

ROOIELS

Maart 1999

Rooiels Belastingbetalersvereniging

Posbus 89 Bettysbaai 7141

Redaksioneel Editorial

Net toe ons beginne dink die wind gaan nooit weer hier op Rooiels waai nie, het hy hier teen middel Februarie met mening toegeslaan. Maar dit bly lekker om hier te woon, veral noudat buurman Geoff Harris en Lyn ook nou permanent hier woon. Welkom! Ook aan al die ander nuwe permanente inwoners wat onlangs hier ingetrek het.

This issue is full of interesting and important reading. At the first Exco meeting the committee members were asked to set their goals for this year. If there is anything important to add, please make contact with the relevant committee member.

Deur die vinnige optrede van ons lede is daar 'n groot ramp afgeweer tydens die stranding van Brandy & Ginger. Evette doen volledig verslag van hierdie gebeurtenis wat soveel belangstelling gewek het.

One of the milestones in the history of Rooiels, is the publication on the history of our little town by Rita Blake. I thought the estimation of 450 copies was liberal and now it seems as if it was very conservative. Very soon it will be necessary to print the second edition. Please, send Rita some more stories and recommendations.

Lekker lees!

Gerard Scholtz

March 1999

Rooiels Ratepayers' Association

PO BOX 89 Betty's Bay

From the Chair

Die terugvoering na die AJV was oor die algemeen positief. Namens u wat dit nie kon bywoon nie, wil ek my dank teenoor die UK uitspreek vir al die harde werk en toewyding. Die UK is mandate gegee betreffende SEKURITEIT en die voorgestelde MARIENE RESERVAAT. Daar is ook besluit dat die VISIE VIR ROOIELS 'n dinamiese dokument is wat van tyd tot tyd hiersien en aangepas moet word om die vinnige veranderinge in ons omgewing te akkommodeer.

SECURITY

SECURITY is possibly uppermost in many minds in these days of high crime statistics, bomb blasts and brutality. There are three possibilities which should help to contain and even reduce these in our area:

• KOGELBERG BIOSPHERE RESERVE:

The Helderberg municipal investigation and initiative on its coastal parks and amenities (Including Kogelbaai) envisages a TOLLGATE at the entrance to the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. Based on the worldwide trend towards ensuring that ecotourism should be self-funding, it is one of the longer-term recommendations made by

Bowren Consultants who have studied overseas trends and facilities. Obviously, public participation will be required before this idea comes to fruition, and Bowren's Mr Pallis has assured the RERA that Rooielsers will be consulted along with the rest of the Hangklip/Kleinmond area. Mr Pallis also reassured a meeting which I attended that **the** most modern technology will be used to ensure that local inhabitants are not prejudiced financially or inconvenienced unduly by long queues. Experienced travellers will know that this is quite feasible, even on roads carrying far greater traffic volumes than Clarence Drive. While a tollgate cannot differentiate between "baddies" and "goodies" and keep the former out, allied to other security initiatives, it could provide an additional financial and psychological deterrent.

• SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS:

If you were looking for a place to commit a crime and at the entrance to the Hangklip/Kleinmond area were confronted by large signs reading:

YOU ARE ENTERING A ZERO-TOLERANCE CRIME AREA AND ARE BEING MONITORED BY SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

would you not think twice and perhaps look elsewhere for a victim? Just such a scheme is currently under consideration and will possibly be funded by a R5 monthly levy per plot.

• ROOIELS SECURITY BOOM

Closure of the Porter Drive entrance to Rooiels and the erection of a boom at the four-way stop in the Rooiels business centre has long been a subject of discussion. However, consider the legal and logistical problems! One possible way to overcome these is to close the boom only at night and have it open during daylight hours. This might just work for the main area of the village, especially if combined with the two foregoing initiatives. What then about the other areas?

MARIENE RESERVAAT

Die AJV het in beginsel die idee van 'n Mariene Reserwaat in ons gebied gesteun. Die UK het 'n mandaat van die AJV ontvang om ondersoek in te stel en met die owerhede saam te werk sodat 'n aanvaarbare oplossing geïmplimenteer kan word.

Waar sal die grense neergelê word? Hoe sal dit gepolisieer word? Hoe lank sal so 'n reserwaat moet bestaan sodat dit 'n effek-tiewe uitwerking kan hê?

Ons raadslid het die besondere waarde van ons riviermonding uitgewys deurdat dit die enigste rivier in die omgewing is wat altyd oop na die see toe is. Moet dit ingesluit word om groter beskerming te verskaf? En indien so, hoe?

Seewag het 'n openbare vergadering gereël wat deur

die REBV bygewoon is. Van die ander partye wat dit bygewoon het was die ander belastingbetalers verenigings, selferkende smokkelaars, KOBIO, verskeie bootklubs en vele andere. U siening en belange sal by toekomstige vergaderings bespreek word indien u dit vir ons sal deurstuur.

What we need is YOUR input, comments and suggestions on these vital subjects. So please fax, e-mail or write to us ASAP and give us your views. The descriptions above are just the bare bones of the situations in an endeavour to start the ball rolling. Also, if you happen to be suitably qualified and can provide sound advice, please offer your services for the betterment of the community.

We have another busy year ahead of us and are looking forward to serving our community's interests. To do this we need your support and encouragement. We have a very good insight into what we believe to be the general feeling of ratepayers from the AGM, but would appreciate even wider communication.

Vriendelike groete

Geoff Harris
Voorsitter: REBV

Minutes of an emergency Exco meeting held in Rooiels at 7.30 on 10/02/99

Quorum:

G Harris (Chairman); G Scholtz; A Scholtz; E Weyers; L van Dyk.

Subject:

The chairman called the meeting in response to the wreck of "Brandy and Ginger" on the rocks at the mouth of Bakkiesbaai (Container Bay) on Sunday, 7 February. Craig Spencer of Nature Conservation had advised that the salvors (Cape Diving) were prepared to remove all debris from the area and crush it ready for transportation to a special dumping ground elsewhere in the Cape as the H/K Municipality was not prepared to dispose of the debris. A quote had been requested and could be in the region of R2000; but this would only be while the salvors were on site salvaging the engines for the insurers. The H/K municipality had indicated it was also not willing pay for the operation. The boat owner was apparently in Mauritius and not contactable. If this window of opportunity was lost, the financial and pollution consequences were potentially serious.

Decision:

As the consequences would likely affect the RE community adversely, it was unanimously decided to offer RERA financial support for the

project subject to a maximum of R2000. Further, it was decided that any costs incurred would be referred back to the owner in an effort to recover these.

Action:

The matter was discussed with RERA legal advisor Frank Raymond who confirmed the opinion that the owner was financially responsible. An open quotation was received. Craig Spencer was advised of RERA support and went ahead with the required arrangements on this premise.

From our Councillor: Changes at level of local governance

A recent Editorial in the Cape Times provides an interesting viewpoint on property rates and insights into the problems of local government finance*. The bottom line is that local authorities are picking up a greater share of responsibility, but without an increase in funding. Of interest is the fact that in the United States, municipalities have to meet about 70% of their operating costs from their own resources, while in a developing country such as Brazil, municipalities have to generate only 30% of their income. In South Africa, local government gets only 0.65% of national revenue and South African municipalities have to finance 90% of their operating costs.

What can we do about this as ratepayers and public representatives at a local level?

i) Ensure the municipality's resources are not wasted -

Where you see this happening, report it to the Town Clerk, to your local Councillor, the Ratepayers Association - if the issue is still not dealt with go to the media. Hold those with responsibility, accountable.

ii) Have representation on Councils Financial Advisory Committee -

This committee is trying to ensure that the financial position of the Council is clear to public representatives. Locally our Town Treasurer has had to cope with the introduction of a new computer system; also with new statutory requirements as to what he must report to Council. These systems are not yet functioning as well as they must. I regularly put pressure on the Treasury Department to provide adequate information for decision making.

iii) Pay your dues -

The difficulties surrounding the valuation process and valuation roll are still not behind us. Yet the truth of the matter is that municipal accounts must be paid. The Municipality has placed on record that if there are changes to a valued property as part of the appeal process - the credit will be made from the time of implementation of the valuation (June 98). While we were against using the roll until it was certified, I and the Kleinmond Councillor representing Protea-dorp were the



only votes against accepting the new valuations. If the valuation roll is not certified by June 99, I understand that the Administrator/Premier will have to approve our Council proposed rates and taxation structure for 99/2000.

iv) Ensure that others pay their dues to Council - This raises the issue of Somchem's penalty payment to the then Rooiels Local Council of R 40,000 per annum. After a long battle to get a set of accounts on the Somchem Fund held by the Municipality it appears as if Somchem still owes us R 40,000 for 1997 and some R 20,000 for 1998. A formal proposal will go to Council in February on this matter - insisting that these outstanding funds be obtained and a legal interpretation obtained as how the matter of Somchem leaving the Buffelsriver dam site affects the continued penalty of R 40,000 obtained as relief to the Rooiels (and other) community. At present from the information presented at the RERA AGM, it seems as if, once the funds for 1997 are obtained, this fund will have approximately R 32,000 available. I am not including the amount of R 20,000 for 98. Please watch developments with regard to this matter in future Breezes.

v) Objections to new valuations - If you have not objected to your new valuation and wish to do so, you can request a re-valuation at a cost of R 50.00. Council has appointed a new firm to handle interim re-valuations.

