ingewag. Van ons het sommer ontbyt geëet om energie te kry vir die stap terug, maar dit sal ek volgende keer aanpak wanneer ek meer voorbereid is.

Vir “normale” tieners is die aanbreek van die nuwe jaar tot eenuur of twee-uur saam met vriende, kennisse en vreemdes gevier. Ek verkies om eerder net na die eerste klapper in die bed te klim sodat ek genoeg energie het om vyfuur Klein-Hangklip aan te durf om die eerste son van die jaar te gaan inwag. As jy een ding op Rooiels se vakan-

sieprogram wil bywoon, is dit beslis hierdie een! Ek het dit nou al twee keer gedoen en albei kere was dit net ongelooflik. As jy, soos ek, nie gereeld bergklim of gaan stap nie, gaan jou bene so klein bietjie soos jellie voel en jou asem dalk opraak. As dit gebeur, stop vir 'n minuut of twee en sê vir almal wat verbystap: “Ek kyk maar net die uitsig van hierdie punt af.” Hulle sal jou beslis glo, want die uitsig is werklik ongelooflik.

Watookal jy doen, maak net seker dat jy bo uitkom. Mense kan vir jou sê wat hulle wil, en vir jou soveel foto's wys as wat hulle kan, maar daar is niks soos om self op Klein-Hangklip te staan nie. Jy kan 360 grade rondom jou sien. Aan jou een kant is die berge en die son wat besig is om op te kom, aan jou anderkant is die see en Rooiels se grondpaai. Daar is waar ons bly, daar is waar ons altyd swem en daar is die plek waar ek van my fiets afgeval het. Dan kom die son op en almal begin juig. Dit is hoe mens 'n nuwe jaar moet afskop!

Die seewerkswinkel met Evette sal ek ook beslis aanbeveel. Veral vir jonger kinders is dit ongelooflik interessant. Jy leer van die seesponsies, kluisenaarskrappe en ook die plantelewe soos seebiltong en bamboes. As jy gelukkig is, kan jy selfs 'n seekat onder die klip gewaar. Dis een van daardie geleenthede waar jy later van jou vriende kan bring en vir hulle gaan wys wat jy alles van die see weet.

Dan is daar die skoonmaak van die strand. Dit is ons werk om die strand skoon van besoedeling te hou en die diere se omgewing te beskerm. Doen ons dit nie, is die ongelooflike vakansieprogram binnekort nie meer vir ons of ons kinders beskore nie. En daarom, al is dit nie altyd so lekker nie, is dit lag-lag die bevredigendste. Kom help ons volgende jaar. Dan voel jy eers regtig deel van die gemeenskap. Buitendien maak vele hande tóg ligte werk!

Jani Badenhorst (Graad 9)



PHOTO ALLISON EVANS



PHOTO JOSELYN MORMILE

Groom

THE PRINGLE BRYDE'S WHALE

One afternoon in late July this year, a whale washed up onto the rocks in Pringle Bay.

I decided, in my wisdom, that it would be a fun project to reconstruct the skeleton. To honour this life, I felt a display would pay it homage and then its death would at least not be in vain. I went to talk to the crews at the beach about how to go about this task and was met with a resounding "That would be impossible!" So began a journey that has been both amazing and frustrating beyond speech.

The scientists took their pieces of matter, and the mop up team was designated - Overstrand Municipality, the Department of Environmental Affairs and teams from Working on the Coast and Working on Fire.

The first morning saw the arrival of many people kitted out in oilskins, gloves, boots and masks. There was a light-hearted atmosphere in the air while everyone gathered. It was a stormy, overcast day which quickly turned into driving, freezing rain. The joviality soon faded as the team in the water started to cut. The meat was hooked and the gagging started. The stench was unbelievable! The crew slipped on the rocks and battled with heavy, smelly chunks of rotting flesh.

The heavy weather was a godsend really - it made the job a little less putrid and kept the crowds away. I was the only civilian on site - I had decided that I wanted to be there to document the procedure so as to have a detailed report of the how's and why's of our project from the ground up.

His nickname on site quickly became Stinky - but we called him Groom - this Bryde of ours.

After a lot of chopping, an attempt was made to winch him out - this failed as did the attempt to burn off excess meat and blubber. Once the tail was removed the remains floated out and got caught up on some rocks - too deep to get to, and so the crews left.

The next spring tide washed him back in and my process started in earnest. I have a

team helping me (sometimes only me, sometimes 2 of us... sometimes as many as 5). The whole underside of the belly was still intact as it was impossible to cut this off in the initial attempt. So we have had to contend with a blanket of blubber and a fair amount of flesh which has made this work gungy and quite disgusting. However, we have managed to recover a number of bones and as far as we can tell, only two vertebrae have been stolen - this is particularly annoying as it has been really, really hard work to separate these - with a hacksaw and lots of elbow grease, masks and plenty of sore muscles and a smell that seems to hang in your nose for a day or two after each workout. So, to have someone come in, cut our ropes and remove these bones is just horrible!

In hindsight, having Groom on the shoreline has been the best option - our original plan was to bury the bones and try to recover them some years later. When that didn't happen, we were terribly disappointed - but it seems that, judging by the way that nature has taken its course and the state that the bones are in now - this really was first prize.

Some of the bones are badly chipped from banging up against the rocks in the various tides. The jaw is badly smashed - he was hit by a boat - it's unclear whether this happened after he died or whether it was the cause of death...

We still have a whole lot of work to do, but I think that the hardest part is nearly over. All the bones are loose now and time and nature will weave their magic and help to clean them while we begin to find people in the know who can help us restore and reconstruct this skeleton.

This one day in late July has changed my life forever - and I really hope that my dream will be realised one day in the not so distant future when we can give Groom a space in Pringle Bay so that people can fully appreciate the sheer magnificence of these beautiful, little-known creatures of our oceans.

Allison Evans

TRAVEL TIME

Rooieters might wonder why we travel a gruelling thirty hours, twice a year, to spend our family holidays on the tip of southern Africa. The answer to that question is layered and has evolved over time. It began with a gasp of astonishment and simple desire to more fully experience the sheer natural beauty of the area, to imbibe the abundance of ocean, gaze repeatedly at the sculptural views of Klein-Hangklip and slowly enjoy the ever-changing profusion of blooming fynbos so unique to this place. And for me (Marti) personally it has been an opportunity to reconnect with my roots and my father's South African heritage and better understand and share that culture with our children.

Over time the pull of beauty has given way to people and relationships that have blossomed into friendships through repeated visits. Rooieters, by way of example, remind us and our children to slow down, notice and engage in what is around us and take time to fully listen to each other - habits of mind that seem so obvious yet can elude us with the incessant intrusion of attention-grabbing devices that bring work and mindless concerns repeatedly to the fore. These human connections, and the annual rituals - taking part in sea life workshops, welcoming the first sunrise of the year from the top of Klein-Hangklip, waiting for Evette's views on our sandcastle creations, to the simple satisfaction of hacking out rooikrans infestations with others and seeing our garden mature year after year - keep us coming back. And as we become more part of this place, we too have our baboon stories to share in greeting and to fill lulls in conversation. We too are becoming Rooieters at heart.

Marti Louw & Illah Nourbakhsh



ROOIELS SOUP EVENING

On Saturday 2 September Rooielsers gathered at the Drummond Arms to welcome the coming of spring in a rousing community get together. It was an event created by the people who attended. The Village People organised delicious homemade soup, which was accompanied by snacks provided by the Drummond Arms and wine donated by the Rooiels Boat Club. David van der Merwe designed two beautiful mugs – one with an Oystercatcher and the other a protea and sold them for R100 each with R25 going to REC. In fact they proved to be so popular that another order was placed!

