A FYNBOS GARDEN: NEW PLANTS FOR OLD

Some of us wish that a fire could magically sweep through our gardens at Rooi-Els, leaving of course all buildings unscathed, but destroying the old woody bush, the dodder that is strangling too many plants and unwanted grasses. If we and our buildings were not around, this is how nature would deal with the problem.

Instead, following advice from a botanist, we clear away the woody bush in patches, burn it in our braai and return the ashes to the garden. It is interesting to work with the secateurs, cutting away the old growth which is likely to catch fire if only a match is thrown into it. Underneath each bush lies a thick mulch ofdropped leaves and the bark of over twenty years' growth. Sometimes the pathways of small mammals are clearly discernible. We use some of the mulch to fertilish the holes into which we put plants indigenous to the area, bought from a nursery. But we leave most on the ground, and when the rains come, seedlings and bulbs begin to grow through. A year or so later clumps of restos with their heads of shining seeds are dancing in the varied winds of Rooi-Els, and ericas we thought had almost disappeared from our erf, are back in abundance.

We have found that it is important to disturb the soil as little as possible. The wealth of seeds and bulbs in our soil seem only to be waiting for light and air and water, and the help of birds, insects and small mammmals, to come forth in abundant variety and beauty.

Jean Cowen

Die Rooielsbries/Rooi Els Breeze word deur die Rooiels Belastingbetalersvereniging uitgegee.

Indien u enige bydraes of kommentaar het, skakel Gerard Scholtz (021 790 5535 na-ure), of pos dit aan Posbus 120, Pringlebaai 7196.

ROOIELS BRIES

AUGUSTUS/SEPTEMBER 1996 **AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1996**

REDAKSIONEEL

Die vorige uitgawe van die Rooiels Breeze/Bries het heelwat positiewe kommentaar uitgelok. Veral die "persoonlike" artikel deur oom Skakel Kriek. Met hierdie, en die daaropvolgende uitgawes, wil ons konsentreer op interessante waarnemings uit ons omgewing. Laat ons saam gesels oor die voëls, ons tuine, walvisse, otters, bobbejane en mense wat deel is van Rooiels. Laat weet gerus as u 'n bydrae wil lewer.

Recently I was privileged to spot a leopard near Rooi-Els again and further enquiry revealed that three of them are sighted regularly in the mountains behind Rooi-Els. This is what makes this such a very special place and it seems appropriate to quote the Mission of Rooi-Els:

> *The creation and maintenance of an ecological well-balanced area in which indigenous flora, fauna, marine life and humans can co-exist and thrive in harmony.*

Intussen is MTN se twee torings by die reservoir opgerig en is die R40 000 wat daarvoor beding is, oorhandig. Daar word ook al fluks gevorder met die herstel van die grondwalle en die kamoeflering van die strukture sodat daardie oogseer van Rooiels nou beter kan begin lyk.

Matters concerning erf 324 are quiet at present and we are still awaiting minister Lampie Fick's pronouncement. The matter has elicited reaction in the press and we include one of the articles in this edition.

ROOIELS BREEZE

Craig Spencer, die natuurbeampte in diens van die Kleinmond/Hangklip Stadsraad, het onlangs 'n waarskuwingskoot op verdagte oortreders gevuur nadat hulle nie sy bevele gehoorsaam het nie. Met teleurstelling het ons verneem dat die Stadsraad daarna sy vuurwapen afgeneem het. Intussen is dit weer aan hom terugbesorg, maar 'n ondersoek is hangende. Die Rooiels Belastingbetalersvereniging wil graag ons steun aan Craig toesê wat met entoesiasme en ywer bewaringsake op die hart dra.

Rooiels-inwoners kan met reg ongelukkig voel oor die nuwe verhoging in erfbelasting. Tesame [illegible] daar gemiddeld 'n 107% styging oor die afgelope twee jaar, terwyl daar maar min addisio[illegible] dienste gelewer word. Julia Aalbers is besig om ernstige aandag aan hierdie saak te skenk. In haar Rooielsbries bydrae lewer sy verdere kommentaar.

The Town Council reports that attention is being paid to the discriminatory water tariffs with parity as their objective, the phasing in of which will begin in the coming budget.

So van water gepraat: deesdae ry ons maar water aan as ons Rooiels toe gaan. Lees Geoff Harris, die voorsitter van die Rooiels Belastingbetalers se verklaring, asook die berig wat op 20 Augustus op die voorblad van The Argus verskyn het.

SOUTHERN EDITION

Poison scare

Threat to water supply as chemicals giant pollutes river

PIETER MALAN
Staff Reporter

[illegible]STS show that chemical giant Somchem [illegible]lowly poisoning the Buffels River at its [illegible]troversial ammunition test facility near [illegible]gklip.

[illegible]e Buffels River dam – the only water [illegible]y source for Pringle Bay and Rooi Els [illegible]bout 200m downstream from Som[illegible] facility, where artillery ammunition [illegible]

[illegible] of the toxic elements berylli[illegible] [illegible]nony have already been fou[illegible]

GOOD NEWS:

According to the crime statistics for May and June supplied by the Kleinmond SAPS, burglaries in the area have dropped. There was 1 burglary in Rooi-Els, 14 in Kleinmond, 7 in Betty's Bay and 4 in Pringle Bay.

