

A dramatic sunset over a rocky coastline. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds at the top, transitioning to lighter, wispy clouds. A vibrant orange and red glow from the setting sun stretches across the horizon. Below the horizon, the dark silhouettes of jagged rocks are visible against the sea.

Bries · Breeze

Easter 2008

Photo gallery

Breeze would like to feature every Rooi-Elser who captures this remarkable village with his/her camera. If you have some images you would like to share, contact Paul on 028 273 8041 to discuss how we might show your pictures to the best effect. To get us kicked-off, some pictures from Jacques Smit.

The inside back cover photo collection is from Bruce Relly.





Redaksioneel/Editorial

The editorial staff takes pleasure in presenting this edition: Celebrating Life in Rooi-Els.

First and foremost, on behalf of all our readers of The Breeze, we would like to convey our sincere thanks and appreciation to the former editor, Estelle Raymond, for five years of good and stimulating reading with an undertone of deep philosophical thought.

Estelle, ons wens jou die volgende Griekwas seën wens toe: Mag die jirre jouse binneste roer en mag suffel goedheid jou siet lat jy eintlik loop skaamkry oor allie genade. Baie dankie aan jou.

Die Bries is die mondstuk van die Rooi-Els Belastingbetalersvereniging, Bewarea en Bootklub, asook die Damesgroep. Hierdeur wil ons u ingelig hou met almal se doen en late. Terselfdertyd begin ons met 'n nuwe rubriek: Briewe aan die Redakteur, waardeur ons u wil aanmoedig om deel te neem aan hierdie proses om ons unieke en besondere dorp in vennootskap met mekaar te bevorder en te beskerm.

The Breeze is the mouthpiece of the Rooi-Els Ratepayers' Association, the Rooi-Els Conservancy, The Rooi-Els Boat Club as well as the Rooi-Els Ladies Group. The purpose of this publication is to keep you informed of all actions and activities. We are also starting a new column: Letters to the Editor, through which we encourage you to take part in a process of partnership in order to foster and protect each other.

Dankie,
Hettie Claassens

2008 RERA Exco Committee Members

(please contact them directly to raise your concerns):

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RERA Affairs/REBV Sake

The RERA constitution states that its goals are to promote the interests of the ratepayers of Rooi-Els, by keeping close contact with governing authorities and protecting the Rooi-Els Vision. Hence, keeping in mind the huge number of issues to be addressed annually that affect our Ratepayers, this year special emphasis will be placed on more regular communication and feedback.

Within the adopted philosophy of building community, RERA will embark on the creation of our own Web site to keep you more informed. Paul Perton will manage the website for us. We also intend reporting back in more detail on progress achieved in the Breeze.

Hou ook in gedagte dat gereelde verslae en konsepte oor die Geïntegreerde Ontwikkelingsplan en ander Overberg Munisipale Raadsake ook by die Bettiesbaai OM kantore ter insae is. 'n REBV terugvoer geleentheid word vir die winter in die vooruitsig gestel.

We also look forward to quarterly meetings with Rooi-Els Conservancy, Boat Club and Ladies Group. Another development is the formation of a sub-committee for the Breeze. We welcome Hettie Claassens as Editor and her team (see names elsewhere).

I have come to understand why Estelle Raymond refers to Rooi-Elsers as "people with a passion as fierce as the south-easter, with the vibrancy of the community to be found in our uniqueness and tenaciousness." Being a community of diverse views we should go on to share our views vigorously. Your RERA Exco has now set the stage for precisely that to happen. We would like to encourage two-way communication and would like to hear from all our Ratepayers.

An inclusive approach builds relationships and a sense of community. Remember, how we approach matters in this magical place depends on you and the choices you make. After all, what we have here is an oyster that belongs to all of us!

Therefore, considering the importance of the cause as expressed in the Rooi-Els Vision and the immensity of the challenge at hand, it means that we shall continue to put the interests of our Ratepayers first. Back copies of the Breeze sketch the course set by past RERA ExcOs – a course on which we would like to continue.

Sover werk inwoners goed saam om sake via die REBV te kanaliseer. Ek beroep my op diegene wat steeds 'n eie pad na ons Raadslid volg om ook maar daarby in te val. Alles kom weldra tog maar na ons terug, maar slegs nadat besige amptenare onnodig betrek is. Dit is amper dieselfde as die kwessie oor tweetaligheid.

U REBV uitvoerende komitee poog werklik om almal tevrede te stel, maar helaas is daar nie 'n eenvoudige oplossing nie. Verstaan dit ook, asseblief.

Kom ons herbesin almal oor ons houding teenoor Rooi-Els. Hoe ons ry (soms jaag), hoe ons kyk, hoe ons elkeen sy eie ding doen. Stap oor na jou buurman as iets jou hinder. Dit is net ons eie houdings wat 'n belemmering kan wees op die pad om ons visie ten uitvoer te bring.

Your RERA team has taken what was learned from 2007 to set the course for 2008. We look forward to your support.

If you have not yet renewed your membership subscription, please do so now. We have kept the annual membership fee at R60. This year we would like to see that both permanent and non-permanent residents join up in greater numbers so that we have a strong mandate when negotiating with the local authority.

Dankie vir die hernuwing van u lidmaatskap vir die jaar. U ondersteuning gee vir ons 'n sterk stem by die Overstrand owerhede sodat ons u belange kan bly bevorder.

Izak Smit

STOP THE PRESS! The new RERA Web site is now live (in beta/prototype form) at www.rera.co.za

Ons soek antwoorde! / We need answers!

Die Bries begin met 'n briewekolom waarin u vrae kan vra, wat aan die REBV-komitee, voorgelê word vir antwoorde. Stuur gerus u vrae aan die redakteur.

The Breeze has started a letter column in which questions can be put to the committee for answers. Please address letters to the Editor.

Geagte Redakteur

Graag wil ek die visie en vele bestuurslede van REBV bedank dat hul ons padreserwes telkemaal van uitwissing oor dekades gered het. Aangeheg is 'n brief wat ek in die Eikestad Nuus raakgelees het. Dit demonstreer die tragedie en onkundigheid betrokke met padreserwe bestuur in Stellenbosch. 'n Lot wat ons vrygespring het!

Dalk kan julle die brief plaas in 'n uitgawe van Die Bries. Ek glo dit sal help om die natuurlike flora genot en troos wat ons padreserwes is, te waardeer. En waardering is oorlewing.

Groete uit 'n vaal Stellenbosch.

*Die uwe
Arnoldus*

(Die Eikestad Nuus brief is te lank om te plaas. In kort, word daar in die brief gewys op die feit dat soveel plante op Stellenbosch al verdwyn het, behalwe op die padreserwes/sypaadjies waar hulle nog voorgekom het. Nou het hulle a.g.v. die munisipaliteit se skoonmaak beleid, ook verdwyn. Daar is ook onlangs skoongemaak aan 'n groot oop erf en vandaar die verwysing na 'n "vaal" Stellenbosch. Op Rooi-Els is ons al jare lank bewus van die belangrikheid van die padreserwes in ons bewaringsplan – danksy mense soos Jean Cowen en ander se visie. Red.)

Ek wil graag versoek dat spoedhobbels in Perspicualaan opgerig word. Die verkeer is oor naweke, en veral gedurende die kreefseisoene hier taamlik bedrywig.

Bogenoemde kan die veiligheid van kinders, besoekers en stappers met honde verseker.

D Esterhuyse

(Dankie. Ons is juis tans besig om, soos jaarliks, 'n lys op te stel van verlangde spoedwalle en sal sekerlik hierdie versoek byvoeg. Ons werk ook aan ander planne om spoed op paaie in die dorp te verminder. Red.)

In die laaste nuusbrieff van die munisipaliteit word daar melding gemaak van van die opgradering van die besigheidsdistrikte van ons buurdorpe, asook Rooi-Els. Ons het nog nie gehoor wat dit alles behels nie. Kan die volgende vrae asseblief beantwoord word:

Wat word vir Rooi-Els beplan?

Wie het almal insette in die beplanning?

Gaan daar openbare deelname wees, sodat individuele belastingbetalers en die eienaars van die besighede ook insette en kommentaar kan lewer?

Kan die munisipaliteit ons verseker van deursigtigheid met hierdie projek?

Jiffysak

Wel, dit was vir ons komitee ook 'n verrassing om te hoor en weet ons besigheidsdistrik gaan opgegradeer word. Die koste aan die verbeteringe word bewillig uit 'n nie-aangewende diskresionêre fonds van die Munisipaliteit. Lg. het aangedui dat hulle die grondparkeerareas by die winkels en restaurante met 'n permanente oppervlak gaan opgradeer. Aangesien dit ook die area voor die vullisstasie insluit, is versoek dat dié area afgeskerm word met 'n klipmuur. Vanweë die diskresionêre aard van die fondse is daar egter nie openbare deelname nie. Nietemin het ek persoonlik individue sowel as die besighede informeel genader oor hulle opinie om tog ons wense bekend te maak. Ek kan u verseker dat u komitee nie met die owerhede sal onderhandel as daar nie deursigtigheid is nie. Ons dring daarop aan. Trouens, ons kry uitstekende ondersteuning uit Kleinmond, wat belowe het om finale sketse vir kommentaar, vir wat dit mag werd wees, aan ons voor te lê. Izak

→p4

I realise that we can't really do much about speeding by day visitors to Rooi-Els, but I wonder whether there isn't a way to address the problem of property owners who continually exceed the speed limit in the village. These are people who know what the limit is and choose to ignore it. Do we have any formal channel through RERA by which these people can be approached to toe the line?

Nearly killed on a dust road.

(Let me start by saying that RERA has decided to maintain a list of registration numbers of cars which we feel are speeding and possibly publish this list in a future Breeze. Bruce Rely is the man to approach with this problem. Just provide him with the registration number. I can not divulge all the plans that we have to address this matter at this stage, but I can assure you (note elsewhere in this Breeze) that there are plans afoot to stop this behaviour in its tracks. The little I can say is that registration details on such a list will go through to traffic officials for initial action. This doesn't solve the problem of speeding day visitors, but we are working on a strategy to curtail speeding in general. Izak

▶ I'm actually afraid of speaking to neighbours about their light pollution – I don't want to cause bad vibes between us. Apparently I can get a form from the shop and complete it, but the shop is a public place and others would know it was I who submitted the complaint. It's a small town! Isn't there a way that the forms can be kept somewhere else where my complaint can be dealt with in complete confidence?