We welcomed newcomers, said goodbye to some who were leaving and made new friends. There were speeches aplenty (some might say too many) but there is so much happening in our village it is hard to decide what not to talk about.

This will be an annual event so be sure not to miss the next one. Rooiels is filled with interesting people doing interesting things. Did you know that we have someone who lives in Rooiels and works in Johannesburg? We have artists, writers, researchers, activists and adventurers aplenty. We love Rooiels, travel, good food and good wine. We are excellent neighbours but modest about our many achievements.

Thank you to the many people who made this evening possible and to all of you who enjoyed the party. See you next year. (Sorry, but if you missed it, we don't even have pictures. We were too busy having fun!)

Ruth Mattison



Die bekere het hulle ontstaan uit die samehorigheid en erkenning van die uniekheid van Rooiels. Dis 'n manier om die rare en die kosbare te vier. Dis 'n geskenk gebore uit Rooiels, iets tasbaars wat mens kan herrinner aan die natuurprag en gemeenskap van vriende. Iets wat as huldeblyk aan 'n gas geskenk kan word – ons visitekaartjie! Die bekere is verkoop om die onkoste daarvan te dek en 'n bydrae te maak aan die Bewarea (REC) fonds. As daar belangstelling is maak ons volgende jaar weer so – so laat weet wat julle voorkeure is!

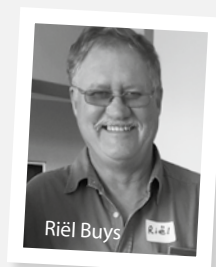
David & Sonet van der Merwe

Die Rooiels Visie

"Tydens die koop van ons huis op Rooiels, het die agent vir ons die Rooiels Visie in die hand gestop. Hierdie Visie het vir ons die knoop deurgehaak!

Wat 'n wonderlike voorreg om as 'n gemeenskap so nou saam met die natuur te leef: bobbejane op jou stoep, rare voëls in jou tuis, pofadders wat paar in die straat, arende wat bo jou sweef en dolfyne en walvisse in die baai voor jou!"

RIËL BUYS



"Ons leefstyl binne die Rooiels-visie:

Behoud en beskerming van fynbos op ons erf – dis kosbare habitat.

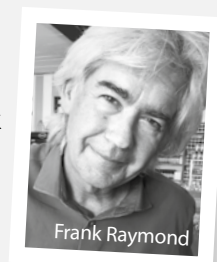
Geen heinings om ons erf – dit gun diere hul natuurlike roetes.

Geen permanente buiteligte – die maan en sterre en 'n flitslig hou ons veilig!"

PIERRE KRUGER

"The Rooiels Vision is the backbone of this village. It is our social contract with one another to look after and preserve that special sense of place that attracted us to Rooiels initially."

FRANK RAYMOND



"Linda and I didn't just buy a house at Rooiels, we bought Rooiels and the whole Rooiels Vision."

MARK BUTLER



Johan en Mariki Schwiebus

| LIVING THE VISION |

Die spore van 'n varing ...

As jongmeisie het ek op 'n besoek aan Kaapstad een dag piekniek gehou op die klein strandjie voor Houerbaai. Ek het myself oopmond verwonder aan die grootsheid en ongekunsteldheid van die omgewing. Baie jare daarna het ek my hart verloor toe ek om die hoek van 'n huis vol stories stap, afkyk op daardie einste strandjie en besef - soms verloor jy soos 'n varing, 'n spoortjie wat wortel skiet, en jou jare later terugroep na waar jy hoort.

Ons het gou besef dat om in die legendariese oom Skakel se huisie in te trek kom saam met 'n reuse verantwoordelikheid. Emoyeni was een van die eerste huisies op Rooiels en is gebou deur sy eie hande en onder die toesig van 'n groot klip in die vorm van 'n kameel.

Ons is vinnig, dog subtiel, ingelig, voorberei en uitgekyk deur ons bure. Sou ons die toets slaag om eendag ware Rooielsers genoem te word? Verstaan ons dat ons slegs bywoners is? Hierdie plek behoort aan die vier elemente van die aarde – lug, vuur, grond en water. Jy moet elkeen se buie verstaan en omarm. Jy moet weet dat jy 'n plig het in hierdie paradys om die mooi vir die nageslag te bewaar.

Buurvrou Chris het vinnig kom vertel van die geen-heining-nie reël, want die grond se verhuurders is die slange, skilpadjies, muishonde, rooikatte en bakkies, en wie is ons om hulle vryheid te stuit? Buurvrou Elsabé het ons vertel van die hemelruim wat hier so helder skyn en nie daarvan hou as bywoners buiteligte brand of gordyne ooplos in die aand nie, want ons steel hulle glinster. Sy het my ook gewys waar die Witkruisarend sy nes skrop en my geneem na geheime swempoele wat na haar ma vernoem is.

Buurvrou Diana het ons kom leer van bobbejane en hoe ons nie ons kos moet uitstal en hulle uitlok om stout te wees nie. Buurman Paul het ons geleer van mededeelsaamheid en om die mooi te verewig met foto's. Buurman Pierre het ons geleer van die gevare van vuur. Buurvrou Louise het ons geleer om ons honde te beskerm. Hulle hond het amper verdrink toe hy die see ingejaag is deur 'n bobbejaan en die vorige huurder, Jan, se Maltese poedel is op die hoek van Perspicuaweg deur 'n luiperd gevang.

Oom Felix het ons kom leer van muishonde wat die slangbevolking in toom hou. Hy het ook die saadjie geplant dat jou tuiste nooit moet kompeteer met die grootsheid van die omgewing nie. Buurman Charl het ons geleer dat

'n mens nie 'n eiland is nie, want as hulle hier is, is alles altyd lekkerder. My buurvrou Margie het ons geleer van vriendelikheid en sagtheid. Buurvrou Denise het ons geleer hoe Rooielsbure vir mekaar omgee en ons ingelig gehou oor enige gevare.

Moeder natuur het my geleer dat ek elke maand van die jaar soos 'n ballerina met blomme in my hare om 'n meiboom kan dans, met 'n volmaan onder my arm en 'n sonsondergang in my hart. Die walvisse en dolfyne het my geleer om die oomblik te koester. Die rotse het my geleer om die houe van die lewe soos 'n man te vat en die plante het my geleer om te groei ten spyte van fel omstandighede. Jan Klaasneusmuis, skerpioen en bloukopkoggelmander het my geleer dat my huis, hul huis, en hul tuin, my tuin is. Vriende en familie het my geleer om die mooi onselfsugtig te deel, al wil ek dit vir myself hou. My klein huisie het my geleer hoe min ek nodig het. Kers, musiek, boek, kosmaak en saamwees het my katedraal geword. Dine se Mooi Elsie praggpark het my geleer om so trots te voel soos Chad le

Clos se pa by die Olimpiese spele. Gerard en Anuta het my geleer om nooit op te hou reis nie, maar dat Rooiels steeds die mooiste plek op aarde is om na toe terug te keer. Die honde en kinders wat speel in die

rivier het my die betekenis van pret geleer. Die blonde sentjie John, wat dink my bodyboard surf die lekkerste, het my geleer dat ek 'n rolmodel is. Om te dryf in die baai op 'n warm somersdag het my geleer wat ware sielslaffen is.