Onlangs is daar weer onooglike telefoonpale op Rooi Els opgerig. In die Visie vir Rooiels word daar uitgespel dat 'n ondergrondse netwerk gebruik sal word vir die uitbreiding of vervanging van telekommunikasiedienste. Bestaande of nuwe kabels sal ondergronds deur Telkom gelê word as eienaars onderneem om die slote te grawe en 'n pyp vir die kabels te voorsien. Dit is al op 'n paar plekke toegepas. Gesels met u buurman en wend saam 'n poging aan om van die onooglike oorhoofse kabels ontslae te raak. As u volgende keer weer deur die dorp stap, let net op hoe dit ons dorp ontsier.

A warm welcome to all the new members who have joined the association. After the previous Rooi-Els Breeze/Bries more than 45 new subscriptions were received! We include an entry form if you have not yet joined.

Beste wense

Gerard Scholtz

COUNCILLOR'S DIARY

1 Begroting: Julie 96/Julie 97

Hier bestaan daar steeds probleme, alhoewel die begroting tog na ure van debatering, argumente en pleit goedgekeur is. Die probleme het, myns insiens, ontstaan a.g.v. 'n verouderde benadering waarvolgens daar afsonderlik vir Rooiels, Pringlebaai en Bettysbaai begroot en belas word. So gebeur dit dan dat ons uitgawes alles teen die 318 belasbare erwe in Rooiels verhaal moet word tesame met met toegeysde oorhoofse kostes. My houding is dat ons 'n eenvormige belastingstruktuur moet hê vir die Hangklip gebied wat nie, soos Kleinmond, teerstrate, biblioteke en skole het nie. (Die sogenaamde buitegebiede/ plattelandse areas!)

Stygende belasting kan buite beheer raak. Ek en die Belastingbetalersvereniging is besig om opnuut hierna te kyk vir die nuwe begroting (97/98) en is vasberade om nie weer so 'n verhoging toe te laat nie.

2 Waterstelsel vir Rooiels

Inwoners sal bly wees om te verneem dat 'n verdere reservoir vir Rooiels nie nodig is nie. Ons kan aan groeiende behoeftes voorsien tot die jaar 2010 indien ons die huidige reservoir beter benut deur 'n addisionele pomp aan die toevoerpyp aan te bring. Dit, tesame met die verbeterings aan die algehele watersuiweringstelsel en die aanbring van addisionele opgaarfasiliteite vir gesuiwerde water by die suiweringsaanleg, sal in die 96/97 boekjaar uitgevoer word.

3 **Verwydering van indringerplante**

Ongeveer R30 000.00 uit die Somchem-hoftoekenning is bewillig om indringerplante vanaf openbare grond te verwyder. Dit sal per tender aan 'n buite-kontrakteur toegestaan word. Hou asseblief die kennisgewingbord dop of belangstellendes kan mnr. Bartman by 02823 4010 skakel.

4 **Soneringskaart : openbare deelname**

Op 9 Augustus is 'n ope vergadering op Rooiels gehou. Geskrewe besware moet die stadsklerk voor 9 September bereik. Ons beoog om teen November vanjaar hierdie projek te voltooi.

5 **Rooiels - Gordon's Bay Road**

Critical of the RDP ? We suggest you take time-out and talk to the engineers on the Rooiels-Gordon's Bay road where some 120 unskilled people are being trained in road-making techniques - labour-intensive techniques of gabion-making, pipe-laying, constructing curbstones and building walls of natural stone.

Also of great importance to Rooielsers is Mr James Wilkinson's (of the project engineers Jeffares & Green) assurance that both lanes, full width, whole length, will be open for the period 15 December 1996 to 7 January 1997, although obviously the job won't be completed by then.

Your ratepayers exco arranged a meeting and an on sight inspection with the engineers and other representatives on 1 June and discussed various aspects of the contract. We were impressed with the helpful attitude of all concerned.

At the moment, we have two robots on the road. In August there will be a third when they start on the refurbishment of the Steenbras River bridge and a fourth at Kogelbaai. Also in August, heavy equipment will start moving in to tar the completed sections, starting from Rooiels.

At a mid-July meeting held at Rosie's there was a strong

contingent representing police and traffic police. The station commander at Gordon's Bay, Insp. Freddie Vermeulen, confirms that they are watching developments closely and intend having a special patrol on the road during the summer season.

According to the contractors, Grinaker Civils,

"It is a requirement of the contract that the sections under construction must be separated by gaps of at least two kilometers to facilitate traffic flow.
Four teams of locally recruited labour have been trained in various skills and are presently constructing subsoil drains, masonry retaining walls and stone packed abion walls. A further two teams are currently being trained and it is expected that by the end of the year approximately 150 previously unskilled and unemployed workers from the local communities will be employed on the project after having been recruited and trained.
As the road traverses a very environmentally sensitive area, a full-time Environmental Control Officer, Ms Megan Anderson, has been appointed to advise and educate the construction team on all environmental matters and to monitor construction activities.
An environmental management plan has been compiled in accordance with the contract conditions. This deals with items such as control of litter, prohibition of open fires, fire-fighting procedures, provision of toilet facilities and prevention of water pollution."

If you have any problems, call the site office at 024 56-4143.