For more information, call the Town Treasury Department.

vi) The issue of equal parity on taxation of valued property (Property rates) - I have done my homework on this issue and I am happy to provide answers (obtain them if I don't have them) to any ratepayers queries. I support a situation where by the year 2001/2002 the rate in the rand is the same across the area; i.e. if you own a property worth R 400,000 in Rooiels, you will pay the same property tax as an owner with an equally valued property (same ratio ground to house) in Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay and Kleinmond. My formal proposal to the RERA was:

- * Rooiels had used the issue on parity on water costs some 3 years ago to obtain a huge reduction in Rooiels water rates and equalisation of costs to the consumer through the area. Rooiels therefore has sympathy with groups in Kleinmond who feel they are paying more than they should.
- * The Municipality/Treasury is not being transparent with regard to financial matters in the municipality and provides insufficient data to the Financial Advisory Committee to enable it to perform its advisory function adequately. This hampers all concerned in decision making at Ratepayers' and Council level.
- * Rooiels should underscore its willingness to pay the same as the other ratepayers in the area. If taxpayer A lives on a plot of R150 000 and a house of R150 000 (total R300 000) the property taxes should be the same regardless of where the house is situated - Rooiels, Betty's Bay or Kleinmond. The individual taxpayer is able to dispute the allocated valuation of his/her property through the mechanism of the Valuation Board. Dissatisfaction with

valuations is still rife across the municipal area as the new valuation roll is not certified and the objections have not all been heard. If Rooiels adopts the approach of equal participation in the tax base, it follows that it can complete equally for funds collected from the tax base. Rooiels does not want tar roads or street lighting, but does want extra environmental security, enlarged nature reserve and other facilities that would complement Rooiels' role as the entrance village of the ecotourist area of the Kogelberg Biosphere.

- * In the light of this, I recommended that the principle of phased-in parity be adopted over the next two, or perhaps three years.

*Reference: "*Property Rates will become new wealth tax*". Tony Robinson. *Cape Times*, 8 February 1999.

vii) Municipal elections - These elections will only be held next year. As sketched in the above scenario, it is vital that public representatives be professional, informed people with skills - this is far more important than any political affiliation.

Julia Aalbers

Besware teen die nuwe waardasies

Indien u beswaar teen u nuwe waardasie wil aanteken, kan u 'n versoek om herwaardasie teen R50 indien. Die Oorgangsraad het 'n nuwe firma (Badenhorst & Du Toit) aangestel om die tussen-tydse herwaarderings te hanteer. Vir meer inligting kan u mev Van Eeden of mnr Jordaan by 028 271 4010 by die kantoor van die stadstoesourier skakel.

Meet the new Exco - and their objectives for 1999:

Ontmoet die nuwe UK - en hul doelstellings vir 1999:

Geoff Harris

Chairman

Fax/tel: 028 273 8164

- Your Exco has always tried to remain politically neutral. This is how I believe it should be. I continue to view this policy of neutrality as being of prime importance. It is the right of all to enjoy the peace and tranquillity which we seek in our unique environment, be it for holiday relaxation or as a home. As more and more rate-payers choose the hamlet as their permanent place of residence, I would like to encourage harmonious relationships in the community.
- Overall, it is my desire to ensure that your Exco efficiently and fairly continues to represent the broad interests of ratepayers in general - diverse though these may be! The Vision gives us a very good picture of the way you want Rooiels to be. Each Exco member has his/her portfolio to develop in the best interests of the community. I pledge my support in assisting this dedicated band of volunteers achieve THEIR goals, for they are YOUR goals - and MY goals.

Mike Miller

Secretary

H: 021 852 5776

W: 021 851 6055

e-mail: armilla@iafrica.com

Basil Moss

Security, Roads & Fire

Tel/fax: 021 855 3513/028 273 8575

e-mail: skoonsig@mweb.co.za

- to get speed calming measures in place on our roads
- to work towards a crime-free and safe area
- to work towards reducing fire hazards in the village
- to keep Rooiels rural, unspoilt and safe for all who live there permanently or on holiday

Rita Blake

Natuurbewaring

Tel/fax: 021 949 9850

e-mail: rsblake@iafrica.co.za

- Nuwe samewerking met die adviesraad van die Rooiels Natuur-reservaat om dit te ontwikkel in iets besonders vir Rooiels.
- Aanmoediging en samewerking met diegene wat die duine bestuur en probeer stabiliseer, asook met die kapgroep wat so n belangrike werk op Rooiels verrig.

Gerard Scholtz

Publikasies & Finansies

Faks/tel: 028 273 8539

e-pos: gscholtz@yebo.co.za

- om hierdie jaar minstens 3 Bries-uitgawes die lig te laat sien; 'n herdruk van die geskiedenis van Rooiels te beleef
- om heelwat geld in te samel vir natuurbewaring en verwante sake

Anuta Scholtz

Hacks

Fax/tel: 028 273 8539

e-mail: gscholtz@yebo.co.za

- To clean up road verges along Clarence Drive
- To do follow-up work on sites of previous hacks and work done by Craig Spencer
- To weed the nature reserve and koppie
- To clear private erven where requested and practicable
- To continue working on area north of Anemone Road
- To encourage more hackers to participate actively

- To continue educating owners concerning invasive aliens and encourage them to eradicate these enemies of fynbos

Evette Weyers

Marienebewaring

Tel: 028 273 8483

To get more of the public aware about the sealife, the necessity for marine reserves and regulations through talks, sea workshops and exhibits.

- To get more schoolchildren involved in sea conservation projects
- To prevent any further poaching of small perlemoen, francolins, porcupines and small buck, etc. by builders and workers, through education and policing.
- To get the Hangklip-Kleinmond Coastal Co-management Forum (with representatives of all the groups involved in the sea) launched and effectively operating.
- Some recovery of sea resources.

Lida van Dyk

PRO & Waste Management

Tel: 028 273 8444

e-pos: lidarooi@mweb.co.za

- ernstige werwingsveldtog van lede vir die REBV
- interessante en prettige vakansieprogramme, oa. Des 1999 wat die viering van die jaar 2000 op Rooiels sal insluit
- the purchase of a paper bank (recycling igloo)
- maintenance of wooden containers for refuse bins
- regular clean up of beach areas
- war against plastic bags
- negotiations with plot owners and Telkom on the replacement of overhead telephone wires with underground cables

Ral Meredith

Dunes & Boat Club

Tel/fax: 021 852 4652

e-mail: exeltour@iafrica.com

- to liaise with Nature Conservation in order to start dune stabilization in the hope that we can halt the erosion of

dunes - particularly in the vicinity of the Hotel site. This to be done by creating set pathways and by placing branches in eroded areas. to compile a list of indigenous trees and shrubs which have been grown successfully in Rooiels. All property owners are to be encouraged to add to this list. Also to produce a list of indigenous trees and shrubs which may not yet have been grown in Rooiels but which should be tested.

ROOIELS LY SKIPBREUK

'n Dorp of 'n stad is soos 'n lewende organisme met sy eie karaktertrekke, siektes, probleme en sy eie krag. Ons klein dorp is 'n unieke organisme met 'n "groen" hart.

Saterdag, 6 Feb het die see vuus gebal (reuse deinings, magtige golwe en malende water). Ten spyte van omstandighede het 'n kajuitboot, **BRANDY AND GINGER**, met vier passasiers die kwaai see die stryd aangeknoop. 'n Kort stryd want die see het vir hulle en hulle boot op die rotse in Bakkies-baai (of Containerbaai) uitgespoeg vlak voor Pierre en Louise du Toit se uitgelegde paadjies tussen die fynbos, wat hulle pas herwin het.

Die bootongeluk het Rooiels 'n wond toegedien en adrenalien het deur die dorp gepomp. Terwyl *National Sea Rescue* met drie bote die toneel toegesnel het, het Rooielsers ook "die wond" toege-stroom. Witbloedliggame, gereed om die gevaar te takel. Pierre het die

drenkelinge gehelp. Ander was daar om morele ondersteuning te gee - vir die dorp eerder as vir die ongedeerde passasiers.

Die see het geïrriteerd die boot op die rotse probeer fynstamp om finaal daarvan ontslae te raak. Daar was 'n reuk van diesel in die lug. Die Rooielsers was onrustig.

Maandagoggend, na noodkrete van Rooiels aan die burgemeester, Julia Aalbers en Craig Spencer, het Craig en ander lede van die munisipaliteit 700 liter diesel uit die boot getap. Die dorpie het 'n bietjie geruster geslaap. Maar nog was dit het einde niet!

Op 'n ander senuweestelsel van 'n ander organisme (miskien 'n soort aasvoël) het die bootskap (!) uitgegaan dat daar koningsbuit op Rooiels se rotse lê. Gou het die aasvoëls opgedaag om te sien wat hulle van die boot kan stroop. Trouens, hulle het deur die nag in sarsies die boot gestroop. Pierre het die polisie ontbied maar die aasvoëls het die polisie 'n gat in die kop gepraat, nl. dat 'n verlate gestrande boot allemans-goed is.

