

Bries . Breeze

NORTH-WESTER EDITION 2009

News from the Rooi Els Conservancy, RooiEls Ratepayers' Association and Rooi Els Boat Club.
Nuus van die Rooiels Bewarea, die Rooiels Belastingbetalersvereniging en die Rooiels Bootklub.



Photo by Bruce Relly

Redaksioneel / Editorial

Welcoming another Rooi Els winter !

In this issue we look at different aspects of our community. What is our responsibility towards our neighbours and towards the village as a whole? Towards the creatures that inhabit this space? **We would like to hear your opinions on this topic.**



In *Living the Vision of Rooi Els* it says: "Rooi Els encompasses a rich mixture of personalities drawn from a wide spectrum of interesting backgrounds. But what unites us is our common passion for the natural splendour of Rooi Els and its environs.

"We recognise that all forms of life are interrelated and that what affects one affects all. We strive to be caring and supportive towards each other and to take responsibility for the care of our priceless natural heritage, both within Rooi Els and the wider community."

Thanks to all the people who already live this vision – the volunteers, committee members, ladies club, hackers, beach cleaners, dune planters, bird protectors, gardeners and fire watchers. Thanks also to Izak Smit who during his term as Chairman of RERA worked towards uniting and not dividing the community.

We had a water problem over the Easter Weekend and would like to thank the municipal workers who worked throughout the weekend to ensure our water supply.

Due to rising printing and postage costs we will only be producing two Breezes this year... this 'North Wester' edition and a summer 'South Easter'. We are considering introducing a monthly electronic newsletter **Briesie/Breeze-e** for more immediate information and events. Contributions can be sent to Joan Modinger, (joanmodinger@iantic.net), Chris Burlock (izulu@mweb.co.za) or myself.

Lastly, welcome to all newcomers. Hope you will enjoy your stay here in our paradise.

In the words of Hafiz, let's all catch "The Happy Virus". I caught the happy virus last night when I was out singing beneath the stars. "It is remarkably contagious -So kiss me".


Editor / Redakteur
grietjie@mweb.co.za
0823668032

PS. An apology and thanks to Bruce Relly – we did not give him credit for his lovely pastel view of Table Mountain on the cover of our last issue.

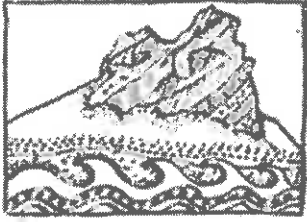


ROOI ELS CONTACTS

Animal crisis - Estelle le Roux	083 292 1190
Baboon advice - Chris Burlock	028 273 8278
Café Rio	028 273 8070
Drummond Arms	028 273 8458
EMERGENCY—Rykie van Rensburg	072 605 9512
Hack info - Werner Modinger	028 273 8032
Hangklip Help Radio - Tersia King	028 273 8438
RE Boat Club - Geoff Harris	028273 8164
RE Conservancy - Chris Burlock	028 273 8278
RE Ladies Group - Lyn Harris	028 273 8164
RE Village Shop	028 273 8383
RERA - Julia Aalbers	021 976 4378
Something Els	028 273 8516
Snake catching - Chris Burlock	028 273 8278

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

AMBULANCE - Ambustat	021 315 1124
AREA MANAGER Cecile Jonkheid	028 271 8100
ASK SECURITY—24 hr HOT LINE	072 345 3041
COUNCILLOR - Louis van Heerden	083 538 1500
DENTISTS - Dr JP Duvenage	028 271 3467
- Dr Engelbrecht	028 271 3662
DOCTORS - Dr van Niekerk	028 271 4227
- Dr du Plessis a/h 0832 653 6355	028 271 4227
-Dr Gernetzky a/h 073 681 1221	028 272 9040
EMERGENCY 24 hr Hermanus	028 313 8000
ESKOM failure in office hours	021 859 5305
after hours	086 003 7566
Harold Porter Botanical Gardens	028 272 9311
FIRE - Carl Muller 082 774-4581	028 313 8000
- Clayton Francis (Pringle)	082 416 6685
- Kobus Stemmet (Kleinmond)	082 824 1434
- Riaan Jacobs (Fire Chief)	082 373 8270
KAWS - Kleinmond Animal Welfare	028 271 5004
LAW ENFORCEMENT (24 hr)	028 313 8111
MEDI-CLINIC Somerset West	021 850 9000
MEDI-CLINIC Hermanus	028 313 0168
OM Environmental Officer - Neville Green	028 271 8420 082 412 4840
NATIONAL SEA RESCUE Institute	021 449 3500
OPTICIAN - Dr PL Obermeyer	028 271 3119
PHARMACY - Albertyn	028 271 4666
POLICE - Kleinmond	028 271 8200
SEAWATCH (anti-poaching)	082 994 9300
TRAFFIC DEPT (Kleinmond)	028 271 8152
VET - Kleinmond Animal Clinic	028 271 4183



Brief Report Back from RERA Exco.

"The Executive Committee has already met and is picking up the threads after the resignation of Izak Smit, who put in an exceptional effort to keep RERA relevant and in tune with the other organisations in RE and the three villages. We thank him and Gerda for their commitment and contributions to our area." writes Julia Aalbers

NEWS FROM EXCO.

Our current EXCO is not up to full strength but is currently represented as voted in at the recent AGM.

The portfolios are:

- **Julia Aalbers - Acting Chairman and Ward Committee representative;(021 9764378)**
- **Pat Devine-Security (028273 8677)**
- **Mike Harrison-Small Holdings and the Federation of Ratepayers (028273 8569)**
- **Bruce Relly-Roads and building plans. Conservancy liaison.(028273 8648)**
- **Hannah Reinders-Social and RERA members support. (Currently abroad until May)**
- **Frank Raymond-legal consultant and co-opted member.**

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.

The EXCO committee has met on three occasions and is currently addressing urgent issues. We have been able to stop a proposed policy concerning development of rural/agricultural land in our Municipal area, which was not subjected to the normal public participation process.

Louis Van Heerden, our Councillor and the officials will now be holding a workshop/meeting to ensure that the document matches our other planning initiatives and takes due cognisance of our Biosphere Reserve and the recent legislation signed on 9 Feb 2009 by the Relevant Minister + the SA President entitled the Integrated Coastal Management Act, no 24 of 2008.

We are also preparing our response with the other two villages to the Integrated Zoning Scheme proposals, which are at third draft level. The Rooi Els vision will be the departure point for our input. We are supporting the Federation of Ratepayers legal action concerning Arabella Phase 2.

Together with the RE Conservancy, we put in a combined proposal for funds from Louis Van Heerden's discretionary Councillor funds for the next financial year and are pleased to report that the strategy of a unified approach from our two organisations has resulted in support for the boardwalk, near erf 115 to avoid further damage to the dunes; support for a strategy to reduce erosion of the dune near the RE river, plus information notice boards and informative brochures for all Ward 10 residents on building, recycling and sustainable living.

SPECIAL APPEAL

As a newish committee, we are currently not up to our full number of 6 members or more. We are urgently looking for a **secretary, treasurer** and a **fire** representative!

If you have the time, please consider volunteering.

We are very structured and will meet on the **second Tuesday evening of every month at 18h00**, except during the winter recess. The venue will move but if you wish to attend/contribute, please email me and I will provide the necessary details.
(Our next meeting is at erf 99, Tuesday 14 April.)

Many thanks

Julia jaalbers@icon.co.za

MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our special thanks to those who have already paid your subscriptions for 2009...and to those who generously made larger contributions to our organisation. If you have paid, then read no further.

But if you have not, then this is a gentle reminder that your subscription is due.

Please continue to support us by sending your subscription of R100 to:

**Rooi Els Ratepayers Association,
PO Box 89, Betty's Bay, 7141.**

**or pay it into our bank account at:
ABSA Account Number: 2900166152.**

Whichever method you chose PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR **ERF NUMBER** AS REFERENCE.

With grateful thanks in anticipation for your co-operation.

RERA Executive Committee.

David Philip landwyd vereer

Uitgewer David Philip het weselik bygedra tot welsyn van mensdom, lui die opskrif in Die Burger oor dié Rooi Elser wat in Februarie vanjaar in die ouderdom van 81 jaar oorlede is. David Philip het in die apartheidsjare boeke gepubliseer van verskeie "ongewenste" mense wie se stemme andersins sou stilgebly het.

Die artikel is geskryf deur Malcolm Hacksley, direkteur van die Nasionale Engelse Letterkundige Museum in Grahamstad, en hier volg uittreksels:

David het sy hele lewe gewy aan die uitgee van goeie boeke, boeke wat in die Suider-Afrikaanse werklikheid ontstaan het en regstreeks daartoe spreek. Dit was 'n edele onderneming, te meer omdat dit 'n self-opgelegde taak was. Hy het met die moedigheid, wat so eie aan hom was soos sy onbedwingbare humorsin, deurgedruk en geseëvier.

In die apartheidsjare het die destydse regering die lewe vir uitgewers al hoe moeiliker gemaak: Vryheid van spraak is toenemend ingekort en onafhank-like stemme is stom gemaak. Die gevolg was dat al die groot multinasionale uitgewers in Suid-Afrika in die vroeë sewentigerjare voor die dreigemente van die destydse bewind geswig het: eerder bang Jan as dooie Jan.

Uit protes teen die toenemend strenge sensuur en oorregulering van die media, het David en sy vrou Marie sy pensioengeld geneem en die firma David Philip Publish-ers (DPP) gestig, om boeke uit te gee wat "saak maak vir Suider-Afrika".

Dit was nie net finansiële nie, maar ook polities riskant: David, sy gesin en sy firma is gedurig deur die veiligheidspolisie geteister, van hul boeke is verban, hul personeel en skrywerskorps is geïntimideer.

Onwrikbaar in sy beginsels, maar met sy kenmerkend beskaafde persoonlike styl en ewe karakteristieke vasberadenheid, trotseer David dit alles. Daardeur bewys hy aan die land 'n guns van onskatbare waarde, naamlik om ten alle koste die waarheid te laat vertel.



Dit doen hy deur stem te gee aan skrywers en denkers, natuurkenners en humoriste, kerklui en wysgere, geskiedkundiges en kunstenaars, wat andersins deur die menigte hou-jou-bek-wette stom sou gewees het.

Hy sê in 1980 "Ons het nog nooit 'n boek afgekeur omdat ons -vermoed het dit sou dalk as on-gewens verklaar kan word nie."

Die DPP-katalogus bevat die naam van amper elke belangrike Suid-Afrikaanse skrywer in die laaste drie dekades van die 20ste eeu. 'n Mens dink onder vele meer aan Alan Paton, Nadine Gordimer, Njabulo Ndebele, Jeremy Cronin, Bessie Head, Can Themba, Gus Ferguson, Esk'ia Mphahlele, Francis Wilson, Mamphela Ramphele, Douglas -Livingstone, Guy Butler, Siphon Sepamla, Ivan Vladislavic, Mike Nicol, Miriam Tlali, Sindiwe Magona, Ellen Kuzwayo, Niki Daly en Marguerite Poland.

David Philip is begrawe uit die St. Saviour's Anglikaanse kerk in Claremont en talle het eer bewys aan dié gebore Kapenaar wat "weselik bygedra het tot die welsyn van die mensdom".

God die digter ... T.T.Cloete

Chili is deur 'n digter gemaak – Neruda

*daar is meer poësie in die sneeuwlokkie
as in die letterkunde en baie meer poësie
in die miskruier in die toktokkie
in die meteorology en entomologie
in die moremis en in die bergpiek
die horison wat in die hemel wegraak
in die rooswolk is daar baie meer liriek
die aarde is deur 'n digter gemaak*

Rooi Elser awarded Life Membership of BotSoc

We congratulate Jeanette Yates, a stalwart of the Kirstenbosch branch of the Botanical Society, for being awarded Honourary Life Membership. Janette is a valuable member of the Rooi Els Conservancy Committee.

It takes a whole community!