Julia Aalbers

UIT DIE BURGER - 15 JAAR GELEDE

Hierdie berig het 15 jaar gelede in Die Burger se gewilde rubriek Van Alle Kante verskyn:

WOESTE GEVEG VAN ROOIELS

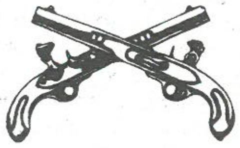
Keeromstraat 30, Kaapstad, 1 Mei 1981

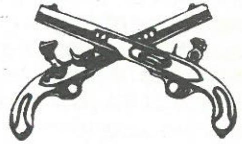
Enkele dae gelede het ons gevra of iemand die geskiedenis ken van die plaasnaam Barends Eerendood, naby Riversdal, wat later tot Windsor verdoop is. Ons het die storie gekry, danksy die bemoeienis van kerkargivaris, ds Charles Hopkins, en mnrSaayman van Hermanus. Die verhaal van hoe die plaas sy naam Barends Eerendood gekry het, klink soos 'n sprokie. Die storie begin heel dramaties.

Dit is Februarie van die jaar 1805. Die Kaapse Korps het toe al bestaan - hul basis was Wynberg. Wat verkeerd gegaan het en wat die oorsaak van die bittere ontevredenheid onder die pandoere was, soos hulle toe bekend was, weet ons nie. Maar 'n stuk of 30 van hulle gryp hul gewere en ammunisie en laat vat oor die Kaapse Vlakte, in die rigting van die Hottentots-Hollandkloof.

Hulle trek tot by Rooiels, waar hulle in die grot gaan skuil wat later as die Drostersnes bekend sou staan.

Goewerneur J W Janssens van die Kaap laat dadelik kompanies van Stellenbosch en Swellendam oproep om die drosters te gaan haal. 'n Hewige geveg moes gevolg het want een burger, Barend Saayman, nog nie 20 jaar oud nie, sneuwel in die geveg. Die geveg het op 7 Februarie 1805 plaasgevind.





GESKENK

Hoeveel pandoere dood is, weet ons nie. Wat wel bekend is, is dat 'n aantal gevange geneem is. Volgens oorlewering wou die pandoere hulle nie oorgee nie (gedagtig aan die straf wat wag?), tot hul drie korporaals doodgeskiet is en toe het die oorlewendes van die oorspronklike groep soldate glo die gewere neergegooi.

Goewerneur Janssens het tydens sy bewind geprobeer om 'n militêre bewustheid by die burgers van die Kaap te kweek. Hy het nooit 'n kans laat verbygaan om militêre parades te hou, medaljes uit te deel en helde te vereer nie.

Dit het hy ook nou gedoen. Onmiddellik na die geveg teen die pandoere het hy 'n plaas waarop die gesneuwelde burger se ouers gewoon het, vry van rekognisie-geld ('n vorm van jaarlikse belasting) aan Barend se ouers geskenk.

Goewerneur Janssens het self die plaas die naam Barend Saaymans Eerendood gegee. In die omgangstaal het die plaas later Barends Eerendood geword. Jare later is die plaas toe Windsor herdoop.

Die plaas lê naby Riversdal. As 'n mens anderkant Riversdal met die Stilbaaipad afdraai, ry jy so 'n halwe kilometer en dan draai jy weer regs af. So ses kilometer verder en jy is op Barends Eerendood oftewel Windsor.

BROOD GESTEEL

Hierdie rubriekskrywer het lank gelede in die Koeëlberge gaan stap en die nag in die Drostersnes geslaap. Hy het nie die grot se grieselige geskiedenis geken nie en het heel rustig geslaap. Geen spoke nie. In die nag het 'n geritsel by sy rugsak hom laat wakker word.

Die volgende môre was 'n hele bruinbrood weg. Wat kan 'n bruinbrood wegdra? Daar is hondmak muishondjies wat helder oordag broodkorsies kom optel het wat ons daar neergegooi het. Maar 'n muishond kan mos nie 'n hele brood dra nie. Wegsleep, ja. Miskien was ons baie moeg en het só vas geslaap dat ons dit nie agtergekom het nie. In die kloof was ook baie bobbejane wat die nag vreeslik gelawaai het. Maar bobbejane soek nie in die nag kos nie.

LUIPERDS

Daardie omgewing is ook bekend vir sy luiperds, maar ons het nog nooit van 'n luiperd gehoor wat brood eet nie. 'n Tydjie nadat ons daar geslaap het, het 'n dogtertjie saam met haar ouers in die kloof opgestap. Die dogtertjie het op 'n pragtige luiperdwelpie afgekom.

Sy het die dingetjie opgetel en toe storm die luiperdwyfie uit die bosse, gee die dogtertjie 'n oorveeg, gryp haar welpie en laat spat. Die dogtertjie het steke in die wang gekry waar die luiperd se skerp naels dit oopgeskeur het.

'n Gordonsbaaise konstabel het van die voorval gehoor en 'n jaggeselskap georganiseer om die luiperd op te spoor. Hulle is met honde die berg in, maar van luiperds het hulle geen teken gekry nie.

MORSDOOD

'n Luiperd het dikwels in daardie omgewing teen skemeraand op 'n rots gelê en na die verbygaande verkeer gekyk. Op 'n dag het die luiperd onder 'n voertuig beland. Die dier was uit soos 'n kers, oënskynlik morsdood. 'n Paar mans het die luiperd agterop 'n bakkie gelaai en daarmee Gordonsbaai toe gery.

Daar gekom, begin die luiperd lewe kry. Haastig is polisie toe gery en 'n konstabel het die dier geskiet.

In daardie berge moet nog baie luiperds wees. Sowat 15 jaar gelede was daar 'n bergbrand bokant Gordonsbaai. Terwyl 'n brandslaner besig was om die vlamme te blus het 'n luiperd voor hom uit die bosse gespring.