Die bergingsmaatskappy het opgedaag met groot hyskrane en swaar masjinerie. Craig, Louise en Pierre het net probeer keer vir al die hervestigde plantjies en ek het gesien hoe die padskraeper oor honderde tolskulpe en kluisenaarskrappe knars in die poele waar ek altyd werkswinkels hou. Eina Rooiels! Eina see!

Dinsdag, skemer, het die toevallige vergadering van Rooielsers om die wond soos 'n Algemene Jaarvergadering gelyk, al die bekendes was daar om te help genees. Die karkas van die boot was nou al in 2 gesny en die olierige enjins het nog steeds in die water gelê.

Daar was nog die kwessie van betaal want die oorspronklike eienaar het al met sy bas in die Seychelles gesit en die Versekeringsmaatskappy wou nie betaal vir skoonmaak en wegsleep nie.

Woensdagoggend 6.30 haal Geoff my en Marius per fiets in waar ons met ons honde stap. Hy wou dringend 'n kworum kry sodat die REBV solank die R2,000 betaal om die wrak weg te ry. Andersins sou dit nog meer kos en langer vat.

Teen Woensdagaand is die boot weg. Nou moet gekneusde en verwoeste fynbos gelaaf word. Gemors word Saterdag deur die Rooielsers uit die see gehaal. Die natuur kry weer kans om te heel. Met die hulp van al die Rooielsers word Rooiels weer gesond.

Evette Weyers

RERA Financial Matters

The auditor of our financial statements, Doug Wallace, found everything sound and in order. Thanks Doug! At the time of auditing, the end of October, the balance was R7378.

On 31 December, the balance was R15 297! But then I still had to pay the printers of Rooiels: A History and other stories R3439 The balance now, before the printing of this edition, is about R9600.

Dit bestaan o.a. uit 'n paar fondse:

Ledegeld:	R2960
Geskiedenis: Rooiels	R3540
Donasies	R995
Herwinning	R1740
Herbarium	R746

Intussen stroom die geld in van nuwe lede en die boekie en moet ek net by die bank kom om nog R2153 in te betaal! Dankie.

But, if we look at all the objectives of the Exco, then we need much more than this!

Meet our new secretary: Mike Miller

Before I knew it I found myself roped in to serve on the RERA, I am honoured and hope I can make a meaningful contribution to promoting the 'Vision of Rooi-els'.

Coming originally from the Natal midlands I have been associated with Rooiels for some twenty years. I bought erf 281 eight years ago and it has grown along with my family, now and to remain, no more than two daughters and a son.

In 1979, with limited accounting and engineering experience I threw caution to the wind and together with Jenny, now my wife, an English and Latin teacher, went into business on our

own. All the early machinery was home "grown" and we had a lot of fun. For years we were sure our staff were earning more than we were, and my supportive parents-in-law stood by to feed us when things got particularly rough. Today we employ many hundreds of people in the field, here and abroad, and about fifty at the factory in Somerset West. The bulk of our production being imitation Jewellery. I'm the technical and systems man, and Jenny heads up design and marketing. Rooiels has always been a very necessary sanctuary to us. If we still have any sanity left, Rooiels can take the credit.

One point I wish to make quite clear at the outset is: I am convinced that all of us who invest time and money and enjoy Rooiels are of one mind. Little things like, if we don't want street lights, do we mean to have lights that illuminate as a street light? If we don't want the roads used as a racetrack, do we desire to create roads that can be used as one? Petty polarization that has its origins in pride and selfishness must be recognized, understood and resolved. I will not tolerate unresolved issues that might promote division within the village. All being of the same mind a little tolerance and communication should go a long way.

My Afrikaans is abysmal and it is an embarrassment, but I can understand the language well, so I apologize for sticking to one language in this introduction, it was out of

necessity - my staff regularly beg me to revert to English!

Bekendstelling: **ROOIELS: DIE STORIE VAN WAAIGATBAAI / A HISTORY AND OTHER STORIES**

Op 18 Desember is Rita Blake se boek oor die geskiedenis van Rooiels by 'n skemerfunksie aan huis van Tony en Griselda Hall bekendgestel. Sowat 40 Rooielsers het die geleentheid bygewoon.

Raadslid Julia Aalbers het die bekendstelling waargeneem en 'n sterk pleidooi gelewer vir die bewaring van Rooiels se unieke karakter. Ons haal aan:

Die publikasie oor die Geskiedenis van Rooiels gee vir ons, die huidige inwoners, 'n geleentheid om ons self af te vra, wat is werklik belangrik en wat is slegs van verbygaande aard?

Ek het saam met Rita en 'n paar nuuskieriges die grot langs die Rooielsrivier besoek - en onthou u moet 'n permit hê. 'n Gevoel vir die vroeë geskiedenis is opgewek tydens die besoek waar Rita noem dat daar klaarblyklik Boesmantekeninge was wat verwyder is. En dat families tot redelik onlangs daar gekamp het - sonder om 'n enkele beskadigende graffiti daar te laat.

Dit het my laat dink aan wat ons as gemeenskap gaan agterlaat in die mooi omgewing van Rooiels?

Ons het verskeie keuses - en dit gaan hoofsaaklik om keuses - om byvoorbeeld die moontlikhede te ondersoek om telefoonlynne te verwyder en 'n radiogolfondersteunende telefoonstelsel vir Rooiels daar te stel. Ons kan seker maak dat ons rioolstelsel nie 'n gevaar vir insekte, plante en die fauna van die omgewing inhou nie; dat ons duine nie beskadig word deur te veel voetpaadjies nie; dat ons erf 324 beskerm van ontwikkeling deur alle moontlike optredes te ondersoek, insluitende die gedagte dat die gemeenskap die erf koop.

Wat ons voorgangers vir ons agtergelaat het, is 'n relatief ongeskonde Rooiels aan die voete van Klein Hangklip. Gaan ons sorg dat die volgende geslagte dieselfde van ons sê? Dit is ons uitdaging!

Intussen blyk die boek 'n treffer te wees en is die tweede druk van die Engelse uitgawe reeds aan die gang.

U kan die boek by die REBV bestel @ R25 'n kopie. Meld net asseblief of u die Afrikaanse of Engelse weergawe wil hê.

Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve

FIRST BIOSPHERE RESERVE IN SOUTH AFRICA

We at Rooiels are fortunate that we are in the buffer zone of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve - one of a world network of 330 reserves registered at UNESCO. At last the unique beauty and diversity of this area is acknowledged worldwide and protected. But how will this affect the home-owner in our town?

The reserve encompasses all the land south of the N2 and west of the Bot River. The core area stretches from Steenbras River over the undeveloped land in the mountains and includes the Palmiet River mouth and the sea reserve at Betty's Bay. Here, only activities that do not affect the environment, like hiking, birdwatching and scuba diving are allowed. The buffer zone includes the coastal and marine area from Steenbras to the Bot River mouth and all the smallholdings. Here, restricted farming, fishing and diving can be allowed. The actual towns are included in the transition zone of the reserve and the inhabitants are expected to co-operate in seeing that any development blends in with the environment and is, as far as possible, ecologically friendly.

How this is to be done is not prescribed by any rules as biospheres depend on the co-operation of everyone in the surrounding areas. The homeowners, through their ratepayers' associations and councils, are to decide what must be done. Suggestions are that nature areas in the towns

must be developed and enlarged, that all common ground must be planted with local flora and that private gardeners should be urged to do the same, that the natural habitat of any animal life be preserved and that attention be paid to recycling of waste and saving of water. A problem for Rooiels will be the eradication of alien flora as the seeds of Australian acacias like Rooikrans can germinate for 50 and more years. So our children will still be hacking away!!

A conference of all role players in the biosphere is to be held in April and all ratepayers' associations, clubs and interest groups from the surrounding towns are urged to send representatives. They are to draw up guidelines as to how the reserve is to be managed, what areas are to be preserved and what activities will be allowed where, so it is important that all viewpoints are heard. RERA will be sending representatives - if you have any good ideas or feel strongly about a matter, let them know.

As we are now 'on the map' we can be expecting more eco-tourists, especially botanists, and many research projects will be launched in our area. Property owners will be sent pamphlets and other literature about the conference and other matters.

Our community, as a township surrounded by a reserve, has been given the unique opportunity of showing how residential areas need not spoil the landscape. We must decide what picture we want to present to the tourist coming around the bend and seeing the town against the backdrop of sea and mountain. Do we want neat lawns surrounded by fibre-cement walls? Huge double-

Publieke Vraelys

ROOIELS MARIENE RESERVAAT: HOEKOM EN WAAR?

Dr Colin Atwood se navorsing dui aan dat slegs 10% van ons seebronne oor is in vergeleke met 100 jaar gelede.

Die beste oplossing is klein PERMANENTE mariene reservate. Hy stel voor dat daar een in die Rooiels - Pringlebaai area geproklameer word. Hy sê dit maak nie saak presies waar by Rooiels of Pringlebaai nie. Die doel is vir die bankvis, aas en perlemoen om te herstel. Daar mag dus NIKS uit die see gehaal word in die gebied tot een seemyl diep.

