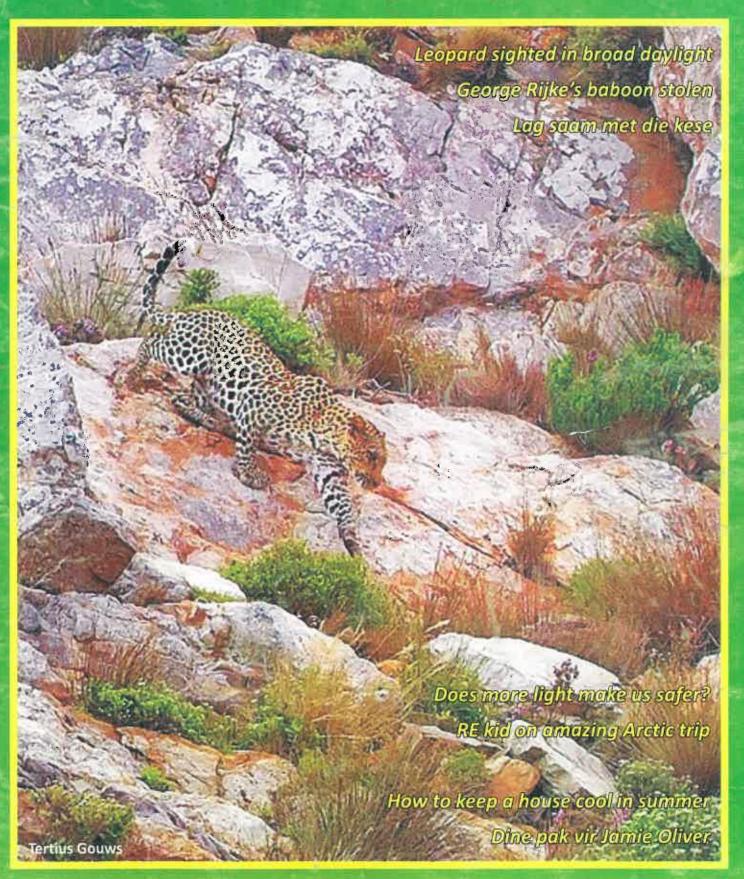
# Bries . Breeze

South-East Edition 2012

News from the Boot Sis Commovency, Boot Sis Ratepayers' Association and Root Sis Book Club. Nums van die Soot Sis Sewonse, die Root Sis Bellestingbetalersvereniging en die Root Sis Bookslub.



### Editorial/Redaktioneel

Ek gaan met die ou jaar uit met die wete ek kan slange vang! Dit nadat 'n boomslang letterlik in my arms geval het toe ek by my voordeur uitstap. Gelukkig het Rooi Els nou drie slangvangers, kry hul nommers op bladsy 2.



Our big news: a daylight sighting of a leopard here at Rooi Els (page 4 and front page).

George Rijke's baboon stolen (p 4). We have a number of 'bucket list' experiences, like Jen Butler's trip to the Antarctic on page 13, Dick and Jill Lockley's trip to Thailand on page 18, Diarmuid Baigle's epic hike from Eden to Addc on page 15. Paul Perton shares with us a photography course he did in Paris on page 11. Lees oor Dine van Zyl se Groot Prys op bladsy 22. Prof. Michael Orren writes about Global warming on page 23 and Graham McCleland gives advice about how to keep your house cool in summers heat on page 24. Alison Ayers tells us what the birds are chatting about on page 25. Evette Weyers vertel van 'n surrealisties dag in haar en Marius se lewe op bladsy 29 en lees oor primate wat net soos mense vir grappe lag op bladsy 30. And enjoy the first pictures of the Oystercatcher's egg from Sandra Yeo on page 21. Thanks to all the regular and new contributors for interesting and inspiring stories.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and blessed festive season!

Griet Odendaal

Editor/ Redakteur

grietjie@mweb.co.za 082 3668032

### openbaring

vanoggend stoot 'n baardjiesmol my voetpad oop tot klein kasteel en sleutelgat begin die tarentaal se kop soos 'n aangeslaande klokkie lui en die blomme van die wattelboom word kolle geel borduursel op 'n ou tapisserie en ligte wyn in fyn groen glase wat ek nog vaag onthou vloei agter akkerblare weg ek hoor weer hoe die silwer lepels diep uit die kasteel se maag soos waterkrieke begin klink en kir-kir maak die deurknop in my hand iewers word 'n fees berei kir-kir die raaisel van die reënvoël wat blink klippies uit kapokbos krap draai sag onder my hand verby net voor ek oor die drumpel trap

Marlene van Niekerk

#### Rooi-Els Contacts

Baboon advice – Jenny Stark	028 271 5004
Drummond Arms	028 273 8458
EMERGENCIES - ASK Security	072 605 9512
Hack info - Evette Weyers	028 273 8483
RE Boat Club - Piet Uys	083 7994088
RE Conservancy – Anuta Scholtz	028 273 8539
RE Fire chief - Pierre Kruger	071 3999112
RE Ladies Group - Rennie Moir	028 273 8109
RE Village Shop	028 273 8383
RERA - Julia Aalbers	021 976 4378
Community Watch - Denise Esterhuyse	072 1230883
Snake catching – Geoff Harris	028 273 8164
AMBULANCE – Ambumed Klein- mond	0765123459
AREA MANAGER (Municipality) Cecile Jonkheid	028 271 8100
ASK SECURITY - 24 hr HOT LINE	072 345 3041
COUNCILLOR - Lisel Krige	028 2729533
DENTISTS - Dr JP Duvenage	028 271 3467
	028 271 3662
- Dr Engelbrecht	
DOCTORS - Dr van Niekerk	028 271 4227
- Dr du Plessis a/h 0832 653 6355	028 271 4227
EMERGENCY 24 hr Hermanus	028 313 8000
ESKOM failure in office hours after hours	021 859 5305 086 003 7566
Harold Porter Botanical Gardens	028 272 9311
FIRE - Carl Muller 082 774 4581	028 313 8000
	020 313 0000
Clayton Francis (Pringle)	082 416 6685
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#### True Rooi Els moments