Van Alle Kante - Gideon Joubert

Thanks to Jo Henson who has sponsored this edition of the "Breeze" to the tune of R150,00. The cost of producing an edition of the "Breeze" amounts to approximately R700,00. (Printing costs, envelopes and postage). Any contributions towards making future editions of the "Breeze" possible will be greatly appreciated.

A word from Jo Henson of *Sea Side* PROPERTIES

Sea Side Properties say "Hi" to all local property owners by means of this "Breeze" newsletter. Can you believe it - Rooi-Els has only about 300 property owners scattered all over South Africa - and yet we have a Ratepayers Association dedicated and with enough expertise to run our very own newsletter. Fantastic and well done!

Sea Side Properties plans to do a permanent feature in this newsletter and supply you with some information about our local property industry, in which you are all stakeholders. Well, before going any further the property market is healthy with a steady influx of buyers and excellent property prices. As my contribution to the news part of this newsletter I would like you to know that Margaret & I have just become the proud owners of the building in which we have been operating in for the last 7 years, which should prove to you that we intend to be a permanent feature here and that we have great faith in Rooi-Els.

Also new is the fact that in July I passed another one of the many update seminars which I have attended over the last 6 years, but this is one of the most prestigious as it allows me to display the CRS sign which stands for Certified Residential Specialist and is issued by the SA Institute of Realtors. So you can see, we are working all the time to improve our service and expertise.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have made use of our services by allowing us to either find you a property or to sell your property.

Now for those people worried about their home security it may be news to you that we have a 24 hour electronic security system monitored here in Rooi-Els. So if you're thinking of security, think local, think Sea Side Security. Yes, property is changing hands steadily and at very good prices so anybody out there wanting to sell please contact Jo or Margaret at:

02823 - 28383 o/h

02823 - 28568 a/h

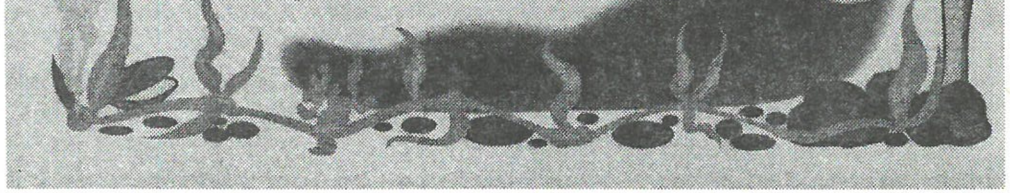
- Jo Hensen -

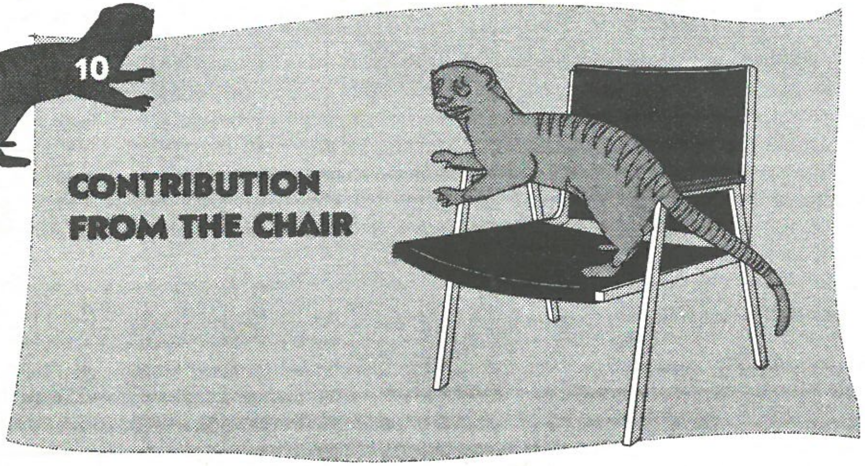
DUNE MANAGEMENT

July and August are traditionally the worst months in the Cape and, as if we needed more convincing after summer, Rooi-Els endures further magnificent winter displays of Mother Nature's awesome power. This year the small beach has lost up to half a metre of sand at its west end and exposed rocks that last saw the light of day many years ago, while the east facing dune has been eroded massively. However, our practice of using the offcuts from rooikrans and port jackson hacks has been very successful in stabilising and promoting growth of grasses on the north facing dunes. The dune above the river has also been stabilised with some success with the pleasing consequence of it being well grassed again. We will seek some professional advice on stabilising the east facing dune and would appeal to residents to encourage their children or visitors to keep to existing paths around the dunes.

STRANDBESTUUR

Groot hoeveelhede seebamboes, 'n dooie rob en bale rommel is gedurende vanjaar se winterstorms op die strand uitgestoot. Die bamboes los ons maar, die ontbinde rob het ons probeer verwyder, maar dit was nie net te groot nie, maar het so sleg geruik dat geen mens dit naby kon waag nie. Die rommel is deur inwoners versamel en deur die munisipaliteit verwyder. Plastiekbesoedeling in die see is 'n ernstige bedreiging vir die seelewe en menige beserings en dood van seevoëls, robbe,



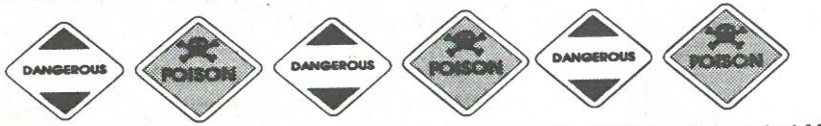


CONTRIBUTION FROM THE CHAIR

As you will gather from the various portfolio reports, your Committee has not been idle! I must compliment all Committee members for the remarkable energy and dedication they have shown. It really is great to have complete confidence in the enthusiasm and drive which has been so evident in their actions. Attendance and participation at meetings has been excellent.