Ons wil weet wat julle voel, ondersteun of voorstel. Duikers, hengelaars, vissermanne met bote, en ouers wie se kinders duik, word spesifiek geraak deur die besluit. Rooiels is egter redelik gestroop van perlemoen. Aan die ander kant het ons heeltemal te veel kreef wat perlemoentjies opvreet en klaar al die seekastaings waaronder die perlemoen wegkruip opgevrete het.

KIES ASSEBLIEF EEN VAN DIE VOLGENDE VIER OPSIES EN POS DIT AAN:

REBV Aandag Evette Weyers
Posbus 89
Bettysbaai 7141

1. Die hele Rooiels as reservaat van die riviermonding tot by die kleinhoewes
2. Geen reservaat in hierdie gebied nie.
3. 'n Deel van Rooiels as reservaat: van Gwanopunt (voor erf 254, Aldie Brink se huis) tot by Pringlebaai.
4. 'n Ander voorstel: spesifiseer asseblief

.....
.....

Naam:
Erfnommer :

Is jy 'n duiker/ hengelaar/ belangstellende/booteienaar?

.....

PUBLIC SURVEY

ROOIELS MARINE RESERVE; WHY AND WHERE

Dr. Colin Atwood's report on our sea life says only 10% of what used to be here remains. The solution is small PERMANENT marine reserves along the coast. He suggests one in the Rooiels Pringle Bay area. The objective is to allow all the reef fish, perlemoen, etc to recover thus NOTHING MAY BE REMOVED OUT OF THE SEA IN this area AS FAR AS ONE SEA MILE from the shore.

Rooiels has been sorely depleted of perlemoen. On the other hand we have too many crayfish that are eating the small perlemoen and have already eaten all the sea urchins under which the small perlemoen hide.

Anglers, divers, parents with children that dive and fishermen with boats will be affected by this marine reserve. We need your input on the options.

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE OPTIONS AND SEND IT TO:

RERA: Attention Evette Weyers
PO Box 89
Beety's Bay 7141

1. THE WHOLE OF ROOIELS A RESERVE, FROM THE RIVER
TO THE SMALLHOLDINGS.

2. NO RESERVE IN ROOIELS

3. PART OF ROOIELS AS A RESERVE. FROM THE GUANO
ROCKS POINT (in front of Aldie Brink's house) ALL THE WAY TO
PRINGLE BAY.

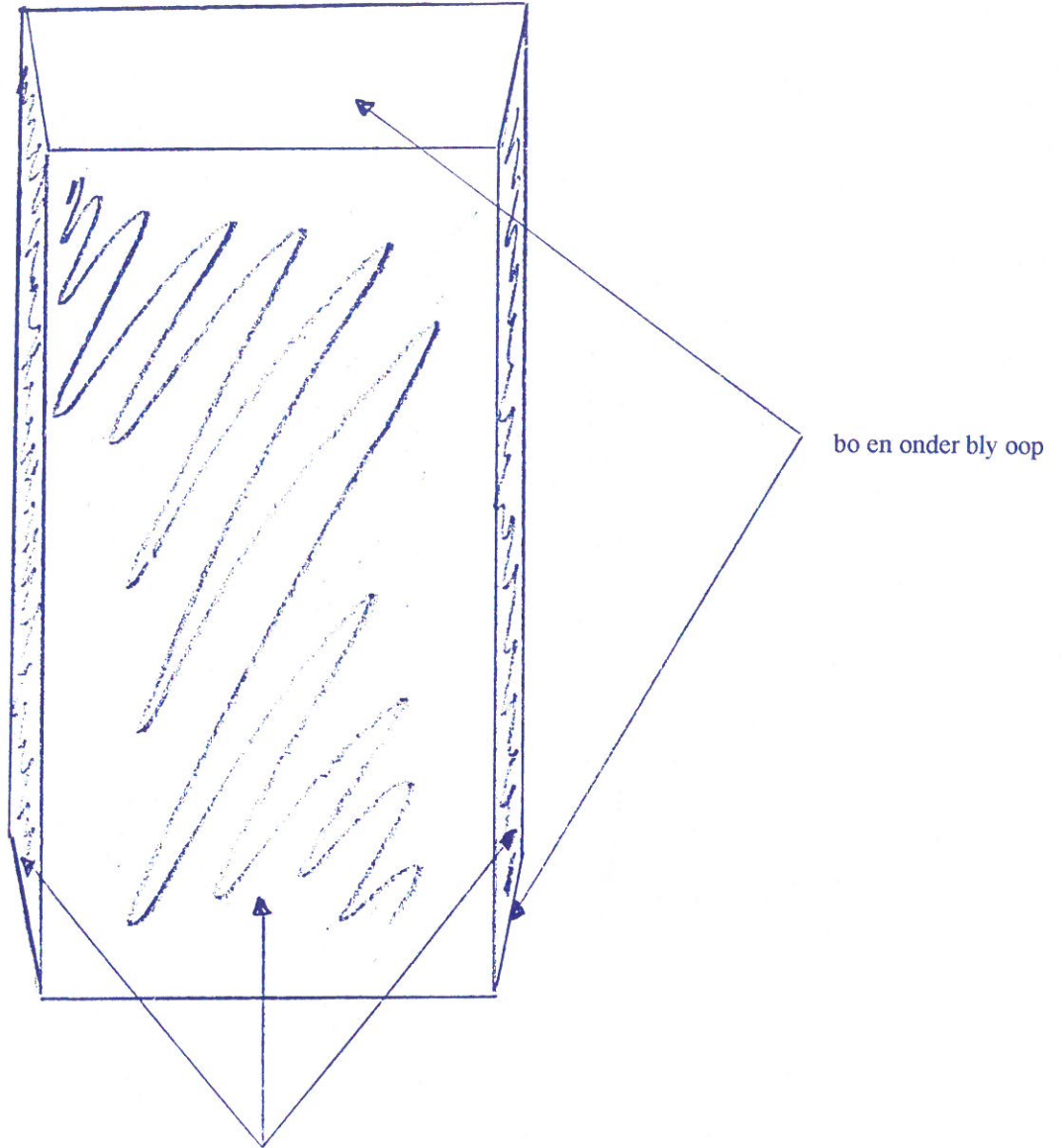
4. ANOTHER OPTION. SPECIFY.

.....
.....
.....

Are you a diver/ angler/interested party/boat owner?

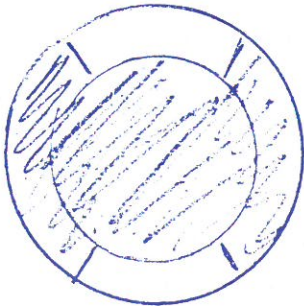
.....

'n Maklike manier om die lig wat vorentoe en sywaarts skyn, uit te sny terwyl die lig ondertoe, waar dit benodig word, behou word