It takes a village to raise a child

(African Proverb)

It takes the whole Rooi Els community to raise an oystercatcher chick!

Two Oystercatcher chicks were hatched on the main beach of Rooi Els in December last year. Both were fine until Christmas, but the one did not survive the New Years influx. In spite of the "chick minders", the holiday crowds, attacks from dogs, and children trying to catch them proved too much for it.

Having a "bird's eye view" on the comings and goings of the oystercatcher parents and their two chicks during the holiday season can be a nerve wrecking experience for any "human parent"!

The following comments are a sample of what some of the visitors disturbing the oystercatcher parents and their chicks, had to say:

"Who are you? This beach does not belong to you. Dogs are allowed to run around on the Rooi Els beach without being on a lead. Go and catch your own bloody oysters..."

"Sien oom, ons gooi die grotes met klippe, want ons wil die klein voëltjies vang..."

"I do apologize, I was not aware of the fact that dogs had to be on leads, or that there are baby oystercatchers here on the beach..."

Luckily the majority of Rooi Elers and holidaymakers respected the sign boards informing everyone about the oystercatchers and the need for dogs to be on leads.

One can only ask how committed are we as a community when it comes to the raising of these endangered birds? Can we echo our "Living the Vision" where we pledge to "be caring and supportive towards each other and to take responsibility for the care of our priceless natural heritage, both within Rooi Els and the wider community"?

Die Tobies is baie goeie ouers, en beskerm hul kuikens teen honde, meeue, ganse en mense. Met hulle swart gewade is die ouers en die kleintjies feitlik onsigbaar teen die kelp-agtergrond.

Reeds omdat hulle so goed gekamoeifleer word tussen die seewier, gebeur dit dat mense en hulle honde te na aan die kuikens kom. Die "goeie ouers" raak dan paniekbevange en probeer die honde/mense weglei... wat weer die kuikens paniekerig maak.

Die kleintjies kan van kleins af swem. Hulle het bedags tot by die rotse geswem en opgeklim. En in die aande na die grootstrand terugkeer.

Die jong Tobie het na so veertig dae sy eerste vlieg oefeninge begin doen en iewers in Maart was hy reeds weg.

Die wonderbaarlike oorlewing van die een kuiken hierdie jaar het groot vreugde en verwondering gebring vir daardie inwoners wat die oorlewingstryd deurgaans dopgehou het.

Baie dankie aan alle Rooi Elers wat saamgewerk het. Ons vra weer die samewerking van almal as ons aan die einde van die jaar gelukkig is en 'n nuwe broeisiel kuikens op die strand het.

Werner Mödinger



Photo by Sandra Yeo

Crime... in Rooi Els!

Just when you think it is safe in sleepy Rooi Els!

On Sunday the 22nd February, in broad daylight, someone broke into a house in Rocklands Avenue and the car parked outside.

'B' (not her real name) was dog-sitting at the house and had left for a spur of the moment lunch at the local pub. After an hour she returned home to find the door open and her laptop missing. As little heaps of objects around the house suggested that the operation was interrupted and the person could still be around, 'B' phoned some friends.

As soon as the friends arrived, one went inside to make sure the coast was clear. 'B', still standing outside, called to another to take down the registration number of a car parked not far away. She had seen this car and its owner on her way out. She had even spoken to the driver and noted that he was well dressed but very unfriendly - not like the usual day trippers on a day out. While waiting outside, she had noticed this same guy was still outside, moving his car, hovering, watching her.

When the driver saw his number plate was being taken down, he got into the car and sped away in the direction of Gordon's Bay - with B's friends in hot pursuit! On the way they reported the incident and car details to the Gordon's Bay Police. But when the fleeing driver started recklessly overtaking traffic on blind corners, (nearly causing some head on collisions), 'B's friends turned back. Later they heard that the driver had crashed his car against the mountain only two bends further from their turnabout point! It was a stolen car - and the owner was, at that point, still unaware of his car's disappearance! The driver was given a lift towards Kleinmond by a Pringle Bay resident. He had the laptop with him.

The Police in Kleinmond were extremely helpful and resourceful in taking down statements and also in recovering most of the stolen goods - some from the house owner and some from 'B's car. But no laptop. 'B' was particularly upset about the laptop, because it had years of work on it - with all her backups neatly stacked in the computer bag that was also stolen with it. The Police did make an arrest, but there was not enough evidence to make the charge stick. The investigation continues.

What was learned from the event?

Firstly, to trust your hunches. It was probably an opportunistic event, but crime is always possible. And secondly, to keep handy numbers on your cell phone, e.g.

- **ASK's great 24 hour Armed Response - 0723453041,**
- **local Pringle Bay Reservist, Axel - 0832864144,**
- **and Kleinmond Police - 028 2718200.**

ROOIELS LADIES GROUP

ROOIELS DAMESGROEP

It sounds so formal and some women say, "But, I've never belonged to one."

Well, perhaps you should!

In the Rooi Els Ladies Group there is no membership involved, we simply get together once a month for a chat and some tea. A great way for newcomers to get to know the other girls in town. And for us oldies, a way to catch up with friends and neighbours when our own lives get too hectic (yes, that does happen in Rooi Els!).

Ons wil veral ook die nie-permanente dames nooi om tydens hul vakansies tog by ons aan te sluit. Kom ontmoet 'n klompie potensiële vriendinne oor 'n koppie tee en hoor bietjie wat in die dorp aangaan en raak intiemer deel van Rooi Els.

We are hoping to become more involved in community actions. The first step was to supply the refreshments for the monthly hacks. That way the hackers don't get to do all the hard work *and* supply their own sustenance too! In May, Hettie Claassens did the honours and on June 6, it will be Margaret Hensen's turn.

Verder help ons maar vir mekaar as daar nood is. In die verlede het die vrouens al etes voorsien, besoeke afgelê en inkopies gedoen as daar siekte was.

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 15h30. if we don't have your contact details and you are not receiving invitations, please contact Rennie Moir (028 273 8019) or Anuta Scholtz (028 273 8539).



The 'old' and 'new'!
Lynn Harris and Marina du Plessis, (left)
are handing over to the new conveners,
Rennie Moir (right) and Anuta Scholtz
(back).

Of Conservancy ... and Community

"A Conservancy is only as effective as the people who believe in conservation! It can't force folks to care!

We can only help prompt awareness and hope that folks will care enough to make the right decisions or adapt to better ways of doing things because it makes sense and feels right..." says Chris Burlock



Part of the Conservancies awareness programme has been heavily disguised as fun, (like the "Pub Quiz" which everyone enjoyed so much), and some of it was sweaty but still fun, (like the rehabilitation of the dune blow-hole near erf 115).

The dune blow-hole was brought to our attention by Janette Yeats. Having had experience of dune destruction and the difficulty of dune rehabilitation, Janette was horrified by the sand dumping from the building site on erf 115, (what we commonly refer to as the "hotel site"). With prompt discussion and the intervention of Neville Green, soon the sand was being moved to the blow-hole at the end of Priestleya Road, but unfortunately the seed bank lying in the topsoil had been lost.

The owner of erf 115 then generously laid a vast area of coir matting over the partially re-filled blow-hole. In Janette's experience anchovy netting would have been better as it traps seed whereas the matting was proving too dense.

Early February, 10 Conservancy members, (and Patrick, who did the work of 10!) planted some 200 *Carpobrotus* runners (that's Sour Fig for the less botanically inclined like me!) It required cutting into the matting, digging holes, lugging compost, planting the runners and placing rocks where the wind was threatening to remove the matting.

Liaam from Environmental Services put in the irrigation pipes... the owner of 115 is giving us free water... Dr Neil Fairall kindly gave us (free) expert advice on a protective fence (which is still to go up)... the Boat Club has generously donated R5 000 for plants from Kirstenbosch which will need to be acclimated before a second planting spree. Then it will be over to Nature! Have a look when next walking the slipway beach... but PLEASE don't walk on the dunes!

This exercise triggered a successful appeal for some R40 000 for two dune boardwalks for Rooi Els from Louis van Heerden's discretionary funds. In fact, all the Rooi Els Conservancy suggestions were accepted!

Our Pub Quiz night was another great success. It not only raised awareness of the environment, (*do you know the number to call if you suspect poaching or how many species of plants we have in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve?*), but it certainly raised community spirits! It was not designed to be a fundraiser, (the R40 ticket price covering supper and prizes), but thanks to some 'spirited' bidding for wine donated by Something Els, REC landed up with R400! Congratulations to the winning (and noisiest) table: Dick & Jill Lockley, Izak Smit, Karin & Gary Isenberg and Sandra Yeo.

As REC has recently replaced that most UN-welcoming sign on Porter Drive (the one that said **Rooi Els: NO!**) with one more befitting a caring community, the R400 raised will help cover the production cost of the new sign. (*bottom of page*)



Above: We all left feeling a great sense of achievement!



What a welcome!

Below: The new sign





Conservancy continued

On the issue of DOGS!

The Conservancy has been busy answering concerns regarding dogs.

One gentleman wants Rooi Els declared a 'NO DOGS ALLOWED' area... another has discovered a loophole that means the Rooi Els beach may not be subject to Municipal by laws regarding dogs!

Traditionally, Rooi Els has been a dog-friendly village.

But the village is growing... and so is the number of dogs. And with more dogs comes more barking, more threats to the birds and wildlife we are so privileged to co-exist with and, (my pet-hate), more dog poo on our streets and verges!

It is obviously up to **all** dog owners to strive to achieve that all important balance between having happy, well exercised dogs on one hand, and happy, appreciative villagers on the other.

But, no matter how dog friendly the village may be, it cannot over-rule the by laws.

Its common sense that we dog owners need to ensure our dogs do not give people reason to call in Law Enforcement (028) 313 8111.

Chris Burlock

JAN 09

- Beach clean up. Many thanks to all who participated
- Put plaques on benches in Nature Reserve to acknowledge the Binder's kindness
- Hassled poachers
- Pushed for removal of boat wreck
- Planted dune blow-out and got consultant in to advise on wind-fencing position
- Watered new planting

FEB

- Hack
- Watering of dune replanting
- Met with RERA
- Submitted suggestions re LvH's Ward funding
- Designed penguin signage for Municipality
- Met with M Bartman along with RERA
- Joint Conservancy meeting
- Baby seal posters distributed
- Removed puff-adder from DvdM home

MARCH

- Hack
- Fun Pub Quiz Night
- New Rooi Els sign on Porter Drive

APRIL

- Hack
- Sell out ISKRA Oldstars German evening
- Met with RERA re roads strategy, etc.
- Removed puff-adder from MH's
- Comment on Overstrand Zoning Scheme
- Design & art for Breeze

War On Weeds!



Skoert Vuilgoed Veldtogs!

Now's the time to pull out HORSE-WEEDS & FOUNTAIN GRASS!



The best strategy to conquer weeds is to pull them up **BEFORE** their thousands of seeds have set and had a chance to disperse!

PLEASE look out for these two terrible foreigners and up-root them while the ground is wet and soft.

And please look out for Port Jackson, Rooikrans and Myrtle while you are walking! They are much easier to remove as seedlings than when they have grown into saplings!

Thank you,
Joan Mödinger



Breeze Letter Box

Got a question that needs answering by RERA, REC or another village voice? Write to the Editor, PO Box 89 Betty's Bay 7141; or grietjie@mweb.co.za



Bries Briewebus

Het jy iets wat jy wil vra vir die REBV, die REB, of iemand anders op die dorp? Skryf jou brief aan die Redakteur, Posbus 89 Bettiesbaai 7141; of grietjie@mweb.co.za

GOOD NEIGHBOURS?

Rooi Els is marred by certain residents' lack of community.

This village should be a paradise but these people see only the end of their noses and the boundaries of their 'castles'. I give an example.