En as die kreefbote inkom en ons sit almal saam op die graswal, dan weet ek, ons is deel van 'n pragtige storie. Rooiels stroop mens van alles wat nie saak maak nie. Hier kan ons mekaar se energie voel en beleef sonder lawaai. Hier het ek geleer hoe dit voel om werklik deel van 'n gemeenskap te wees.

En wanneer die wind jou vaskluister met jou gedagtes en die sout al dieper in jou are kruip, dan weet jy: "Rooiels, hier by jou wil ek die tentpale van my hart inkap en bly... vir altyd!"

Want soos Olga Kirsch sê: "Sonder jou is ek 'n uitheemse plant wat nêrens meer aard nie."

Trap sag, mede bywoners. Ons varings laat spore agter... Ons nalatenskap word opgeskryf in die geskiedenis van die heelal.

Mariki Schwiebus

"Sonder jou is ek 'n uitheemse plant wat nêrens meer aard nie."



Kai, Holger, Rix, Sven
and Adah Wellmann

To the total disbelief and bemusement of most friends and family, we moved to Rooiels permanently in January 2016. To be honest, we were unsure if we were just misinterpreting their misgivings as inklings of jealousy?

Rooiels had been our weekend getaway since we bought our house in 2009.

This initial love affair was prompted by experiencing first hand, the cliché that “life is short”. We had just lost Rix’s close (and same aged) cousin to breast cancer, combined with the fact that our eldest entered her teenage years.

Rooiels became our escape, without TV, wifi etc (we told the kids the mountain blocks everything). It was the perfect setting for Rix and I to have a more direct influence on our three kids during their formative years. Long walks, swimming in nature and undistracted lengthy dinner conversations became the family entertainment.

Fate (my health issues), became the driver for our decision to permanently move here.

We were given this “once in a lifetime” opportunity to chose exactly where we wanted to live pre retirement age, without considering work commitments etc. We also had no intention of leaving SA.

Escaping suburbia undoubtedly distressed our three children somewhat. No easy access to friends, parties, school or the mall! The upswing though, was more than abundant; the raw energy of unspoilt nature, the wildlife, the mountain and

sea, the general lack of fences and outside lights – just to name the obvious.

The most surprising aspect of living here, have been the local residents. All unique, formidable and interesting individuals in their own right, ready to stand together for worthy causes. Even our children notice and appreciate this.

On a more personal note, I will give an example of one of many habits which were enabled by living here. My mortality did worry me somewhat and what would happen to my family after my predicted demise. I would make an “appointment” for these concerns to prevent them from sporadically occupying my mind during the day or night. The appointment would be a walk in the direction of Pringle Bay. During the walk I then recalled all these negativities, which I focussed on and processed. I would purposefully leave these dissolved memories behind me, before walking back home absorbing the wonderful energy of nature. How liberating to do this directly from one’s back yard! And, it seems to have helped so far.

Rix loves every minute here, aided by her passion for art which she can feverishly pursue in her studio. Foraging in the sea, taking dogs for walks, running in nature, yoga, friendly neighbours all help to make this the place to live.

For our eldest daughter Kai (22 years), the drive from Stellenbosch University to Rooiels seemed forever compared to Somerset West. Fortunately her friends all love it here so much that visits became

frequent and fun. She is currently where she needs to be, completing her Masters degree in Economics and Business Strategy at Imperial College, London, followed by some more ambitious plans.

Sven, our burly 18 year old rower used to board at Bishops until he matriculated last year. The one hour weekly commute enabled undistracted communication, which remains a priceless memory. He now stays in Simonsberg residence at Stellenbosch University where he seems to be balancing Mathematical Sciences with a rather social student life.

Adah, our 12 year old nature loving child, distinguished by her lanky limbs, long hair and generous hugs, is often seen cycling or running around Rooiels. She commutes with three wonderful sisters from Pringle Bay to Somerset College daily. The car is usually filled with music, laughter and chatter and sometimes last minute homework. She has been the envy of all her friends, living freely in nature so close to the sea. Challenges facing a budding teenager are already rearing its head. Skills are being developed at an early age to plan ahead. Wifi does bridge many gaps.

The reason for our permanent move to Rooiels might have been somewhat unconventional. However, the proximity and unbeatable scenic drive effectively make it a distant suburb of Somerset West and surrounds. And we have water!

Yes, this is the best place to live in the world.

Holger Wellmann

| NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK |

The Van der Merwes – One year and loving it!

For more than three decades this beautiful, rugged coastline has drawn us. With every visit to the Cape we inevitably landed up on Clarence Drive to relish the natural splendour. Living in New York broadened our horizons and taught us a humble appreciation for our own country. Back in South Africa, David continued his career as Product Designer and Mechanical Engineer in Gauteng while Sonet taught at Curro Aurora to see the girls

through to matric. In 2015 the planets aligned and we finally answered the call of Rooiels!

Our eldest opted to stay behind to be close to her fiancé and with sadness and trepidation we left Sharyne in the care of her gran. Danielle having matriculated the prior year and completing the first year LLB, moved down with her folks and this gave her the opportunity to follow the family into design. She is now pursuing Brand Management and Design.

A year later, we feel well at home in Rooiels with a splendid ringside seat to the Bay. The daily discoveries of new blooms, the antics of whales and baboons are a true blessing. God’s creative hand was truly prolific in this corner of Africa. We are humbled by it and deeply grateful for the opportunity He favoured upon us.

Sonet, Danielle and David van der Merwe

God's Gift recently acquired new owners. Carol and Roy commute to Cape Town every day, leaving Kestern who lives in the house with them to look after the house and the dogs. Roy is an award-winning photographer.



KESTERN

My name is Kestern, I am from Malawi. I am living here in Rooiels for some months now. I came to Cape Town to look for work and I was staying in a location called Masiphumelele in Fish Hoek, on the Southern Peninsula of Cape Town.

I like staying in Rooiels because the place is very quiet. I have never heard music playing, the thing which we used to hear in an informal settlement almost twenty-four-seven. I really enjoy the dusty roads – it's as if I am back home in Malawi. The view is so wonderful, wherever I am walking Cape Point is in my view as well as the beautiful blue sea. Another thing, I can see stars in the sky, which is so different from Masiphumelele because I usually spent my nights in my bungalow fearing for my life if I go out.

I like my work as a housekeeper and I really like my dog companions, Ivan, Kramer and Ella, because my bosses are mostly at work during week days. I go to Church every Saturday in Kleinmond and I like being there to thank my God for the whole week He usually keeps me strong. During Sundays, I like mountain biking on the gravel road that leads to Pringle Bay along the coast below the mountains. Sometimes I take a walk to the Rooiels River and back and enjoy the vegetation in the Nature Reserve, which is by the sea.

I can write more and more, but the point is, this is a quiet, good and safe place for a person to live for the rest of his or her life!

Kestern Brazil

CAROL

I'm terrible at making decisions, but I can remember scrambling down the rocks to the sea in front of "God's Gift", the name given to our house, and within moments

knew this was where I wanted to live. We moved from Muizenberg to Rooiels in March this year and haven't regretted it for one minute. Well, maybe you shouldn't ask me at 4:30 in the morning, which is when Roy and I need to climb out of bed, bleary eyed, to get to work in town before the traffic sucks the life out of us!