As most of the news is contained in the various reports, I will concentrate on a matter of great importance to all residents and ratepayers:

OUR DRINKING WATER

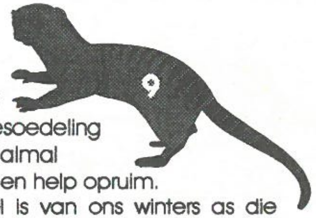


Testing of artillery propellants at Somchem's Dynamic Testing Facility (DTF) over the period 1980 to mid-1995 has resulted in lead being deposited on land at the test site, in the vicinity of the testing equipment. In places, the amount of lead in the soil is in excess of South African guideline limits. Lead is no longer used in tests.

The DTF is located in the catchment area of, and in close proximity to, the Buffels River Dam, which is a source of drink water for townships in the area.

Tests by the CSIR have shown that, at this stage, the aluminium and lead levels of the water in the Buffels River Dam are within Department of Water Affairs and Forestry guidelines for human consumption.

Because of the possible effects on the dam water quality, Somchem has agreed to remove the lead deposits from the DTF land, subject to procedures determined by an independent expert body approved by the above parties. This body is to monitor the removal process, certify that the stipulated removal procedures are followed and certify that the analysis of soil samples, taken from the DTF indicates that no lead deposits which exceed accepted South African standards for soil, remain.



visse en ander seediere word veroorsaak as hulle dit per ongeluk eet of daarin verstrengel raak. Gedurende die wintermaande raak die besoedeling van ons strande besonder erg en sal dit nie wonderlik weesnie indien almal wat 'n entjie gaan stap en wil mediteer 'n sak saamneem strand toe en help opruim. Dan verdien 'n mens mos die port of sjerrie wat ook net so deel is van ons winters as die onstuimige wintersee.

ROOIELS BOOTKLUB

Daar word ywerig gewerk om die gebied rondom die glipweg skoon te maak van indringerplante en binne die volgende paar maande sal daar aan die glipweg en die sluitboom onderhoud en reparasies gedoen moet word. Die klub het twee kettingsae aan die hackkomitee van die belastingbetalers geskenk. Hierdeur is daar ondersteuning gegee aan die vereniging se bewarings - en ekologiese werksaamhede.

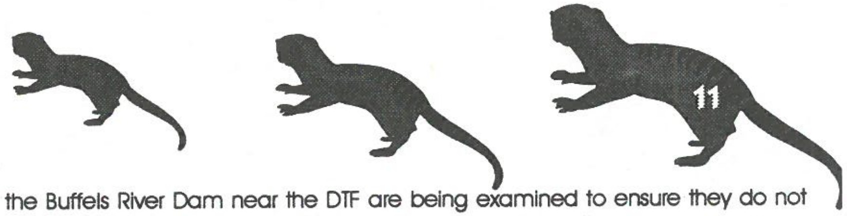
RUBBISH BINS

In winter the wooden bins often get filled with residents' domestic refuse, but this is not their intended purpose. They are there for visitors' use and for casual litter collection. It would be most helpful if every householder made an effort to remember to buy one or two rubber bins for their domestic refuse. Drill a hole through the rubber lid handle and you can thread some rope through it and secure it to the two handles on either side of the bin. Wind proof, dog proof, meerkat proof, baboon proof! Margaret and Jo Hensen at Coastal Properties sell these bins.

SITE CLEARING

The RERA is setting out to clear Rooi-Els of unwanted alien vegetation in a well-planned and constructive campaign. In the next month or so each owner will receive a letter outlining the plan, in which we will first be attacking the west side of the main tarred road and then, next year, those erven on the east or mountain side of the road. The specific part of the village we are concentrating on is between the beaches and the road along the north boundary of the Reserve - called Study Road if you can believe it. There are a dozen or so badly overgrown erven and then another thirty or so that need clearing - we will list these erf numbers so that the owners can respond as requested. We hope for co-operation so that we can achieve this long sought after target, as we are, after all, in the heart of a famous flora area where aliens have no place at all.

- Diarmuid Baigrie -



The sediment in the Buffels River Dam near the DTF are being examined to ensure they do not contain excessive lead levels. If necessary, this will be dealt with in the same manner as specified with regards to the soil contamination explained above.

The monitoring of the water for lead and other toxic substances as specified by the parties concerned, by the CSIR and of soil samples by the Agricultural Research Council will continue at frequent intervals, at places agreed to by all the parties concerned.

Fu... action by the concerned parties will be dictated by the results of the following processes:

- the removal of soil containing excessive lead deposits according to stipulated procedures,
- the determination of lead levels in the sediment in the Buffels River Dam and its removal should this prove necessary, and
- the monitoring of the water quality in the dam in the manner described above.

Somchem undertakes to cease all tests immediately should its activities pollute the water in such a manner as to take it less suitable for human consumption.

The company has also undertaken to move from the area as soon as they have established an alternative site, which they anticipate will occur before the end of 1999.

Somchem has undertaken to clean up the DTF area before their departure and have given the assurance that they will rehabilitate it as well and will not leave unacceptable levels of pollutants behind. A rocket motor testing facility adjacent to DTF has already been demobilised by Somchem, who is in the process of rehabilitating the disturbed area.