Around 22.30 one night back in April, I noticed an 'open fire' outside a door of one of the nearby houses, which fire was scattering sparks. There was little wind, but as the people were new tenants of the property, I thought it wise to go have a quiet word. The 'open fire' was only a small picnic-type braai, but I felt it appropriate to state, politely, that due to the risk of fire, Rooi Els has concerns about such things. There was little response, but I had made a point. Just after the Hack the following morning, I visited again, armed with a copy of *The Vision* and the *Firewise* booklet. I was still in Hack disarray as I thought it good PR for REC to explain my dishevelled state. I chatted a bit and expressed goodwill and welcome.

Imagine, then, my surprise when, early that same afternoon, the Landlady comes calling: not 'calling' as in visiting but calling my name. The voice sounded friendly, but upon going onto my front deck, voice and body became decidedly unfriendly. In a nutshell, I was to keep off all her properties on pain of prosecution.

This lady came back a while later and flung *The Vision* and the *Firewise* booklet onto my outside table. It may come as a surprise to some people, but I kept my temper throughout all this. I did, however, remark that it was sad that there were people in the village like her. As her only advice was to 'ring the cops' if I had a problem, what advice do other Rooi Elers have for me?

Surely the majority of good-hearted folks must find this sort of behaviour beyond the pale? Does anyone have any advice as to how we can get such people to realise the pleasure of being part of a caring community?

Sandra Yeo

ARE WE GREY ENOUGH?

I've recently taken over the 'Environmental' seat on the Ward 10 committee from the retiring Dr Nicolette Louw. Held every second Tuesday of the month, the meetings help provide a great deal of insight into how the Overstrand Administration operates. Anyone can attend but as observers only, unless you address your proposal to Area Manager, Cecile Jonkheid and get put onto agenda. But if you have an environmental or conservation issue, you can refer it to me, and other village issues can be referred to Julia Aalbers; and we can raise it at the meeting.

One innovative project that has been put to the Ward committee is that of **"Grey Power": a strategic approach to addressing skills shortages.**

Mr. Jaap van Staden, an industrial psychologist, told the meeting of the tremendous skill shortages in all municipal offices/sections.

The Overstrand Municipality is responsible for some 700 000 people and a huge area of land and coastline. *(I did a quick calculation - should Rooi Els have 700 'residents', we make up just one thousandth of the 700 000. And with around 70 'permanent' residents, we comprise 0,01% of the Overstrand population! Cuts us down to size don't you think!? Even more important, it tells us why we should work WITH the municipality, getting involved pro-actively.)*

Back to Mr. van Staden: all the Overstrand villages have retired/semi-retired people with skills. They want to compile a data list of those skilled (grey-haired) persons with qualifications more than matric, (including artisans), who would be willing to serve or assist the municipality on a contract basis. Appointments and remuneration will be subject to the normal employment regulations.

He asked the Ward members to inform their constituencies about this. All names with competencies must be sent through to the Area Manager, Cecile Jonkheid. (cjonkheid@overstrand.gov.za)

Joan Mödinger

The fantastic panorama below was taken from the Klein Hangklip peak by Rooi Elser, Illah Nourbakhsh, using robotic camera technology.



Breeze Letter Box

Response to Chris's letter in the last Breeze:

Dear Editor,

What it is to serve (some farewell thoughts from the previous RERA Convenor)

Many of us have served our community at one stage or another. Why do we give up a large slice of our private lives to do this? Not for self interest, but for the common good of all. And, perhaps, man was made to serve his whole life. (If you haven't done so, read Chapter 29 of Rick Warren's "The Purpose Driven life".)

On the other hand, when it comes to Rooi Els, I think most of us, who come here to relax and seek a peaceful existence, would prefer to live without much involvement at all. To just enjoy this great environment and the blessings that come with it.

Very few want to see anything impinging on their privacy or precious time here. I am no different, so am able to respect that stance. The dilemma is that without dedicated involvement, little will come of the Vision we have for Rooi Els – words are useless without appropriate action.

Several previous Exco leaders have said that what had made things difficult is the fact that one always had to deal (a) with factions and (b) those who seem to go around in life not recognizing the efforts others put in for the common good or (c) those who just simply prefer to be critical - often without having first hand knowledge of the facts.

Often people who prefer not to get involved, also don't bother to obtain the facts or take note of what is really happening. Instead of asking, they contribute to the spread of rumours; and thus create factions. (And as *FIREWISE* points out, fires are easier to start than to stop.)

So, if you have a problem with something in RE, discuss it with your committee. After all, they have been democratically elected and are tasked with ensuring the implementation of the RE Vision.

Unfortunately, it is also true that RERA cannot solve ALL the issues! Municipal priorities and requirements ensure that, but RERA can at least facilitate communication with the right authority.

When I took up the position of RERA Chair in 2007, I reminded the Exco that, as leaders, we should be prepared to "listen and understand", this being the basis for a suggested philosophy of building community. The hope was that such a philosophy would resolve the issues and the split-attitude of "them and us". After all, should we not stand united, with a single mission? And the Vision provides a very clear future scenario of minimalist development.



Bries Briewebus

While we all have individual thoughts, feelings and perceptions, how we handle these makes or breaks relationships. People sometimes tend to overreact. It is important for all of us to be conscious of this, and we should always strive for understanding.

Sober, thoughtful reaction and discussion will alleviate differences if we REALLY want to "build community". I sincerely wish to thank the many who were prepared to set past differences aside for the greater good of the community.

I must also add that it is not easy to serve a community like ours. With a 16% permanent residency rate, one of RERA's biggest challenges is to communicate effectively.

History shows that only about a third of its members care (or are able) to attend meetings, and few communicate directly. Most ratepayers do not want to be involved and this is a pity, for your support is badly needed if we are to succeed in our Vision.

Nevertheless, RERA continues to provide strong representation for its members and continues to adhere to adopted community decisions, despite some perceptions to the contrary.

As the Ward system improves, so, hopefully, will our communication with the OM, resulting in fewer SNAFU's and frustrations.

RERA will without doubt continue to do its utmost in the future, through the volunteers who give a lot of their time to serve the community.

Successive committees have addressed themselves to matters affecting the interests of the Ratepayers of Rooi Els, going about this mandate in a caring spirit, while expressing responsibility towards the environment, community and fellow men as best they can. I salute them all.

There are great challenges ahead! But your interests are in very capable hands and I thank these selfless volunteers for the sacrifices they will have to make and (no doubt) the brickbats that will come their way.

Thanks to all our members for your support during my tenure.

Let us all remember that in Rooi Els there is only one team, battling alongside REC and the REBC.

By supporting RERA in our daily actions and conversations, we too, like the Proteas, will certainly "win the series".

Izak Smit,

Former RERA Convenor

Rooi Els is still paradise!

I've just paid my Rooi Els dues. I cleaned up two-score baboon shits in the house. (Do that and see if you still have the humour to use the word faeces.) They tore a window open and... you know the rest.

It's great though. When the baboons break in and the south-easter blows like stink for two weeks, I start getting excited. I know that your average voyager is going to crack. "Ciao Rooi Els, we will not be coming back."

The unique annoyances of Rooi Els protect its beauty. I'm worried that climate change will turn this paradise into some sort of sub-tropical Shangri-la for people who are not prepared to whip up a bit of guts and wade through two weeks of wind and primate detritus.

Let's get closer to a scenario. News gets out that this place is groovy. Thousands flock here; "Oops, sorry Tobie, my dog just ate your eggs," "Wow that piece of coastline will sub-divide nicely into four thousand plots," "We need to tar this road, there are 2009 cars passing daily, but let's build a petrol station anyway".

I do wish Rooi Els had more durable trees. Could we hide some of the atrocities that call themselves houses? Did people ever hear of the concept of a building having a relationship with its landscape?

What the hell. I'm prepared to let these things go. I slip into the chill waters and look at the Kogelberg thinking "Where else can you smell fynbos, cast your eyes over a crisp white beach and taste the vitality?"

I have swum, dived and walked many coastlines on this planet and Rooi Els is still paradise.

Seriously now, can we just keep it this way?

Piers Relly

Gerard's old photo of Rooi Els — how we've changed it!



Bob's sighting extraordinaire!

I have been coming to Rooi Els since brother Diarmuid's family arrived in the '70's, and had never seen an otter... the local icon. Many times I have set off early, with camera and bino's, for the beach in the nature reserve, hoping to find them. But I had begun to accept that I may never see the otters that I have always admired in Philip Van Rooyen's beautiful sunset photograph.

But late on Sunday 23rd February, I drove down here for a night with a visiting colleague from Frankfurt. We were worn out, but in good spirits after running a 3 day surgical and lecture workshop, and were well set for a swim, red wine and a steak on the fire.

Karl had his point-and-press Canon with him as we set off at 6pm for the deserted beach in a typical gale. Jehosophat! There right before us were these chaps having a fine time just beyond the river mouth, and for the next 20 minutes we peered over the intervening rocks, completely entranced. (See photo on page 14)

The family then set off through the kelp and surf, towards the slipway with their leader bouncing up and down in the shallows like a meerkat, to make sure we understood that we should keep our distance. So we did, and went for our brave swim (temp measured at 15 degrees). Half an hour later, after exploring the river and swimming beyond the bridge, we returned to the slipway and there they were again - the whole gang cavorting about the base of the old tide pillar. We counted **ten** of them.

Professor Karl Fuchs of Frankfurt was completely seduced by RE ("Man, what a beautiful place.." he kept repeating with a shake of his head), and suitably impressed at his remarkable otter-spotting luck. He dutifully spent the evening filling my glass and chuckling at my doe-eyed wonderment at an experience far more exciting than even the remarkable surgery of the previous days.

What finally inspired me to write my first letter to you, was our morning walk today. It is Carolyn and my 25th wedding anniversary and we set off to share this news with the rock-jumpers. While they were obviously still asleep, we were more than compensated by the sight of our returned village pair of Verreaux's eagles soaring above in gracious congratulation, while on the road, all three local sunbirds, a cape bunting, a grassbird and even a ground woodpecker sang for us.

Ah, but our land is beautiful...

Regards

Bob Baigrie

About Terns

Picture this – an azure African sky, cresting waves over the main beach and a whirling flock of white terns gleaming like a thousand specks of foam with Table Mountain as a backdrop, – and you have *exactly* why we love Rooi Els!

There is something awesome about a beach stroll “putting up” a flock of terns and looking through their shapes at the sky – bliss! They tend to congregate on the main beach or on the Point area depending on wind and weather, heads usually to wind.

So what are these birds all about?

Technically they belong to the family *Sternidae*; they are a worldwide species, are usually possessed of pale plumage, some sort of black cap and have forked tails.

In Rooi Els we have recorded 6 species. They aren't the easiest birds to distinguish, but paradoxically you are probably all able to recognize the family. They are all fish eaters with additional marine food. They all “plunge dive” for their food from varying heights and to varying depths. They are subject to being kleptoparasitised (being harried for their food) by gulls and jaegers / skuas. Most are non-breeding (i.e. they do not breed here but in the Northern hemisphere.) One, the Arctic tern, holds the avian world record for distance travelled in a year! They are gregarious birds and co-habit, a fact that does make them confusing to identify individually.

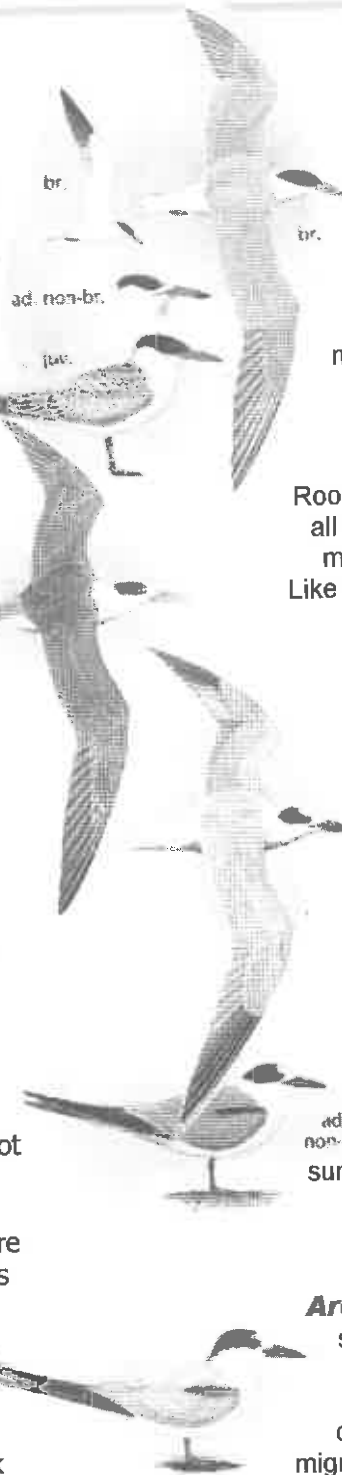
I have listed the terns in **size order** and added a distinguishing feature to try to help you identify them – those of you who own a Roberts or other bird book will be able to look up all the rest!