Stargazer

(Stargazer raises the question of light pollution which is a concern for a number of residents. So far ratepayers have chosen to phone me directly and I actually prefer it as I can then take immediate action by taking the report to the monthly Ward Meeting who then submits it to the relevant enforcement officer. The form at the shop is just a convenient way to report transgressions of by-laws on light pollution to RERA directly. Izak)

▶ How can we not celebrate living in Rooi-Els, (except, perhaps, when the wind is threatening to remove the roof)? But living in anywhere in South Africa today brings with it a new responsibility... the saving of electricity.

Looking across Rooi-Els at night shows that 90% of the village are burning one or two lights and perhaps a TV...but some homes are still lit up like a Christmas tree! I'd like to ask those folks to re-discover the romance of candle-light and the cosy glow of a single power-saving globe! As a conservation village, we should be doing our bit to save as much electricity as possible so that businesses, essential services and those who really need power have fewer black-outs.

Let's ensure every bulb is a low-energy bulb, turn off all but the most essential lights and appliances, install those solar water heaters...and celebrate watching the moon over the sea, quiet candlelit evenings or watching TV in the dark (just like going to the movies).

Cheers

Chris Burlock

(Thanks, Chris. You have said it all. Ed.).

▶ *Rooikrans en biologiese bevegting daarvan te erf 177, Rooi-Els*

Dis vir my verblydend om te sien dat die wetenskap ingespan word om die onwettige rooikrans wat so verskriklik suksesvol oor bykans die ganse Wes-Kaap versprei, in te toom en uiteindelik te vernietig.

Soos bykans almal weet en wat deur 'n meerderheid inwoners wel waardeer word, word die aggressiewe verspreiding van rooikrans al vir meer as 30 jaar aktief bekamp op Rooi-Els. Van lank voor dit onwettig verklaar is. Buiten die Hackers het rooikrans nie inheemse vyande nie. Net vriende! Die sade versprei deur wind, bobbejaan en voël van waar dit op inwoners se erwe staan. En waar dit staan of te staan kom, neem dit totaal oor: grondlangs 'n weefmat van blaar en saad, bolangs 'n monokultuur woud. Die waarheid is: dis óf fynbos óf rooikrans! Die enigste rede hoekom ons fynbos het is die harde werk van die plaaslike kaphelde wat rooikrans in toom hou.

Maar so lank as wat individue dink hul onwettige bron van skadu, hul privaatheid, 'wetenskaplike eksperiment' en selfsugtige 'my erf...' is die belangrikste; sal die wet verbreek word, die meerderheid visie en wil van ons gemeenskap geïgnoreer word, buurmanskap onder stremming geplaas word en sal hierdie uitheemse bome eindeloos afgekap moet word om ons pragtige endemiese flora en lewenskwaliteit te red.

→p5

Ek wil graag 'n beroep op almal doen wat nog rooikrans bome het om die kapgroep toestemming te gee om dit uit te haal. Dis tyd dat die respek en toleransie wat die meeste inwoners al vir dekades openbaar teenoor rooikrans huisvesters, wederkerig word! Dis immers nie juis dié wat Rooikranse het, wat dit oral uitkap nie. Dis onmoontlik om jou besoedeling te beheer sonder om by die bron te begin nie. Eintlik is een boom te veel. En dan is daar die bome anderkant die rivier in ons Biosfeerreservaat se kerngebied! Daardie sade kom van ons af...

Rakende erf 177 se 'wetenskaplike eksperiment' wat seker deur die nodige eksterne outoriteite goedgekeur is, wil ek graag weet of:

- *RERA dit goedgekeur het?*
- *Het ons Bewarea dit goedgekeur?*
- *Is die bure wat sit met saailing verspreiding enigsins geken in die saak?*
- *Wat doen die enorme bome aan ons watertafel en fynbos in die onmiddellike nabyheid?*
- *Fnuik die omstrede eksperiment nie die gees van Rooikrans verwydering nie?*
- *Haal die eienaars self die saailinge uit en indien wel, hoe kry hul dit reg aangesien die sade vêr versprei?*
- *Is hul tevrede daarmee om vir ander inwoners probleme te skep?*
- *Wanneer eindig die eksperiment en kom die bome uit?*
- *Is daar nie ander plekke wat moreel meer geskik is vir sulke eksperimente nie as binne die eerste Bewarea in die Wes-Kaap?*

Dankie aan 'Die Bries' vir hierdie platvorm. Kom ons haal die Rooikrans uit!

Vriendelike groete

'Besorgde inwoner'

(Professor Hofmann is genader om in die volgende Bries kommentaar te lewer. Red.)

Tydens die onlangse Kerse was dit opvallend dat baie wonings se buiteligte en soms binnenshuisligte erge ligbesoedeling veroorsaak. Om te kla kan ongemaklik wees en voel nie reg met die heersende kersgees nie.

Ek het 'n versoek vir RERA. Reël asb. 'n munisipale amptenaar om 'n aand of wat tydens Kersfees en Pase vir die huisbewoners in te 'lig' oor die munisipale wette wat ligbesoedeling beheer. So hoef ons nie kwaai buurmanskap te waag nie!

Baie dankie vir jul lekker vakansie program! My kleinkinders het dit terdeë geniet.

Met dank,

'Martha'

(Dankie, Martha, vir jou skrywe en voorstel oor ligbesoedeling. Ek wil persoonlik daarby voeg: geraasbeheer. Daar word daadwerklik opgetree teen oortreders. Eintlik is die wet heel duidelik en kom daarop neer dat enige lig wat 'n skadu buite erfgrense gooi, onwettig is. Ekself weet egter nie hoe om dit te toets nie. Inwoners kry wel aanmanings en daaropvolgende oortredings kan tot boetes lei. REBV hanteer klagtes tans heel effektief deur die Wykskomitee. Natuurlik probeer ons ook eers self die saak beredder, maar REBV dra nie altyd kennis van klagtes nie. Red.)

Blanket ban on unleashed dogs is a bore

During the recent holidays I saw how Piet Uys was fined for not having his sweet dog on a lead at the slipway. This really seemed unfair on poor Piet and discriminatory against his geriatric Jack Russell.

Naturally, we should protect our precious Black Oyster Catchers! I am all for it. But we need to realise that dogs are family and have rights and needs too! Should we not have "free roam areas" for our dogs to act out their boisterous natures and urges to run? After all, they protect and accompany us, the couch potatoes.

Seriously, dogs need to do their "newspaper reading" and socialising. For this they need some roaming space. We cannot reduce them to robots on leads!

What I am getting at is doggie happy hour(s), say 8–9 am and again 6–7pm, when doggies may legally walk unleashed with their caretakers. And what is a holiday without a good run and dig on the beach? For this purpose the upper part of our main beach is ideal as humans tend to be close to the sea and Black Oyster Catchers do not breed there as it is within the lagoon flood line. I think this should be made permanently available for canine pleasure.

→p6

RERA envisages living in harmony with nature. Let's get the balance right for our canine members.

Regards
Clair Fawcett-Meyer

(Thanks, Clair, for your insightful letter. As you know, by-laws exist for good order and you must remember that it applies to the whole Overstrand. Policing isn't done consistently, which is a problem because one can get a nasty surprise as the unfortunate Piet did.

However, I think it is correct to sum up the general feeling of the Ward Committee that one should have relative freedom to take your dog out, as long as the dog remains under control and I am certain everyone can manage that if the will is there.

The law is actually there to take action against people who continuously transgress simple requests, so to speak. Very similar to light pollution transgressions. There will be those who wouldn't like the restrictions of time limitations either. There is never an easy answer, but I can only call on residents and visitors to act responsibly and display regard for others sharing this planet with them. Ed.)

► *Geagte Mnr Smit,*

Ek skryf aan u as voorsitter van die Rooiels Belastingbetalersvereniging nadat eldie Brink Dinsdag spesiaal hier by ons besoek afgelê het om vir my die pragtige verlugte oorkonde te bring. Hiervoor sê ek in die eerstre plek 'n groot dankie. Dit dra 'n boodskap en bied 'n versiering wat ek met groot graagte in my huis sal ten toonstel. Dit is die sigbare geskenk wat u en die vereniging aan my gegee het.

Veel groter as hierdie mooi sigbare blyk van waardering is die geskenk van erelidmaatskap van die vereniging en die redes wat u beweeg het om dit te doen. Dat u na soveel jare heirdie erkenning aan my gee verbaas my ten dele want 'n mens sien dit wat hy doen as sy natuurlike, vanselfsprekende taak en daar is geen gedagte van "beloning" nie. Om die waarheid te sê, is 'n mens geneigd om te vergeet hoe ywerig (en soms driftig!) hy in sy jonger jare was. Ook maar goed so en daarom 'n dankbaarheid dat sommige van die sake oor die jare tog vrugte afgewerp het.

Baie dankie vir hierdie erkenning wat ek moet deel met dié wat gehelp en saamgewerk het. Met die ouderdom wil 'n mens mens ook somtyds dankie-sê vir opponente waar hulle 'n mens se aandag gevestig het op aspekte van 'n saak wat nie normaalweg in jou denkwysse aandag sou gekry het nie.

Ek het 'n groot skuldgevoel dat my vrou, Jeanne, en ek nie in Desember by jule kon wees vanweë haar siekte nie. Baie dankie dat u verstaan het en ons apologie vir die wat onnodiglik moeite gedoen het om ons ontwil. Indien ek op die een of ander wyse vir u iets sou kon doen, moet asseblief nie huiwer om op my nommer te druk nie want ek sou graag my deel (hoe klein ookal) wou bydra as nuwe erelid! Jeanne, wat sterk op pad na normaliteit is, deel hierdie gevoel met my.

Ons groet u en die vereniging met dank uit ons harte en in vriendskap.

Met al ons beste wense.

Kay en Jeanne de Villiers.

Links en middel onder: Raadslid van Heerden oorhandig geskenke as blyk van waardering aan Geoff Harris, Julia Aalbers en Mike Harrison vir hulle bydraes, oor soveel jare, in belang van die Rooi-Els gemeenskap. **Regs onder:** 'n Oorkonde aan Kay de Villiers vir sy uitsonderlike bydrae aan die gemeenskap van Rooi-Els is tydens die AJV deur Izak aan Eldie Brink oorhandig, wat dit in Kay se afwesigheid in ontvangs geneem het.



On the Agenda/Op die Agenda

RERA will focus on effective reporting by highlighting the issues of concern and report on progress. The RERA focus for 2008 will centre around the following priority issues:

1 – Ward Matters

Registration of the Nature Reserves

Currently in the hands of our Councillor as the top priority item to attend to. All efforts of the past came to nothing as documents were lost, with the consultant failing to make any progress. The Councillor shall now liaise with the Mayor directly on this matter.