### Its raining snakes!

I've been living with this boomslang (pic right) for years, but during our first heat wave in November it literally fell into my arms as I opened my front door. A few days later came into the house. This time the Franklins made such a racket outside that I ran out to investigate and discovered the snake mid stride in my house. Last year this time Hilgard Muller helped me get the same snake away from the rock martin nest at my front door, but to no avail. Funny, at the time we thought it was a mole snake! Ernst Thompson responded to my alarm and came immediately to remove the visitor. I felt sad for it, but at least it left with a full belly and the rock martins get another chance to breed! Ps. Ernst says it is an old wife's tale that a boomslang has to open his mouth wide to bite - he says a prick with a top tooth will do it! 
Griet

#### Choice of snake catchers!

Did you know that you now have a choice of three snake catchers who will remove snakes for you? It's all catch and release, the release being done far from you... So, as jy 'n onwelkome besoeker het, kan jy staatmaak op enige van die volgende slangvangers:



Die pragtige mannetjieboom-slang besig om 'n swaeltjie in te sluk. Hy is in Lovers Walk gevang (links bo) deur Ernst Thompson en elders vrygelaat.



Contact numbers of our three snake catchers

Geoff Harris Gert Coetzee Ernst Thompson

028 273 8164 082 964 1721 083 658 2504 083 484 9617 082 333 1543



# Voorskou van Evette se uitstalling:

In Oktober kon Rooi Elsers gaan kyk na Evette se beelde, wat gemaak is vir 'n solo uitstalling by die Tina Skukan gallery in Fairy Glen, Pretoria. Haar boek, *Wat die hart van vol* is, is bekend gestel.



Van die beelde in haar uitstalling: Bo is die beeld "'n Feit soos 'n koei", links hou sy ""Prospera" se hande vas en regs is die Seebuddha, in sagte blou.

## Latest on local



# leopard project

There are so many reasons to live in Rooi Els and in my opinion the most important one is the natural environment we live in. I love the mountains and the sea and everything they encompass. The wind is really the only element that I sometimes complain about and at times in summer it is a godsend. Something I have developed a passion for is the leopard project. The Boland Leopard Trust girls, Anita Meyer and Jeannie Hayward have infected me with their enthusiasm. They recently collared their first leopard which was most exciting. Imagine if we were able to collar Scott and were able to monitor his movements closely but that is a pie in the sky as the whole exercise is exorbitantly expensive.

A number of Rooi Els residents contributed to the purchase of our own camera so that the movements of leopards in this area could be monitored. Wolfgang Steinbach and I volunteered to deploy the camera and to monitor the photographs emanating from it. We situated the camera in a cave close to the village (where we had found

spoor) in June 2011 and have checked it, changed batteries etc. roughly every 6 weeks since then. On our first visit to the camera in late July there was a photo taken on 4 July 2011 clearly





showing leopard spots close up. But the photo on the same visit taken on 20 July shows the leopard in all its glory! We were very excited about this and immediately emailed the photo to

Anita and Jeannie. They were just as excited and sent a reply within minutes identifying the leopard as "Scott"- a mature male with an identified range stretching throughout the Kogelberg to Kleinmond and across the N2 to Grabouw. Since that time we have had a number of confirmed photos; all identified as being Scott on tour of his territory. He visits the Rooi Els area roughly every 6 weeks or so. It is quite interesting that the times of the photos are always late afternoon or early evening so he must lay up somewhere close during the day. Food for thought isn't it!

Listed below is the record of leopard photos taken:

- 4/7/2011 close up of clear leopard spots
- 20/7/2011 the best photo we have of the leopard identified as Scott
- 23/8/2011 close up of spots but blurred
- 17/12/2011 body shot- good
- · 25/2/2012 body and tail
- 7/3/2012 blurred spots
- 9/3/2012 spoor

- 22/5/2012 blurred spots
- 5/6/2012 very wet baboon group
- 25/6/2012 front body and half head/chinblurred
- 19/7/2012 front body, chin and ear- blurred

The latest photos are quite frustrating as he was too close to the camera to be clear. As a result of discussing this with the girls from the Leopard Trust, we have moved a log nearer to the camera to ensure that Scott does not get too close to the camera and thus provide us with a



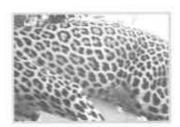
much better picture. He will now have to walk through the cave further back. Please note that unfortunately the cave has been visited a few times by passers-by. This has definitely disturbed Scott and he, after

smelling the intruders, has bolted out of the cave leaving us with very blurred shots. We therefore appeal to every-body NOT to visit the cave until such time as we have moved the camera elsewhere.

Please assist the Boland Leopard Project by assisting us. All donations will be most welcome and can be passed over to Anuta at the Rooi Els Conservancy. It would be ideal if we could purchase a further camera and thus enlarge our area coverage. They cost in excess of R3000 each. It has been a fascinating experience knowing that our area is part of a leopard's range and that he moves very close to us. And we know that many people are as fascinated as us.

In conclusion I would like to refer you to this excellent web site where one can see a video of the work that the Cape Leopard Trust does. It is a fascinating video and well worth watching- see http://capeleopard.org.za/news-and-media/news/item/440-catch-me-if-you-can.

Jill Lockley & Wolfgang Steinbach



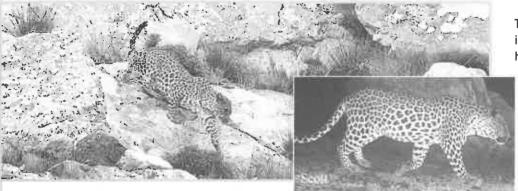




## Leopard seen at Rooi Els in broad daylight!

A leopard, which turned out to be Scott, was seen in broad daylight and photographed by dr. Tertius Gous, a vet from Somerset West and two Canadian birdwatchers on the gravel road between Rook Els and Pringle Bay.

This happened on 22 October this year at about 11:30 am!