All have slight plumage variations and would be much easier to distinguish if they *did* breed here as their breeding plumages are distinctive – but we would have to undergo quite lengthy journeys ourselves to see them!

So next time you see them do an ‘about turn’ yourself and try to sort them out!

Alison

Sorry for the poor pics pinched from my much loved Sasol bird book...didn't have time to draw them... Chris



Caspian Tern: - This is the largest tern in South Africa and a worldwide species. It is an uncommon visitor to Rooi Els and seen more “frequently” in Kleinmond. It has a large bright red dagger like bill which is diagnostic. Present all year it is a colonial summer breeder and is monogamous. It is near-threatened.

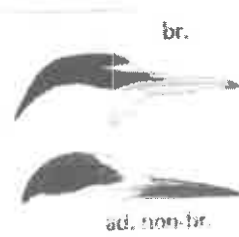
Swift Tern: - This is a regular at Rooi Els and present all year. It's bright all yellow bill is diagnostic and it has a marked black crown, slightly crested. Like the Caspian it is a colonial summer breeder and is also monogamous. It does co-habit with other nesting seabirds.

Sandwich Tern: - Less easy to spot this tern has a yellow – tipped black bill. (Think of a bill dipped in an egg sandwich!) These are European breeding birds and regular summer visitors to our beach.

Common Tern: Very common! It has dull orange to brown legs. Also a non-breeding summer migrant and start packing their feathers in autumn.

Arctic Tern: - Another non-breeding summer migrant and easily confused with the common tern but has **very** short legs dark red to brown legs in colour. This bird is remarkable for the migrations it under goes. Not necessarily the birds we have here they spend their time in the northern summer in the Arctic (hence their name) and in the southern summer they're found from the southern coast of Africa to Antarctica, a journey of some 36 000 kilometres!

Little Tern: - Surprise, surprise is the smallest tern, (almost half the size of a Caspian), and that factor makes it easier to distinguish when terns are all flocked together. Yet another non-breeding migrant



Snippets

How about analysing our Rooi Els Climate?

Those people with electronic weather stations are requested to make these electronic records available to our local weather expert Keith Moir.

Keith will then try and analyse these records and present it as a "Rooi Els Climate Report" in the next Breeze, with some background on what drives the "Hi's and Lo's" that we experience every year.

Keith can be contacted through Rennie at: renniemoir@telkomsa.net



Muishonde se manewales

In Januarie vanjaar het ek op die hoofstrand iets gehoor soos 'n voël wat vasgekeer of beseer is – harde skreeu-geluide. Toe ek nader beweeg, sien ek twee muishonde wat mekaar heen en weer oor die rotse jaag. En wild stamp en tekere gaan. En oral oor Rooi Els het ek pare gesien wat lyk of hulle pronk.

Ek neem aan dit is 'mating behaviour' en wonder wanneer word die babas gebore, hoev-eel, wat eet hulle?

Griet Odendaal



Two Important notices:

- 1. As rising costs have resulted in Breeze being published only twice a year, REC | RERA | REBC would like to send a brief village update to members via e-mail. Should you want to receive the new 'Breeze-e', please ensure your email address is up to date with the organizations you belong to.**
- 2. Those property owners who have chosen NOT to join REC, RERA or REBC have traditionally still received the Breeze, (funded by those who have joined!) Unfortunately, this will have to end. Should you not want to join a body but still want to receive the Breeze, a few copies will be available for purchase at the Rooi Els Village Shop.**

Many Happy Re-Terns!

Let's celebrate the "Return of the Terns" ... a great suggestion from some Rooi Els ladies.

In the northern hemisphere, places like California celebrate the return of their local tern population after their migration of over 3 000 miles across the globe. Celebrations are held in May or June, when the warmer weather starts. (The "International Migratory Bird Day" is on the 2nd Saturday of May each year.)

Our local and visiting terns were out in full force this year. In February, thousands were still enthraling people at the beach. With approaching winter, the summer terns have all left, leaving the 'locals' behind.

This has inspired several people to suggest we organise a "**Welcoming Celebration**" when our fair-weather friends return again during our summer. Maybe in November or December?

Overseas there are all sorts of ideas for celebrating this day, eg:

- Take a bird hike
- Put up a feeding station for bird observation
- Learn how to recycle - e.g. by making a feeder
- Keep cats indoors!
- Raise funds for a migratory bird conservation program
- Find out about migratory bird species around your town and learn where they migrate to and from
- Visit a Wildlife Area for a special day of birdwatching; or contact your local bird club and find out what's going on in your community for this very special day.

Suggestions are welcome on how WE can make the return of OUR terns a special event.

Send them to: brelly@mhws.co.za

Mary Comrie



Bird Chat ... from Cedric ... and Alison!

Hi there – yes, you lucky lot, it is me again – you're *so* lucky to have my talents as your favourite avian author! So, please put your primaries together and flap – da, da – Cedric's back! Only for a few lines though - that Alison is such a pain. For the last Breeze she attempted to bribe me with goodies to do part of the column but I was far too busy trying to raise a family in Jeanette's garage! I was, I admit, quite envious of the other members of my family that Alison and Helen saw in Limpopo and I was pleased they didn't fall victim to the cholera epidemic up there – much nicer here! Enough of that chirping... let me get to other matters and gripes!

Collectively, we birds were sad to see some horribly irresponsible humans letting their "best friends" run amok over the December/January holiday period. The oystercatcher parents lost one of their chicks early on - not from being eaten but from heart failure after being chased by a dog - poor little mite. Yep, we *all* know that baby birds, holidays and beaches don't mix - but come on, **can't humans read?** Even more sad is the fact that

most of the offenders were Rooi Elers who **should** know better. Some European beaches seem to have struck a happy agreement by closing beaches to **all** animals for the peak summer season – the rest of the year is open.

OYSTERCATCHER BREEDING SEASON
Mid November to end March



To protect the eggs and flightless chicks

**PLEASE LEASH
YOUR DOG!**

Rooi Els has a pretty healthy oystercatcher population *but* ... would you like to tell your children's children that there **used** to be oystercatchers at Rooi Els? Still, lets be positive; the second chick is fully grown and doing well. The parents weren't so bird-brained - they 'moved' the juvenile to rocks near the river mouth and therefore *off* the beach and had the advantage of the oystercatcher equivalent of McDonalds with the fast food takeaways of mussels readily available !

Second moan; at the other end of Rooi Els, my pals the rockjumpers are also coming under increasing threat from thoughtless people who **do not** stick to Clarence Drive! They trample through the fynbos willy-nilly. Firstly, this is trespassing - and secondly persistent disruption of these birds will result in their loss to Rooi Els. They need to have some peace so please don't encourage people to seek them out! The worst offenders are 'tour guides' . They are, I believe, given 'money' (what ever that is) to show their parties Rockjumpers – so over the rocks and through the fynbos they go! Please, readers, you can do something about this. Challenge anyone who is trespassing – and point out the sign that says "stick to the road". (Wow, that road sure moves!) Tell them that rockjumpers are naturally quizzical birds and will normally check out visitors if not chased about!

Okay, I'd better disappear from the keyboard. She's back. But I hope she does read my 'chat' as she's always chirping about these problems.

Adieu until the next time, familiar as I am!

Cedric

Well Cedric seems to have been in the finest of chirps – but I can't say I disagree with him. I don't have grandchildren but my friends do, and yeh, a Rooi Els without rockjumpers and oystercatchers is *not* a happy thought. As he seems to have stolen my thunder perhaps I'll deal with other RE birding news .



While we were out cray-fishing on the penultimate weekend before the season's close, we were amazed to see at very close quarters, a Sooty Shearwater, within 2 metres of the boat. These aren't birds one usually has the chance to observe so near as foul winter weather is our usual sighting time. Their

flight pattern is quite distinctive and close to the water surface. One would have been good - but a flock of 50 + on the Cape Town side of the Reef was just amazing. The weather, misty and ethereal, combined with shoaling pelagic fish, (not quite food on the hoof, but definitely on the wing!) was ideal. Gannets & terns were also prolific, and then, hey presto, along came the dolphins to finish off the picture! And it got better - we met an immature penguin on the way to the slipway!

So, if you're Boat Club members, there's plenty of birding at sea!

I'm delighted that Rooi Elers do come up with 'goody spots'. A certain G Scholtz of 'no fixed abode' (sorry, that's not quite true!) reported a Paradise Flycatcher in his Harveya Road garden. What well-named birds these are! Thanks for the pics – a breeding male in magnificent plumage – they are unmistakable – not new to the list but none the less for that! We really do depend on **YOUR** spots to keep us up to date.

Easter weekend saw a record of a Citrine Wagtail at the Kleinmond sewage works listed on the Bird Net web site (capebirdnet@yahoo.com) – this is a rare Palearctic vagrant and last recorded in South Africa in 1998, much further up the Garden Route! While out walking, Frances Waddell saw 'a couple of guys' looking at the eagles nest. GOOD NEWS; they were **bona fide** members of the birding circle engaged in studying breeding behavior. Their observations also appeared on the Capebirdnet site.

As you know, (if you've read this column over the years), we are approaching the time of year that turns up all sorts of 'spots' – some of my personal favourite days in our delicious environment – a roaring log fire and several glasses of mulled wine (or your favourite tippie!) and it's quite amazing what you can see !

Happy Birding - and PLEASE let us know your sightings. We can't be everywhere - and every 'spot' counts !

Alison

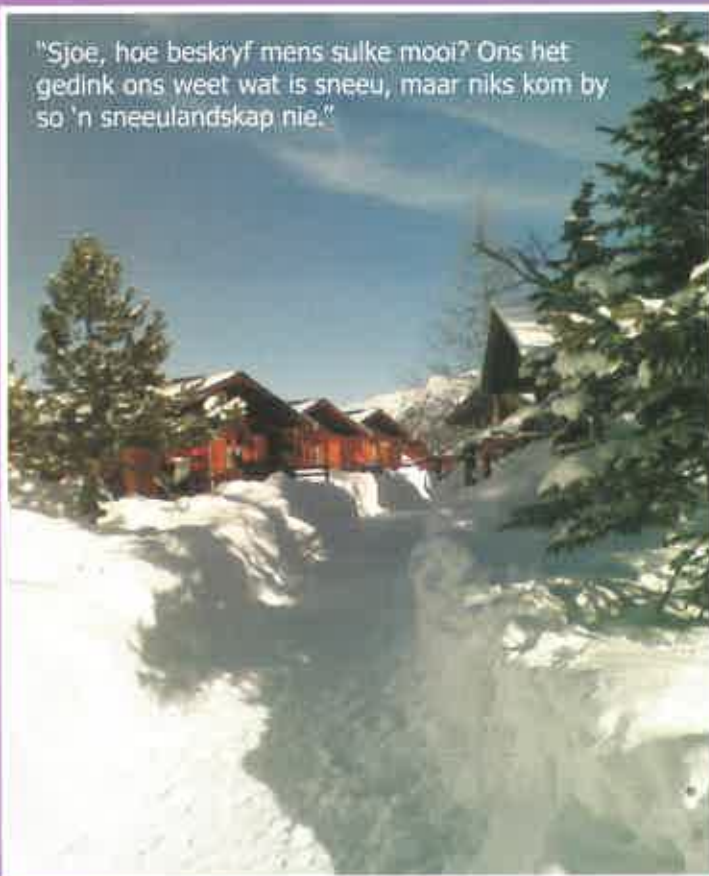
In April, Passella ran a feature on Rooi Els on SABC2... Evette, Pieter, Gerard and Anutā did our village proud! The next day, a lady in Robertson was overheard saying that she just had to move to Rooi Els... "it's the closest thing to Paradise—and the community values it so!"