Reactions to new Municipal regulations and by-laws

The important document here is the Draft Zoning Scheme Regulations, which aims to combine the different current sets of scheme regulations in the Overstrand under one umbrella document. Nevertheless, we shall endeavour to introduce a distinctive Overlay Plan which covers additional special stipulations for our area and specifically Rooi-Els and development within the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve generally. Specific feedback on these matters will be provided separately where possible.

Light pollution

Stringent action to be taken (very few Village Shop report cards so far).

Traffic calming

To be addressed more strategically after another letter addressed directly to the Mayor to take him up on his promises.

Kwaliteit van huishoudelike water

'n Opgeskerpte wetsregulasie vir die monitering (van die bron deur retikulasie tot by huishoudings), waardeur die Distriksraad, Environment Action Committee en OM gereelde toetse uitvoer en resulate aan die Wykskomitee rapporteer. Die saak is 'n vaste punt van bespreking op die agenda.

2 – Federation of Ratepayers affairs

The rezoning of further spaces as public reserves remains an important matter on the agenda.

Small holdings

Developments are being monitored.

3 – Own affairs

Safety and security

The brief would be to establish a culture of caring for each other in the belief that many eyes are more effective than a few; to ascertain viability, costing and options for an access monitoring system for Rooi-Els village (at night only, as a first step). This could take the form of camera control manned by a security company, with as little cost as possible (proper research and proposals to be circulated to all residents for individual input); to establish an effective and ongoing incident reporting system; to establish ongoing contact and co-operation with the security agencies in the area; to investigate current legislation and viability of a 'gated community'; and to assess status of emergency communications.

Private properties and infrastructure

A system to monitor building activities and builders per se. Several complaints about building work (i.e. building line transgressions) and builders sleeping on premises were received by RERA, after which formal letters were addressed to the Municipality – this will again be monitored continuously. RERA also still awaits a resolution re the dictates of the by-laws for obtaining insight into building plans and rezoning applications. In the meantime, Municipal Officials will be asked to draw our attention to any new building plans submitted.

CBD and public areas & waste transfer station

Tenders have gone out for upgrade of the CBD to spend R200 000 (part of a discretionary fund) on more paving at the CBD and upgrading the waste area, with a sign erected to encourage everybody to keep our waste area neat. We want to ensure that the waste area will be properly managed. Funds were also requested for the upgrade of the beach toilets. Signage around the village is being reconsidered.



RERA/REBV

Die weer tyd vir die Rooi-Els Gemeenskap se JAARGELDE!



As belastingbetaler van Rooi-Els het u die voorreg/reg om deel te kan hê aan die beplanning van die toekoms van ons dorpie. U stem word hoorbaar gemaak deur die Wykskomitee van Wyk 10 van die Overstrand Munisipaliteit. Hierdie komitee is die roete waardeur versoeke i.v.m. finansiële begrotings, bydraes/menings oor soneringskemas, brandbestuur, ens. Aan die Overstrand Munisipaliteit oorgedra word. Rooi-Els word op hierdie komitee deur twee persone verteenwoordig. Hulle is die Voorsitter van die Rooi-Els Belastingbetalersvereniging (REBV) en die enkele lid wat die Rooi-Els, Pringlebaai en Bettiesbaai Bewareas verteenwoordig.

Om u stem te laat hoor en in voeling te bly met hierdie belangrike sake, wil ons u ernstig uitnooi om as lid van die REBV en die Rooi-Els Bewarea (REB) aan te sluit. Hierdie twee verenigings werk ten nouste saam om d.m.v. die bepaalde funksies wat hulle vervul, die Rooi-Els Visie 'n werklikheid te maak. U het die keuse om aan beide, een (of geen!) van hierdie verenigings te behoort. Hierdie enkele inskrywingvorm bide nou aan u die unieke geleentheid om aan te sluit volgens u keuse. Indien u wel reeds aangesluit het, bedank ons u hartlik vir u ondersteuning. Andersins wil ons u vriendelik uitnooi om wêreld e kom saamspan in belang van Rooi-Els. Indien u onseker is oor u posisie tans wat betref lidmaatskap, vra ons u om asb die respektiewelike tesouriere te kontak:

REBV: Izak Smit	lsmit@mweb.co.za	082 577 7037
REB: Dick Lockley	dicklock@global.co.za	028 273 8852

Dus, ten einde die jaarlikse betaling van inskrywingsgelde te vereenvoudig, mag u nou hierdie enkele saamgestelde inskrywingvorm gebruik. Ons banbesonderhede is:

REBV: ABSA takkode 334712, rek nr. 2900166152 en/of
REB: ABSA takkode 334712, rek nr. 912 6694863

Verskaf asb u ernommer as verwysing. Stuur asb ook hierdie inskrywingvorm terug aan ons om u elektroniese inbetaling/tjek te bevestig. Dis belangrik dat u u persoonlike data sal invul soos gevra, ten einde te verseker dat die Bries en ander relevante inligting u bereik.



REBV
Posbus 89, Pringlebaai, 7196
Faks: 021 854 6699
e-pos: jolo0@absamail.co.za

Rooi-Els Bewarea
Posbus, Pringlebaai, 7196
Faks: 0866 715 194
e-pos: di@peripheral.co.za



Naam: Rooi-Els erf nr/s:

Posadres (vir Bries):.....

Foon: Landlyn: Sel:

Faks: e-pos:

Totaal bedrag: R..... ingesluit my inskrywingsgeld / e vlr 2008

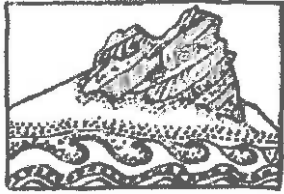
- REBV: R60.00
- REB: R75.00

Die balans is 'n donasie vir:

- Drukkoste van die Bries
- Drukkoste van "Onderhoubare Leefwyse in Rooi-Els"
- REBV fondse
- REB projekte
- Ander verdienstelike saak op Rooi-Els.....

Toon aan onder watter van die volgende kategorieë van belastingbetalers u uself plaas:

- Permanente inwoner
- Naweek / Vakansie-inwoner
- Enige ander kategorie (verduidelik asb.).....



Time for your Community Subs!



RERA/REBV

As a Rooi Els property owner, you **should** have a say in the future of your village. The Ward Committee is your official voice-piece. It's also the channel for municipal budget allocations, comment on zoning schemes, fire management, etc. Rooi Els has two voices on the Ward Committee: the Convener of RERA (Rooi Els Ratepayer's Association) and through the seat allocated jointly to the environmental bodies such as the Rooi Els, Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay Conservancies.

To use your voice and keep in touch with what is going on, you need to belong to RERA and the Rooi Els Conservancy (REC) These two village bodies are working in partnership in their defined roles towards achieving the Rooi Els Vision and Pledge. This single subscription form gives you the opportunity to subscribe according to your choice. If you have already enrolled, we thank you for your support. If not, please consider joining! Not sure if you have paid your subs yet? Then please contact the respective treasurers:

RERA: Izak Smit
REC: Dick Lockley

ismit@mweb.co.za
dicklock@global.co.za

082 577 7037
(028) 273 8852

To make sub payments easier, you can now send **one combined payment** to either:

RERA (ABSA branch code 334712 account 2900166152) or

REC (ABSA branch code 334712 account 912 6694863)

Please provide your Rooi Els erf number as reference. Please also return this form to either body to confirm your deposit/cheque and provide your contact details to ensure you receive the "Breeze" and other village reports / updates.



RERA
PO Box 89, Pringle Bay, 7196
Fax: 021 854 6699
e-mail: jolo0@absamail.co.za

Rooi Els Conservancy
PO Box 260, Pringle Bay, 7196
Fax: 0866 715 194
e-mail: di@peripheral.co.za



Name:..... Rooi Els erf no/s:.....

Postal address (for Breeze):.....

Phone:..... Land line:..... Cell:

Fax:..... e-mail:.....

Total payment made: R..... being my subs for 2008 (please tick)

- RERA: R 60.00
- Rooi Els CONSERVANCY: R75.00

The balance is a donation for (tick one or more)

- Printing of the Breeze
- The forthcoming "Sustainable Living in Rooi Els" Publication
- RERA funds
- REC projects
- Other – specify:.....

Please indicate the nature of your residency:

- Permanent resident
- Weekend/Holiday resident
- Other – please explain:.....

Entrances & roads (local)

Traffic calming is to be addressed more strategically. Urgent road maintenance and storm water problems (outside the scheduled annual program) are also to be monitored.

Community centre

The sub-committee which started to work on this matter during 2007, will continue with the initiative. In the meantime concept building plans have been called for, while RERA awaits the approval of budget proposals.

Emergencies

The recent local fires enabled us to witness the emergency plan in action. Of particular importance were the regular updates maintained with the Fire Chief and communication to residents via the Village Shop. Co-ordination via the Village Shop has proved to be an important element in this regard and residents are urged in such circumstances to keep in contact via the Shop. While all are at liberty to phone the Municipality directly, this can result in different and confusing reports spreading. The further refinement of the Emergency Plan is receiving attention.

Events



A wonderful Rooi-Els morning for the crowd that gathered for the Bird Walk, combined with excellent sightings of Rock Kestrel, Cape Rockjumper, Sentinel Rockthrush, Victorin's Warbler and Pin-tailed Whydah made it a morning worth getting up for – so much so that we only managed half of the anticipated route before the summer heat set in! Happy Birding for the rest of the year. Bird lists can be found in the Conservancy area. Free, with a small donation for Sea Watch.



On a perfect Rooi-Els day an enthusiastic crowd gathered on the Vissers' lawn for the annual boules championships. Though competitive, the atmosphere was relaxed, festive and played in good-humoured spirit. Each match between two teams of two was played on the best of three games basis with the first to reach thirteen points being deemed the winners of each game. Mixing up the length of each end/head resulted in some closely fought competition, often necessitating the use of a measure to decide the winner. After the tense early rounds the semis were won by family combos: father/son Ernst & Ernst Thompson and brother/sister Johan & Leonora van Staden. The final was a fitting conclusion with scores see-sawing and the van Staden team just pipping the Thompsons in a 13 – 12 final game. Well played everyone, see you next year !



What a joyous occasion when adults become children again! That is exactly what happened with the Sandcastle Competition. We had some brilliant artists in all the categories featuring "Happy feet", a Russian palace, our own Castle , Table Mountain, "The Magic Hand", a rubber duck, The Pyramids with a "Baboon Sphinx" and even Clarence Drive, to name but a few!

Left and below: Sandcastles and fun in the sun.



Speeding in Rooi-Els

For the safety of pedestrians, pets and fauna, our official RE speed limit is 20km/h. Some visitors may be blissfully unaware of this restriction, as signage tends to give the impression that it only refers to our speed-humps. But there is no excuse for some Rooi-Elsers who ignore this and tear along, spewing clouds of dust. Those who live along some of the busiest roads in Rooi-Els also have to contend with the dirt billowing into their homes.