An...er water issue which is of concern is the continuing exploitation by the Overberg Regional Services Council of the quarry which also lies in the catchment area of the dam. As a Cape Nature Conservation report states:

"Our conclusion is that the present operation of the quarry, and the continued erosion of formerly disturbed areas, is an unacceptable situation particularly in an important natural area as well as in the catchment of a dam which supplies drinking water to the coastal townships."

Recent reports on diesel spillage have not made us rest any easier, but our efforts have not borne any fruit thus far. We do not give up easily, however!

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MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

More and more, local ratepayers associations are playing a decisive role in the governance of local communities and nowhere is this more true than in the Hangklip Area where very diverse interests are served by the Hangklip/Kleinmond Municipality. If you are not already a member of the Rooi-Els Ratepayers Association why not complete an application form and cheque and thus demonstrate your support for a very dedicated group of people who are continually working in your best interests. Join the Association and receive future "Breezes" to keep you informed. This will be the last time we will be able to afford to send non-members this informative little brochure.

- Geoff Harris -

We know so little about the wild creatures we are losing so fast.
We know nothing about why they are, or why they are where they are.
More important - we do not know what will happen when they are no more.
One thing we do know - that mankind will be so much the poorer for their passing.
So will this earth ...
Having destroyed our natural heritage how can we survive as compassionate beings?"

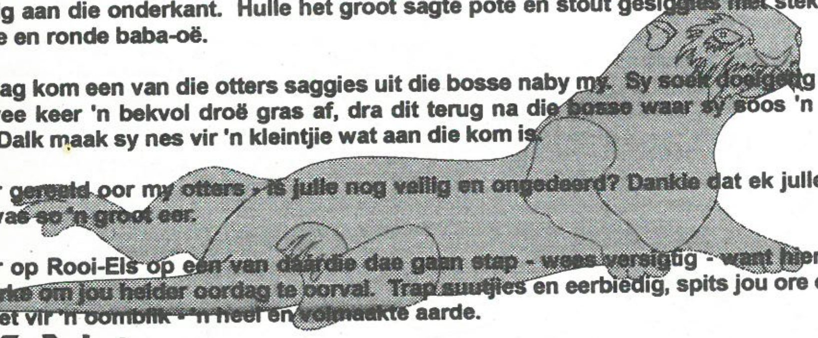
Dennis Winchester-Gould:
Citizens or The Wilderness

OTTERS

Dit was nou die Saterdag weer een van daardie skerp blink wintersdae -wanneer mens amper deur die intensiteit van die sonlig en die kleure om jou oorweldig word. Ek het 'n entjie gaan stap. Eienaardige geluide kom vanuit die bosse aan die see se kant. Dit klink soos 'n baba wat huil, 'n kattegekerm en iemand wat fluit - alles deurmekaar. Ek sluip die bosse in, al agter die geluid aan, tot op die rotse by die see. In 'n vlak rotspoeletjie kry ek hulle - 'n klomp wriemelende deurmekaargevlegte blink otterlywe wat hulself totaal oorgee aan die vreugde van die dag en die genot van mekaar se geselskap.

Dit is moeilik om die otters te tel. Sodra een otter by die poel uitklim of sy kop te lank bo die water uitsteek, trek die ander hom terug in die water en dompel hom onder om verder te speel - nes 'n klomp uitbundige kinders. Die otters is klaarblyklik 'n gesinnetjie en merkbaar geheg aan mekaar. Dwarsdeur die spelery gesels hulle een stryk deur, meestal deur fluitgeluide.

Na 'n uur of wat klim vier volmaakte otters uit die water en skarrel terug oor die rotse na die bosse vir 'n middagslapie. Hulle blinkvet lywe is sjokoladebruin aan die bokant en roomkleurig aan die onderkant. Hulle het groot sagte pote en stout gesiggies met stekerige snorbaarde en ronde baba-oë.



Later die dag kom een van die otters saggies uit die bosse naby my. Sy soek doelgerig rond en pluk twee keer 'n bekvol droë gras af, dra dit terug na die bosse waar sy soos 'n skim verdwyn. Dalk maak sy nes vir 'n kleintjie wat aan die kom is.

Ek wonder gereeld oor my otters - is julle nog veilig en ongedeerd? Dankie dat ek julle kon sien. Dit was so 'n groot eer.

As jy weer op Rooi-Els op een van daardie dae gaan stap - wees versigtig - want hier wag wonderwerke om jou helder oordag te oorval. Trap suutjies en eerbiedig, spits jou ore en oë en sien - net vir 'n oomblik - 'n heel en volmaakte aarde.

Otters threatened by wetlands plan

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

A MAJOR row is brewing over Gauteng businessm...'s plan...

Agricu...

...re-

Bay, and particularly in an area earmarked as a biosphere reserve be-...use of its sensitivity," Rooi Els ...llor Julia Aalbers said.
...said ott...

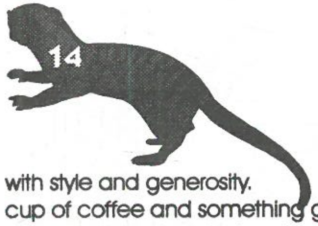
Estelle Raymond

HACK NEWS

We have met each month since Easter to take out Rooikrans and other alien vegetation and each month new people join us to help in this work which is essential if we are to safeguard our beautiful Fynbos. Further work has been done along and above Roella Road but we have also worked twice on the dunes between the slipway and the big beach.