BELOW LEFT: Izak and Gerda tick another destination off their "Bucket List"

BELOW RIGHT: Jenny Stark captures the ever-changing beauty of Rooi Els...

"Sjoe, hoe beskryf mens sulke mooi? Ons het gedink ons weet wat is sneeu, maar niks kom by so 'n sneeulandskap nie."



GALLERY

How Roci Elers enjoyed the Summer



Holidays Roci Els style: Crayfishing, sandcastle competition, and the battle of the boules... ("see...mine is 2 feet closer!")



Katie Huston of Michigan, Americalittle Johannatjie Mödinger of Ohrnberg, Germany the gaint great white shark carved into the sands of Roci Els beach during the annual sand sculpture building competition.



"Crayfish? Bring me a bone!"



KIEKIES

Somerson se Pret en Plesier



The traditional New Year climb...
(if those kids can do it why haven't I?)



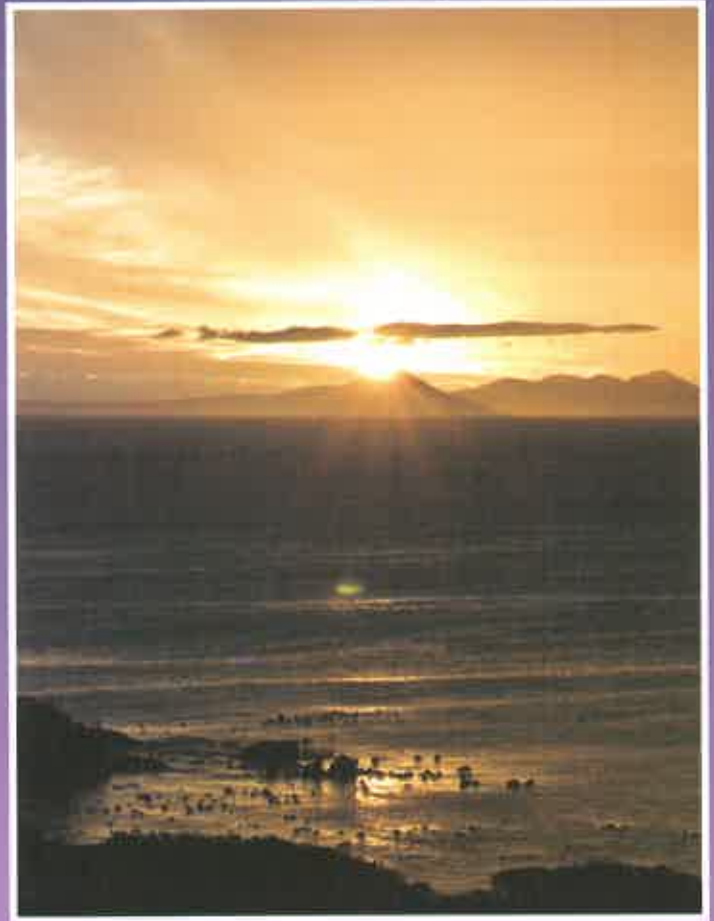
As usual, Evette Weyer's
rook pool workshop was
a hit with young and old.



LEFT: Gerard's Paradise Flycatcher... see Bird Chat.

BELOW: Sandra Yeo captures the fabled 'green flash'

BOTTOM: Seven of the ten seen by Bob Baigrie



'n Draaiboek vir Rooiels

Toneel 1:

'n Rooiels-sjampagnedag. By Holmer se bankie langs die rivier. Meeue kry. 'n Gryskop sit op die bankie. Mienkie kom met 'n pienk fiets aangery.

Gryskop: (*bekommerd*) Nee jong, dit gaan nie werk nie. Die Rooielsers gaan lag. 'n Mens kan nie met 'n fiets hier teen die trappe af ry nie.

Regisseuse: Goed, los die fiets hier teen die rots. Mienkie, kom liever aangestap met die geskiedenisboek in jou hand. Reg? Kamera rol, en aksie!

Mienkie: (*vrolik*) Hello, maar die wind kan waai hierso. Ek lees in die Rooielsgeskiedenisboek dat die plek se naam eers Waaigat was.

Gryskop: (*kyk op, gesig verhelder, hy het nog nooit in sy lewe so 'n mooi meisie gesien nie*) Ja, hier luister ons mos nie na musiek nie. Die wind is ons musiek. En die voëls.

(*Hy wil byvoeg: en die berge en die see praat en sing vir ons, maar sy mond is droog oor die mooi meisie.*)

Mienkie: Vertel vir ons 'n storie of twee uit die boek...

Gryskop: (*goed gerepeteerd uit sy arsenaal van stories uit die boek, haal diep asem...*) Die geskiedenis van Rooiels strek oor duisende jare. Vir my is die mooiste storie egter dié oor die twee kinders wat ontvoer is en hier in die grot aangehou is...

Regisseuse: Cut! Nee oom, ek wil die storielyn verander. Vertel liever iets uit eie ervaring. 'n Lekker storie wat jy self beleef het.

Gryskop: (*Verbysterd, ongemaklik, grens aan histerie*) O Gonna! Ek kan nie nou aan iets dink nie!

Toneel 2

Kay Leresche se nefie is die kameraman. 'n Wye skoot in die grondpad voor haar huis. Hy staan in Kay se tuin met sy kamera.

Regisseuse: Oom, nou kom jy en Mienkie met die fiets in die pad aangestap. Jy gaan nou praat oor die Kogelberg, die Bewarea, die hacks, en alles wat julle doen om die dorpie se karakter te hou soos dit is. Mienkie, vra die oom hoe kry hulle dit reg dat hier nie straatligte en Kamera rol en aksie!

Mienkie: (*stoot die pienk fiets, steeds vrolik*) Hier is nie straatligte en teerpaai nie. Dit lyk asof die tyd hier stil gaan staan het.

Gryskop: (*Ernstig*) Ja, ons hier op Rooiels is baie bewaringsbewus...

Regisseuse: Nee, nee, nee! Dit klink te prekerig. Vertel liever iets uit jou eie ervaring.

Gryskop: (*Gekrenk*) Ek kan nie.. Ek het dan so baie opgelees, geoefen, gememoriseer...

Mienkie: (*met die moooiste teer glimlag*) Ag toemaar oom, is nie so erg nie. Kom vertel hoe oom gevoel het toe hier elektrisiteit na die dorpie gekom het.

Regisseuse: Goeie plan. Cameras rolling. Action!

Gryskop: (*Braaf*) Ons was almal so teen elektrisiteit, maar daar was 'n referendum....en....en....

Regisseuse: Goed, goed, maar sny die storie met 40%.... en minder ernstig. Mienkie, kry jou fiets, dan begin ons weer. Take two!

Vir twee dae lank het die Pasella-span met die mooie Mienkie hier op Rooiels aan 'n insetsel geskiet. Met Evette het hulle oor bobbejane en die seelewe gesels. Anuta het hulle na 'n kuier op haar stoep na die natuurtuin geneem waar daar byna nie 'n enkele plant aan blom is nie. Peter het vir Mienkie gewys hoe hy kos maak by die Drummond Arms. En Mienkie se pienk fiets was die heelpad saam. Stofpad op, stofpad af.

Maar so kom ek af op 'n skat van ou Rooielsfoto's. Eers by Elsabe de Beer en toe haar suster Anneen de Beer met hulle foto's uit die 1970-1980's toe daar nog geen huise aan die suidekant van Rooiels was nie. Later net oom Skakel Kriek se huis en Ankers wat mnr Du Blique manalleen gebou het. Maar die grootste skat vind ek in Bettysbaai by mev. Attwell, weduwee van die bekende bewaringskundige, Bo Attwell. Drie albums met foto's van Rooiels vanaf 1932 – 1963 toe daar nog geen pad was nie en die studente van Stellenbosch en Ikeys wekelank hier by die grot kom kampeer het en net van vis gelewe het.

Nou draai daar allerhande idees in my kop om ou foto's van Rooiels te versamel - vir ons almal. Ook nuwe foto's, mooi foto's. Daar is mos baie fotograawe in die dorpie....Dankie, Pasella!

Gerard Scholtz



Chris Gilmour Kreef Derby 2008

Saturday 27th promised much... but Keith Moir's recorded 05.00 hrs voice promised SE winds of 56 kmh but 22 kph NW on Sunday. We believed him. Hurried consultations reached the conclusion to postpone for a day. We phoned as many as possible – as it turned out, even some on their way to Namibia and other exotic destinations!

Sunday 28th dawned bright and clear but the wind defied Keith and the lady (with a far sexier voice!) and, before long, all those gathered on the slipway voted for another postponement – much to 'Le Girls' delight, as the choppy shore-break made for an interesting launch and return. (Of course there were those who looked suspiciously at the 'paddling contingent', whose interests were possibly being protected, but the Chairman was heard muttering into his beard something about 'Safety Comes First!') By 10.30 hrs the wind had departed and our faces were again bright red – and not from the sun either, as at least *that* portion of the 'cool and cloudy' forecast was spot on.

Piet Uys was seen hugging the returned trophy as though it was a new girlfriend. Unfortunately it was empty – a low blow indeed to the morale of the troops who would no doubt have welcomed a 'toot' or two!

Insurrection in the form of a suggestion that we '*hold the after-party now and to heck with the kreefing*', were denied with out even a democratic vote being taken.

On Monday 29th RERA had arranged various fun activities, amongst which was the 'Sandcastle Competition'. Just after 10 a.m. many families with kids were streaming to the main beach venue. At the round-a-bout on Harveya and Anemone, a vehicle towing a REBC trailer from the direction of the main road insisted on taking a short-cut instead of taking the legal route around. (REBC #45 according to a sharp-eyed member of the public who witnessed the situation) When I tried to persuade them that this was unacceptable (and dangerous!) I was shouted at and the driver continued on his merry way. Surely that is not the type of irresponsible behaviour we, as responsible members of a respected Club, should display?

What sort of impression does that give the public? (Could this constitute a breach of Clause 6.3 of our REBC Constitution? – and, if so, what penalty should be levied? Perhaps member #45 would like to offer an explanation for his behavior?)

Tuesday 29th was a beaut! And a very enjoyable day was had by all, with family, friends and the public eventually sitting on Johannes' lawn, soaking up the sun and the refreshments provided by the club. Dankie die Vissers! En baie dankie almal wat hand by gesit het – veral die ou kommittee lede en families – julle is pure goud! Many thanks also to our sponsor Western Province Caterers en Andries vir die lekker suiwelprodukte.

Congrats all concerned. Other than the kreef, everyone wins with this competition!

Geoff Harris



RESULTS

1. For the first time in the history of the competition there was a dead heat for the biggest crayfish @ 0.670 g. It was eventually decided that Willie Rossouw and Fourie Brink would share the R 500 prize and each hold the trophy (The Crayfish King Floating Trophy) for 6 months.
2. The prize for the biggest 4 of R 250 and the Chris Gilmour Floating Trophy went to Robert Stals with a weight of 2, 37kg for his 4.*Note that the largest crayfish of both Willie and Fourie was removed from the second weighing as per the rules of the competition thus ensuring the win by Robert.
3. Willie Rossouw won the biggest group of 8 and R 200.
4. John Biesman- Simons won the biggest 12 and R 200.
5. Derek Esterhuyse won the biggest 16 and also R 200; noting that John B-S's superior weight of 8,530 did not count once his 12 were removed for a subsequent weigh-in.
6. And the biggest 20 prize and R 200 went to Manie Niemandt.