voor en kante met foelie gevoer of met PVA verf geverf

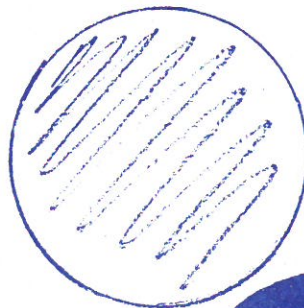
vooraansig van ronde lig



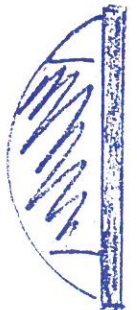
syaansig



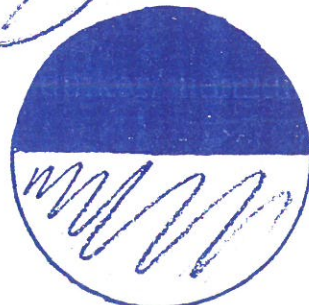
vooraansig van ronde lig



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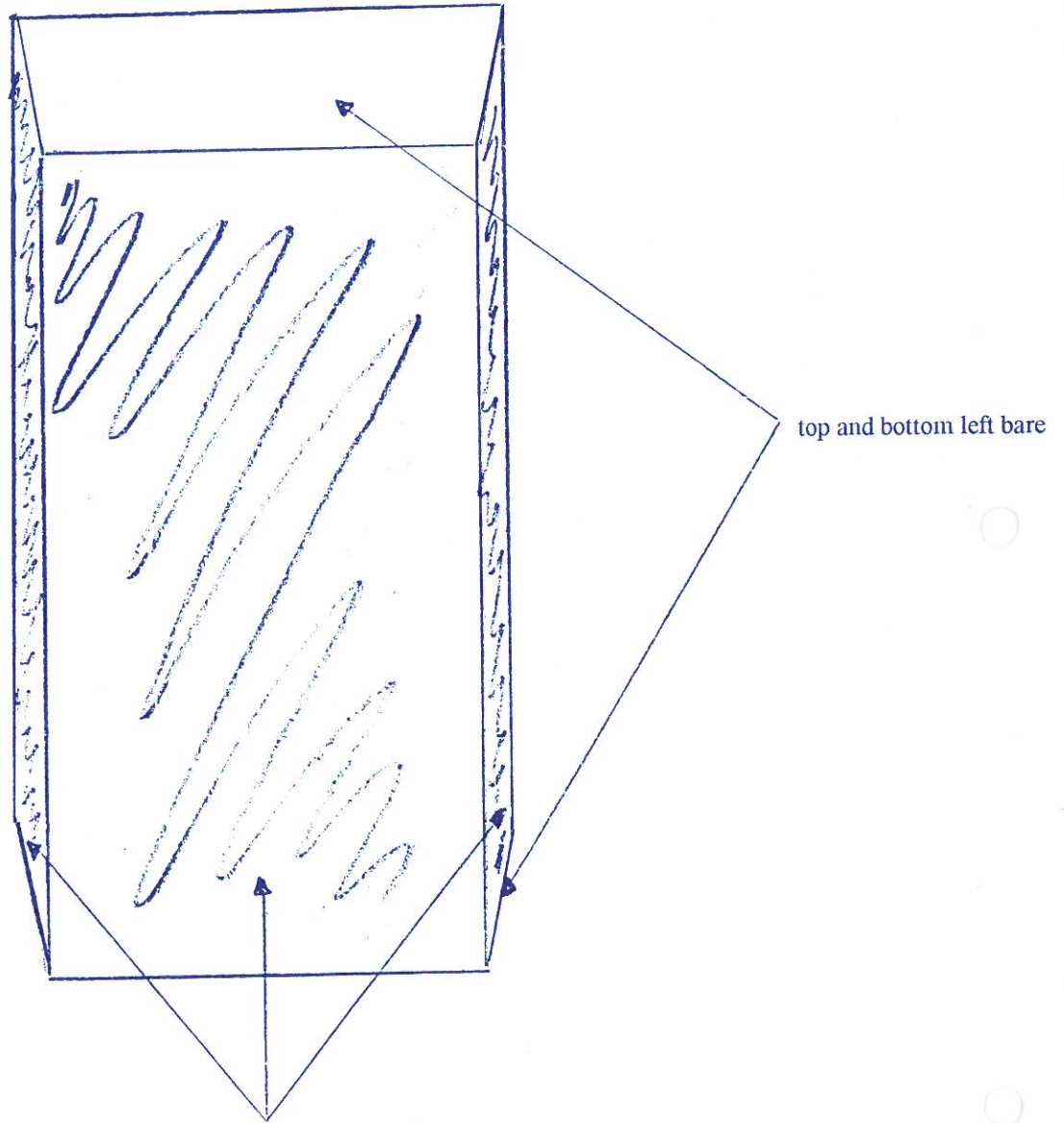


+



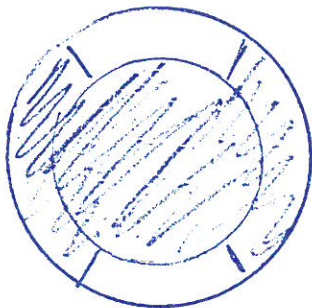
= oppervlakte wat bedek/geverf/gevoer word

An easy way to cut down on light projected frontwards and sideways from outside lights while maintaining light downwards which is where we need it



front and sides lined with tinfoil or painted with PVA paint

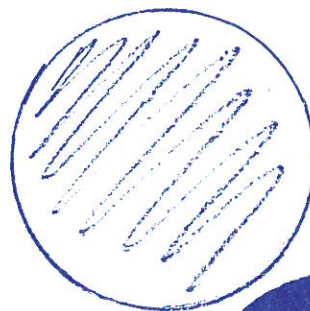
front view of round light



side view



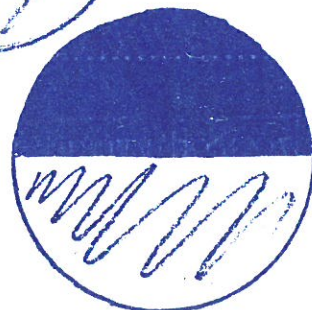
front view of round light



side view



= area to be covered/painted/lined



storeyed houses and tarred streets? Guest-houses, hotels and motorbikes? Bulldozed sections of the mountain?

A biosphere is there to protect the diversity of life on earth but also for the recreation and enjoyment of people – not only for our generation, but that of our children and grandchildren. We are living inside a reserve – many people envy us. Get to know the plants and animals of the area. Take part in preserving the sealife. Go for walks in the reserve – there are many hiking trails to suit all degrees of fitness and everyone can enjoy the scenery and beautiful flora. The area is also home to an astonishing number of animals that are frequently seen – frogs, dassies, buck and many birds. On a walk to the caves recently we saw the fresh spoor of a leopard in the wet sand! Ring Oudebosch 028 272 29425 for a map of all the trails and for a permit .

Rita Blake

DIE LUILEKKER LEWE VAN 'N DASSIE

Het jy geweet dat 'n dassie (*Procapia capensis*) net sowat 'n uur lank op 'n dag wei en die res van die dag in die son sit? Sowaar 'n benydenswaardige lewe! Hierdié veraf familielid van die olifant, kom nog redelik algemeen voor op Rooiels. Hulle verspreidingsgebied strek dwarsoor Afrika tot in die Midde Ooste. Hulle woon saam in kolonies tussen rotse en kom vroeg soggens en laatmiddag uit om vinnig saam te eet. Hulle het 'n paar groot voortande op die bokaak en twee paar op die onderkaak . Die kiestande word gebruik om mee te vreet terwyl

die voortande gebruik word om hulleself te verdedig en hulle pelse in stand te hou. 'n Dassie eet omtrent 50gm droë plantmateriaal per dag – twee maal meer as 'n koei per liggaams-gewig. Die maag is spesiaal aangepas vir die hoë sellulose dieet met 'n sakkie wat bakterieë bevat wat dan die sellulose deur fermentasie opbreek.

Dassies is nie afhanklik van 'n watervoorraad nie, maar drink dit as dit beskikbaar is. Hulle verkry al hulle vogbehoefes uit die blare wat hulle vreet. Dit is waarom hulle urine so gekonsentreerd is en die rotse langs hul blyplekke merk. Dit is interessant dat hulle 'latrines' gebruik wat gewoonlik onder oorhangende rotse is en dikwels duisende jare oud is. Argeoloë en klimatoloë kan deur ontleding van hulle faeces bepaal watter plante op 'n sekere tyd as kos beskikbaar was en wat die klimaatstoestande toe was.

Na 'n dratyd van sewe maande , gee die ma-dassie geboorte aan 2-4 kleintjies wat reeds kort na geboorte rats teen die rotse kan opklim. As 'n mens by die rotse verbyloop hoor jy soms die skerp blaf van die brandwag wat almal laat wegspaander. Die blaf word gebruik om die kolonie teen dreigende gevaar te waarsku. Hulle maak ook ander geluide soos grom, huil en kwetter.

Dassies is die geliefkose prooi van die luiperds en arende. Op Rooiels het hulle getalle baie afgeneem as gevolg van 'n nuwe vyand - honde. Hou asseblief honde weg van die rotse, veral in September/Okttober as die kleintjies gebore word. Ons kan almal help om dié ou inwoners van Rooiels te bewaar.

Rita Blake

Meet Basil Moss RERA Exco: Security, Roads & Fire Control

Basil Moss was born on the Wirral in Cheshire, in 1936 and attended St Columbus College in Ireland. When he had completed his schooling, he came to help run the family farm in Firgrove. In July 1998, after 44 years on the farm, he retired from farming and is living in Rooiels and Somerset West. He is married to Elisabeth.

His Vision is to keep Rooiels rural , unspoilt and safe for all who live there permanently or on holiday

Basil reports the following:

- * An onsite meeting was held recently with the roads engineer and the traffic department. The problem of speeding on Clarence Drive and the roads in Rooiels will hopefully be addressed in part before Easter. I will be attending a meeting on this subject in Kleinmond on 24 February.
- * A radio link to a 24 hr monitoring company will be investigated, if feasible this will be of immense value to permanent residents, and will be discussed at a later date. N.B.: This does not affect any existing security system. According to the Municipality there does not seem to be a problem in this regard, but I will be attending the Police Forum meeting in Kleinmond on 1 March 1999.
- * A very adequate fire plan is in place, but some plots are a real fire hazard. Remember the Betty's Bay fire , and the melted plastic gutters and some destroyed houses. Keep inflammable vegetation clear of houses. Fire extinguishers and a good hosepipe left outside are good insurance - and let's hope, not needed.

During the holiday a fatal accident took place on the R44 in Rooiels. Two people died. How long are we still going to wait for action from the authorities to implement speed calming measures?

Vakansietyd in Rooiels

- Die strand is vol honde
- Buiteligte brand deurnaglank
- Die strate word renbane
- Die wind waai
- Die bure se geraas maak jou mal
- Bobbejane verpes jou lewe
- Die branders is dumpers
- Marius & Friend se kaartjies is uitverkoop
- Fietse en stootwaentjies in die Natuurtuin
- Kinders wil nie skrik vir die spoke nie
- Die L'Algulhas-wedvaart word weggewaai
- Onthaalstres
- Amperse drenkelinge
- 'n Hamerboor wat nog om 19:00 op oukersaand geraas het
- Noodlottige ongeluk
- Later is die hele dorp vol honde
- Stropers
- Stopstrate word geïgnoreer
- Boer in die Mall

Wat doen ons dan vir ontspanning?