We both work in IT. I drop Roy in Pinelands before reaching my offices just outside the city centre. But it's all worth it when I leave at 3 p.m. and we slowly unwind along Clarence Drive, enjoying those awesome mountains! The dogs are waiting to greet us. Roy and Kestern, who looks after the dogs and house while we are away, head off to the beach to exercise Kramer (mix from Muizenberg), Ivan (Great Dane) and Ella (Botswana girl). On one occasion while they were walking in the dark, Roy realized they were being followed by the otters and found it interesting to hear from a lady studying them that they are known to be fascinated by black dogs!

We enjoy the most magnificent sunsets from our home, with G&T or sparkling white wine in hand, while the sweetest shrews come out at this time. The dassies watch them with little interest while the colony of seals can be heard on still nights. While I've only seen a mongoose on occasion, many nights Ella gives soft growls while watching something walk past the glass doors in our bedroom – I'm wondering if there is a resident porcupine we keep missing?

We had our first break-in the day after we moved in... One of the younger baboons noticed we newbies had arrived and rushed in for my Lindt balls – so we learnt fast! Ivan and Ella have great fun guarding the house from him – resorting to barking for Kestern when he ignores them and comes

inside anyway. While I dream of living with elephants, bushbuck, hyena and jackals, living in Rooiels – while so close to the city, yet full of wildlife – is a great start to getting back to nature!

Carol Howard

ROY

After a weekend away in Misty Cliffs last year, Carol and I discovered that we had independently hoped to live there for as long as we could remember. With that in mind we started looking in Misty with some interest and to see what it would take to move and live there – though perhaps still without a real commitment as it "wasn't yet the right time", there remained the question of whether the lifestyle was possible to achieve while still commuting. It became obvious, though, that the only property that really appealed wasn't for sale! Some detective work found the owner, and some more found their contact details, but it also revealed that we couldn't afford what it would take to persuade him to part with it.

Disappointed and coming to terms with this discovery I was lying in bed one Monday morning (I had taken 2 days leave and had time for musing) and wondered where else would have a similar appeal (though now with even more of a hypothetical interest). Mulling it over, Rooiels stood out as a really good candidate, and browsing property sites revealed two properties that looked really good options. On the Tuesday we came out to have a look (thank God I had taken leave), and "House Peculiar" (Perspicua) looked awesome. Annette showed us around that afternoon and it was such an obvious thing to do that we put in an offer as quickly as it took to prepare the documents – i.e. the next day – which, thank God (again) was accepted on the Thursday morning (you would almost think it was a gift). So, 72 hours after not really planning to buy a house, we had. It's been the easiest (if not the best) decision I have ever made.

And every day I can't believe we now live in such a completely awesome place. Can't think where could be better!

Roy Terlien



James, Tarryn,
Matthew and
Cathy

FALLING FOR THIS SERENE ENCLAVE

| The Welsh's of 178 Blenna Street |

We discovered Rooiels through my brother in law, Greg Pape, who lived here for 15 months. During that period he shared the beauty with us. My wife and I came down for our daughter's graduation at UCT and visited Rooiels.

The accessibility to Cape Town International, the pristine beauty, silence, the birds, the nature and stillness were all considerations that enticed us. We led a busy stressful Gauteng life. Me as CEO of a mining and industrial group. My wife, Cathy, as a family advocate. Now we have the opportunity to enjoy the country and more specifically our new home in this beautiful conservancy.

Our two twenty-something children, Matthew and Tarryn, are independent and have warmed to their new home.

We knew we wanted to spread our wings beyond the Highveld but had no idea where this would lead us. We had no intention of falling for this piece of the whale coast. But we did!

JAMES WELSH

Uiteindelik hier!

Ons ry al die afgelope vyf jaar hier in Rooiels rond en ken al elke straat en elke huis se vooraansig. Maar soos alle goeie dinge neem dit tyd en geduld. In ons geval was die wag die moeite werd, en toe ons huis beskikbaar word het ons die kans aangegryp en, wel, hier is ons!

Ons is by uitstek natuurliefhebbers en dis sekerlik die hoofrede vir die groot oppak en trek vanaf Bloemfontein hierheen. Ons het einde Augustus ingetrek, en sukkel maar nog om alles weer op hulle plekke te kry, dis nou so tussen die natuur-bewondering deur. Waar anders kan jy op een dag pofadders sien baklei, 'n walvis wat geboorte gee, witkruisarende sien sweef, die fynbos in jou voortuin (met ons eie fisant- en muishondgesinne) bewonder, aangename gesprekke met ander inwoners voer en sommer net tuis voel? En die stilte...

Ons is vas van plan om sommer hor-ingoud te word hier.

**Anne-Marié & Diets
Nieuwoudt**



Ian and Stephanie Milne

We have dreamt for a long time about retiring in the Cape, with a vague idea of crashing waves and towering mountains all in one!



Well, after twenty years of owning and managing a twenty-bed guest house and 100 bed youth camp, one stunning February morning earlier this year we found ourselves driving along the scenic R44 towards Pringle Bay.

We had an appointment with an estate agent to "check out the area". After initially asking about Betty's Bay, the agent mentioned that she would just first like to show us a little property in Rooiels, before we looked around Pringle and Betty's Bay. We had only vaguely heard of Rooiels before and didn't even know where exactly it was!

When we stopped at 262 Perspicua Road, and walked around to the front of the house, we were both just blown away with the view, the position and the whole feel of the place. Nothing else we saw for the rest of the weekend even came close, and within fourteen days we had made an offer which was accepted.

Fast forward to the present, and we find ourselves weeks away from leaving the beautiful Lowveld and relocating to Rooiels for the next leg of our life adventure.

Ian and I have been married for 43 years and our children all live in Cape Town.

We met and lived in Gauteng many, many years ago. Then, in 1986 we moved to the Lowveld to Berg-en-Dal camp in the Kruger National Park, where Ian was working in the Environmental Education and Information department. Both our children were born in Nelspruit, and we enjoyed ten wonderful years in the Kruger Park, four in Berg-en-Dal and six years in Skukuza.

The next twenty years were spent at Ekukhanyeni Christian Retreat, Guest

House and Youth Centre just outside Nelspruit. Now we are more than ready for a gentle time of retirement and can't wait for the "big move". This will happen towards the end of November, after doing some extensive renovations to the house at Rooiels.

Ian has a Master's degree in Environmental Education, which he utilised managing his Field and Tourist Guide Training business based at Ekukhanyeni. His interests are many and varied, for example he is a keen mountain biker, birder, loves all sorts of music and sport and does some amazing woodwork in between all his other interests. He has also just completed an online marine ecology course in preparation for living at the sea.

I am German by birth and although I have a strong connection to my German family and the language, am a South African citizen, because I just love this country. I might be the only one in our family without a University degree, but I hold my head high with my hard-earned "Life Degree", supporting my husband through his studying years, raising children, running a successful business for the past 20 years, and generally "doing" life. One of my passions is cooking – but not for 100 anymore, thank you! I have a number of other creative ambitions which I plan to achieve, while listening to the waves crashing against the rocks below my stoep!

Although we are sad to be leaving all our long-standing, special friends and our wonderful church community here in the Lowveld, we are excited at the prospect of a new chapter in our lives, and we look forward to meeting new people and to making new friends here soon. **Ian and Stephanie Milne**

[IN MEMORIAM]



Anneen Diedericks

20 Augustus 1936 –
25 Januarie 2017

'n Klein lyfie met 'n groot siel. 'n Opregte Afrikanervrou met die gees van 'n natuurkind.