How many seconds do you save by speeding?

PLEASE THINK OF OTHERS AND SLOW DOWN

About Safety and Security

The Safety and Security portfolio of RERA is currently investigating ways of enhancing safety and security in Rooi-Els. Among other things this has involved meetings with the policing authorities and security agencies in the area.

For those of you who don't know, the region has been divided into sectors from a policing point of view, in an attempt to maximise the effect of personnel and resources. Rooi-Els and Pringle Bay fall under Inspector Mostert in a single sector. The whole region is ninety seven square kilometres, subdivided into four Policing Sectors with the command centre being Kleinmond.

It is no secret that police and their resources such as vehicles, etc. are stretched. However, Inspector Mostert would like to encourage residents to report incidents and complaints, no matter how trivial they might seem. Every incident reported is logged on computer and it is this record that in future will determine how much an increase in personnel and resources are allocated to the Sector. If the record shows that there have been no reports of incidents, resource allocation will be made to other Sectors.

All complaints and incidents must be reported to Kleinmond Police Station (028) 271 3333 which will notify the Sector Manager. So, even if your report of a gas bottle theft (for example) does not result in immediate recovery of the stolen item and a conviction, it will be logged on the computer and will help Police form a picture of crime in the sector and could help us get the resources we need to make our environment safe and secure.

RERA is part of the Community Police Forum and will attend meetings in Kleinmond (next meeting Thursday 28th Feb) so that we can contribute and also get an overall picture of crime in the region and Sector. We will report back to residents on these forum meetings.

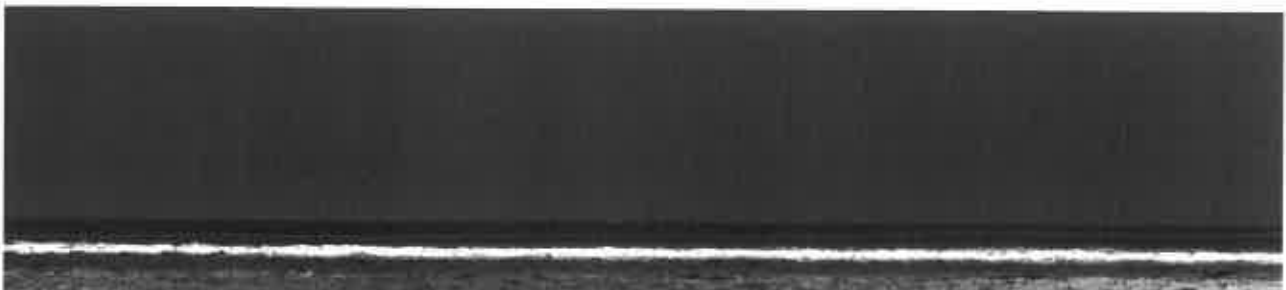
Meetings with our local security companies have revealed a consensus that a neighbourhood watch is often the most effective and economically sound ways of keeping a community safe.

We are investigating the feasibility of camera monitoring systems, but initial indications point to a huge capital and ongoing management outlay.

Suffice it to say that the portfolio is looking at all ways of keeping Roo-Els, its residents and environment as safe as possible. It seems, however, that by looking after one another and sharing information and a collective vision we will be doing more than technology and fences can ever achieve.

Pat Devine

Below: A summer storm gathers over False Bay



Gardening in Rooi-Els

Richard and I built our house with friends in 1991 and came down from Harare in December to use it for the first time. We were disappointed to find that the builder had put the septic tank right in the middle of a smooth sandy area on the seaward side of the house. All the fynbos there had been destroyed during the building operations. This is the only significant area free of rocks and our friends had decided to put it down to buffalo grass lawn, but left the septic tank protruding. I decided that I had to disguise this eyesore, particularly the manhole covers, so I created a garden over it. We also found that there was not a single protea growing in our patch and I determined to rectify this. However we did have lots of taaibos, blombos and sea guarri, plus some beautiful rocks.

Although January, February and March, when we usually visit, are not ideal months to do any planting, I have found that by planting in January I have two months to get them going. And if the winter rains don't hold off for too long, most plants survive. I started experimenting with different plants and by trial and error over the years I have found what grows in our rocky plot.

As soon as we arrive in January, we take out the dead grasses and any bushes that the wind has broken or are dying off. Here and there, in suitable spots, a taaibos or two is removed to provide space for a protea and we also have to stop the buffalo grass on the lawn from spreading into the fynbos. We have deliberately cut out the larger bushes around the house because of the fire hazard and to keep at a distance the creepy crawlies that could lurk there. It doesn't take long for a large pile of cuttings to accumulate by the roadside and then we ask Derek to come and remove it while cutting the lawn.

We now have at least ten proteas and some leucadendrons that are doing well and they encourage me to keep planting more. The thorny num-num is another great survivor that we love for its brilliant white flowers and large red berries. The wild rosemary bush, with its scented leaves, is easy to establish and I have found at least four varieties of pelargoniums that can cope with the wind. In the areas that have been opened up various small fynbos plants have appeared; a delightful bonus. The confetti bush and some heathers are amongst the new volunteers. Hopefully the sugarbirds will find our proteas in time. Meanwhile we enjoy the sunbirds, several tortoises of all sizes and the francolins, which persist in digging just where I have been planting.

Delene Turan



We had the wonderful privilege to visit Richard and Delene in Totnes in the south of England. Delene, a landscape gardener by profession, has established a wonderful English garden on a steeply terraced plot there – a sheer joy to her and visitors alike. Gardening in Rooi-Els could not have been more different than what she is accustomed to back home and yet she is managing to establish a second, very different, garden here – with great success. (Gerard and Anuta)

George Rijke

'n huldeblyk aan ons eie Ben Hur



'n Leeuwentemmer storm vreesloos die sirkus-arena binne – dit is 'n astrologiese simbool vir George, en meer gepas kan 'n mens nie uitdink nie. George was meer as lewensgroot, 'n karakter. Hy het die lewe met passie en energie aangepak en het geen ontsag gehad vir heilige koeie of konvensies nie, en sou niks of niemand ontsien as hy die draak gesteeke of net hardkoppig aangedring het op sy sin nie. Sy kinders sê hy het 'n liefde-haat verhouding gehad met die lewe – maar ongemerk kon hy nie verbygaan nie.

George het in 1951 vanaf Holland na Suid-Afrika verhuis en het in die sewentigerjare op Rooi-Els verlief kom raak en hom en sy gesin hier gevestig. Hy het 'n suksesvolle bou besigheid agtergelaat, maar kon mos nooit stilsit nie en het gou die eerste sakegebou hier gevestig – die Sea Horse, deesdae bekend as die Drummond Arms. Hy en Issy het 'n koffiewinkel oopgemaak, wat alom bekend geraak het vir haar wonderlike Hollandse appeltert en koffie. Ook in Pringlebaai het hy gehelp om die sakegebied te ontwikkel.

George se "paardjies", soos hy gesê het, was sy passie – en 'n wonderlike uitlaatklep vir sy onafhanklike gees en rusteloosheid. Toe hy nie meer self kon ry nie, was dit die perdekarretjies – en volgens sy kinders het hy homself graag gesien as ons eie plaaslike Ben Hur.

'n Jarelange vriendin van die Rijkes vertel hoe sy twee weke reeds oor haar geboortedatum was met haar eersteling, en moedeloos was dat die kind ooit sou kom. Daardie oggend hoor sy 'n geweldige kabaal in haar huis en toe sy rondsoek, word sy deur George met perd en al in die kombuis begroet – dieselfde aand is haar kind gebore!

Vier jaar gelede het 'n groot hartseer George getref met die sterwe van sy geliefde Issy. Hy het daarna op die ripe ouderdom van 76 met net die hulp van sy tuinwerker sy eie huisie op sy kleinhoewe buite Pringlebaai gebou. En begin met 'n hoenderboerdery en allerlei diere aangehou van varke tot kalkoene. Met natuurlik sy getroue hond Toni aan sy sy.

George was 'n kleurvolle karakter, en het gedurig in plaaslike produksies en oorsese programme opgeduik. In 'n onlangse Franse dokumentêr oor ons bobbejane word hy gevra oor 'n oplossing vir hierdie omstrede probleem. Sy antwoord? Hy gooi sy hande dramaties in die lug en bid: "Here, moet asseblief nie meer bobbejane maak nie." Hy was 'n akteur, komediant en sanger, kompleet met trekklavier. En kunstenaar – my honde blaf steeds vir die bobbejaan-beeld wat waghou by sy dogter Heidi se huis op Rooi-Els.

Die laaste maande na die beroerte was genadig en kort vir George met sy geliefde suster Bepie aan sy sy.

Op sy begrafnis het die dominee opgemerk dat daar 'n vreemde ligsinnigheid was onder die mense. Maar hy het nie vir George geken nie. Ek het geweet as George hier was, sou hy al hierdie aandag geniet het, en onmiddellik oorgeneem het met sy grappe en daardie welbekende dawerende lag ...

Ek onthou George as iemand wat sy lewe gelêf het. Good men, do not go gently into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light. Dylan Thomas sou trots gewees het op onse George.

Ons sê met liefde totsiens vir die Koning en Koningin van Rooi-Els.

Griet Odendaal

Have just heard of George R's death. Now there was a story in the making! Boy, we had some laughs. When he did our early super-modest rebuilds, he turned every builder's blunder into an opportunity to improve the drawing by the "ark-e-tek". He was such a boy at heart, he never lost his love of a tease with a laugh; even his serious moments somehow ended up as a laugh. He and Issy were a golden presence in this small world, when we set out to make a home there so long ago.

Diarmuid Baigrie

John Muir's Legacy finds a home in Rooi-Els

Some days when I look out and see the blue mountains that rise up out of the sea and form a backdrop to our village, I recall John Muir's words, albeit his exclamation of wonder, at viewing very different mountains.

After a year in the Sierras he was moved enough to exclaim, "No pain here, no dull empty hours, no fear of the past, no fear of the future. These blessed mountains as so compactly filled with God's beauty, no petty, personal hope or experience has room to be." And so, for many of us, it is in Rooi-Els.

Amazingly, more than a century ago, John Muir (1838 - 1914), developed a philosophy regarding conservation that is now a generally accepted fundamental for conservation anywhere on the planet. He travelled through most of the American wilderness alone, on foot, without a firearm or sleeping bag. For him preparation for an expedition was to "throw some tea and bread into an old sack".

Muir's belief that "the Creator has not made the Earth for Man alone, but for all his Family" and that "... the Universe would be incomplete without the smallest transmicroscopic (sic) creature that dwells beyond our conceitful eyes and Knowledge", engenders the basis for all conservation today.