- Kuier
- Eet kreef
- Lees die Geskiedenis van Rooiels
- Bewonder die blomme in die Natuurtuin
- Besoek die grotte saam met Rita
- Kuier saam met almal by die Skemer-Kersmark
- Geniet die maan en sterre
- Stap, swem, duik, ry branders
- Werk op die bure se senuwees

Hacks

When I run out of ideas on motivating people to remove rooi-krans, then I can look out of the window at the nature reserve and see about 240 good reasons for these hacking actions. By Tony Hall's calculation, that is the number of species present just in the reserve.

If Rita Blake could have illustrated her history of the area with photographs taken in the time of the cave dwellers and the days before the road was built, I am absolutely sure that not one rooi-krans would have featured. I am also sure that it was not a sandy wasteland either.

If you are convinced that no other tree can make it here, do visit the Merediths, the Wageners or Charl du Toit to see really beautiful trees, big enough to provide shade and shelter from the wind and every one of them indigenous. But, start this year - if you don't, in another ten years you might still be saying that you don't have a replacement for your rooikrans.

If we love this place and if we truly believe that it is special, let's put our money where our mouths are and join the hack group (or simply hack on our own properties) and start making a real difference and create the kind of heritage the next generation will find in such short supply - a heritage worthy of a community which is known for its green heart.

Hacks will take place on the following dates:

3 April

1 May

5 June

Please don't forget to return your rosters to PO Box 89, Betty's Bay, 7141 for planning purposes.

Enjoy your hacking!
Anuta Scholtz

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO CRAIG SPENCER FOR THE TREMENDOUS EFFORT HE AND HIS TEAM OF TRAINEE ALIEN CLEARERS PUT INTO CLEANING UP SOME OF THE WORST SPOTS IN ROOIELS!!

Craig and his team cleaned up the huge forests in upper Rooiels, below Clarence Drive and on the dune area in front of erf 105. Here he planted dry, seedless branches in the sand to stabilise the sand and on three occasions returned to find that someone in Rooiels had removed them. Please - leave these branches in place and support the attempt to re-establish the dunes. Find an alternative route to the beach if these branches are in your way. A little inconvenience will be well worth it in the long run. Without stabilisation, we are headed for further degradation which will lead to shifting dunes.

For a reasonable quote and a thorough job of clearing your rooikrans, contact:

Dalene and Marais Nel Betty's Bay Garden Services PO Box 61 Betty's Bay 7141

**Tel: (028) 271-4940
Cell: 083 655 7335
Fax: (028) 271-4823**

REMEMBER!/ONTHOU!

Please let us know in writing your views and ideas on:

1. The proposed Marine Reserve
2. Security
3. Amendments to the Vision for Rooiels

The Story of Blossom

Historically absent in the South Western Cape, but now introduced here, "Blossom", a leopard tortoise, wandered into our lives just after New Year. A large specimen, she measured 400mm x 300mm x 200mm and was on a very determined walkabout in Reggia Road. For

fear of interference, we had already stopped some 'visitors' from playing with her, we removed her to Dieudonne where she promptly devoured 2 lettuce and part of a melon while we set about tracing her history, as they are not endemic to our area with humans and their surroundings. For the next 36 hours she remained happily in the garage venturing into the garden where she helped mow the lawn. After several phone calls we discovered that she had been kept as a pet in Kleinmond for a number of years before Nature Conservation removed her as she wasn't being cared for properly. There appears to be several 'explanations' as to how she wound up in Rooiels, none of which have been fully substantiated but she made her own way here somewhere along the line.

Craig Spencer contacted the nature conservation officer at Sea Farm who is running a tortoise project (many were incinerated during the horrific November 1997 fire). He came along to fetch her and filled us in on her history. (She has a stripe of green paint on the rear of her carapace). History aside, she obviously valued her freedom as she 'ran off' and the man from Sea Farm went home empty-handed! She reappeared two days later and demolished a lettuce and we contacted Mr Clausen of Woodpeckers small holding who contacted Mark Johns, Senior Conservation Officer, who in turn sent a junior to collect her. She 'ran off' again!! This time only as far as Erf 133, whose residents had watched all the proceedings with great interest. Third time lucky (?) she was collected and taken by Nature Conservation to the Kogelberg Reserve and joined a second leopard tortoise also removed from a house in Kleinmond. There appears to be

a third tortoise on the run somewhere between here and Kleinmond and once he has been apprehended all three will go 'home' to a reserve in the Robertson area where they are endemic.

Alison Ayre

Roads

Members of the RERA Exco met Messrs Mike Bartman, Chief Town Engineer and Rory Price, Chief Traffic Officer on 1 February to discuss speed calming matters in Rooiels.

The following options were raised:

- a traffic circle at the intersection of Anenome & Gnidia Roads
- an experimental speed choker in Harveya Road

In 'n Fynbostuin: Dawid en Goliat

Op 'n snikhete dag in Desember het ons die muishondjies op die erf so hoor skree soos jy dit nie eens in paartyd hoor nie. Daar was niks te sien vanuit die huis wat hoog sit bokant 'n laaggewaaide toe bossieveld nie - als gebeur onder die bossies.

Twee uur later merk ons kuiergas op dat die droë hymanthusblaar nie 'n blaar is nie. Op 'n oop kolle-tjie kyk 'n muishondjie en 'n koperkapel mekaar in die oë. Sy naam is nie verniet vir baie mense bakkop nie. Die meterlange slang draai daardie palbreedte gepofde kop al in die rondte terwyl hy mik-mik, maar net op een plek bly. Die muishondjie hou al agter die bossies in, maar bly om die slang beweeg. Toe die slang toeslaan, dag ek dis verby. Maar

hier spring die muishondjie weer uit!

Die konfrontasie het so 'n kwartier geduur, waarna die muishondjie - dit was 'n wyfie - die stryd gewon-ne gegee het, sekerlik weens die digte plantegroei.

Direk hierna het die mannetjie en 'n jong muishondjie van die 1997-werpsel, nuuskierig verskyn en weer verdwyn. Later die middag het die mannetjie op 'n hoë rots in die omgewing van die voorval op sy agterpote gaan staan en sy gebied afbaken en dit onderskryf net daarna met nog 'n harde skree op die heel laagste rots.

Twee dae later merk ek die wyfie reg teen die huis: bo-op 'n rhus-struik van so 'n meter. Sy hang-sit bo-in en snuif al in die rondte. Die mannetjie kom herhaal die ge-snuifery terwyl hy kort-kort insak en dan weer snuif. Na 'n rukkie is die jong muishondjie ook daar en sy ruik aan die suurvye en die tarconamthus. Die gedrag het ons nog nooit in 20 jaar gesien nie. Toe val dit my by: by een van Christiaan Malan se wonderlike veldpraatjies by Harold Porter het ons geleer dat as die taaibos ('n rhus) se bessie ryp is, gaan vroetel jy nie daar nie. Daar lê die kapel die voëltjies voor.

Dat ons erf redelik slangvry is, skryf ons toe aan 'n konstante teenwoordigheid van 'n muishondgesin. Dis oorbekend dat slange tweede beste daarvan afkom as 'n muishondjie en 'n slang 'n onderonsie het.

Louise du Toit

(Die ou Rooielsers sal onthou dat daar so 12-13 jaar gelede 'n geweldige toeloop van pofadders in die dorp was. By navraag het dit geblyk dat die muishonde aan die uitsterf was agv. 'n soort brandsiek

omdat hulle te ryk kos by ons huise aas. Gelukkig is die balans weer herstel. Red.)

Waste Management

I am happy to inform those faraway friends of Rooiels that the recycling igloos for which I begged funds last year were ordered and delivered, but not yet paid for. (We do have the money for them.) I guess that I should now beg for the approximately R3 700 for a paper bank. Yes, if each ratepayer donates only R18, the money would suffice, but some would forget and some maybe ignore the request, so I kindly ask for a more generous donation from those who read this paragraph and are sympathetic towards the cause. Please make the cheque out to RERA (Recycling) and thank you for your support in keeping our village clean, and at the same time alleviating the refuse problem in a much wider context.

The wooden structures for the refuse bins are in desperate need of maintenance, and I have again reminded the municipality of their written undertaking in this regard and will continue doing so until it has been done to our satisfaction. The wind has been raging again and from the highways a sad sight meets the eye: plastic bags fluttering in the trees and fynbos, and in torn strips from the wire fences.

Are you recycling your bags? And have you gone to the supermarket lately with your basket? Think about it : your actions could be the beginning of something really great — a pollution revolution!

Good Luck

Lida van Dyk

Burgers van die Berge

Darwin het 'n punt beet gehad. Paleontologie lyk so stadigaan verstaanbaar. Eugene Marais het die deksel reg opgesit.

Ek verwys na my verskillende ervaringe met *Papio ursinus*, of alom bemind/berug as bobbejaan, op Rooiels. Lanklaas is soveel primitiewe emosies en gedrag by my ontlok soos onlangs tydens 'n soveelste onderonsie met 'n burger. Ek het lankal aanvaar dat bemorste stoepe, stukkende geute, gebuigde lugrade en die onverklaarbare verdwyning van brood en vrugte, 'n normale lewenswyse op Rooiels is. Selfs hard voor geswoegde kreef uit die kreefnut!