Ma Anneen was passievol en uitgesproke oor die liefdes in haar lewe. Stories van Pa Dolf, haar kinders en kleinkinders was die spil waarom haar gesprekke gedraai het. Die garing wat haar lewe gevleg het was haar geloof en haar mense – haar familie en vriende... en natuurlik die betowering van kos. Ma was hartstogtelik oor kos en meeste geleenthede was bespreek met die spyse as beginpunt – ons almal het die vrugte van haar kosliefde geniet.

As Afrikanervrou het sy van vroegoggend al netjies aangetrek en gegrimed die dag begin, maar kon net so maklik somer so met haar rok aan gaan swem in Rooiels se sloepie “want die water het so lekker gelyk toe ek daar verbystap!”

Haar huis kon jy altyd deur 'n ring trek – met als op sy plek voor sy die oggend se blokkiesraaisels be-

gin invul. En tog kon sy ook tot in haar tagtigerjare gaan kamp in 'n tent sonder behoorlike toerusting en dan wil sy op die grond slaap – “hou nie van 'n kampbed nie...”

Haar bewondering vir die natuur was teenwoordig in al haar gesprekke – van die bobbejane op Rooiels, tot die toere wat verwoed beplan word na enige plek met 'n wildspark of mooi berge en woude... en o tog, en daar moet 'n leeu wees. Want as daar geen leeu was nie, dan was die vakansie maar net so-so.

Ma het haar lewe propvol gepak. Sy't haar liefde vir haar Here, kinders, mense en natuur met konstante dade gewys – prakties, innig, sterk, eiewysig (Anneen se manier), maar altyd diensbaar en in liefde... alles in die gees van korrektheid en natuurlikheid, wat so eie was aan Ma Anneen.

Wat 'n voorreg om haar te mag geken het.

Dolfie Diedericks



Basil Moss

28 July 1936 –
6 September 2017

Basil Moss was born in Ireland and after completion of his schooling, he came to South Africa in 1954 to assist a family member on his farm. He stayed and farmed successfully for 44 years, until 1998 when he and Elisabeth bought their house in Rooiels with an eye to scaling down their busy lives. This did not really materialise, as Basil became involved in the Rooiels community and was elected Chairman of RERA in 2000. He spent many hours and costly mileage to attend to Rooiels matters to the benefit of the whole community. The upgrading of the Rooiels main entrance and the maintenance of the Rooiels roads are only two of his achievements that immediately come to mind. He served in this capacity until 2002, but still gave his down-to-earth common sense support whenever needed.

From 2004 – 2007 he was chairman of the Rooiels Boat Club and here he also showed good leadership. He was always a staunch supporter of the NSRI and drew the lucky ticket of the NSRI competition on 14 December 2006. With this the REBC won two Pajeros which were sold and swelled the boat club's bank balance to R550 000! This money has been, and still is, supporting various Rooiels projects to the benefit of the whole community. R100 000 was also donated back to the NSRI for the purchase of a towing vehicle which is called “The Spirit of Rooiels”.

Basil will be remembered as an unselfish person who was always there for anybody who needed him. He indeed embodied the community spirit of Rooiels.

Ernst Thompson



Dr William “Bill” Hooper Rabie

20 October 1940 –
4 December 2016

Basil and I first met Bill in Rooiels in 1999, when he was elected as Vice Chairman of RERA for 2000 and 2001 and from then our friendship with Bill and Mary grew.

He was a kind, caring and gentle person, with an infectious laugh and mischievous twinkle and smile. He was practical and clear thinking and gave sound advice.

He matriculated at Paarl Boys High and went on to study medicine at the University of Edinburgh. He practiced medicine in Port Elizabeth, where he became involved in the community. He then joined the air force and went on to qualify in aero space medicine in San Antonio, Texas. It was here that he

was presented with the USA airforce flight surgeons award and granted the freedom of San Antonio.

He was Mayor of Modderfontein, Director of the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases and was on various committees in the field of mining and health.

He represented South Africa in game-fishing and obtained his Springbok colours. He later became a member of the Rooiels Boat Club.

Bill and Mary retired in the Cape, spending time between Somerset West and their holiday home in Rooiels.

Our heartfelt condolences to Mary. We all will miss Bill's wise counsel.

Elisabeth Moss



Sally Koning 20 June 1956 – 8 November 2017

Sally was beautiful, gentle and kind-hearted. She loved Rooiels and all who got to know her loved her back. Malawian by birth, she later studied psychology and theology and served humanity as a counsellor. She

lived a life of complete surrender and faith. Her nickname was “Sally Sunshine” because she brought light into peoples' hearts. We will miss her. Our hearts go out to Peter, their children and grandchildren.



Dr Tersia King

20 October 1940 –
4 December 2016

“Op ’n helder sonskyndag in Oktober 2015 ontmoet ek Tersia King. Sy het ’n terugslag beleef en is in ’n versorgingsoord in Durbanville. Wanneer ons die kamer binnekom, maak die beleefde vrou dadelik die dik boek waaruit sy gelees het, toe. Sy plaas die boek op ’n kassie langs haar en gee my ’n stewige handdruk. Dit is twee dae voor haar vyf-en-sewentigste verjaardag. Ek loer nuuskierig na die titel van die boek wat sy besig was om te lees: Cyril Ramaphosa deur Anthony Butler.

Cornelia de Kock

Tersia Johanna Slabbert was born in the small Eastern Cape town of Klipplaat, not far from Steytleville. Sent to the Graaff-Reinet Volkskool as a high-school boarder, she excelled, winning a cup for the best girl orator and a substantial bursary for the highest marks achieved for the Junior Certificate (grade 10) examination. In 1961 she graduated from Pretoria University with a BA degree in Afrikaans-Nederlands, English and Sociology.

After a 17-year hiatus, during which she married Wavell King, had four children, and worked as a teacher, she returned to her studies. Over the next 11 years, and still teaching, Tersia completed two diplomas and four postgraduate degrees, including an MBA and a doctorate in Education. Somehow she also found time to step into the demanding world of politics, becoming a Town Councillor for Kempton Park in 1982 and a Member of Parliament in 1987. In 1991 Tersia founded a Self-help Community School in Tembisa, which was

later re-named the Tersia King Learning Academy in her honour. A tireless worker in politics and education, she was part of the Nationalist Party negotiating team at CODESA (1991-1992) and in 1996 established the East Rand Protective Workplace to accommodate and provide opportunities for mentally disabled adults. This facility continues to serve the needs of the disabled today.

But back to one fateful day in 1988: Tersia was returning to Johannesburg from her parliamentary duties in Cape Town, when she had the good fortune to find herself seated next to Philipp Wagner. We don't know of what they spoke, but it triggered the magic and three years later they were married.

Philipp owned property in Rooiels and in 2000 they decided they could manage living here and commuting to work in Cape Town (him) and Kempton Park (her). This was considered an astonishing decision at the time – at least by the residents of sleepy Rooiels!

Despite her hectic life, Tersia found time to become involved in village politics, forming the Rooiels Inwoners Vereeniging, which continued for several years. Tersia was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2008, but with careful treatment and Philipp's solicitous care, managed to continue living in Rooiels and working in Kempton Park for another five years – a testimony to her tenacity, courage and determination. Tersia died on 4 December 2016. Philipp continues to live in Rooiels.