Tom Melham in his book, *John Muir's Wild America*, states, "And so Muir's cosmic eye foresaw the import of ecology - the science of togetherness - that all living things are related and to toy with one effects all the others."

This vision was his greatest gift and warning to all who hold conservation as vitally important for the survival of the planet.

In 1903, while on a camping trip, Muir successfully convinced President Theodore Roosevelt of the importance of a national conservation programme. Muir is given major credit for saving the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Arizona's Petrified Forest.

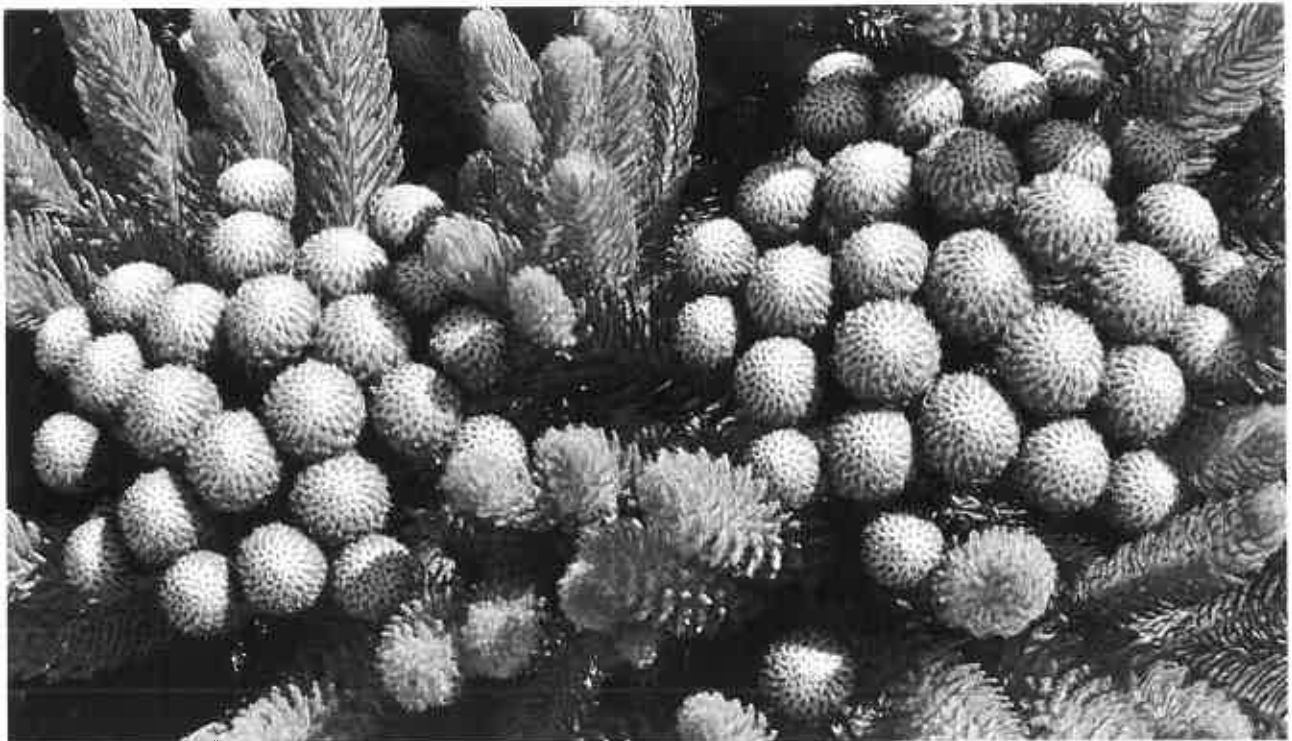
Here in Rooi-Els we endeavour to carry on this philosophy of conservation and celebrate the natural world we are still privileged to encounter every day.

Books on John Muir:

The Wilderness World of John Muir (selection of his writings) Edited by Edwin Way Teale

John Muir's Wild America - Tom Melham (National Geographic Society 1976)

Below: *Brunia albiflora* - plentiful in the village



Bird chat

As usual in mid-February, AA has naffed off and I've been detailed to "do something" about Bird Chat! Well, here goes ...

All us avifauna are *gatvol* of the South-Easters that have raged this year – have you tried to fly in gale force gusts? Trying to do so is neither pleasant nor desirable but necessary in our quest to satisfy our very varied diets. We Chats are pretty adaptable in our eating habits but rely on insects and invertebrates. Here in Rooi-Els we have the added advantage of seashore foraging. Personally I'm not averse to pecking at bread and other human scraps but I do draw the line at my ancestor's habit of picking at axle grease on the wagon wheels – hence my Afrikaans name of Spekvreter (fat eater) – bet that surprised you all! Still, in these health fanatical days I'm also partial to fruit.

I've been busy since I last quilled an article for "Her indoors": Me and the lady raised a brood in September – three no less – gosh aren't kids enough to make you pull your feathers out! We were charging about like demented dervishes keeping up with the feeding and nest cleaning. Still, once they'd gone we were able to get on with our lives again: relaxing and putting our toes up. Sometimes we join our friends at The Bird Bath, our local watering hole, for a sundowner and gossip about the community. One thing has been especially commented on: AT LAST some common sense has prevailed amongst the humans and we've observed some are now clearing up 'doggy does' and have put their "best friends" on leads – about time too! Oops, I was warned about being politically incorrect last time. It still seems a cause for concern that there is still such an epidemic of myopia among the residents. That's enough from me but one last point: I'm NOT an LBJ. I'm a handsome chap even if I say so myself. She's back so "over and out" from me. Chirp cheep cheerie cheep cheipie cherp – Cedric.

Thanks to Cedric, for "holding the fort" – strong-minded little chap (sorry, chat) he is. Familiarity breeds contempt, or so they say. Well, here in the bird world of Rooi-Els there is some room and element of truth in that! We take for granted that the Rockjumpers, Ground Woodpeckers, Orange-breasted Sunbirds and the less familiar Victorin's Warbler belong to us, yet "twitchers" come from all over our planet to see them on the southern side of Klein Hangklip. Our bird walk in December provided just such a special moment for a couple on holiday in Somerset-West who had come on a daily basis to see Rockjumpers to no avail, until they were advised to join us on the walk. Not only did they see them, they were within a metre of a family of four, their known curiosity getting the better of them to see humans at first hand. Cedric told me they were just as intrigued as the humans were.

We are always delighted to hear your birding news and/or sightings. The latest in that line was from Werner Mödinger who alerted us to a "large bird" on the beach near the river bridge. It turned out to be a Black Stork, not new to our list but not seen here by us since 1991. So, a great spot! Thanks, Werner. You can get a list from us to do a monthly count in your specific area or phone and tell us your news, we rely on your eyes too. Please keep them coming (the spots that is – not the eyes). This information is important for updating Percy Fitzpatrick as a new Bird Atlas is being worked on currently.

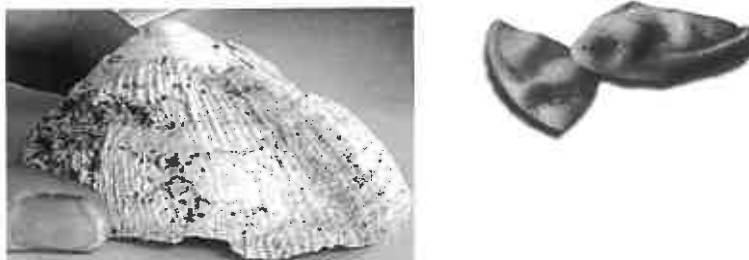
Happy spotting
Alison Ayre and Cedric

Below: Three more pics of the Rooi-Els birders abroad in the village



Secrets within our Shell Middens

To walk along the Rooi-Els shoreline is to walk through pre-history. Gleaming fragments of perlemoen shells crumble underfoot and massive limpet shells emerge from the debris, having been tossed away some hundreds or thousands of years before.



Left: This 80 mm long *Scutellastra argenvillei* would have yielded 25g of 'wet meat'... a 38 mm shell yields just 4g requiring several hundred per person per day. **Right:** Crayfish jaws. They are rare in middens over 12 000 years old... possibly not considered food?

In scientific circles there is growing support for the notion that these shellfish are partly responsible for the launch of modern man! If you can source a copy, read Dr David Horrobin's "The Madness of Adam and Eve". In this fascinating book, Horrobin claims that fat is what separates us from apes! We have lots; they have little. The non-water content of the brain is 60 per cent fat. The hunger for fat is evident in all descriptions of hunter-gatherer societies. Even chimpanzees, which are essentially vegetarian, may catch monkeys, crack open the skull and eat the brain. In celebrated experiments on mice, genetic alteration of fatty acids, called phospholipases, led to the creation of super-mice, which were 50 per cent more intelligent than normal mice. Fat, it would appear, is highly significant.

Certainly, some 10,000 years ago, something amazing happened. After a couple of million years during which the development of homo erectus and homo neanderthalensis had proceeded at a glacial rate of change, suddenly life transformed. The human brain became bigger; music, art and religion started to emerge and discrete cultures developed. What was it that enabled man suddenly to become individual and creative? David Horrobin proposes that small genetic changes in the biochemistry of brain fat were sufficient to alter the way our nerve cells worked, vastly increasing the abilities of the brain.

Horrobin suggests that early man couldn't have survived long on the savannah, because as a species we are so profligate with water, pouring out large amounts of sweat and unable to concentrate urine). Examination of human fossils shows that we started eating aquatic animals, which have high concentrations of certain forms of fat. Rich supplies of aquatic foods, together with mutations in lipid metabolism enabled the brain to change! The shell middens along the Cape coast (near Stillbaai, Humansdorp and Saldanha) are the oldest in the world, dating back 120 000 years! Is this where intelligence, art and culture evolved? Certainly, in the southern part of Africa, recent archaeological discoveries have shown that 80,000 years ago, (that's 72,000 years before the rise of the Egyptian culture), jewellery and self adornment, painting, rock carving and a belief system were all a part of Khoisan culture.

Much of the record of those days has been lost. During the last ice age (which began some 40 million years ago, intensified 3 million years ago and advanced and retreated in 40 000 and 100 000-year glacial periods, the last one ending about 10 000 years ago), most of our Earth's water was locked up in massive polar ice-caps. At times, the sea level was 130 m lower and the coast was some 100 km further away than it is today. Our early ancestors walked, hunted and lived on land that is today far below the surface of our seas. As the polar ice caps melted, the sea level rose, washing away and covering many settlements and middens. So most, but not all, of the coastal shell middens thus date to the last 5 000 years. Higher cave middens are usually older.