Ek het aanvanklik goed gekompenseer met geluide, aggressiewe gedrag wat my vrou as primitief beskou het, maar wat ek as territoriaal noodsaaklik geag het. Maar Kees het gou deur my gekyk en besef hierdie is Hollywood bravade; gevolglik is my persoonlike ruimte van vooraf bedreig. Met plan B is 'n permanente voorraad klippe byderhand gehou en oorwinning was soet vir 'n wyle. Dis merkwaardig hoe my reikwydte, met 'n ou tennisskouer, gou gelees is, en hoe min daar met respek op die regte radius gewag is vir 'n oomblik van inattensie vir 'n "appelgrypkansie". Ek beindruk myself toe met plan C, en Derde Wêreld-tegnologie realiseer in die vorm van 'n kettie. Oorwinning was soet met 'n sweempie van venyn, maar helaas, instandhouding van hierdie tegnologie het my vermoëns oorskry. Die veelbesproke, en misbruikte!, "V-sign" werk ook nie meer so goed nie en ek sien hoe my teken uit daardie skelm ogies reflekteer. Dit laat mens dink...

My beskaafde voorkoms en my Darwinse oorsprong bots toe lynreg tydens my laaste onderonsie. Ek was salig in die stort toe ek 'n kabaal hoor, gevolg deur 'n benoude, vroulike "shjooe! voertsek!" en uiteindelik die bekende "Liefie kom help!"

Met 'n klein handoek, min of meer oor die regte plekke, storm ek uit en vind 'n benoude vrou en kind, in 'n deurmekaar kamer met burger Alpha (die groot mannetjie), wat rustig teen die skuifdeur skuur, prewelgeluidjies maak en listig met skelm ogies in die rigting van my vrou loer! (Ek het later gehoor die vrugtebak was langs haar) Iets het in my gebreek en ek storm 'ta kaalvuus agterna die bosse in. Hoe dit ookal sy, burger Alpha het abnormale vaart en afstand gehandhaaf en was sover nog nie weer naby ons nie. My manlike ego lei natuurlik af, dat die betrokke burger iets met die hulp van die klein handoek en wind gesien het wat die "territorial imperative" met die nodige respek herstel het!

Ek hoop dit was nou die "coup de grace", want ek het nie 'n plan D nie. Ek sal mede-inwoners se raad waardeer.

Die Suidwester

(Is daar ander bobbejaanstories? Red.)

Environmental Controls at Construction Sites

Rooiels het veral die laaste tyd sleg deurgeloopt onder onsensitiewe boukontrakteurs wat die omgewing verwoes en besoedel het. Streng beheermaatreëls is nou in 'n munisipale regulasie vervat. Enkele word vir u uitgelig:

- * Construction sites shall be fenced off with mesh fencing (minimum height of 1,8m), or hazard tape, with no activities of any nature taking place beyond fenced areas.
- * Where construction sites are situated on slopes, adequate boarding (minimum of 1000mm high) is to be installed on the site perimeter to prevent building/excavated materials slipping off site.

- * All trees, shrubs, rocks and outcrops outside the demarcated construction and those specifically identified within the construction site may not be damaged or defaced in any way. Clearing or pruning of vegetation may only be carried out under the guidance of the Council's ECO.
- * All fill material imported into the area shall be free of weeds, invasive plant seeds...
- * All topsoil removed from the site must be stockpiled separately.
- * All building material must be stockpiled and adequately contained within an approved area.
- * Construction crews may not overnight in the area without written permission.

Indien u bewus raak van enige oortredings, kan u die bou-inspekteur, mnr Nel by 028 272 9263 skakel. 'n Volledige afskrif kan by die Munisipaliteit bekom word.

Dunes

At 10:00 on 1 February, Craig Spencer and Ral Meredith met to inspect the dune status and to recommend appropriate action:

(1) A path from the vicinity of the "Owl and Pussycat" entrance to the beach below has over many years been used by bait collectors who pump sand prawns. This has resulted in erosion. As it would be impracticable to prevent access at this point, it was agreed that poles be driven into the sand on either side of the path and cross poles be installed as steps. (Hereafter this is referred to as the 'pole system'.)

(2) The dune near the river mouth:

The late Dr Scott had a photograph which was taken many decades ago showing this dune with a continuous growth of vegetation rising to the top of the dune on which houses have now been built. The erosion of this dune was so serious that up to about five years ago the last remaining crest of vegetation along the top of the dune was about to disappear. A very clear demonstration of how dune restoration can be achieved is now evident at this site. This was achieved by simply depositing branches over the affected area over 2 - 3 years. Not only has the sand now built up to the top of the dune, but vegetation in the form of dune grass, blombos and other plants has been established. Apart from the humification provided by the branches, these discourage entry by man. (Craig pointed out the spoor of a genet cat and water mongoose at this site.)

Similar action could be applied to a number of damaged areas which have resulted from access to the beach. It was agreed that diplomatic approaches could be made to house owners whose paths to the beach are causing erosion. The owners would make a great contribution by taking steps to restore eroded areas along their pathways. The 'pole system' can be deployed in most cases, but the depositing of branches will be necessary in addition in certain areas. The damaged areas mentioned in this paragraph are located from the river mouth all the way to the hotel site.

(3) The dunes opposite the hotel site have suffered serious erosion. The main path leading from the parking area nearest the 'hotel site' currently goes over the top of the dune. It is recommended that a 'pole system' path be rerouted to travel along the base of the

dune. The existing path can be closed for further use by packing branches over it. Craig has agreed to install this pole system and rails will be fitted to encourage people to stay on the path. Serious erosion in one area at this site will have to be heavily packed with branches.

It is recommended that a similar inspection be conducted every six months and a written report submitted by the dunes officer to the RERA.

Ral Meredith

Seawatch : Seewag

SEEWAG het 'n besige paar maande agter die blad. Die aanslag van professionele stropers op die mariene reservaat in Bettysbaai het toegeneem. Gelukkig het ons vaardigheid ook toegeneem en ons het heelwat stropers gevang, meer as dubbeld so veel perlemoen gekonfiskeer en steeds beter en beter same-werking met die polisie geniet. Kaptein Hoply staan bankvas agter ons.

Ek het 3 werkswinkels op Rooiels gehou wat goed bygewoon is. Op een het ons agt groot perle-moene ontdek wat iemand in die vlakwater geplaas het. Hulle was hoog en droog met laagwater en ons kon hulle gelukkig red. Ek het 'n paar van die jong Rooielsers op 'n duik uitstappie geneem. Die weer het egter nie mooi saam-gespeel nie en die see was baie koud. Almal wou dit egter herhaal en ons sal dit weer doen. Gedurende die Paasvakansie sal ek weg



wees en Ernst, wat mariene biologie bestudeer, het ingewillig om 'n werkwinkel te hou. Hy ken die see baie goed.

SEEWAG het die MAZDA WILDLIFE -bakkie gewen, d.w.s. ons het die gebruik van die bakkie vir 'n jaar. Ons borg tans vir Johan Erasmus wat voltyds as wetstoepassings beampte werk en BAIE suksesvol is in die vastrek van stropers. Hy sal die bakkie gebruik. Hy is tydens sy diensplig in die leer. Dit kom hom nou goed te pas.

Op 27 Feb. kom vertel Neville Sweijd ons of dit moontlik is om perlemoen te red. Hy het pas sy doktersgraad daarvoor voltooi.

AS JULLE MEER WIL WEET VAN SEEWAG OF AKTIEF WIL DEELNEEM, SKAKEL MIKE BY 083 212 5652 of 083 212 2252

Vakansie : Holiday

Met vakansie wil mens speel, pret maak, ontspan en bekend raak met die plaaslike produk en ek is telkens weer verbaas oor die oorfloed van geleenthede wat hierdie plekkie van ons met sy aardse skoonheid, en talentvolle mense bied vir onvergeetlike vakansies. Selfs die ruk-en-pluk van die elemente en die impromptu kuiertjies van die bergbewoners, soos Rita Blake hulle noem, dra daartoe by, alhoewel soms slegs by terugblik. Dis amper asof mens en dier en natuur

hier saamwerk om alle instinkte aan te spreek en sodoende die gestel te ontspan en die goddelike bewussyn te verskerp.

'n Vriendin vertel toe sy jare gelede vir die eerste keer 'n jaarvergadering op Rooiels bygewoon het, kom sy by die huis en die kinders vra uit oor die vergadering en Hettie sê: Al wat ek weet is dat ons dringend iets sal moet vind waaroor ons kan begeesterd raak want op hierdie plek is almal begeesterd oor iets: dis of oor 'n klip, of 'n blom, 'n skulp of 'n vis, een of ander dier, die behoud van 'n plant of die uitkap daarvan.

IS SO! Ek het nog selde soveel entoesiasme ervaar om dinge te laat werk en wil wegval met 'n dankie aan almal wat hulle talente en energie ingespan het met die aanbod van die vakansieprogram:

Werner en Joan Mödinger wat Bonny Banks beskikbaar gestel het vir die skemermark. Mens en produk het harmonieus gevloei met die uitleg van die gesellige huis. die stalletjies aantreklik en ongewoon. Stel jou voor: 'n vet 1 L maat bottel vol van David se smullekker fudge vir slegs R35.