"It was a cloudy day and we went to the well known site for Cape Rock-jumpers on the gravel road to Pringle Bay under the large mountain cave. We did not have much luck with rock jumpers, but who's counting? I was there guiding two other birdwatchers from Canada. At the second turnoff to the smallholdings we walked down the path and saw some of the rock jumpers, but they kept evading us. On our way back we scanned the mountain, and then saw the leopard amongst the rocks. "It was in the vicinity of the cave, where the mountain makes an indent. He was walking slowly, peacefully. Looked in our direction, then turned back and disappeared over that indent."

The pictures were used to identify the leopard, as they have unique spots and the

Cape leopard Trust confirmed that they belonged to Scott the leopard caught in the initial pictures at Rooi Els (pictures above). Scott is part of a group of five leopards in the Kogelberg area – three fe-

males and two males. Scott has been captured on cameras in Pringle Bay, Gordons Bay and at a few other camera spots in the Kogelberg.

"I realize that we were lucky. The women from the Cape Leopard Trust said that they have never spotted a naturally wild leopard in the Kogelberg. I don't think the Canadians realized exactly how lucky they were, they had just been to the Kruger National Park, and were glad to see a leopard as they had already seen all the rest! But I have walked there regularly, for many years, and for me it was an amazing reward."

Tertius said he will be happy to share the photographs and stories about his experiences watching RE birds. 

□

# Feedback from USA couple who studied the baboons in Rooiels:

Nick and Amanda Ellwanger – the American students who were going around interviewing people about the baboons in Rooiels.

Nick's research will focus on how primates cope with changes in resources between seasons. Fynbos is highly diverse but nutritionally poor and the seasonal changes in rainfall, temperature and day length pose challenges. He will do his research in Salmonsdam Nature Reserve on the feeding patterns, competition over resources and potential changes in female reproduction affected by food availability.

Amanda is looking at the connection between people and primates.

There are close interactions at other places throughout the world, but the extremes in season and availability of food differs from the tropical zones where most other people and primates co-exist. Amanda's research in the Hemel-en Aarde Valley, will consider baboon stress response to proximity with humans and people's perspectives on baboons as she follows a baboon troop through a variety of habitats including, fynbos, agricultural land and alien woodlands.

### Lovers Walk se bobbejaan gesteel

'n Geliefde baken van Lovers Walk -George Rijke se bobbejaan – is vroeg

Augustus voor Heidi en Kevin Andersson se huis gesteel. "Dit moes die naweek van 5/6 Augustus gebeur het. Toe ons die volgende naweek hier kom, was die bobbeiaan weg.

"Toe ons navraag doen, hoor ons Margaret Henson van die Village shop het dit Maandag 7 Augustus (vier dae tevore) by die parkeerarea van Dappat se Gat, waar die branderplankryers gaan, op die muur sien sit. Ek en Kevin is vol hoop na Kogelbaai, maar nee, dit was beslis nie meer daar nie. Kevin het met die padwerkers wat die rotse optel, gepraat en hulle het dit ook gesien.

"For me that baboon had huge sentimental value as it was created by my father. He loved his art. And it was an icon of Rooi Els. And it brought humour as many dogs were petrified of it."

Nou ja waar dit nou kan wees - geen idee. Net sy spookagtige voete hou nou sy plek. Heidi asks everyone with information about the baboon to contact her, she is still hoping it will return from somewhere.

And sadly, no one can find a picture of it! =

## Boats safe and ready for new season

# Report back on the Rooiels Boat Club Safety Survey:

The sun rose an hour earlier than usual on Saturday the twenty tooth of September 2012 in Scarborough, on the far side of the Cape Peninsula. This can be the only explanation for the fact that the somewhat gruff Jeff Hawkins and his colleagues arrived an hour earlier than the appointed time to conduct the annual Rooiels Boat Club safety survey. Given that they are often a few minutes late, it meant they were probably an hour and a half ahead of ETA. This accounted for the initial estimate that there were fewer boat club members than usual who were taking advantage of the boat club's generosity in paying for the survey in the interest of boating safety. However, the late night partiers eventually woke up and the queue stretched to over 30 boats. In fact 2 more than usual, as Messrs Visser and Esterhuyse brought two boats each to the survey. This was in stark contrast to Hilgard Muller, who brought neither of his kayaks, but did pitch to drink more than two of the well-chilled Black Label beers on

The Kwaai Voëls got their leisure craft surveyed, even though they are below the size limit required by law. No, I don't mean them, I mean their boat. If they can do it, why can't Mr Muller. He's as dangerous as some of the boaters as he paddles faster than many of the boats, especially those with a habit of breaking down or those with broken propellers. Food for thought. Talking about food, Piet Uys once again catered for the street people of Rooiels. The Uys family were off to a wedding, but still sorted out the food and let the club use their yard to braai. Wolfgang Steinbach cooked the wors to perfection.

John Biesman-Simons struggled to explain his broken prop. Andries Brink and Charlie Simonsz enquired of him why he couldn't remember where the submerged rock is; he has after all hit it at least once a year for the last 21 years. He claimed in mitigation that he had organised the cold beer and no one even said thank you. He started to sulk, but sipped on a cold one and cheered up immediately. Kevin Anderson didn't pitch at all. He got his first (and only) mate Mark Butler to take his blik along. Jeff Hawkins wasn't convinced the blik would float and Mark didn't know where the flotation certificate was. A few members tossed their empty beer cans into the blik as a donation towards the repair kit that they believe Kevin should carry to keep his blik afloat. Jeff still wasn't convinced.

There was a horrid smell at one stage. It abated after Derek towed his big boat away and someone said maybe he left his winning crayfish from the last kreef competition in the hatch, so he can enter it again next year. In the end, it proved to be a sea breeze blowing over fowl-





The hustle and bustle of the boats getting registered for the new season.

smelling kelp and Derek's good name and reputation was restored. Until his next pub visit at least.

Doug Dewey flew down for the survey. His wife had spent a few months down here but flew back the week before when she heard he was coming down. Go figure. Our newest member Malcolm Hunter also got his boat surveyed and the club wishes him many years of incident free boating. We'd also like him to avoid winning the crayfish competition as a rookie and showing up the old salts.