Jenny Stark



Mercia van der Merwe

6 April 1930 –
1 August 2017

Mercia, who loved the sea, died on the same day as Columbus landed in South America 519 years ago. And so, in an early morning message that day, Bob Baigrie wrote “Our dear sweet neighbour floated gently off the slipway early this morning. RIP”

Mercia and her husband, Cornell, bought Erf 81 (Die Anker) at the end of the 1960's and spent the next ten years building their holiday home. Cornell, was considerably older than her and died in 1990, and she missed him terribly. There was a wonderful photograph of their wedding day at the memorial service, and Mercia looked radiant.

From then on she devoted herself to the upkeep of “Die Anker”, spending many, many happy hours in her garden, which like many gardens in Rooiels has a “biosphere” all of its own! Her great friend, Rosie, became her Rooiels companion and she was coerced into helping paint the roof, ceilings, the back garden dolphins, seabirds and to “stuff” as much garden rubbish into her sedan car to get it to the tip. Sybil Summerson, then made up the triumvirate in 1995 when she met them on the beach while here on her annual visit of many months from the UK. Mercia was always ably supported by a dog, the last one being her beloved

Tienkie. She had conspiratorial neighbours, namely, Robert Baumann, the Coopers and the Baigries.

There was always a “klein glasie”, garden advice and laughter available at Die Anker, as well as catching up on village gossip.

Those of us who knew her will all have our own fond special memories of this dear soul, and the celebration of her life at a memorial service in Durbanville was a delightful surprise. For, it was attended by merry band of friendly relatives who made the three Rooielsers (Helen, Alison and Bob) most welcome. Her contemporary cousin and best friend from childhood, spoke beautifully, as did her niece. Alison also spoke with huge affection, while Bob read a poem that made them smile, and we all had a jovial time swapping stories. Her sense of fun and mischief was clearly also a delight to her own circle of family and friends. Beautiful Rosie was there too, full of smiles and hugs. She, like Mercia, was always filled with a *joie de vivre*, regardless of circumstances.

Rooiels will miss this gentle soul, but her lilting spirit will forever float gently up and down Gnidia Road, and out into the village. Rest in peace.

Helen Jones



Elizabeth Blaine

15 June 1926 – 23 October 2017

Elizabeth, aged 91, passed away peacefully in Kenilworth, Cape Town. To her Rooiels was nature at its very best. She loved the mountains, sea, fynbos

and wildlife. She and her husband, David, bought their house in Rocklands Road in 1985 and it will continue to be a family home.



Bruce publishes his second collection of poems *Necklaces of Broken Shells*

Bruce Relly has just published his second collection of poems. In response to the question whether

the poems share a leitmotiv, what his inspiration was and which audience he had in mind, Bruce had the following to say:

"I wrote the poetry for my own illumination and not really for anybody else. It was kind of self-investigatory, a form of literary investigation. I found it a very creative occupation trying to find out what poetry means. And only by actually reading or writing it, can I make progress with that. My inspiration was to some extent Rooiels. The people I have known or read or had contact with, had a bearing on it."

All the poems are about a central idea, they are not just words. There's personal poetry in there, love poetry, medical philosophy, the natural thing (Rooiels and the gulls out there). There are a few items of prose in there as well. "Prose flows more easily, you don't have to work so hard."

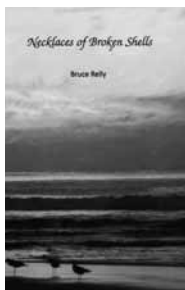
"Endangered Passion" respects the rhino. Other subjects include the farm, rugby, suicide, places he has camped in, his parents, Mary's mother, geology, Kay's dog, marriage, irritating flies, first shells, age, art, Evette, gulls, boarding school, science, new religion. The subject matter is very diverse.

Most of it is free verse rather than rhythmic. He used old notes going back to 2012, which have been reworked; others have been written since his stroke. The poems are all dated in sequence, in an attempt to "find some kind of rationality".

What would he wish for someone to gain from reading it?

"I would like you to enjoy it, poetry is a very personal thing. But, whatever the reaction would be, I would have to accept it philosophically. It's a sharing of ideas."

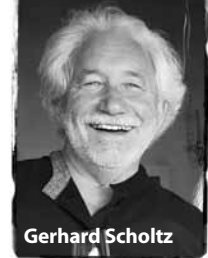
Anuta Scholtz



Evette (the sculptor)

A fantasy...
Fins or feathers
lifting free of gravity
or sometimes instead,
brisk, clay-coloured fingers
translating ether into metaphor
metaphor into matter.
No troubled history here
but intuitive surges
bearing literary seeds
and splashes from the waves below.

'n Nuwe boek oor Rooiels



Omrent 29 jaar gelede het Rita Blake sabbats-verlof geneem en begin met navorsing oor die geskiedenis van Rooiels. Sy het aanvanklik gedink dit gaan haar drie maande neem, maar toe sy eers begin delf, het dit baie langer geneem. In die voorwoord van die eerste druk in November 1998 skryf sy dat die kennis wat sy opgedoen het haar groter waardering vir Rooiels gegee het.

Sy het RERA genader om die druk van die boek te finansier en die eerste oplaag is vinnig uitverkoop en kom daar 'n tweede en 'n derde druk in 1999 en in 2001 onderskeidelik. Dit was in die dae voor staatskap- ing, en het 'n uitlegkunstenaar by my werk die uitleg in kantoorure gedoen en is dit sommer ook daar op 'n vlakdrukmasjien teen kosprys gedruk! My baas het my darem sy toestemming gegee omdat dit nie 'n wins-bejagte projek was nie, en omdat die inkomste uit die boeke vir natuurbewaring aangewend moes word.

In 2005 hersien ek die boek met die hulp van 'n paar medewerkers. Nuwe hoofstukke word bygewerk en word daar ook 'n hele klompie foto's ingewerk. Die titel is ook verander na Rooiels: A History and Stories. André Wagener het 'n soogdierlys, en Helen Jones en Alison Ayre het 'n kortlys van algemene voëls opgestel. Beide hierdie lyste kan afgetik word en het dit 'n goeie verwysing geword. Om kostes laag te hou het ek self die uitleg en versorging gedoen. Daar was 'n heerlike bekendstelling van die boek aan huis van Ian en Shirley Richter. Die hersiene weergawe het ook 'n paar herdrukke beleef.

Die laaste van hierdie boek is pas verkoop en het RERA gevoel dit is tyd om weer 'n nuwe bygewerkte uitgawe aan te pak. Ek het onder andere 'n klomp foto's van circa 1928 van 'n ongerepte Rooiels wat nog nooit voorheen gepubliseer is nie, wat dit nogal interessant gaan maak. Daar kan 'n mens byvoor-beeld sien hoe die riviermonding gelyk het voor die huidige brug die hele loop van die rivier verander het. Nuwe geskiedenis, soos die brand van 2017 sal ook bygewerk word.

Tye en smake het verander. Ook die manier van doen. Drukwerk het duur geword, maar ons wil nie kwaliteit inboet nie. Die nuwe boek moet 'n profes-sionel spogboek wees met kleurfoto's wat die stories, geskiedenis, gees, natuur en seisoene van ons dorp vasvang.

Die beoogde publikasiedatum is kort voor Kersfees 2018 – 20 jaar na die verskyning van die eerste boek. En dan is dit ook gereed vir 'n lekker Kersgeskenk aan kinders, familie en vriende. 'n Besigheidplan en begroting sal vroeg in die nuwe jaar aan RERA en die ander verenigings voorgelê word.