In his book, "Shorelines, strandlopers and shell middens", John Parkinson explains how shell middens have revealed so much about the early shell-fish gatherers. Shells, being essentially calcium carbonate, contribute to an environment that favours bone preservation. Even in sites more than a hundred thousand years old, archaeologists are finding well fossilised bone fragments...from mice to whales. Although crayfish carapaces have long disintegrated, their mandibles have survived, giving us an idea of how many crayfish were consumed! Some bones have been extremely useful in indicating the often seasonal occupation of a midden. Dassies in the Cape, for example, are almost all born in October/November and seals in November/December. By comparing the tooth development of jaw fragments in middens with modern day dassies and seals, scientists are able to tell what months the midden was occupied. These studies reveal that most middens were created in winter with the creators moving inland in summer.

Occasionally, erosion or excavations have exposed human bones, bits of stone tools, carved rocks, some paintings, shards of pottery and ornaments such as ostrich-shell beads and shell pendants. Bones have revealed information such as the age, sex and cause of death. Recently scientists have been measuring the isotope values of these remains in order to ascertain the ratio of marine to terrestrial foods consumed by these early Strandlopers. Simplistically, by burning small fragments of bone to produce carbon dioxide and measuring the stable ^{13}C isotope, science can tell what the person used to eat: someone who lived exclusively on shellfish would have a reading of -9‰ , or if living exclusively on terrestrial plant and meats the reading would be -25‰ . With a mean dietary mean of -23‰ , it appears that the majority of the Strandlopers' meals came from the land and that their stays at the sea were short-lived.

Shell middens around the world have been disappearing due to the expansion of towns, coastal mining, sea-side resorts and golf resort developments... but depending on how the world reacts to the current climate change developments, there may be no future for coastal middens (or coastal towns).

South Africa's magnificent coast with all its beauty, wealth, diversity and history is a national heritage that we must strive to pass on to our children's children. N.B. It is illegal to damage or remove anything from a midden without a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

Chris Burlock

Christmas Program

Once again the lovely people of Rooi-Els have not disappointed! Thank you for supporting the exhibition, flea-markets, workshops, competitions and games! A very big thank you to all of you who were involved in organizing and supporting the events. We will endeavour to do this again and suggestions will be appreciated as we compile this year's Holiday Program.

Social front

We are planning to have a winter concert to raise funds. Suggestions are welcome. Another wine auction will get strong consideration and a flea-market or two could also be great fun. We could also have a potjiekos competition between the various committees. What about a Sixties party to get the old joints oiled?

Managing Fire

Based on thoughts from Avril Nunn -Fires can be frightening...but are a part of life in the fynbos kingdom. However, Council, in a knee-jerk reaction to the damage of the January Hermanus fire, are said to be talking of stripping non-developed erven of ALL vegetation. This is blatantly harmful to the fynbos biome and to all ratepayers!

Fynbos is the vegetation which evolved in this smallest Floral Kingdom in the world, with the greatest number of species of plants in the world. Each species is fitted best for the area in which it grows. Besides their beauty, fynbos plants perform many tasks without which we would not be able to live here.

Our steep mountain slopes are composed of rock with a thin coating of soil. Requiring a minimum amount of water, fynbos roots hold the soil in place on these slopes. If their fine network of roots did not bind the sand and soil so well, our strong winds would blow any remaining soil into clouds in the air. This whole area would be a very windy desert. The density of fynbos also ensures that rain water seeps gently to the flatter parts of the coast where we build our houses, instead of allowing torrents to remove the soil, leaving barren mountainsides and flooded houses.

So how can we ensure the survival of our Fynbos while effectively managing fire risks?

Alien removal

Council must enforce the removal of all listed alien invasive vegetation on private property, not fynbos! Fynbos has a small fuel load and burns at a relatively low temperature. Invasive alien plants, with a greater fuel load, burn at a much higher temperature. Fynbos seeds waiting in the ground for the rains to fall are killed by the higher temperatures of an alien fire, leading to a loss of species and eventually desertification. Also animals which survive a fynbos fire by hiding in

→p16

burrows or under rocks, are roasted alive during an alien fire. The eradication of alien invasives in river courses and large areas must be done by trained personnel. Hack groups are doing an invaluable job but cannot cope with the enormity of the task, nor can they move onto private property. No property may be sold unless it is alien free.

Minimising fire risk

Although some runaway fires are started by lightning, the vast majority are caused by people or power-line malfunctions, etc. The more people and development, the greater the risk. So no further subdivisions should be allowed among the small holdings. The owner has rights for one house in general and should not be allowed more rights.

No new thatched roofs should be permitted. They are extremely vulnerable and contribute to the spread of fire. Council could consider fire watch bodies...

And what about all outside cooking places being inspected and passed by the building inspector before put in use. When the Fynbos in your garden becomes senescent, old and woody, it must be removed to give the seeds on the ground a chance to flourish (this would normally be done by a fire.) A light covering of dead leaves does not require removing as it rapidly forms compost.

No braai fire should be lit if the wind is blowing and should never be left unattended. A hose pipe attached to a nearby tap must be available next to the braai area. The fire must be doused with water when cooking is finished to ensure that it is completely extinguished. Ash must never be thrown into the vegetation. It is forbidden for pedestrians or people in vehicles to discard cigarettes.

Firebreak maintenance

Firebreaks must be re-sited with Nature Conservation officials and public approval so that wetlands, etc. are not compromised. Firebreaks must be maintained.

The Municipality must be willing to spend our money protecting us from the effects of fire and the public must co-operate.

Conservancy News

It's been a busy start to the year... but who isn't busy Celebrating Life in Rooi-Els?

Nursing fond memories of New Year celebrations, 15 brave and true Rooi-Elsers gathered early on Saturday the 2nd of January, for the traditional beach clean-up. As the beach was relatively clean, litter collecting extended up the lagoon banks, along the main roads and amongst the rocks. You can tell the experienced "cleaners"...they are the ones who arrive armed with rubber gloves and braai tongs! (gloves – because of the 'unmentionable unsavouries' that visitors and crayfishers have discarded around our village and tongs – because old bottles and crisp bags seem to like hiding deep behind the prickliest bushes!) If success can be measured in huge waste bags squeezed into the waste trailer...we scored 20 out of 20.

A couple of days later, the 6 small Prim-wood litter bins requested by the Conservancy, arrived. I hopped into the Municipal truck to off-load them in (hopefully) the most useful places. But a couple of days later, when venturing out to attach the "Thank you for keeping Rooi-Els beautiful" signs to the new bins... gasp! One bin was gone – I did spot it later; Mr X, can you please stop showing off how strong you are and put our bin back?

The Rooi-Els Conservancy committee met to discuss this year's goals and objectives (one of which is to produce a guide to "Sustainable Living in Rooi-Els" as a companion to "Living the Vision in Rooi-Els". (Having to write this on a lap-top in the dark, perhaps we should delay the publication date). We decided to have more people involved in the various portfolios... and would welcome more people on board.

The REC committee welcomed our new Conservation Officer for the Hangklip area, Neville Green (082 412 4840) and 3rd year student Liaan Geldenhuys (082 375 8865). Although the fynbos biome is new to him, Neville is vastly experienced and will undoubtedly be a great asset to our area.

Another celebration was the early January meeting called by Sharon Barnsley who is determined to get the registered but non-functioning Betty's Bay Conservancy up and running. She and her team wanted to learn from our and Pringle Bay's experiences; good and bad. We decided to meet more regularly to exchange ideas and learn from each other. Our first joint meeting for all Conservancy committee members is set for April.

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This meeting also led to Nicolette Louw of the Pringle Bay Conservancy proposing that the Ward Committee seat reserved for Conservancies (at the instigation of Estelle Raymond. Thanks, Estelle) being handed over to REC's Joan Modinger. Many thanks to Nicolette for her Ward Committee work to date.

On the first Saturday of February, Werner had the stalwarts hacking along the R44 into the entrance to Rooi-Els and up the koppie. I was thrilled when the weekender in the wooden house next to the koppie asked for more information about removing aliens... and even Tienie vowed he'd join the next hack! More hackers to celebrate ;-)

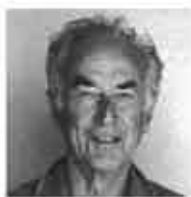
And then there have been the (many) Zoning Scheme meetings! Hats off to Izak's tenacity! It's been a pleasure working so closely with the RERA team towards achieving our common vision for this unique conservation village.

Cheers
Chris

The Conservancy Committee



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Rooi-Els Conservancy Portfolios

Membership & Social events:
Di Perton, Lynn Harris,
Dick Lockley

Flora & Hacks (inc. paths and walkways): Joan Modinger, Werner Modinger, Dick Lockley, Bruce Relly

Fauna: Jenny Stark, Chris Burlock (snake catching), Sandra Yeo

PR, communications & Education: Jenny Stark, Chris Burlock, Di Perton, Sandra Yeo

Marine: Chris Burlock and Bruce Relly are hoping to form an active 'SEAWATCHER' group and will be calling on folks like Evette Weyers, Mike Tenett, Geoff Harris and an REBC volunteer to assist. We want Rooi-Els to become a recognised 'no poaching' area

Sustainable living: Chris Burlock, Sandra Yeo... and anyone else who would like to get involved! Please pick up the phone!

Celebrating life – with Rooi-Els – life to die for?

The Summer wind (when the schools had returned, the village emptied and the weather due to be perfect) was howling, for what seemed like the tenth January day in a row, over a sea empty of boats and filled instead with those wind-duiweltjies of whipped-up spray, the land birds hunkered down in the fynbos, the terns venturing up for the occasional kamikaze attempt at flight. I was stopped in mid-moaning sentence about the "ruddy wind", by a northern migrant: "Don't worry about us, this wind and the clouds on a sunny day are part of what make these holidays special". Celebration is such a state of mind isn't it?

And then my New York-living son, mourning the lack of a night sky and the big clean cumulus cloud barrelling over the mountains in his world, confirming what a gap this filled; this wild, raw place – Rooi-Els. Of course, no sane people ventured near the beach, so when our Northerners did, we, the terns and cormorants, had the dunes and their long grass, the sea and rocky headland, the skies and the whole world it seemed, all to ourselves. A Northerner's dream, a gift on our doorstep. Wind to celebrate? Wind to die for?

The Winter wind is different, a great rain-bearing comfort, heralding fires to be prepared, soup to be made ready, muscadell to be laid up, books stacked, blankets in the lounge, girlfriends to... lost it there, sorry. How time flies! It's a warning of a celebration of a new season and lifestyle coming at speed. Rooi-Els does it as well as anywhere! Now that is a wind to celebrate, as the horizontal rain hits home and the fire calmly warms, even in its own demise giving us cause for celebration.