We await news of the crayfishing season dates and Hope that the crayfishing competition can go ahead as scheduled on 27 December.  $\hdots$ 

#### Doors of opportunity

We must open the doors to opportunity, but we must also equip our people to walk through those doors. - Lyndon B. Johnson

### Looking after the interests of Ratepayers

Julia Aalbers from RERA Executive Committee looks at some of the issues that cropped up in 2012. Come hear the full story at the AGM!

The Rooi Els Coastal Zone, which may stretch, as far into the village as the environs of Lovers Walk has raised the profile of RERA's attempts to protect the coastal zone from inappropriate developments.

RERA has attempted to protect the coastal zone from potentially controversial or inappropriate developments, with varied results. The most that we have been able to achieve is that landowners must be circumspect in controlling their building footprint and must rehabilitate damaged coastal dune vegetation within the perimeters of their properties.

RERA is appealing to all Rooi Elsers and their visitors to support the initiative to "Protect and keep off our dunes" over the next 3-5 years to give rehabilitation efforts a chance to succeed in the face of our challenging wind-blasted coastal environment.

Regarding the Communications Portfolio, the Rooi Els database is now about as complete and accurate as it can be, but we ask all property owners to please remember to let us have any change of contact details in order to continue to receive our regular communications. Recent additions to our website (www.rooi-els) include the uploading of past Breeze magazines as well as some additional weather statistics.

In keeping with our brief and mandate from Rooi Elsers we have kept a watch on building plans and processes, utilization of commercial buildings, tourism facilities and

Baboon proof rubbish bins



The current rubbish trailer at the village entrance will not be a regular feature for a great deal longer. House owners are required by the by-laws of the Overstrand Municipality to provide a suitable baboon-proof receptacle for household waste. There are several alternatives that can be purchased to fulfil this function.

A secure baboon bin is the solution - the municipality will remove it . One option is the plastic wood bin holder placed at the Village Shop. This receptacle was especially designed to our Rooi Els conditions. Please pop along and take a look. We have managed to negotiate a very special price on orders of 20 or more. Individual price is R1650 each. Orders of 20: R1250 each. So, a reduction of 24%! Contact Anuta if you wish to place an order: anuta@hpf1855.co.za or 083 388 8239. []

residential properties, as well as budgeting matters at the Ward Committee level and Security matters.



With regard to B&B's, we have requested a review of policy in the Overstrand Municipality so as to ensure that private letting of portions of homes will be subject to tourism standards and commercial rates.

Of importance also, is that the independent consultants reviewing the BuffelsriverWater Treatment plant on a monthly basis have reported that the treated water is of excellent quality. High demand during the December holidays does, however, put a strain on our water resources.

#### Municipality to remove garage

Good news is that the Municipality will be removing garbage every day between 18 December and 18 January 2013, except on public hoildays. But please be responsible and keep trash in baboon proof bins. This will hopefully prevent last years chaos.

The following guideline for clearance of plots with established fire hazard (as assessed by Fire Chief and officials) has been endorsed by RERA.

"The method used to eliminate all plant growth must be environmentally friendly and the use of hand tools is preferable. The use of tractor and brush cutter is not recommended. All grass and invasive plant growth must be reduced to a height of 500mm. The dense, indigenous plants must be reduced by removing the highly flammable material such as dead wood, as well as the thinning of excess growth. If trees are to be retained, all plant growth up to a height of 1,2m from the ground level must be removed. All plant material that has been cut down must be removed and taken to an approved waste disposal site."

With regard to the Security portfolio, RERA has been working with the RE Community Watch and is hopeful of improving the visible security presence in Rooi Els.

Our minutes are available on the Rooi Els website and we encourage all Rooi Elsers to attend our annual AGM in

December.

#### Universe surrenders to spirit of play

"As long as life has the level of being a game, you can play it. But when it no longer has the level of being a game, it plays you. It's the difference between being the chess player and the pawn. And the difference being the chess player and the pawn is playing a game on a relatively non serious level and being all the seriousness there is - that's the pawn." L Ron Hubbard

# Do lights secure against crime?

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

## New year celebrations



Some of the remnants of the fireworks on the main Rooi Els beach on New Year's Eve 2011, picked up a week later. Please, fireworks are not allowed - they pose danger to the creatures on the beach, and apart from that, contain harmful chemicals that contaminate the beach.

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

Lights that are left burning will hardly deter criminals. Rather, they advertise that the occupants are scared and/ or that the house contains valuable items - factors that motivate a determined burglar. With this kind of advertising, burglars may mark the place for a future visit, often during the day. It is a fact that many, if not most crimes in the Hangklip area are perpetrated during daylight hours. Outside lights that are left to burn all night are inconsiderate to one's neighbours, constitute a contravention of a municipal regulation, and represent wasteful consumption of energy. Aproximately 40% of such light is simply scattered into the atmosphere outside its target area, where it serves no useful purpose. We can ill afford such wastage with the sorry state of electricity provision in South Africa being what it is. Perhaps more importantly,

the generation of electricity relies upon the use of finite resources and is responsible for the causation of several kinds of environmental pollution.

Artificial lighting impairs the natural atmosphere and tranquillity of the night, thereby giving rise to irritation and stress, not unlike the effect of noise. Light pollution is a menace to both professional and amateur astronomers. Moreover, too much night-light can negatively affect certain animals by, for instance, creating an imbalance in predation conditions. It also leads to the destruction of useful insects.