Indien jy graag 'n bydrae wil maak – foto's of 'n essay – kontak my gerus.

Gerard Scholtz

Eldie onthou

Interessante inligting oor die tagtiger en negentiger jare

Wie onthou nog Rooiels in Desember 1980?

Op die jaarvergadering van die Rooiels belastingbetalersvereniging (REBV) in Desember 1980 het die skokkende nuus Rooielsers getref: tenders vir die bou van 'n grootpad aan die seekant van Klein-Hang-klip na Pringlebaai sou binnekort aangevra word. Dit sou blykbaar kortpad volg, in 'n reguit lyn oor die groot strand. Die destydse bestuur van die REBV was heeltemal onbewus daarvan.

REBV kry nuwe energie

'n Nuwe bestuur is in Desember 1980 verkies en het pro-aktief begin optree, in plaas van op die reaktiewe wyse waarop belastingbetalersverenigings soms bedryf word. In vele opsigte is in die daaropvolgende tien jaar die grondslag vir Rooiels se bewaring gelê.

Die grootpad ("trunk road") deur Rooiels word gekeer

'n Bestuurslid met goeie kontakte het die Direkteur-Generaal belas met paaie na Rooiels genooi. Daar het die REBV (gesteun deur die verenigings van Bettysbaai en Pringlebaai) vir hom die negatiewe implikasies daarvan vir die dorp uitwys. Die burgemeester van Kleinmond het geweier om te help, met die woorde aan my dat die grootpad deur Rooiels 'n "*fait accompli*" is. Ons het dit natuurlik nie so aanvaar nie! Die knoop is kort daarna finaal deurgehak tydens 'n oproep aan my deur die provinsiale Uitvoerende Komiteelid verantwoordelik vir paaie, laat na kantoorluiting op 'n Vrydagaand.

Amper neusie verby met die Rooiels natuurreservaat

Kay de Villiers, van die REBV bestuurslede, doen destyds 'n breinoperasie op 'n kind. Hy gesels daarna met die pa en verneem tot sy skok dat die pa 'n amptenaar by die provinsiale administrasie is en besig was om tenders te finaliseer vir die verkoop van die onbenutte skoolerf in Rooiels, vir onderverdeling in bou-erwe.

Rooiels se motivering vir die behoud van erwe 211 en 212 as 'n provinsiale natuurreservaat was nog dieselfde middag afgelewer! Rooiels was eventueel, na my beste wete, die enigste plaaslike gebied in die

Caledonstreek wat daarin kon slaag om sy groen long te bewaar. Pringlebaai se skoolerf is ontwikkel in bou-erwe – nogal deur 'n erfeienaar van Rooiels!

'n "Mushroom Cloud" bokant die Buffelsrivierdam

Op die voorblad van 'n Kaapse middagblad verskyn daar skielik een middag, in die hoog- sekuriteitsdae van die grensoorlog, 'n foto van 'n eienaardige ontploffing op die toetsterrein by die Buffelsrivierdam. Dit lyk soos iets wat in die Twee Wêreldoorlog in Japan gebeur het, net in die klein.

'n Paar maande voor die ontploffing bel die voorsitter van Pringlebaai my en sê dat hy pas by 'n amptenaar van die Overberg Streeksdiensteraad gehoor het dat Rooiels en Pringlebaai se grond met die Buffelsrivierdam daarop in die geheim aan 'n staatsmaatskappy verkoop is. Dit was vir die ontwikkeling van vuurpylaandrywers op die terrein.

Die Buffelsrivierdam het behoort aan Rooiels, Pringlebaai en 'n destydse nuwe uitbreiding van Bettysbaai. Die erfeienaars het daarvoor betaal as deel van die dorpsgebiedontwikkelingskoste. Vir 'n pyplyn en waterverskaffing aan die res van Bettysbaai, wie se eienaars nie self die koste aangegaan het vir langtermyn watervoorsiening nie, het Rooiels en Pringlebaai 'n jaarlikse, hernubare kontrakinkomste gevra en ontvang.

Die destydse Caledon Adelingsraad het, 'n dag voordat dit ontbind het in die nuwe Overberg Streeksdiensteraad, 'n geheime sitting gehou vir die verkoop van hierdie eiendom, en het daarna 'n valse front voorgehou aan die plaaslike verteenwoordigers van Rooiels en Pringlebaai wat die volgende dag niksvermoedend die formele ontbindingsvergadering bygewoon het.

Die Rooiels Plaaslike Raad en die hofsak teen die staatsmaatskappy

Rooiels het, voor die stigting van die Overberg Streeksdiensteraad, die eerste plaaslike gebied in Caledon geword om munisipale status te versoek en te verkry. Daarsonder sou Rooiels nie die nodige verskyningsbevoegdheid gehad het om 'n klas-aksie vir die ongeldigverklaring van die verkoop van



Eldie Brink

die dam-eiendom in te stel teen die staatsmaatskappy nie (wat terloops nie vandag meer in sy

vorige vorm bestaan nie).

Rooiels was gelukkig om in die 1990's 'n deurwinterde regsprofessor (Dennis Cowen) op sy bestuur te hê om in die 1990's die aksie vir die kansellering suksesvol te voer. Ons eerste advokaatsafpraak was met 'n klasgenoot van my, wat die professor met sy eerste vraag ge-"floor" het oor die locus standi van Rooiels om die saak in die hof te voer!

Ek meld vir die rekord die afluistering van vergaderings en telefoongesprekke deur veiligheidsorganisasies en 'n persoonlike vergadering met die besturende direkteur van die staatsmaatskappy na aanleiding daarvan. Toe ek die maatskappy 'n "gesiglose organisasie" noem op die REBV-jaarvergadering, het 'n apologet uit Rooiels my gou by die owerhede gerapporteer.

Straatligte word nie toegelaat nie

Die REBV het met die destydse Evkom ooreengekom dat krag slegs aan Rooiels voorsien sou word op die voorwaarde dat geen straatligte op enige plek in Rooiels opgerig sal word nie, nie toe of in die toekoms nie. Kraglyne is op spesiale versoek ondergronds aangelê, sover moontlik in die middel van die strate sodat die padreserwes nie beskadig sou word nie.

Die Bewarea

Rooiels was weereens eerste in ons gebied met die stigting van die Bewarea om die hele dorpsgebied van Rooiels te beskerm, ter aanvulling van die Rooiels natuurreservaat wat reeds onder vorige wetgewing geproklameer was.

Dit was om Rooiels Visie wat toe reeds bestaan het, prakties verder te voer. Die Visie is nog steeds 'n baken vir alle Rooielsers, maar dit kort na my beskeie mening pro-aktiwiteit en aksie om dit lewendig te hou.

Ander pro-aktiewe stappe

Ander stappe deur die REBV in daardie jare, waarvan Rooiels steeds die voordeel geniet, was die volgende:

- Sekere ongemaakte strate deur die natuur- >

reservaat, in die kloof en in die strandduine is permanent gederegistreer.