85 members and guests competed on 25 boats and paddle craft. If all 85 had achieved quota on that day (and we know that some did not but no specific details are to hand as to how many did not achieve quota) then **340** size crayfish were caught and landed in the Rooi Els Crayfish Competition. **Where Els but Rooi Els can that be done?!**

Seabird Sushi Bar has additional client this Season

Sandra Yeo observes that the Environmental Economy in Rooi Els is on the up...!

I had been in Rooi Els more than six weeks before I realised that a pair of Oyster Catchers had managed to hatch their eggs this season. (Please don't ask me what I do here! Not a lot is, probably, the answer, but time goes very quickly!) This wake-up call came when walking with Alison and Helen on 23rd December.

Two chicks were hidden in the kelp and we kept well away, but were very pleased to witness *daddy bird* fly out to sea and return to regurgitate food into the chicks' beaks: something Helen said was unusual to see. This is, apparently, because seabird chicks are precocial: able to fend for themselves quickly. *This latter info is for ignoramuses like me.*

Anyway, this fired a passion to see what would ensue, given the coming holiday season. On 28th December, I began my regular forays to see what was going on, fully expecting the Christmas excesses to have taken a toll. However, the bird parents were there paying attention to a shapeless mound of kelp. I kept my distance, I thought, but a parent flushed one chick and continued *talking* to another. The 'another' never appeared and some days later, all were resigned to the fact that there was just one chick left.

And so, *Scruffy* and its parents continued to have their space intruded upon by me...

One day, I was down near the *Sushi Bar* mussel rocks and saw them on rocks further out. I realised that I was too close with the tide coming in and that the chick was going to have to negotiate the waves. I retreated carefully and quickly up the beach, cursing myself for stupidity, when I saw the chick, oh so neatly and cleverly, hop, skip, jump and swim its way back to its hidden perch atop the *Sushi Bar*. Phew!

The climax came when Werner Modinger rang me to say the youngster and a parent were by the lagoon and he was expecting to see some more flying lessons. I hurried off! At first, as the chick was so big, I thought it was the two adults because the initial move looked like a mating approach, but no. The youngster flew up, then used its parent's back as a cushion for landing again: a truly amazing sight.

This exercise has been a privilege and a delight and I hope readers enjoy sharing it with me.

Sandra

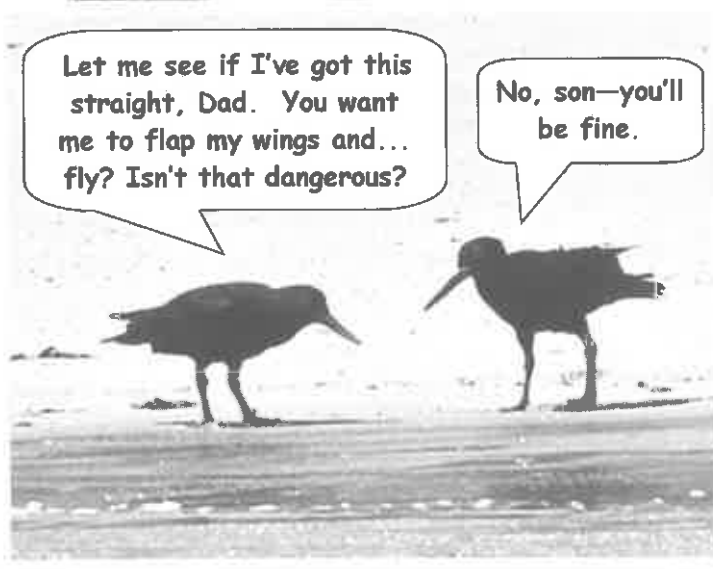


In the beginning.

35 days later...



Mommy! Don't leave me! I can't fly!



Let me see if I've got this straight, Dad. You want me to flap my wings and... fly? Isn't that dangerous?

No, son—you'll be fine.



S*!#...land on the beach... not ME!

While out Hacking!

I've just got back from the May hack...dripping with sweat despite the wintery north-wester... feet aching from repeatedly dragging what felt like a forest along the soft sands towards the slipway where a pile of cut branches was growing into a mountain!

But I think I can speak for all 10 hackers when I say the sense of satisfaction will last far longer than the strained backs! All the Rooikrans between the slipway and Main beach have been pulled out or cut down and poisoned!

However, a study of the Rooikrans branches proved this is a fight we're going to be involved in year after year. Most of the branches were festooned with seed-pods. Although there was evidence of some biological control, (gall clusters created by the female gall fly laying her eggs on the flowers), I'd estimate that they had reduced the seeds by about 10-20%; a long way off the \pm 90% that John Hoffmann speaks of!

Dr John Hoffmann (who has a holiday home in Rooi Els), is a leading expert in biological control with Stellenbosch University and addressed our concerns with his research stand of Rooikrans in last Winter's Breeze.

More recently he delivered a talk to Botsoc members at the Harold Porter Gardens. At that talk I asked him if the gall flies might not have 'moved on' as our hacks were showing little evidence of galling. His response was that the effectiveness of the flies did seem to fluctuate for reasons not fully understood... but there was still the 'seed beetle' ready to lay its eggs in the fallen *Acacia cyclops* seeds. Our conversation led to some emails where I bemoaned the fact that property owners with Rooikrans on their property were not only re-infesting Rooi Els, but never participated in hacking...adding insult to injury!

This was John's reply:

"I must admit that I have pondered participating in hacks at Rooiels but have not joined in, mainly because I play sport on Saturdays but also because I have reservations about the long term usefulness of hacking that is focused within the village. For me it's a case of fiddling while Rome burns."

"Unfortunately, nearly all of the gardens of Rooiels have been modified beyond redemption by being filled with plants which do not belong. Whichever way I look at the situation, I simply cannot see the village ever being rid of aliens and especially not through the limited fire-power of monthly hacks. Sure, selected alien species may be controlled and small areas made to look better because conspicuous plants have been removed, but the landscape will not be improved and dozens of inappropriate species will remain, not least of which will be the grasses that have been cultivated far and

wide in the village. No doubt the hacks are socially enjoyable, good exercise and provide a wonderful feel-good effect. Indeed, I have always enjoyed the exercise and derived considerable pleasure from popping aliens and liberating indigenous plants.

"As I said in my letter to Die Bries, and at the end of my talk last Saturday, I believe any efforts spent on getting rid of aliens should be deployed in areas where these species are starting to encroach in otherwise-pristine fynos. These are the systems that need protecting, and can realistically be saved, not the plundered plots in the village. Given a chance, the biological control insects will reduce seeding enough to stop, or at least drastically reduce, the movement of seeds into cleared areas, and areas not yet invaded, thereby enhancing the chances of saving them permanently.

"These are just some ideas which I would be more than happy to discuss with anyone when I am in Rooiels or elsewhere. I do agree that joining a hack will be an ideal opportunity and I will try to do so sooner rather than later."

John Hoffmann



Having been a dedicated hacker for 9 years, I must respectfully differ with Dr Hoffmann! Rooi Els would look like the worst infected areas of Pringle Bay were it not for the efforts of our hack group! And the threat posed by Rooikrans is not just to fynbos. **Rooikrans trees and hedges also constitute a fire threat. They increase the fuel-load and therefore increase the fire hazard in our village.** On that basis alone, all Rooikrans within our village should GO!

Please contact Werner Modinger (028) 273 8032 should you want your Rooikrans removed.

Chris Burlock

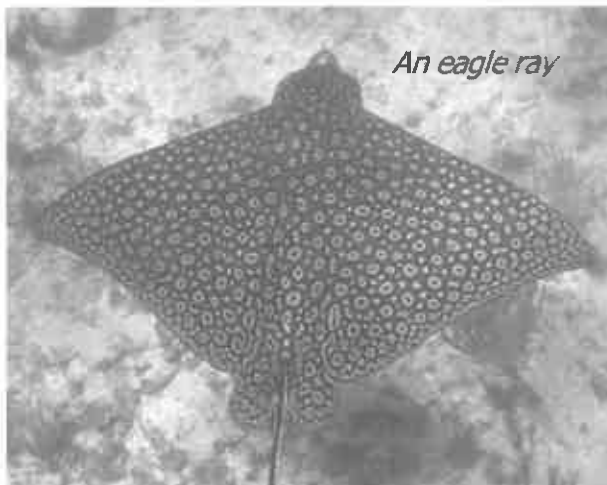
Rooi Els Conservancy

While out Diving...

Okay... who stole my snoek?

Having left our home in a Bostwana game reserve (where elephants walk past just metres from our windows and a massive eland join us at lunch to chew his cud), imagine my delight at finding a new 'game reserve' in front of my Rooi Els house! I've had a 5-6 metre manta ray glide under my kayak and while out crayfishing in my wet-suit I've found a hag fish and a bucketful of slime in my crayfish net, seen an octopus disguise itself as algae on a rock, been surrounded by shoals of small fish so dense they've seemed like a wall and had a 6 foot shark cruise below me. But my most exciting sighting of this season was on the penultimate crayfishing weekend.

On the Saturday, the bait in one of my nets had disappeared; the cable tie used to secure the large snoek-head had been broken! I was puzzled as cable ties usually need some pliers and muscle to cut through. On the Sunday the water was murkier. Snorkelling on the surface, I couldn't see my nets too well. In fact, one net disappeared from sight completely but strange, white fish-shapes were flashing around where I knew it was lying. Curious, I tried to pull it up, but it seemed anchored to the rocks. As the white shapes suddenly disappeared so the net gave way. The snoek head had gone... and the cross rope was ripped through! I began raising my other two nets when I sighted the culprit! It was flying low over the seabed underneath me. It was a typical ray shape, some 1,5 - 2 metres across with a long tail.



An eagle ray

The "Two Oceans" book says there are some 60 rays in SA waters, but only 10 are featured of which just 2 are of the right size...Spotted eagleray and Honeycomb stingray...but neither occur so far south!

The sighting has been reported to the Shark Conservancy for interest!

While out Walking...

The saga of the baby seals!

This summer saw an unprecedented number of baby seals along our shores...their bleating was enough to melt any heart. Nature Conservation's response was "let Nature take its course". But it was so difficult. One baby wasted away on the main beach—until Chris and Estelle took it to Kleinmond to be humanely euthanased.



The OCF found a humane solution to the plight of the orphans: to take them to Etienne of Alpha Dive Centre in the Strand, (021 854 3150 - cell 082 900 9163). He has been taking them through to Francois Hugo, a seal a rehabilitation expert in Hout Bay.

The RE Conservancy put up posters from Rooi Els to Kleinmond. We can only hope some of the babies survived.

Is it a baboon? Is it a dog?...no it's a



If you thought you were seeing things, you were! Holly Golightly, seen here in Mary Comrie's garden, spent a week in Rooi Els, recovering from the stress of the city. She and her owner, Susan Comrie, were spotted taking their daily constitutionals ...

Clavier se sneeu gee nog 'n regmerkcie aan my 'bucket list'

Laat verlede jaar besluit ons maar hoekom nie... ten spyte van die winter, kom ons doen dit! Soetkyste gelaai...en daar gaan ons, weereens - rigting Europa.

Eers het ons 'n draai gemaak in Portugal om die land te verken en by vriende te kuier. Die hoogtepunt seker die Duoro, daar by Oporto. Dit is hier waar die wêreld se beste port vandaan kom. Andersinds was die land noord en suid vir ons maar so so.

Na 'n paar dae by die kinders in London, trek ons uiteindelik almal op na Italië. Kersfees in Como was vir ons vreemd en ongewoon, net nog 'n dag.

Toe vat ons die pad na die Alpe, na Clavier en Montegenevre op die Franse grens.

Sjoe, hoe beskryf mens sulke mooi? Ons het gedink ons weet wat is sneeu, maar niks kom by 'n sneeu-landskap nie. Sneeuwit kry skoon 'n ander betekenis, veral met dit die enigste ander kleur en die sonstrale wat tussen-in deurval.