But what celebrations of life Rooi-Els has provided! Ask the oystercatchers with their new babe. The francolins that strut about tailed by dozens of their spring offspring. The black eagles' white furry ball of whose coming we all wait to hear from Frank and Estelle. What about Bruce Relly's beautiful baby daughter (Rooi-Els's first and maybe last newborn, wayback when)? The recovery of the reserve after Dennis Cowen's fussing and hectoring of conservation officials for months, to conduct a good burn. The new life in the mountains when the Somchem explosions stopped, at long last. Those first protea we wait to see each early spring when rounding the mountain past Kogelbaai. Evette's new hand-born spiritual angels that adorn our family homes on two continents. My God, did anyone else taste Issy Ryke's apple tart? Now that was a creation to celebrate or die for, delivered with the biggest smile and finger wagging "don't eat it all yourself" admonition PW would have been proud of! Issy, I did, whenever I could I'm afraid! You are in my pantheon of food heroes. Your son isn't though! (René put in our showerheads to wet his head, which happens to be about 2 metres off the ground. Water was cold when it reached us, but we forgave him – only because of your apple tart and the teasing laugh he shares.

I shouldn't omit my family celebrations, birthdays too many to count, our 28 wedding anniversaries, 28 Xmases with 2400 family members, Sartji and Trevor's engagement, Aidan's 'boykie' parties (to which we weren't invited, but the Aalbers beauties were!), Fiona falling in love, the Millenium bash over 6 days that Dine finally had enough of – but we all have those celebrations don't we – and the birds and the flowers and the wind we share. And we do love coming back, don't we? Always something in life to be in awe of, to admire, remember and celebrate.

Diarmuid Baigrie

Our Eagles

For 17 years Rooi-Els had its own pair of Verreaux's Eagles nesting on the southern side of Klein Hangklip. With a great view of the nesting site from their home, Pierre and Louise du Toit meticulously documented breeding successes and failures – starting in 1989 when the eagles first came to the village. During the initial 8 years only one breeding failure occurred. Then, fortune ceased to smile on the eagles! Harsh weather conditions and one veld fire, resulted in only 2 chicks fledging during the next 9 years. So, in 2006 the eagles moved house to Blousteen – a largely inaccessible cliff in the region of the 'manganese mine' along the R44 – and have bred successfully in the last two seasons. The 2007 season, however, was not without its challenges, as the chick fell from the nest long before it could fly. When this happens, the parents continue to feed the chick, but will keep a low profile to avoid drawing attention to their vulnerable charge.

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Dirk de Kock (far right) and his team, with the tagged chick from the Steenbras nest

The usually vocal chick co-operates by remaining silent to maintain its cover. Just how successful these strategies were, was demonstrated one clear morning in the middle of January 2008, when Dirk de Kock (monitoring the Kogelberg eagles) saw, to his great joy, an adult and juvenile flying together over the Blousteen nesting area. Another breeding success!

Previously called Black Eagles, Verreaux's Eagles are large, elegant birds, known to live in rocky hills, mountains and gorges, especially where Rock Dassie (*Procavia capensis*) is plentiful. They are fiercely territorial, mate for life and are commonly seen gliding along rock faces or soaring majestically on thermals, invariably in pairs. They may spend hours perched upon crags or shady mountain ledges and avoid flying in windy conditions. Their nests comprise huge platforms of sticks (1.5 to 2 metres across) and are usually constructed on inaccessible cliff ledges. Usually two eggs are laid and, within three days of hatching, the older chick kills the younger one. This is known as the 'Cain and Abel syndrome', or 'Cainism' and is quite common in eagles and a few other bird species.

It has long been accepted that, from a Verreaux's Eagle's point of view, the Kogelberg offers almost perfect breeding habitat. This was an important factor in establishing the assumption that these raptors were flourishing in the greater Kogelberg area. In 2005, the University of Cape Town's Percy Fitzpatrick Institute decided to test the validity of this perception. Under the auspices of the Western Cape Raptor Research Programme (WCRRP), a study to determine the status of Verreaux's Eagles in the greater Kogelberg area began. The practicalities of this initiative include identifying active nesting sites and monitoring these on a regular basis. Chicks are then marked with wing tags before they fledge, for future identification purposes – something that often requires hours of rock climbing and abseiling down to the nests to gain access to the chick.

What has been learned so far?

1. The active nesting sites are widely dispersed and there are only three eagle pairs in the entire Kogelberg – at Steenbras, Blousteen (ex Rooi-Els) and Oudebosch.
2. By comparing data from the WCRRP study to a helicopter survey done in 1989, it has been shown that the number of active nesting sites and therefore breeding pairs, is declining.

These findings support data from the Cape Peninsula Mountain Chain study that shows the number of active breeding pairs has declined from five to one in the past 25 years.

How can we help?

This is an ongoing study and the Team Leaders need as much help as they can get.

Please report all sightings of Verreaux's Eagles to:

Dirk de Kock, SMS – 082-075-2498 or email Dirk at: danie.meyer@absamail.co.za

What to report: the location, date and time of sighting; what was the bird doing (soaring, sitting etc); and if the bird was tagged (the colour of the tag, what wing was tagged and if possible the tag number).

Acknowledgements:

Gordon Lindsay Maclean, Roberts' Birds of Southern Africa, 5th edition

Dirk de Kock and Lucia Rodrigues, WCRRP

Louise du Toit, Rooi-Els

Nico Myburgh (photograph)

Please pop in to the Rooi-Els Eco Centre where there is currently an exhibition on the Kogelberg Verreaux's Eagles.

Jenny Stark

"Hier op Rooi-Els is 'n verhaal van omgee en hoop, met die besef die lewe behoort nie net aan een van ons alleen nie maar 'n lewe vol van groter siklusse van lewe as waarvan elkeen in eie reg bewus mag wees. Dit is die tipe omgewing en gemeenskap waarvan verwag moet word om te ontwikkel en iedereen moet eenvoudig daarmee saamloop."

Estelle Raymond

The RERA convenor writes off the cuff; 67 fines issued to Rooi-Els residents in 2008...

No, it hasn't happened yet, but very well could. RERA has been warned that the Overstrand Municipality is serious about clamping down on offenders who continuously transgress basic by-laws. The warning is that we can be certain that these by-laws will be enforced in future.

So think about it. Do we expect only visitors to adhere to the ethos and ordinances of this world-renowned and unique Biosphere of ours? Those who drive in without any respect for our coastline, stirring up the dust from our roads, driving over and killing fauna, strewing waste around and not accepting accountability for such behaviour?

Getting others to honour to our wishes, should start with us setting the example. However, I am very disappointed to see so many transgressions by property owners themselves. Speeding, light pollution, noise pollution and harbouring declared invasive alien plants are all areas that need to improve.

In earlier times, diplomatic personnel were expected to act as guests in the foreign country and act as such. Despite their immunity, they were called to book by having their transgressions published and they were sent home within a week of the transgression. We Rooi-Elsers receive only a relatively short time to treasure and nurture this very special place. We, too, are also only visitors and 'diplomatic guests'. Shouldn't we reconsider our attitudes?

I appeal to everyone to consider the issues raised in this communiqué. Let us all try our utmost this year to consider how our behaviour – whether driving on our roads, flipping the light switch, turning up the volume of our sound systems or hanging onto those rooikrans trees – is going to impact on our fellow Rooi-Elsers.

We also appeal to you to be responsible landlords and inform your tenants of all by-laws regulating life in Rooi-Els. You, as property owners, could be held liable for their transgressions.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Izak

On the subject of the fire prevention policy:

In future, plots need to be cleared of alien invasive and senescent and woody fynbos. Alien seedlings must also be eradicated. In fact, under consideration is an 'alien-free' certificate which would be required before a property can be sold. No cigarette butts are to be thrown from vehicles. Braai fires must be controlled at all times.

RERA's wine auction: Louis van Heerden is often busy for Rooi-Elsers. Here, he auctions wine to raise yet more funds for the village.



This is the life. I like it here.



It's not just music – I have other vices...

It's a wonderful morning. For once the wind isn't howling; it's eased to a gentle blast – banging on the windows, making the roof rattle in unison. The sun is shining and the thermometer tells me that outside, it's 25°C. So far in Rooi-Els, so good.

I'm preparing an evening of music for some friends. We've talked about it for a while now and if it was ever going to happen, someone had to commit to organising. I volunteered.

Music has been a passion since before I hit my teens – I grew up in London in the sixties. Then it was possible to see Pink Floyd in a local club for a couple of bob, or a very young Eric Clapton playing his very first gigs with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers for half a crown. I clearly recall one night out – a band failed to show and a newcomer turned up in their stead. His name was Jimi Hendrix. It was his first ever gig in the UK and I will never forget wondering what the hell he was all about.

We all found out soon enough.

So, on this delightful and only slightly gusty Saturday morning, I am indulging myself, playing my way through my music library, selecting music for my guests and at the same time, writing an article about it all. How cool is that?

It needs to be said that within the Perton household, my music choices evoke responses that range from deep lost-the-will-to-live sighing accompanied by collective eye rolling, to mild enthusiasm with "Oh, yes!" somewhere in the middle. Friends are in the main, mildly tolerant, but then they can always go home to get away from it.

Anyway, there's no-one home this morning and I've already played snatches of fifty or so songs, selecting some and rejecting others. As I write, Underworld pound out "Two months off", arguably one of the most outstanding electronic dance tracks of all time. Di and I regard this as a classic – not for dancing I might add, but stand-out wonderful for touring/driving, iPod plugged into the hired car's radio, somewhere in central France, New Zealand, anywhere. Shall I select it for my friends to hear, or will they just shake their heads and wonder what they've let themselves in for?

Put it in, they should hear it. I know there will be much weeding-out before I'm done and not for the first time, thank whoever for inventing the computer, digitised music and iTunes where all this music now lives. I have amassed a large collection over the years and there are hundreds of LPs and CDs stored in the house. I ponder: if we are ever unfortunate enough to have a fire, there will be little left but a large puddle of vilely toxic melted plastic...

On to Tom Waits, him of the ultra-gravel night club voice. As "Eggs and Sausage" (a song whose lyric seems to have been composed largely using the dishes on a diner's menu) oozes out of the speakers I can hear my audience saying "What is this?" and my response; "Just listen, it'll all become clear."

Next up, Esbjorn Svensson Trio's "Dodge the dodo"? Yup, some cool Scandinavian jazz is exactly what we all should hear.

Is my motivation for choosing one track over another personal? Will my guests enjoy what I've selected? I hope so, or I will have wasted many hours and much grey matter preparing. Looking at the list now, it wouldn't be easy to categorise; jazz, electronic dance, hard rock, blues, vocal, even some township jive. All of them jam-packed with musical virtuosity, bursting with the musicians' enjoyment in making them and hopefully, none of them heard before by my audience.