- Die destydse onderverdeling van erf 324 (die kleinhoewe langs die dorp) is gekanselleer.
- Spesiale gesprekke is gevoer met die destydse opvolgende eienaars van die hotelterrein op erf 115, met die hulp van die WNNR, om hulle te oorrreed om nie aansoek te doen vir onderverdeling nie.
- Die afdelingsraad en sy opvolgers in titel is vandag nog gebonde aan 'n spesiale besluit deur Caledon, op versoek van Rooiels, om geen onderverdelings van erwe in Rooiels toe te laat nie, behalwe in uitsonderlike omstandighede.
- Rooiels se eerste rooikranskapdae het plaasgevind, kompleet met kettingsae.
- Die Bries het vir die eerste keer gereëld verskyn. Dit was tweetalig, in kortformaat, om eienaars op die hoogte van sake te hou en om vir hulle inspraak by die bestuur van Rooiels te gee.
- REBV was behulpsaam met die sluit van die pad langs die berg (Porterweg) met 'n hek. Dit bly steeds 'n publieke pad vir stappers. Rooielsers behoort egter hul reg van weg na die see oor sekere kleinhoewes uit te voer. Na my beste wete verskyn die publieke vruggebruik steeds in die titelaktes.
- Nuwe bouplanne is vir die eerste keer aan die REBV voorgelê vir goedkeuring. Aandag is veral gegee aan nakoming van die titelaktevereistes oor o.a. minimum groottes van huise asook enkelwooneenhede.

Daar was mislukking ook

Rooiels en Pringlebaai was met die stigting van die Hangklip-Kleinmond Munisipaliteit ten gunste van die voorsetting, soos tevore, van afsonderlike boekhouding vir elke dorpsgebied. Dit is teengestaan deur Kleinmond (met 'n kontanttekort weens wesenlike agterstallige gelde vir eiendomsbelasting en dienste) en Bettysbaai (want dan sou hul alleen vir hulle agterweë watervoorsiening moes betaal). Rooiels het destyds net twee vrot eiers vir agterstallige skuld gehad.

REBV het met die hulp van 'n argitek en 'n omgewingskundige 'n boubeleid geformuleer dat omheiningsmure nie in Rooiels op die grense van erwe toegelaat sou word nie. Omheinings binne die grense van erwe sou egter wel toegelaat word binne 'n aantal meter vanaf die bestaande woning. Voorafvervaardigde heinings moes 'n natuurlike voorkoms met gekleurde gruisklippies hê. Hierdie bewaringskwessie behoort na my mening moontlik weer aandag te kry.

Eldie Brink

Rooiels nou amptelik taalkundig één woord

Rooiels (C 3419 BD). Township on the east shore of False Bay, 5 km north of Pringle Bay. Declared a township in June 1948, it takes its name from the farm and river of that name, referring to the red alder or butterspoon trees, *Cunonia capensis*, which grew in the ravine.

***Rooigrond** (C 2525 DD). Hamlet 16 km south-east of Mafikeng and 25 km south-west of Ottershoop. Afrikaans for 'red ground'. The place was formerly known as *Vrywilligersrus* and *Heliopolis*. Part of the region Rooigrond, ceded to Boer volunteers under Adrian de la Rey by Tswana chiefs in the 1880s, became the republics of *Goshen* and *Stellaland*.

***Roosnekal** (T 2529 BB). Village on the western slopes of the Steenkampsberg, 95 km north-east of

Deur die jare het ons probeer om eenvormigheid te kry vir die naam van ons dorp. Daar is Rooi Els, Rooi-Els, Rooi-els. Taalstryders soos Prof. Merwe Scholtz, Willie Pienaar en Gerard Scholtz was vir jare voorstanders van Rooiels as een woord, terwyl andere weer van die ander vorms verkies het.

Die nuutse Afrikaanse Woordelys & Spelreëls, saamgestel deur die Taalkommissie van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, is pas in 'n omvattende 11de uitgawe gepubliseer. Hierdie publikasie word as die normeringsbron van Standaardafrikaans gesien. Daarin word Rooiels net as één woord erken.

Die reël (15.30) is eenvoudig. By gewone plant- en diername word die byvoeglike naamwoorde wat kleur aandui, tradisioneel vas geskryf. Diername soos blouaap, rooivlerkspreu, witborskraai en ander dien as voorbeeld. By plantname is daar rooiels, geelhoutboom, swarthout en andere.

By kleuradjektiewe (byvoeglike naamwoorde wat kleur aandui) wat in die algemeen kleur aandui, word dit wel los van die selfstandige naamwoorde geskryf, soos in silwer wolke, rooi rok, turkoois verf en andere.

It's officially "Rooiels" (one word) according to the Dictionary of Southern African Place Names.



Wimpie nooi Rooielsers uit om die nuwe, uitgebreide winkel te besoek. Indien hy iets nie aanhou nie, noem dit vir hom en hy sal kyk wat hy kan doen.

Die winkel bied nou 'n uitgebreide voorraad van duik-, hengel- en strandtoerusting; heerlike bont, los stranddrag, 'n wye verskeidenheid hardware, noodkosvoorraad, vleis en wors, happies, kase en geprosesseerde vleis, en vele meer. Gaan loer gerus in en verken.

Wimpie sal ook probeer om meer koerante aan te hou as tydens die buiteseisoen.

Hy onderneem om elke dag tussen 08h00 en 17h00 oop te wees, behalwe Kersdag wanneer die winkel gesluit sal wees.

A YEAR IN ROOIELS 2017



JAN

- 1** Climb to the top of Klein-Hangklip.
- 21** Rare European Roller causes congestion on the R44.
- 24** Red tide and wonderful luminescence



FEB

- 20** Pringle Bay Wildfire.
- 24** Baboons are back in town after going AWOL for 23 days sparking rumours that they went harvesting.



MARCH

- 19** Rooiels Wildfire burns down two homes and damages several.
- 21** Sundowners at slipway celebrating life after the fire, followed by thunder and lightning



APRIL

- 7** "Zuma must fall" peaceful protest
- 10** Chico, the free-spirited Rooiels dog dies from rat poison.
- 19** Endangered Haemanthus canaliculatus flowers after the fire.



MAY

- 15** Brydes whale drowns near Rooiels, entangled in commercial fishing ropes.
- 16** Cliff, alpha male baboon, is fitted with a GPS collar.



JUNE

- 5** Stunning display of Red hot poker (Vuurpyle)
- 7/8** Giant storm hits with monster waves.
- 30** Jill finds the enormous egg case of a Spearnose skate.



JULY

- 3** Formal registration of Rooiels Neighbourhood Watch
- 18** Mandela Day outreach to Bambanani Day Care
- 30** More perlemoen poaching activity



AUG

- 2** Submarine spotted near Rooiels.
- 8** A new incident gate installed by RESA in Porter Drive.
- 28** Violent protests in Kleinmond (Overhills) for a number of days



SEPT

- 2** Community Soup Evening
- 30** REC hosts 3rd Wildlife Research Talk (on the Urban Caracal Project)



OCT

- 1** Resurfacing of the R44 starts.
- 12** Diets sees a pair of Puffadders mating in the street.
- 25** Our Buffelstal dam overflows – despite a drought in Cape Town.



NOV

- 9** Bries Breeze goes to the printers.



DEC

- 19** REC AGM, 18:00 erf 66
- 20** RESA AGM, 10:00 erf 124
- 21** RERA AGM, 18:00 erf 231



OUR VISION

Rooiels is a conservation community
CARING TOGETHER TODAY ... FOR TOMORROW.

OUR VALUES

We strive to be a caring community,
united by our passion to conserve the natural splendour of Rooiels
and keen to share our appreciation of the environment with others.

OUR PLEDGE

United by our passion for the natural splendour of Rooiels,
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; and
Our community spirit, strengthened
So that our lives, and those of generations to come,
Will be enriched by our care.