Ons ski nie, stap en ry net rond en besoek die een sprokiesdorp na die ander. Drink baie "hot chocolate" en grappa om die koue vinnig te verdryf. Die sneeu kraak onder jou skoene en 'n mens raak skoon verslaaf aan die klank. Ons neuse loop van die koue, maar ons is sielsalig gelukkig en onbewus van die lopende neuse.

Eendag, hoog bo in die berge, op 'n plato met 'n riviertjie wat nog vloei deur die valleitjie, sien ons 'n kristalboomwoud wat glinster in die son wat sy kop middeldag, net-net bo die berge se toppe uitsteek.

Te midde van die baie sneeu kom sit daar op 'n slag 'n enkele atmosferiese seskantige gekondenseerde en gevriesde dampkristalletjie spoggerig op my handskoen en my gedagtes gaan uit na die liedjie oor die "snowbird". Ek word opnuut meegevoer oor die natuur en die wonder van die skepping. Wat 'n beskrywing vir iets so kleins.

Diepste sneeu in 26 jaar, sê die mense vir ons en ons glo hulle. Die prentjies moet maar self verder praat. Man, ja dit was diep. Tot 3 meter diep.

Ons het gou geleer om nie teen iets te skop nie, want daar is straks goeters daaronder. Met sneeu sowat 'n meter en meer bo-op karre se dakke, het ek gewonder hoekom hulle nie in hierdie gebied kardeure bo-op karre se dakke aanbring nie.

Jinne maar dit was koud... tot soveel soos -24° het hulle gesê. Saans as ons gaan stap om al die pasta af te werk, het ons halfpad verys, maar daar is altyd nog baie lewe in 'n mens oor. Met die warmte binne-in die geboue vergeet mens mos gou hoe koud dit daar buite is.

Later was dit natuurlik nodig dat ek ski-skoene aantrek en self probeer ski. Op gelyk grond nogal. Wat gebeur die oomblik toe ek regop staan? Ek slaan net daar neer! Was die oomblik te groot? Gelukkig het Gerda anderkant toe gekyk en die kamera was af.

Andersins, ten spyte van verkeerde skoene wat die enkels nie wou laat knak nie, het ek weldra op 'n manier daarin geslaag om vorentoe te beweeg. SO het ek my groot oomblikke gehad! Almal moet dit beslis eendag probeer. Die skoonfamilie doen dit in die winter elke naweek, heeldag, vir jare reeds!

Ek is dus regtig trots om 'n verdere regmerkcie op my lysie aan te bring.

Izak Smit



'n Stukkie van Clavier se sprokiesagtige kristalboomwoud. "Die sneeu kraak onder jou skoene en 'n mens raak skoon verslaaf aan die klank."



"Later was dit natuurlik nodig dat ek ski-skoene aantrek en self probeer."

See Izak's third photo in full colour on page 17. Please share YOUR "bucket list" experiences with us... send photos and your story to grietjie@mweb.co.za

Bobbejaanstories ~ Baboon Tales

In Rooi Els, the baboons weave their tales, trails and hairy tails into our daily lives.

Baboons, those clever primates with whom we share our town, and at times our bread(!), have through their antics woven "baboon expressions" into all the South African languages.

In Afrikaans we have baboon gems in the form of idioms, poems and folklore. These were given to us by our old folk who observed their funny neighbours. Quirky expressions relating the similarities between humans and baboons, carved their place into the language.

The following list is a small sample of the baboon expressions found in Afrikaans:

Anyone who would like to share "baboon expressions" in whatever language with us, please do.

Joan Mödinger

Boerneef, one of my most beloved Afrikaans poets, philosophically and wise, writes the following:



*Die mak bojaan die maak moles
in mensgesin se agterplaas
dit is maar apestreke dié
om so te maak in die agterplaas
die mensgesin die maak moles
in die en darie agterplaas
dit is glo mensestreke, dié
maak soos bojaan in die agter-
plaas*

In gist, it tells the story of a baboon causing mischief in a human backyard - this however being understandable in terms of crazy ape behaviour (apestreke). Human families too, can cause mischief in "one or the other" backyard. That is human behaviour, to follow the baboons' example

Afrikaans Expression	Translation	Meaning
<i>Bobbejaanstuipe kry</i>	Having baboon hysterics; a baboon having a fit	Very, very angry. Throwing all your toys out of the cot!
<i>Die bobbejaan agter die bult gaan haal</i>	To look for the baboon behind the mountain	Anticipating trouble before it is really there
<i>Ek is nou bobbejaanboud!</i>	I have a baboon bum!	A sore bum. Having sat for too long - after too many meetings!
<i>So lelik soos 'n bobbejaan se lê-plek</i>	As ugly as a baboon's sleeping place, den	Very, very ugly and untidy
<i>Hier het 'n bobbejaan 'n knobkerrie nodig</i>	Here a baboon needs a knobkerrie (walking stick)	This is a difficult way to negotiate (also used metaphorically)
<i>Toe jy nog 'n bobbejaantjie was</i>	When you were still a tiny baboon	Before you were born

FireWise... the difference between safety and devastating loss!

"Pringle Bay's response to the FireWise booklet has been outstanding!" declared Ian Cushny at the last FireWise meeting in Pringle Bay. "Erven that have long been covered with Rooikrans and wattle are now being cleared, making Pringle Bay a far safer community."

How has Rooi Els reacted?

"I called in Fire Risk Control who quoted R800 to clear out all the dead wood on my erf" says Chris Burlock, who was surprised at the volume of dead wood that had accumulated on her property. "Only when I saw 5 heaped bakkie-and-trailer loads of dead branches being taken away, did I realize what a fire-risk my erf had been harbouring!"

An encouraging number of Rooi Els erven are being cleared of dead wood and alien invasives, for which we thank the owners on behalf of the whole Rooi Els community.

For free quotes for clearing aliens and dead wood:

Fire Risk Control: Frazer Barry 084 887 6648
fireriskcontrol@gmail.com

Bob Bradnick: 028 273 8749 - 082 468 5622

Trevor: 078 360 9638 - 076 731 9828

Morkel Lotter: 028 273 8340

And for professional FireWise landscaping/gardening:

JennyB: 028 273 8186 - 082 925 7500

Black Eagle watch

The pair of Black Eagles have been active around their Rooi Els nest, according to reports from locals. So hopefully they will have a successful breeding attempt this year, says Mr Dirk de Kock, volunteer at the Western Cape Raptor Research Project, at the Percy FitzPatrick Institute for African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town.

He explains that the Black Eagles often build more than one nest during the breeding season, and that it is therefore not certain that the Rooi Els nest is the one that they will choose.

Further help and reports from locals would be much appreciated to get a clear picture on the situation.

In March Dirk de Kock saw the pair of Black Eagles in the Blousteen/Rooi Els area, "they suddenly appeared from behind the mountain in the vicinity of the nest nearest to Rooi

Els (there are 2 nests at Blousteen about 5 km outside Rooi Els), then they turned and soared parallel to the sea-facing slopes of the mountain range towards Kogel Bay. I followed their progress through the spotting scope but lost sight of them when they were near the offices of the nature conservation personnel based at Kogel Bay." At that point they showed no interest in the nesting sites.

"Last year this pair refurbished first the one nest, then the other, then they sat for 2-3 weeks on the one nest, relieving each other as if a breeding attempt was fully under way. Then for whatever reason they abandoned what looked like a proper breeding attempt." As it is impossible to see into the nest from below, Mr De Kock was not sure whether they had actually lain eggs last year and speculates that the eggs could have been predated upon by the ubiquitous Whitenecked Ravens.

Please look out for any sightings of Black Harriers (swartvleivalke/ (witkruispaddavreters) here or any area in South Africa. There are only about 800 breeding pairs left in the world, and most of them in the Overberg/ Western Coast area. To report a Black Harriers sighting you'll need:

Date & Time

Adult/Juvenile bird

Locality (preferably GPS co-ordinates)

What were bird doing eg. soaring/carrying prey

Send information to Dirk de Kock at 082 075 2498, 021-856 3776; or dirkdek@telkomsa.net.



Rooi Elser receives Excellence Award

The Overstrand Municipality have introduced a 'Night of Excellence' to recognise individuals' contributions to community, arts, sports and/or commerce. Of the nine people crowned for exceptional service to the community, only one came from the Hangklip-Kleinmond community... our Estelle le Roux.

Estelle's citation was for her passion for the protection of animals which has resulted in the phenomenal success of the Kleinmond Animal Welfare Society, not only as far as the development of excellent facilities but in terms of educating poor communities and making them aware of the correct care of animals. Unfortunately Estelle could not attend the awards as she was still recovering from an orthopaedic operation.



Above: Estelle at work in the squatter-camp Below: Estelle on holiday...never far from animals

Just had a report back from Helen. Apparently the eagles are lining their nest, and seem to be protecting it!



Meet these ultra-caring Rooi Elers ...

If you enjoy walking in Rooi Els; or if you hack, assist RERA and REC, attend the talks and events around here - then you'll have met Bruce Relly and Mary Comrie. They are the quiet couple that hold hands... the couple who appreciate life in ways that many of us have not yet discovered...



After studying at Rhodes and McGill Universities (Montreal), Bruce's career was spent in geology. As an independent consultant working out of Pretoria, he was often involved with exploring for diamonds... "Initially this was on a physical level... but later I began exploring on a philosophical level... looking for the meaning of suffering and what its remedy might be." The results will be revealed in a book called "2ND FIRE".

Bruce and his family had been spending holidays in Rooi Els for years, and hated each time they had to leave. So, in 1979 they decided to look at properties - "if we found the perfect house, we would take that as a sign to move down... and we did!" They fell in love with Peter and Jolette Hine's cottage for which they paid "an excessive R28 000!"

Never sure if he was a scientist or artist, Bruce held exhibitions of his paintings in Somerset West and Cape Town... "the sales covered the framing, cheese and wine, but little else!" Four years ago, when Bruce and Mary moved back to Rooi Els, Bruce intended to continue painting, "but digital cameras put an end to that—so much less messy!"

Bruce's love of Rooi Els is tangible: for years he's served on both RERA and REC committees and despite his age, (amazingly Bruce turns 80 this year!!!!), he and Mary seldom miss a hack or any chance to support the community!

We all know Mary Comrie as the "yoga teacher". She does this with passion, and creates a loving community around her. She is always ready for special ceremonies, like Women's day, or a special send off for pregnant moms when they leave class prior to the big event!

"I am passionate about yoga. It is a wonderful discipline of body and mind that has immeasurably enriched and sustained me. Its always been a part of my life. When I was 15, I went to the first yoga class with my mother, and since then it has been like a constant refrain; I used yoga throughout my pregnancies and have been a teacher for the last 10 years. Learning massage has been another discovery for me, it was like unlocking another part of myself, as has learning Tai Chi.

"My five children, four sons and a daughter, are central in my life and have been my greatest teachers. Coming to Rooi Els has been an intensely healing experience for me. It has given me a chance to discover bits of myself away from being the mother, the daughter and sister - being a bit removed from my family I can get things in perspective. I have made friends here who I know will be lifelong friends and who have helped me adjust to living here and finding my path. Family is still a hugely important part of my life, I have five siblings and four grandchildren and my sweet mother. Bruce has six children, so between us it is all about family, and I just love being a granny.

"My other true passion is music and lately, poetry. Music has been a thread through my life, especially sacred music, where my interest in music started. My father sang opera to me, and I think I must have heard those sounds in the womb..."

Prior to moving to Rooi Els, Mary and Bruce were involved in adult education for 10 years.

Mary keeps herself busy with creative things; quilts, embroidering baby t-shirts (which she sells in an art studio in Stellenbosch), making her own clothes and doing stained glass work. She does Hawaiian Massage, and has recently added hot stone treatment to it - a very sensual and healing experience. She prefers alternative health methods such as homeopathy and uses the Rife machine that heals by sending specific frequencies through the body.