This last hack, which took place on 29th June, was great fun, being attended by at least 25 people ranging in age between 7 and 70 as well as a collection of dogs as varied in character as the hackers! Two people brought mechanical saws to the hack and this helped in cutting down a great deal of Rooikrans in the two hours during which we worked. Much indigenous vegetation remains so the dunes will not have been disturbed by the removal of the Rooikrans.

We were delighted to start work to the accompaniment of the humphing of two whales in the bay but were concerned for the safety of the dogs and the small children when a baboon bounded along the beach and came back a short while later carrying what looked like half a loaf of bread.



After each hack a different family hosts refreshments, always with style and generosity. It is good, (after some hard work), to sit and chat over a beer or cup of coffee and something good to eat and to enjoy a different part of our beautiful Rooi-Els.

Further hacks are planned this year on 10th August, 23rd September and 19th October.

- Jean Cowen -

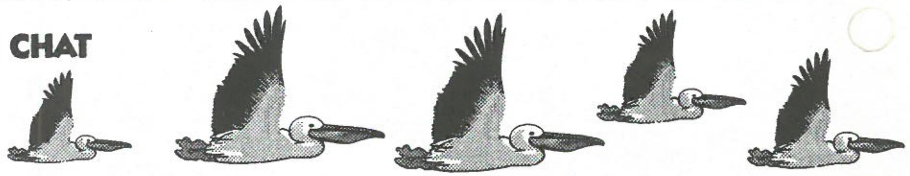
BRANDKRANE

Die ligging van Rooi-Els se brandkrane word aangedui op die kaart hierby ingesluit. Hou dit liewers byderhand ingeval van 'n brand. Wees asseblief baie versigtig wanneer u braai - veral wanneer die wind waai. 'n Tragedie soos die brand van 11 Desember 1993 kan so maklik gebeur.

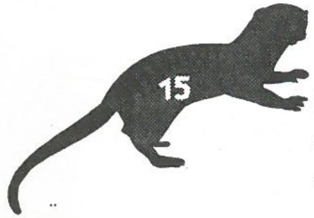
FIRE HYDRANTS

Please keep the annexed map of Rooi-Els handy which indicates the location of the fire hydrants. Our fynbos and all its inhabitants (human or otherwise) are precious. Please exercise due caution when braaiing or when discarding cigarette stubs - especially in windy conditions.

BIRD CHAT



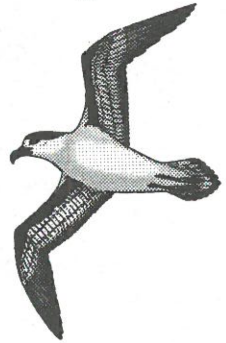
Do you realise that there are 142 bird species at Rooi-Els (from the river bridge to the line of the old tip to the coastline). The list has been compiled over ten years and it grows every year. Also, nests have been recorded for most of the permanent residents and ownership is fiercely contested! Why not record your own list while you are here on a monthly basis (or weekly, if you are only here for a short time)? You could then hand these in on an annual basis. For compilation, please use Robert's Birds of Southern Africa classification numbers but for reference there are several "easy to identify" books including Sasol Birds of Southern Africa, Newman's Birds of Southern Africa and Ian Sinclair's Field Guide to the Birds of Southern Africa.



For the beginners (or never-bothered-before types) start with identification of the always present ones e.g.:

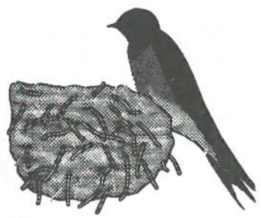
Cape Robin	:	Janfrederik
Cape Bulbul	:	Kaapse Tiptol
Cape Bunting	:	Rooivlerkstreepkoppie
Cape Sugarbird	:	Kaapse Suikervoël
Lesser Doublecollared	:	Kleinrooiborssuikerbekkie
Orangebreasted Sunbirds	:	Oranjeborssuikerbekkie
Spotted Prinia	:	Karoolangstertjie
Kelp Gull	:	Swartrugmeeu
Whitefronted Sandplover	:	Vaalstrandkiewiet
White fronted Cormorant	:	Witborsduiker
Rock Kestrel	:	Kransvalk
Black Eagle	:	Witkruisarend

For those with telescopes look seawards for:



Cape Gannet	:	Witmalgas
Cape Cormorant	:	Trekduiker
White Chinned Petrel	:	Bassiaan

Then, in September start to look to summer arrivals:



Greaterstriped Swallow	:	Grootstreepswael
Pearl Swallow	:	Pêrelborsswael
Whitethroated Swallows	:	Witkeelswaels
Whiterumped Swift	:	Witkruiswindswael
Yellowbilled Kite	:	Geelbekwou

In October and November:

Black Swift	:	Swartwindswael
European Swallow	:	Europese swael
Alpine Swift	:	Witpenswindswael
Steppe Buzzard	:	Bruinjakkalsvoël

To encourage birds to stay in your garden, put in a bird bath as a watering hole (fresh water, twice daily) and for sugarbirds and sunbirds, sugared water. For the non-feathered a glass of wine or beer is preferable!! If you would like a copy of the bird list, then please telephone Helen or Alison at (02823) 28528. There will be more bird news in the next Rooi-Els Breeze.

Did you know? The Black Eagle mates for life and has a lifespan of up to 50 years.