Hettie Claassen wat bruggroepe by haar huis saamgetrek het; Evette Weyers vir die insiggewende seewerkswinkels vir groot en klein; Gail Voigt wat die sandbeeldhou kompetisie georganiseer het - daar was uitblinkers, maar elke

deelnemer het 'n prys gewen! Herbert Voigt, organiseerder van die bergfietsuitstappie na Pringlebaai. Gail was weereens daarvoor verantwoordelik dat elke deelnemer 'n prys verdien het! (en Herbert het seker betaal) Die van der Westhuizen en Voigt kinders vir leiding gee by die vlugbal; Rita Blake en Werner Mödinger vir die interessante geskiedkundige uitstappies na die grotte in die kloof. (Rita brei uit oor die grotte in haar boek oor die geskiedenis van Rooiels) En julle sal verras wees om te verneem dat 'n luiperdspoor op die eerste stappie gevind is en nou in Gerard se foto-album pryk.

Tony en Grizelda Hall wat gashere was vir die vrystelling van Rita se boek op 18 Desember. Dit het saamgeval met die opening van 'n uitstalling van Suid-Afrikaanse kunstenaars, o.a. ons eie Evette Weyers se besondere beelde en Ardmores Ceramics se prettige en kleurvolle teepotte, melkbekers ens. Eneth Kruger het verras met heerlike versnaperinge en twee wynmakers van Bettysbaai het wyn geskenk. Almal was daar. dankie Eneth. dankie Gerard.

Marius en Vriend se program was so gewild dat die Sea Horse sy nate moes rek vir 'n tweede vertoning en Marius en Vriend het alle verwagtinge oortref. Dankie Marius, dankie Gerard.

And thank you:
Grizelda and Anthony Hall for

hosting the art exhibition, it was such a charming affair; Anthony for his dynamic sharing of the mysteries of our fynbos reserve; Michael, for allowing us to use your place as the eerie destination of the midnight walk - our kids were however not fooled by the spooks, and one little girl even recognised the sandals of one of the spooks as Gerard's. Thanks Anuta for organising this fun event. Diarmuid Baigrie and other boat club members who took us to sea and made us haul crayfish for the pot. It was great fun!! Charlie was my charming "captain", at the helm. Thanks again Charlie

And thank you to all the wonderful people who participated so enthusiastically in the holiday events. Your enjoyment motivated the organisers' decision for a repeat performance this year ! And maybe we will have more luck this time with the kite demonstration and birdwatching.

I wish you good health, and good luck !

lida van dyk

Who is Rita Blake?

Rita was born in the mountains of the Eastern Cape and at 8 went unwillingly to boarding school - to be put in std 2. So outdoor life and the mountains have always been very important to her. In 1981 they bought the

house at Rooiels to be able to get out of the city with the children and through the years have learnt to love it. Last year she finally decided that teaching teenage boys English, literature and grammar was no longer for her. She hoped to have more time to spend on the things that interest her - like fynbos and history.

(It was with regret that we learned that Rita & Sidney are moving to Mosselbay in May and that she is no longer able to serve on the Exco. Ed.)

OOR BELIGTERS EN BELIGTES

As 'n klompie Rooielsers bymekaar kom, gaan maak hulle tog uiteindelik 'n draai by die "goeie oue tyd". So gesels ons nou die aand weer oor die groot stryd oor die koms van elektrisiteit en 'n paar mense noem weer op wat ons alles prysgegee het die dag toe die ligte "aangeswitch" is.

Julia het die aand van die bekendstelling van Rita se boek gepraat oor die stadiger pas van die vakansies in die voortyd - iets wat ons prysgegee het. Nou kan ons TV kyk, musiek speel, op ons rekenaars werk, skottelgoedwassers aanskakel, veiligheidsligte aanbring en daarmee ons lekker lees, stap, net sit en kyk, sterre kyk, rustig wees en kaartspeel met die kinders vervang met presies dit wat ons in elk geval by die huis kon gedoen het.

Maar, hierdie is nou nie 'n preek oor wat 'n vakansie behoort te wees of nie te wees nie - ek kom by my punt: **ligte**.

Ons ou dorpie begin nou ook al te lyk soos dit by die huis lyk - baie, helder ligte wat die wêreld belig en ons dalk meer tuis laat voel? Ek weet nie, ek wonder maar net.

Wat ek wel weet is dat ligte ander mense se genieting van hierdie mooie plek bederf. En daar is nie 'n enkele goeie rede vir hierdie ligte nie. Ons sekuriteitsituasie is nog glad nie van so 'n aard dat ons sekuriteitsligte of tydskakelaars moet aanbring nie; ons ontvang nie laat snags besoekers wat dalk nie die huis sal kry nie (motors het tog ligte, of hoe?); ons kan nie snags die uitsig geniet nie en daarom het ons nie nodig om die gordyne oop te hou as die ligte brand nie. En nou weet ek nie van meer motiverings vir steurende ligte nie.

Let us do something about it. Every Breeze for the past two years has addressed this problem and there has been little positive reaction as yet. This is an easily surmountable problem if the following guidelines are followed:

- * Use low wattage light bulbs, especially outside
- * Draw the curtains when lights are on at night
- * Switch off outside lights when not absolutely necessary
- * See to it that outside lights as well as inside lights which are visible from

outside, are shaded (see the sketches included for ideas)

- *If you have an outside light which is not seen from inside and you tend to forget to switch it off, remove the bulb
- *Inform your tenants, family and friends about light pollution

This goal is so easily attainable and the effort involved so little in comparison with the difference it will make to our quality of life here.

The RERA has been approached repeatedly to "do something" about light pollution, but this is not within the powers of this committee. The problem is referred back to the complainant to do something about making the transgressor aware of the problem. So, when you find a note under the door, please know that it was put there by someone who really cares and take note that your lights are offensive.

Let Rooiels maintain something of the good old days while enjoying the benefits of electricity. These goals can certainly exist alongside each other.

BIRD CHAT

During January our 'pet' Francolin (Fisante) produced four balls of fluff. The balls have grown into leggy adolescents who come to be hand-fed 2 or 3 times a day. We hear from southerly Rooielsers that the Black Eagles (Witkruisarende) have been active around both

the old and new nests. I'm personally extremely jealous of the sighting of Blue Cranes (Bloukraanvoël) on Rooiels beach. The Mödingers kindly phoned to inform us of their presence but we didn't get there in time. The group of South Africa's national bird, according to reports, appeared to be exhausted and were battling with the south-easter - what's new? The date and time suggests they were en route to the wheatlands alongside the N2 towards Caledon, where they are seen in large numbers, but were forced down by fatigue - a rare first. As it is still officially summer lets remain on the beach!

There is an increasing number of Kelp Gulls (Swartrugmeeue) and Hartlaubs Gulls (Hartlaubse Meeu) in Rooiels, for no obvious reason and the 'hotel site' boasts a varied selection of Terns. (Sterretjies). These busy birds spend their gregarious time fishing for small fry. There are also the main two varieties of Cormorants (Duikers) in the same area in considerable numbers. The endangered Oystercatchers (Swarttobies) are thankfully still very evident and our dozy White-fronted Sandpipers, (Vaalstrandkiewiets) in spite of every obstacle, continue to produce off-spring. A new bird on our list was a solitary Greenshank (Grootpootruiter). A non-breeding Palaearctic migrant, it was foraging in pools close to the 'hotel site'. The sun-seeking Egyptian Geese (Koligans) goslings have flown to pastures new and the adults have returned to the sanctuary of the lagoon. A pair of Blacksmith Plovers (Bontkiewiet) are becoming regular visitors to Rooiels with their distinctive call when alarmed.

Talking of alarm and moving away from our wind-blasted beach, a commotion among our resident sparrows (Huisbossies) in the garden provided us with a sighting of a female Black Sparrowhawk (Swartspewer). As sparrows rate as 'fast food' on the sparrowhawk's menu they had good reason to be alarmed! It was not the first time we'd seen the female, as her usual area is the kloof, but certainly the first so far into Rooiels. It has also been pleasing to see a Black-shouldered Kite (Blouvalk) again in Rooiels. Once a common sight it has become an infrequent visitor for some reason. However the resident Kestrels (Kransvalk) are omnipresent, so too are the unwelcome Whitenecked Ravens (Withalskraai). The Bokmakierie have retreated to the mountain and less populated areas of Rooiels. Orange-breasted Sunbirds (Oranjeborssuikerbekkie) have begun to venture further into the southern areas of Rooiels as have the Rockjumpers (Berglyster). Remember we're always glad to hear about your sightings, especially unusual ones. Phone us on 273 8528.
Happy Birding!
Alison Ayre

CHANGES!!!

Gerard en Anuta Scholtz gaan vir 7 maande fietsry in Europa. Die volgende persone neem hulle portefeuljes oor:

Hacks: Werner en Joan Mödinger

Bries: Eneth Kruger

Finansie: Leo Kemmink

Rita Blake verhuis na Mosselbaai. Mike Miller neem die Natuurbewaringsportefeulje oor by haar.