Mary and Bruce sleep outside under the starry skies and on morning walks one can see her on the trampoline and doing her yoga - **"Bruce and I are very grateful to live in such a paradise, surrounded by so many angels!"**

**Interested in YOGA or a MASSAGE?
Speak to Mary on (028) 273 8648**

Of This and That!

Got a snippet of news of Rooi Els interest? Send it through to the Breeze Editor... grietjie@mweb.co.za

Dazer fails to Dazzle!

Ever looking for methods to reduce baboon/human conflict, earlier this year, the Rooi Els Conservancy purchased and tested a Dazer "Baboon/Monkey Watch" unit. According to the manufacture's claims, the unit emits a high-pitched frequency noise that is so unpleasant to baboons they will stay away from its 30 m reach. Our first test site was the Drummond Arms. For a few days Dennis was delighted as the baboon troop gave the Drummond Arms a wide berth. But the larger male baboons soon realized that although the high frequency sound might have been uncomfortable, it was well worth enduring for a hamburger and the raids continued.

The unit was moved to the Modinger's house where it proved equally ineffective in protecting their upstairs balcony. "It didn't even chase out a mouse", Werner moaned.

REC reported this to the Dazer website...but did not get a response!

Who are the 'Brains' of Rooi-Els?

On Wednesday 18 March, the front stoep of 'Something Else' was filled with laughter, chatter and the occasional moan. It was the Conservancy's first "Pub Quiz Night" where some 40 people puzzled and debated over brain-teasers, general knowledge questions and some testing questions about the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve.

Working in teams, each table had time to get to know new friends from Kleinmond, Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay who had come to join the fun and games.

**The next Pub Quiz Night is June 10...
Book with Lynn Harris (028) 273 8164
(R40 pp inc. soup and bread supper)**



Ditjies en Datjies!

Enige brokkies nuus wat Rooiels raak? Stuur dit na die Bries Redakteur by grietjie@mweb.co.za



Die fotograaf, die bobbejaan en die deegdoppies

Ek was besig om foto's te neem vir my volgende kosboek, toe 'n harige handjie die venster oopmaak. Die jong bobbejaan het my met die kamera gesien, sy opsies oorweeg en homself haastig aan die deeg-doppies gehelp. Ek het besluit om die doppies op te offer vir 'n prettige bobbejaan-foto – dit sal moontlik 'n eerste in wêreldgeskiedenis wees om 'n bobbejaan in 'n kosboek te hê!

Dine van Zyl

Earth hour sends a message

WWF's international Earth Hour campaign is designed to raise awareness about climate change and to send a visual message to the world to take action. As hundreds of millions of people around the world switched

off the lights for one hour on 28 March 2009, a gaggle of Rooi-Elsers gathered on the slipway lawn with candles (and wine). By 20h30, Rooi-Els was mostly dark. Although disappointed by the huge amount of lights that stayed on in Somerset West and the Cape Flats, we certainly witnessed the dimming of the usual huge red halo of reflected light over Cape Town. Archbishop Desmond Tutu described Earth Hour as a

global vote for action on climate change and potentially "one of the greatest social movements the world has ever witnessed."

Impressively, the Overstrand Municipality sent an Earth Hour SMS reminder to its ratepayers' cell phones. More than 40 local authorities in the Western Cape were visibly dimmed as thousands of non-essential lights were turned off by city councils and other participating companies, universities, households, schools and landmarks including Cape Town's Table Mountain. Footage of Table Mountain's floodlights going off was shown around the world.

The Baboons are Dead! ~ Long live the Baboons!

Ambivalence is the best word to describe the feelings of Rooi Elsers about the baboons. Some hate them, some love them, but boy oh boy, they don't go by unnoticed!

Holidaymakers start off loving the baboons, but as soon as you stay here permanently, you live with the other side of the picture. Suddenly you are trapped within your own home and unless you have made your windows and doors baboon-proof (at your own cost, of course), you do not dare open them. So instead of opening your house wide, inviting nature in, you end up sitting behind closed doors, keeping some of nature out – making you worse off than in the city you escaped from!

And beware of those baboon hits: that is after you forgot about that tiny bathroom window that was still open before you left and you return home to find that the whole troop has had a splendid party brawl in your house. The strong males can also literally lift a sliding door out of its guides to welcome themselves to the comfort of your home. Once they have had a successful hit in your place, they will stake it out - for days or weeks on end.



A 'hit' is a messy affair. The baboons can open your fridge and empty everything out onto the floor. They can open every bottle they can find, even if they have to break it! They will probably empty out any packet they can lay their hands upon and try out everything that promises the possibility of food. Onto those messy piles strewn all over the place, they may well defecate and urinate and leave you with the smelliest clean-up job you can imagine! They can repaint your walls with their faeces; hang onto your lamps and destroy whatever comes in their path. I have heard of someone who has come home after such a 'hit', had one shocking stare, locked up the house and sold the place 'voetstoots'. People do get disgusted, shocked, horrified and traumatised by an invasion. This is baboon reality.

On the other hand, there are other people in Rooi Els who believe the baboons are just another element that we live with - alongside the wind, the rain, the heat.... we have the baboons!

Yes, we have to be vigilant all the time, but what a privilege that we have these distant cousins living so close to us! We are able to observe this wild species from the comfort of our own homes! How many places in the world can you still do this? A local lady in a wheelchair has befriended a troop of baboons, and through her eyes you see them as loving and caring neighbours. When she is outside, they sit on her lap, or nuzzle her with their mouths, or spend hours grooming her, trying to get rid of her freckles! All to cheer her up.



Baboons have very close family ties, and you will see them peacefully and lovingly grooming one another. The young ones playing hide and seek with each other. They slide down roofs, while caring for their younger siblings – catching them before they fall. A lot of bantering and teasing occur amongst the young ones. Mothers and aunts will lovingly pass around a new baby and inspect it closely. Yes, they can get aggressive when there is food around, but mostly, they go around minding their own business.

Whatever your feelings are, the baboons are hopefully here to stay - unless the residents adopt a policy of a senseless massacre. If we as Rooi Elsers can find a way to co-exist peacefully with our hairy neighbours, won't it be an amazing and wonderful way to show fellow South Africans that tolerance *can* be developed!

Griet Odendaal

A huge "Thank you", Jenny!

I've worked with Jenny virtually since arriving in Rooi Els some 9 years ago. For many years we were "the BAG ladies"! (We'd co-founded the Biosphere Action Group... which Craig Spencer thought stood for *Baboon* Action Group because we were so focused on helping people avoid unpleasant baboon interactions!) Then it was the Eco-Centre. (Its thanks to Jenny, Koos and the Harold Porter Gardens that we've enjoyed those flowers in the Eco-Centre all these years!) And later we joined the Rooi Els Conservancy Committee. Jenny has now 'retired' from such activities... leaving the village - and the baboons! - indebted for her years of positive contributions.

Chris Burlock (Yes, that *is* a baboon head under her arm in the photo!)



What's on the Menu?

Home cooking at Café Rio - 028 273 8070

New owners Johann and Connie opened shop last December, and are still busy creating a whole new look. Even the name might change in future.

Johann worked in the corporative world and is still involved as director and shareholder in an actuarial consulting firm. Connie worked in the steel industry and either owned or worked in 11 restaurants.

Café Rio Business hours:

Tuesdays to Fridays: open from 11h00.

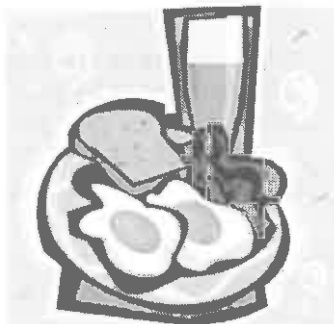
Weekends and public holidays: open from 8h30.

Closed on Mondays.

The menu changes on a daily basis, with most of the dishes home made. Meals vary from home made soups or salads, Jaffels with a variety of fillings, green bean or tomato stews, a ham and tomato bake, bobotie, fish dishes, meat or seafood platters. They also offer unusual dishes like skilpadjies (liver) with pumpkin fritters, marrow bones or crackling (kaiings) on toast.

On Fridays there is steak and kidney with mashed potatoes and a side salad.

Breakfast or brunch is a health breakfast with yoghurt, fruit, muesli or cold meats, toast, cheese, ham and eggs. There is also a choice of coffee and tea with rusks, muffins or scones. Coffees are self roasted and blended, specially for the coffee lovers.



Clean and neat accommodation is also available.



Winter Warmers from the Drummond Arms 028 273 8458

The Drummond Arms offers a few delightfully warming **Winter Specials**, starting mid May.

On **Tuesdays**, starting 12th May they offer **Curry's and Winter Stews at R49.50** per portion.

On **Wednesday** nights, starting on the 13th May you could order **2 Pizzas for the Price of 1** on selected pizzas. (Sadly no takeaways on specials.)

On **Fridays**, starting on the 15th May, they offer **Homemade Soup and Fresh Bread for only R19.50** per portion.



Fine fireside dining at Something Els Restaurant & Art Gallery 028 273 8516

This winter we invite you to a relaxing fireside dinner where we offer you a range of elegant meals to choose from.

Come and enjoy a juicy Linefish, a Crocodile Curry or our Seafood Platter. We have Salads and Vegetarian dishes or from the grill we offer Rump steaks and a choice of beef or venison fillets.

Business hours:

Tues – Fri: 16h00 till 22h00

Saturday: 09h00 till 22h00

Sunday: 09h00 till 16h00

Support your local restaurants!

Terms by Mary Olive

Don't think just now of the trudging forward of thought,
but of the wing-drive of unquestioning affirmation.

It's summer, you never saw such a blue sky,
and here they are, those white birds with quick wings,

sweeping over the waves,
chattering and plunging,

their thin beaks snapping, their hard eyes
happy as little nails.

The years to come - this is a promise -
will grant you ample time

to try the difficult steps in the empire of thought
where you seek for the shining proofs you thing you must have.

But nothing you ever understand will be sweeter, or more binding,
than this deepest affinity between your eyes and the world.

The flock thickens
over the roiling, salt brightness. Listen,
maybe such devotion, in which one holds the world
in the clasp of attention, isn't the perfect prayer,

but it must be close, for the sorrow, whose name is doubt,
is thus subdued, and not through the weaponry of reason,

but of pure submission. Tell me, what else
could beauty be for? And now the tide

is at its very crown,
the white birds sprinkle down,

gathering up the loose silver, rising
as if weightless. It isn't instruction, or a parable.

It isn't for any vanity or ambition
except for the one allowed, to stay alive.

It's only a nimble frolic
over the waves. And you find, for hours,
you cannot even remember the questions
that weigh so in your mind.



RIGHT ADDRESS?

We have been experiencing huge problems with addresses

when posting the Breeze.

Our present database gives up to 4 different addresses for some home owners!

If you are not a permanent resident of Rooi Els but live in SA and would like your Breeze posted to you... please mail your preferred address to: **RERA,**

P.O. Box 89, BETTY'S BAY 7141.

NB. Due to the cost of mailing overseas and Namibia, we cant send to out-of-SA addresses unless those property owners would like to pay for postage. Pleases contact RERA should you want that service.

WRONG ACTION!



The precedent is set!

When a man shot and wounded a baboon in Hermanus recently, he landed up in Court. The hearing lasted all day... but the outcome should ensure that those days are over where people think they have the 'right' to shoot at baboons!

In the case of the State versus J.K Smit, Mr Smit was **found guilty of hunting a protected wild animal without a licence or permit** (Section 27(i) of the Ordinance 19 of 1974) and sentenced to a fine of **R5 000-00** or a **6 months jail sentence suspended for 4 years.** Plus, over and above the fine/prison time, Mr Smit was **declared unfit to possess a firearm and had to surrender his firearm and licence to the Hermanus Police within 24hours !**



Photo: Bruce Relly



ABOVE: Its not the moon, but Sandra Yeo's splendid photo of the partial solar eclipse 27 January 2009

BELOW: Its not the sun, but a setting moon at dawn...also captured by Sandra. (Doesn't she sleep?)