SEEWAG

Stel u belang om as deel van die SEEWAG "SEA WATCH" projek as ere bewaarder deur 'n Departement Seevisserye aangestel te word? Skryf aan: Die Sekretaris, Rooiels Belastingsbetalersvereniging, Posbus 89, Bettysbaai, 7141 vir 'n aansoekvorm. Aansoeke is onderworpe aan 'n streng keuringsproses deur die Departement van Seevisserye.

VOER VAN BOBBEJANE

Die Rooiels Belastingbetalersvereniging het onlangs uit verskeie oorde klagtes ontvang dat inwoners van Rooiels bobbejane voer.

Die voer van bobbejane word uitdruklik deur wetgewing verbied. Nie alleen kan 'n persoon 'n swaar boete opgelê word nie, die howe kan ook direkte gevangenisstraf gelas.

Alhoewel dit nie ons uitgangspunt is om belastingbetalers voor die voet te gaan verkla by die gereg nie, sal dit wel as laaste uitweg oorweeg word. Hierdie vereniging staan hom ten doel om die unieke karakter van Rooiels uit te bou en te behou.

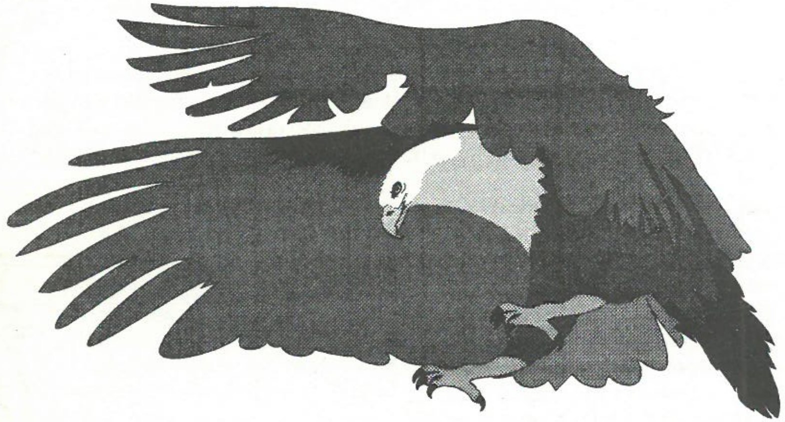
Alle wilde inheemse diere en plante volvoer 'n belangrike funksie en plek in ons unieke kus. Indien wilde diere, byvoorbeeld bobbejane deur mense gevoer word, word hulle hele gedragspatroon en habitat nadelig beïnvloed. Dit skep byvoorbeeld die gevaar dat die wilde diere hulle vrees vir die mens verloor en 'n gevaarlike oorlas word.

In hierdie verband word daarop gewys dat die plaaslike natuurbewaringsbeampte verskeie bobbejane moes skiet en doodmaak, waar hulle 'n oorlas of lewensgevaar geword het vir die inwoners van Rooiels. Die doodmaak van die bobbejane, spruit direk voort uit die feit dat die diere deur mense gevoer word.

Die belastingbetalersvereniging wil graag almal se samewerking verkry om nie enige wilde diere en spesifiek bobbejane, te voer nie.

REMEMBER, A FED BABOON IS A DEAD BABOON !

ONS ADELLIKE BESOEKERS: WITKRUISARENDE



Dis weer sulke tyd. Elke jaar in Julie is ons manjifieke arendpaar lankal doenig by hul taknes teen die Suidekranse van Klein-Hangklip.

Van die twee eiers wat 45 dae tevore gelê is, het die eerste kuiken 'n driedag-voorsprong gehad. Dié eerste kuiken, of die ma, het die tweede kuiken verorber.

Twee, drie dassies moet nou elke dag gevang word. So nie, akkedisse, muise, seevoëls, selfs bobbejaantjies. Ma voer verkieslik self. In spysvertering word tot die dassievel afgewurg. Oor die byna drie maande in die nes sal die kuiken by geleentheid doelbewus oorvoer word en 'n regmakertjie van groenblare kon verwag. Eers na ses weke skeur die jong bek self die vleis.

Pa beskerm saam die gebied en dra ook kos aan uit die 30 vierkante kilometer waar die arendpaar saam jag. G'n skarrelende dassie is sy lewe veilig nie, die arende gewaar hom al 'n kilometer ver van bo af.

Baie dinge kan verkeerd loop vir die kleintjie. Bobbejane kan 'n bedreiging wees, of ander roofvoëls, of die wind, of selfs luise. Ná die brand wat die kop op 11 Desember 1993 gestroop het, is 'n tweede (huidige) nes gebou 'n entjie van die oue. Hulle dra stokke in die poot aan.

Wat 'n gesig! Nes Moses sê in Deuteronomium 32 (lees die ou vertaling) ondersteun die arend met sy twee meter-vlerkspan die jong voël deur hom net vir 'n oogwink te lig in vlug. Die tyd van trippel op 'n tak in die nes terwyl die vlerke klap maar verniet of iets gebeur, is nou vergete. Stadig leer hy die warm lugstrome gebruik. Teen hierdie tyd is hy al yslik groot, maar gaan drie jaar neem om die kenmerkende swart kleed en die wit kruis te wys.

Hoe bevoorreg is ons nie om hierdie bedreigde spesie te kan sien nie, al is dit soms net 'n spikkel hoog bo die kop. Hou veral dop teen November, Desember vir die drie koninklikes van die lug. Ons het walvisse, otters, duikertjies, luiperds en selfs fynbos om van flou te word. Wat nog! Soek 'n mens majesteit, dan is daar witkruisarende.

- Louise du Toit -