I look out of the window and wonder; if I were to play all of this music now, how many of these tracks would complement what I see. Few, I imagine. But then that's a key part of living in Rooi-Els; if it pleases, you can hide amongst the fynbos, trek up Klein Hangklip, read, work, relax or just age gently. Or, if the mood takes you, you can just as easily push the buttons, listen to a selection of eclectic music and as actor and R&B singer-extraordinaire, Bruce Willis sings; "...crank the volume up way past ten."

This is the life. I like it here.

Paul Perton

Welcome column

Introducing and welcoming new residents or home owners.

Johlene gee inligting

Skoert vuilgoed! Veldtog

Ons het al 'n paar keer geskryf oor die eerste drie grassoorte waarmee ons probleme ondervind en wat ons graag wil uitroei op Rooi-Els. Een hiervan is die Perde onkruid (Horse Weed) wat hierdie tyd van die jaar begin saad dra. Dis nou die tyd om hulle saadkoppe te verwyder en te verbrand! 'n Paar inwoners het al regtig hard gewerk om ander mense se erwe skoon te maak van hierdie ywerige indringer. Onthou tog om die saadkoppe nie in die tuinvullissak te gooi nie – dan versprei ons hulle net verder. Gooi op die braaivuur voordat jy die vleis opsit. Ingeval julle vergeet het hoe hulle lyk, sluit ons weer 'n foto in.

Wat kan ek daaromtrent doen?

Maak seker u weet hoe dit lyk. Voorbeelde is te sien in die Rooi-Els ekosentrum.

Verwyder die grashalms met saad en verbrand hulle.

Spuit die groen gedeeltes met 'Round-up' as hulle afbreek met die uittrek slag.

Indien dit nie vir u moontlik is om self betrokke te raak nie, bel my om te verduidelik waar u dit verwyder wil hê. Die Rooi-Els BEWAREA sal inspring met die nodige medisyne! Skakel ons by 028 273 8032.

Gardening tip

When you plant a wild peach (*Kiggelaria africana*), you plant a food web!

The wild peach is the centre of a number of food chains. Together they make a food web. Bees, ants, red-eyed turtledoves, red-winged starlings, mousebirds, cape bulbuls, Klaas's cuckoo and the little white-eyes all use the tree as a garden pantry. The symbiosis between the wild peach and the garden acraea, *Acraea horta*, one of South Africa's most common butterflies, is well known. This butterfly occurs almost everywhere where the wild peach tree grows – the wild peach being its principal larval food-plant (adapted from the Botanical Society publication "Veld & Flora" March 2007).

For beautiful examples of wild peach trees growing in Rooi-Els, visit the garden of Koos and Jenny Smit at Wonderlings.

Gardening tips: We would like to place a 'gardening tip(s)' in every issue of the Rooi-Els Breeze. Please share your tips with us. Send to: joanmodinger@lantic.net.

Tuinbou wenke: Ons beoog om 'n tuinbou wenk(e) in elke uitgawe van die Rooi-Els Bries te plaas. Stuur asb. dit wat u graag met ons wil deel aan joanmodinger@lantic.net

Lekker tuinmaak! Happy gardening!

Joan

Below: Pringle Bay from the top of Klein Hangklip. Taken at 05:40 on 1 January 2008; sunrise and bubbly – what could be better?



Chris Gilmour's crayfish competition

Die kreefvang kompetisie, op 29 Desember 2007, is gehou in perfekte weersomstandighede. Dit nadat ons 'n paar winderige dae deurgemaak het en baie angstig was oor 'n herhaling van 2006 toe die kompetisie afgestel is weens onstuimige see en wind.

Some 20 vessels with 69 crew members entered to determine the Crayfish King of 2008, although it had been evident from the start of the new season that the winning crayfish would not be of record proportions. The catch was weighed-in on the grass at Johannes Visser's where competitors and the general public gathered from 11:30 to enjoy some refreshments and to speculate on the winner.

The NSRI (Gordon's Bay) showed off the vehicle (Spirit of Rooi-Els) that was bought with a donation by REBC and also their newest Jetski. Mark Burton (NSRI) thanked REBC and commended the responsibility shown by Rooi-Elsers by being involved with NSRI. Sponsorships are very hard to come by and we thank Mr Pretorius of Dairy Belle and Kevin Douglas for their contributions.

Die kreef was toe nie so groot soos sommiges gespog het nie – die meeste het tussen 500 en 600 gm geweeg, maar dit het geen afbreuk gedoen aan die opgewondenheid en tussenwerpsels tydens die prysuitdeling nie. Stephanie Bishop did the honours of presenting the prizes.

First prize for the biggest crayfish and the Crayfish King trophy went to Kevin Douglas and his crew. Willie Rossouw had the biggest group of four and also of the biggest group of eight – no small feat. The prize for the biggest group of twelve went to Wilhelm Stals and for the biggest group of sixteen to Andries Smit. Paul Zwick had the biggest group of twenty. Booby prizes went to Ken Hopkins and Hilgard Muller.

Dankie aan almal wat betrokke was, hetsy as deelnemers, organiseerders, toeskouers, familie en vriende. Sonder julle was dit nie moontlik nie.

REBK Komitee



Siklusse in die natuur: kunsuitstalling

Ons kunsuitstalling is weer in Desember onder groot belangstelling aangebied. Dit is nou 'n gevestigde item op die vakansiekalender hier in ons fynbosgebied.

As die vloerruimte daar was, kon ons al lankal uitgebrei het. Dis klein – dis juis nie 'n handwerkmark nie – en kunstenaars van al vier buurdorpe neem deel. 'n Nuwe tema word elke jaar gekies, altyd binne die raamwerk van die natuur. Kunstenaars in keramiek (Jane Henderson, Annemarie Breytenbach), beeldhou (Evette Weyers), skilder (Regine Kröger, Micky de Froe, Pat Markovina, Sonja du Plessis), fotografie (Max Loubser, Sandra Yeo, Gerard Scholtz), tekstiel (Riana Rosenbaum) en juwele (Louise du Toit) het deelgeneem. Dis juis die samestelling van so 'n verskeidenheid kunsvorme, selfs blommekuns, in so 'n klein opset, wat dit so uniek maak.

Jaar na jaar kom 'n al hoe groter aantal besoekers kyk en koop. Mense het al daaraan gewoon geraak om Kersgeskenke hier te kom uitsoek. Die kommissie wat die kunstenaars afstaan, gee ons natuurfonds 'n goeie hupstoot. Baie dankie vir die ondersteuning! Ons is veral bly dat al hoe meer jongmense die uitstalling bywoon.

Kyk uit: Desember maak ons weer so.

Louise du Toit

Jazz op Rooi-Els

Is die Oude Libertas en die Waterfront te ver, dan maak mens plan. In Januarie, net na die gewoel en besig wees van die feestyd en vakansiegangers, het die MM-Trio hier opgetree met 'n program van Ligte Klassieke Jazz. Kaartjies is in 'n japtrap tot in Kleinmond uitverkoop en selfs oorsese besoekers kon die huisoptrede op 'n windoand geniet. Is ons gelukkig, of is ons gelukkig?

Miso Markovina (fluit) van Bettysbaai het die program kortliks ingelei en ook 'n kort oorsig gegee oor die geskiedenis van Jazz. Hy is knap bygestaan deur Frank Mallows (vibrafoon) en Braydon Bolton (basviool), albei van Kaapstad. Die trio het ouer gunsteling en minder bekende nommertjies gespeel.

Dit klink mos na 'n lekker manier om die nuwe jaar mee af te skop.

Louise du Toit



Rooi-Els Briesie!

Die hoogste weeklikse windsnelheid op die dak by erf 260 aangeteken September tot middel Februarie:

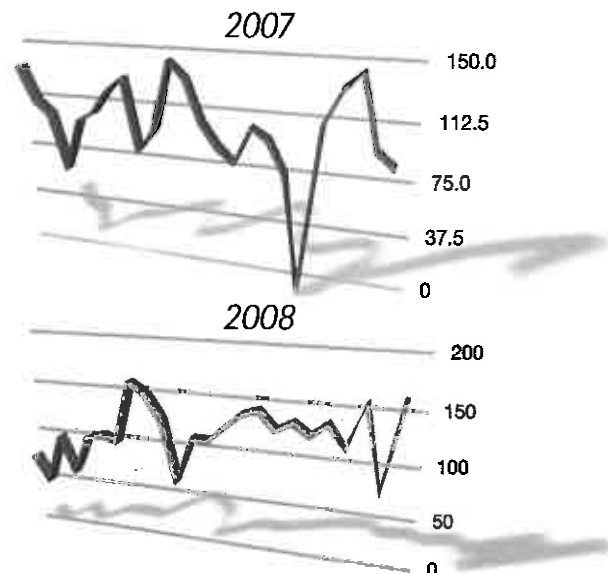
Of dit nou 'n goeie of 'n slegte jaar is, die wind waai op Rooi-Els.

Naskrif

Hiep-hiep hoera, ons het 'n nuwe rekord! Laasnag (8/02/2008) om 22h51 slaan die wind 179kpu. Dit kan die laaste inskrywing van 167kpu vervang. Die vorige hoogste windstoot was in die week van 1-7 Mei 2006 om 03h56. Toe was dit 177kpu.

Ons is baie trots - dit is soos om die rugby-beker te wen!

Pierre du Toit



Week	2006/2007		2007/2008	
	kpu		kpu	
1/Sept	37	10h44	84	10h07
2/Sept	14	03h42	60	05h40
3/Sept	05	08h58	106	12h34
4/Sept	68	23h26	72	04h55
5/Sept/Okt	103	20h23	108	23h46
1/Okt	109	19h02	111	11h36
2/Okt	124	10h11	106	02h07
3/Okt	134	07h16	164	01h42
4/Okt	85	02h21	154	03h34
1/Nov	101	05h49	132	03h54
2/Nov	146	06h05	74	00h01
3/Nov	135	21h44	117	07h08
4/Nov	108	22h52	116	23h41
1/Des	93	09h46	130	02h55
2/Des	84	11h28	143	03h45
3/Des	108	05h23	148	08h41
4/Des	101	21h12	132	23h05
5/Des/Jan	80	03h42	140	08h29
1/Jan	*		130	06h27
2/Jan	113	05h37	142	11h23
3/Jan	135	16h59	122	17h11
4/Jan	146	00h02	162	02h04
1/Feb	100	20h51	87	15h37
2/Feb	91	01h07	167	03h46

* meter waai af!

Photo gallery: One good tern...

Thanks to Bruce Relly for these wonderful images of some regular summertime visitors.