If lights are nevertheless believed by house occupants to be a crime-combating strategy, it will make much more sense, both from a security as well as from a financial perspective, to install lights that are automatically activated by movement. However, please take care that these are carefully placed so as not to disturb your neighbours. Installation of street lights will be financially prohibitive, quite apart from the many problems associated with our electricity supply. On a cost-benefit analysis, street lights are definitely a non-starter.  $\Box$ 

#### Prof. Andre Rabie

This article was written in response to a SA Police Service "IMBIZO" held at the Crassula Hall in Betty's Bay on Wednesday 27 June 2012. The intention was to provide residents with a forum to present their concerns to the Police - "especially in the face of the dramatic increase in crime in the area including the repeated theft of telephone cables". Prof Andre Rabie is concerned that one of the first crime prevention strategies proposed by both the police and others at the meeting was the installation of streetlights. RERA and REC have been at the forefront of fighting light pollution in RE for many years now and we should not think that this battle is over... Ed

# 5

## What have Rooielsers been up to this year?

Well, apart from everyone worth knowing cleaning up the beaches in January, Jill and Wolfgang slaving away in the gardens, gardener John cleaning up the recycling centre and clearing small rooikrans every week, Janette working with erf 115 on rehabilitation matters, the hackers hacking away every month, Johlene and the Mavros rehabilitating destroyed road reserves, a number of owners purchasing rubbish containers, Andries organising an upgrade of his corner and donating two public rubbish bins, Dick trimming the pathways in the nature reserve, dozens picking up rubbish as they walk about, Jill and Wolfgang maintaining and monitoring the leopard camera, Werner keeping a watch on the oystercatcher chicks, Mrs Olivier clean-

ing her street, Pierre and Louise maintaining the paths and watching over the rehabilitation of the bay below their house, Dave collecting data and producing his posters on plants of Rooiels, folks sharing their experiences and pictures in the eco-centre, Sandra documenting with her photographs and Mary hosting a community gettogether ... they haven't been doing much, have they? Baie, baie dankie aan julle almal vir nog 'n jaar se toewyding. Dankie vir jul daadwerklike liefde vir die omgewing en dankie dat julle almal doeners is! Ons bring ook hulde aan al die ander wat nie genoem word nie, maar stilletjies in die agtergrond werk om ons paradys te bewaar.

- Anuta Scholtz

#### Rooiels Bewarea AJV / Rooiels Conservancy AGM

DATUM

Maandag, 2 Januarie 2013

TYD

20h00

PLEK

Erf 124, Rooiels. Aan huis van Mark en Linda Butler (voorheen George

Rijke se huis)

Speaker: Jen Butler

Topic: She will share more photographs and stories of her experiences during the first South African winter expedition to the Antarctic (see article elsewhere in this edition).

#### 'n Man so na ons hart!

Andries Brink het sy huis mooi opgeknap en toe besluit om sommer die padreserwe langs die sleephelling ook op te knap. Hy het twee Primwood-vullishouers geskenk en gereël dat hulle op 'n sensitiewe en praktieser plek geplaas word deur die Munisipaliteit. Hy het ook gereël dat die ou, stukkende houers verwyder word. Nou kan besoekers maklik by die vullisblikke kom en die bobbejane se vingertjies en die wind sal nie kan bykom nie. Gaan kyk gerus hoe goed alles nou lyk. Dankie, Andries! Jy het inisiatief geneem en self iets aan die situasie gedoen en die hele dorp is jou dankbaar.

#### Skoonmaak van erwe

Die Munisipaliteit het 'n tydjie gelede briewe aan eienaars van leë erwe gestuur waarin hul opdrag gee dat die erwe skoongemaak moet word. Hierdie briewe is uitgestuur in 'n poging om die brandgevaar te verminder. Gelukkig het min erfeienaars daarop gereageer. Hoekom sê ons dit? Omdat die paar wat verantwoordelik en positief gereageer het, kontrakteurs aangestel het om die werk te doen – maar met katastrofiese gevolge. Spanne het nie die voorskrifte gevolg nie en onoordeelkundig te werk gegaan. In party gevalle het hulle begin om álle plantmateriaal te verwyder!

Ons beveel beslis aan dat alle erfeienaars ouhout en dooie materiaal verwyder, maar nie om hul erwe heeltemal skoon te maak nie. Koos Smit en Dick Lockley het hul leë erwe mooi skoongemaak van alle erg vlambare materiaal, maar terselfdertyd daarin geslaag om die meeste plante te bewaar. Hulle het dinge 'n stap verder gevoer en nuwe plante ingeplant waar daar kaal kolle ontstaan het. Gaan kyk gerus hoe hulle te werk gegaan het.

Oordeelkundige en sensitiewe skoonmaak van erwe is nie iets wat aan kontrakteurs oorgelaat kan word nie. Hierdie spanne kan baiekeer nie eens onderskei tussen rooikrans en proteas nie. Hulle is net nie opgelei nie en werk sonder die toesig van iemand wat kennis dra.

So, what really needs to be done on ALL properties? Remove all dead wood, prune back senescent plants and definitely remove all invasive alien vegetation. This will lower the fire load on your plot, satisfy the fire chief and preserve the vegetation! And contact your Conservancy for help and advice.  $\Box$ 

#### Spotted:

A streepmuis at the top of a tree in Lovers Walk. This is not unusual behaviour as they are like rats and feed on fruits and even little birds.



#### **Questionable first for South Africa**

South Africa has the fastest rates of environmental decline in the world according to researchers from Yale and Columbia in a study looking at environmental performance indicators. We have amongst the most progressive environmental legislation but we are inadequate when it comes to implementation and we are not taking into account the serious effects this has on health and longer term or sustainable growth.

# Carl en Ouma Eureka se "buckets" loop oor

Spesieke dorpe en plekke in nege Suid-Afrikaanse provinsies en ook nog 'n paar plekkies in naburige lande dit alles was op ouma Eureka Steenkamp se "bucket list". Sy en die Steenkampfamilie en Carl Cleophas van die Drummond Arms, het haar hele lys deurgewerk in net twee weke in Augustus. Carl sê hy het eers na die tyd besef die 'trip" was eintlik op sy bucket list ook.

Ses Spurs later is die vier Steenkamps en Carl Cleophas van die Drummond Arms deur nege Suid-Afrikaanse provinsies, met besoeke aan Lesotho, Swaziland en Mosambiek – en dit alles in veertien dae! Ouma Eureka was natuurlik by, want die reisplan is spesifiek beplan om al die plekke te besoek wat op haar "bucket list" was.

Warno, Frieda, Wicus Steenkamp en Ouma Eureka, en hul "plus one" van die Drummond Arms, Carl Cleophas, het op 16 Augustus hul epiese reis begin.

Die eerste aand het hulle oornag in Graaf Reinett, daarna in Kestell, 'n klein gemeenskappie in die Oos- Vrystaat. Daar was ook 'n vinnige dagtoer na Lesotho. Die Saterdagaand was hulle in Swaziland, een van Carl se hoogtepunte. Sondag is hulle oor die grens na Mozambiek, eers deur Maputo tot in die dorpie Marracuene, en vandaar met die Ferry na die eilandjie Ponta da Macaneto waar hulle oornag het by Jay's Beach Lodge, "met 'n pragtige kroegie met 'n seesandvloer, so asof jy op die strand is". Die volgende dag terug in SA, deur die Komatipoort grenspos, via Nelspruit tot by Crystal Springs naby Pelgrims Rust. Daar het hulle die volgende vier dae oorgebly. Hulle

het een dag selfs die Kruger Wildtuin besoek en nogal baie diere te sien gekry. "Woensdag het ons 'n draai gemaak by die Echo Caves, net buite Pelgrimsrus, asook by God's Window by die Blyderivier Canyon. Die Royal Hotel in Pelgrimsrus was vroeërjare 'n kerkie. Besoekers aan dié kroegie plak geldnote van ander lande teen die mure met 'n boodskap op en Carl het dit toe goed gedink om 'n noot van Namibië op te plak met ons name daarop," vertel Wikus.

Hierna was dit Kuruman en Ventersdorp (waar Carl opsluit 'n foto wou hê by die bord, vir "old times sake"). Daarna het hulle vier wonderlike aande deurgebring op die plaas by vriende in Loeriesfontein, in die hartjie van die Hantam. En leersaam, want krag was skaars, en hulle moes aanpas. "Hiervandaan het ons afbeweeg Weskus en die toer afgesluit het by Piketberg Spur, een van ses Spurs wat ons besoek het op die toer tot en met ons Carl afgelaai het by sy ouerhuis in Hopefield."

Ouma Eureka is in haar noppies, sy merk die plekke met satisfaksie af. Onvergeetlik, sê Carl. Omtrent elke plek wat hy gesien het "was 'n first". 'n Ervaring van 'n leeftyd. 

□

## I worried by Mary Oliver

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow,
will the rivers
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn
as it was taught, and if not, how shall
I correct it?

Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven, can I do better?

Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows can do it and I am, well, hopeless.

Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it, am I going to get rheumatism, lockjaw, dementia?

Finally I saw that worrying had come to nothing.

And gave it up. And took my old body and went out into the morning, and sang.

# Daily municipal garbage removals to avoid repeat of 2011's baboon mess!



The municipality will be removing garbage daily from 18 Dec to 18 Jan 2013, except on public holidays. Watch the notices for their requirements. We are appealing to all owners and their tenants to please take responsibility for their rubbish over the coming season. Let's keep our rubbish in our containers at home for the Municipal workers to remove. The trailer is meant for emergencies only. In this way the trailer will never become over-full and neither will we be placing bags unprotected outside it - just waiting for a baboon hit. Let asb op dat eienaars die rioolverwyder-diens vroegtydig moet waarsku as hulle dienste benodig sal word. Hul weeklikse no is 028 2718435, en na ure 028 3138111. 

Anuta Scholtz



## Penguins have Betties up in arms

Penguins are colonising residential parts of Betties Bay. "They grunt and bellow and squeak all night" and have some residents of Stony Point up in arms. Regardless of the biosphere status of Betties Bay, the residents feel that humans also have a right to live there! Others caution that the penguins are the biggest attraction – the "golden geese" of this area, as thousands of birdwatchers stream in to study and film them.

Penguins might be endangered, but some homeowners in Stony Point hate them. These African penguins are also called Jackass Penguins because of their donkey-like bray. The residents complain about lack of sleep due to the noise. And one cannot use earplugs, they say, for fear of burglaries. Some properties have been taken over; they mess on the patios and cause a fly epidemic. Sometimes they even enter the homes "and s-h-one-t all over" as one resident puts it. They are quite aggressive too; they bite and flipper-slap.

There have always been the occasional penguins in the gardens, but over the last two years the situation has gotten out of hand. Some properties have up to 50 nests in their gardens. Several homeowners are kept away from their holiday homes, especially during the breeding time—which lasts from February to end November!

Disgruntled people claim the municipality needs to build a new fence to keep the birds away from the residential area. The existing fence has holes because it has not been maintained.

The Jackass is one of 17 penguin species. The colony at Stony Point is the largest mainland colony in the world; they usually nest on islands. Penguins were classified as endangered in 2010 and in the last decade their numbers have dropped by 90 %, but the contrary is true for Stony Point. There are between 4 500 and 5000 breeding pairs and about 2000 active nests at present. The success may largely be due to ample food resources and space. They can swim up to 20 km per hour, and walk up to 800 meters per day. Their main threat is human settlements, commercial overfishing and pollution, reports The Times (October 31).

#### Life is like the Olympic Games

Pythagoras used to say life resembles the Olympic Games; a few men strain their muscles to carry off a prize; others bring trinkets to sell to the crowd for a profit; and some there are who seek no further advantage than to look at the show and see how and why everything is done. They are spectators of other men's lives in order better to judge and manage their own. - Michel de Montaigne (1533-1592)

#### Harold Porter's festive season

Harold Porter National Botanical Garden celebrates the festive season with Carols and Concerts. On 19 Dec they have Carols by Candlelight, which starts at 8 pm and the gates open at 6 pm. Bring family, friends and picnic. On 29 Dec there is a concert by singer, guitarist, song writer Francois Louw and on 5 January there is The Cliffhangers and the Dayzees, a local group singing golden oldies and love songs. Concerts start at 7 pm. Tickets: R40 for adults, R20 for kids.

### Bot River Estuary breach

The Bot River Estuary was artificially breached overnight on Friday 17 August in accordance with a Mouth Management Plan approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEADP).

This was reported in the October newsletter of the Whale Coast Conservation by Sue Matthews, Overstrand Estuaries Management Coordinator.

The estuary last opened in July 2009, and the likelihood of it opening naturally as reduced by the opening of the Kleinmond mouth on Saturday 11 August, following heavy rainfall. Runoff entering the Bot River Estuary from the catchment had been exceeding the water (ost through the Kleinmond mouth in the days prior to the artificial breach, with the result that the water level was at its highest in many years, at approximately 3 m above mean sea level (amsl). They began digging a trench opposite Meerensee.with a municipal machines. The breach was conducted under the supervision of a Cape Nature official. The final

plug of sand was removed shortly before 01h00, allowing the first water to begin flowing through the trench approximately 2½ hours before high tide. This ensures that the outflow strengthens with a receding tide, reducing obstruction by the sea. Peak outflow occurred between 08h00 and 09h30 on Saturday morning, coinciding with low tide and thus maximising the scouring of sediments. Timing the breach to ensure peak outflow during daylight hours is important in preventing birds such as redknobbed coots from becoming disorientated in the dark and getting washed out to sea.

No reports of dead birds were received. The breaching activities went according to plan, and the operation is considered successful.

Preliminary test show that the Bot River Estuary is looking healthy during the first round of monitoring of water physical-chemical parameters, with the salinity levels showing good mixing with sea water. 

□

# Pictures speak a 1000 words

Paul Perton writes about a memorable street photography workshop with Peter Turnley, a photojournalist with a hard won reputation for being in the right place at the right time, that he attended in Paris recently. He also shares some of his own photographs from the workshop:

It's late May and I am very glad of the central heating in my room when I got up at 06:00 and stottered back into my room after 23:00 most nights. When I first arrived, I was puzzled that the central heating was still on. Later I was very glad of it, and on a number of occasions. used the radiator as a clothes horse to get shirts and fleeces dry before my daily routine kicks-in once again.



Why am I mentioning this? I'm in Paris and was expecting the weather to be somewhat better, as did the thousands of tourists that flock to every street, corner, restaurant, café and museum.

Peter Turnley is the reason I am here. He's a sometime Paris resident, going back three decades and a street photographer somewhat in the mould of Cartier-Bresson and Doisneau, albeit younger. Peter's street workshop started on Saturday and has eleven of us walking the streets photographing *les Parisiennes* as they go about their daily business.

The chilly and damp tourists were of little interest to us; they only hide the real city - ancient, full of light and entirely enchanting. I haven't been in Paris for some vears and find my hard-learned post-school colloquial French has completely deserted me. It was a solo trip; Mrs P is at home dealing with builders and so, of no use in the translation department. Despite my clear British heritage, I lie a lot when I'm in France; "Non. J'habite á l'Afrique du Sud" being my biggest porkie. That immediately seems to put the French at ease and make them like me, which wouldn't usually happen were to

confess to my real pom roots. As a pom, experience has taught me that the French invariably sneer, or shrug, but either way, provide absolutely no assistance or succour, depending on what I seek.

Curiously, the city does seem to have become somewhat less parochial and on this trip I heard English spoken everywhere, including the Metro. That's a definite plus. Back to the workshop. Peter Turnley is one of a rare breed; a photojournalist that has managed to forge a hard won reputation for being in the right place at the right time, camera in hand. He attempted to inculcate in us



some of his street wisdom and I for one have felt a significant change in my photographic attitude since arriving here. The ten others on the workshop were having similar experiences, with varying degrees of photographic success. Peter's style is as you'd expect for a successful photojournalist; direct and somewhat confrontational. The streets of Paris aren't a war zone, or a refugee camp in Somalia and I found myself wondering whether such an in-yourface style is justified. His photographs speak otherwise and we are all finding ways to adapt his guidance to our own styles. After an orientation meeting

and dinner on Sunday evening, the pattern of our days quickly took shape; shoot, edit and submit a day's images for group discussion and selection, then it's back out on to the streets for another go-round. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were chilly, overcast and rainy by turns. As the week progressed, the weather improved, as did our skills. Those familiar with my early morning habits won't be remotely surprised to hear I was out on the streets at around 07:00 - earlier than that, when there really wasn't sufficient light pour la photographie.

Slowly, we each built a group of selected images on Peter's computer, the aim being 15 photographs from each of us that would be collected into an end-of-workshop show, featuring the







work of the entire group. Interwoven with shooting and discussion were two guest discussions: Voya Mitrovic the Serbian-born darkroom superstar who printed for Cartier-Bresson, and an entire galaxy of other Paris-based photographers of that era. He also prints for Peter and his work is full of the love, care and tonality that only a master of his craft can produce.

The second talk came from master photographer Gerard Uferas (www.gerarduferas.com), who has a passion for the opera, ballet and haute couture. By his own admission, a sensitive and complex man. He showed us a collec-

tion of the most exquisite, textured and coloured photographs. The impact of his work left the whole group silenced and awed by it's sheer beauty.

Meanwhile, my meanderings saw almost 100km disappear under the soles of my shoes, countless cups of café créme, beer and as is to be expected, fine food. I should mention a plât du jour lunch of lamb rib chops, a cassoulet fit for a king and on two separate occasions, a wing of exquisitely prepared skate with beurre noisette and capers. For food like that, I'd (almost) live there.

Friday was deadline day for our photographs, as the final show was due on Saturday morning, along with a viewing of the individual portfolios we brought from our various homes.

The unusual decision to view this work so late in the day, was defended by Peter who makes the valid point that to see this work before setting-out might reveal a professional, or specialist photographer, whose input could adversely impact the hopes and plans of everyone else. Good point.

So, that was it. A week in Paris. Howling wind and rain at La Défense, mellow afternoon sunshine at Pont des Arts, magnificent buildings and some of the worlds most visually interesting people. How bad could that be?

# RE kid on maiden voyage of hi-tec ship to Antartica!

Jennifer Butler was lucky enough to join the S.A Agulhas II's maiden Southern Ocean voyage to the Antarctic Ice shelf in July/August. Jennifer is the daughter of Rooielser Mark Butler. She is doing her BSC Honours in Oceanography and Atmospheric Science and the trip was part of her curriculum. Meet her at the REC AGM in early January 2013 where she will give a talk. She shares with us "one of the most amazing experiences" of her life:

I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to go on the S.A Agulhas II's maiden Southern Ocean voyage down to the Antarctica Ice Edge where the ship's capabilities and facilities were tested. The Ship is known to be the most advanced Southern Ocean research vessel in the world. South Africa's new ice vessel made its way south along the Good Hope Line, a research track created in 2002, to monitor variables including ocean temperature and salinity. This gives scientists a better understanding of the much understudied Southern Ocean and allows the opportunity to compare summer and winter trends. The Ship's first mission was to steam south west towards the Greenwich meridian where we tested varying oceanographic instruments. The first day or two on board was needed to adjust to the rolling of the ship. Once the sea sickness subsided, I started getting into the lifestyle at sea; and so work began. Our work team was divided into two groups with a day shift and night shift, midday to midnight and vice versa. I was part of the night shift (12am - 12pm), which implied changing my sleeping pattern, which was a challenge for the first few days, but with time became easier. With measurements being done on the hour, every hour, entertainment was necessary to fill the gaps. Thank goodness for media and books. Getting hungry throughout your shift could become a bit of a problem as meal times are set, so a good stash of chocolate and popcorn went a long way. There were facilities on board for those 12am breakfasts, although sneaking into the galley might be required for necessary crockery.

#### Lonely souls flock together

The measurements we conducted involved Expendable Bathythermograph's (XBT) and Underway Conductivity, Temperature, Depth profilers (UCTD). The latter involved some heart in mouth scenarios where one leaned over the edge of the ship with 8 meter swells rocking the stern like a cradle. Other work involved helping out with the running of the Conductivity, Temperature and Depth profiler (CTD), where collecting sea water sampled from depths of 2000m was a regular affair. This could be somewhat exciting as everyone rushed in to collect the samples for their research which involved the use of the ship's new moon pool. The moon pool is located in the laboratory area and was effectively a hole in the ship that goes to the bottom, through which the CTD descends. One could also help out with work conducted by other scientists, as a helping hand was always appreciated. This allows us to experience the vast array of science happening on the ship.

In my free time I always found some lonely soul looking for company. Guitar strumming was a popular source of entertainment with a few of the musically inclined joining. There was also some great bird watching to be had with wildlife that few are privileged to experience. Wandering Albatross and Snow Petrels could be seen by the handful, always very curious of this big ship in their waters. There was also a library and a Business Centre for people who wanted to escape from ship life to send some emails to family back home. Visits to the Bridge were always an interesting outing, never failing to impress me with the state of the art technology driving the ship.

#### This is what most people dream of doing

Getting to the ice shelf was probably one of the most amazing experiences of my life. This is something most people dream of doing, but never quite get there. Breaking through the ice is one of the attributes of the new Agulhas II; with icebergs, Snow Petrels, sunrises and sunsets creating a picturesque environment which one would only expect to see in a National Geographic show. A highlight for everyone on the ship was seeing the different types of ice and icebergs. Although it was very cold (about -10°C), we braved the weather and managed to capture a few pictures from an ice covered deck. The thrill of seeing an iceberg was inexplicable. Its size, colour and shape made it a completely new and definitely a once in a lifetime experience.

After our brief encounter with the sea ice and freezing air temperatures the ship headed north west to the Prince Edward Islands. These islands were first discovered by Marion Dufresne in 1772, and are now of significant environmental importance. They represent one of the last pristine environments in the world and are home to colonies of seals, penguins and seabirds. The majority of the fauna is indigenous to the islands and scientists have gone to great lengths to ensure that no invasive alien species are introduced. The islands are important from an oceanographic point because they lie within the Sub-Antarctic Front. This front concentrates nutrients around the islands which supports the ecosystem of the island.

#### What doesn't kill you makes you stronger!

Spending close to a month on a ship did start to feel like a lifetime, but I met people from all walks of life. It gave me a good idea of the different types of opportunities in the oceanography world and I was able to make connections and form great bonds with classmates. For a few of us on board it was the first time we had gone as far West as 0° Longitude and as far South as 60° Latitude and it was an experience that will last a life time. Being at sea was a big change from normal daily life. It was a huge learning curve which tested and honed my independence as an individual.

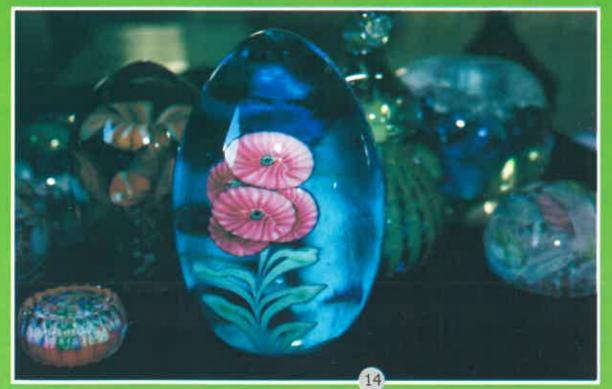




Arctic wonderland! Top: Jen Butler waiting for "the UCTD to wind back in from 400m depth". Left: The Ship frozen over as it gets closer to the ice edge.

Below: the ship leaving its mark in the ice. Read article on page 13.





# The art around us:

Karen Steinbach shares with us her amazing collection of paper weights, some dating back to the eighteenth century. The one in the front she spotted and waited for for three years. Read article on page 26.

# Eden to Addo - an epic 450 km hike

Diarmuid Baigrie writes about an epic 450 km hike that he undertook through a natural Conservation Corridor from Eden to Addo. In only three weeks! He is involved in the Addo Corridor Initiative, a 6 year old NGO endeavour to open up a natural corridor for animals, birds and insects between the Knysna Forest and the Addo National Park. He and Janette Yeats are researching a similar project for Rooi Els.

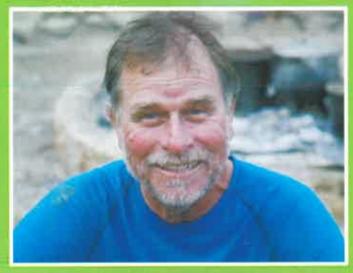


"Dawn day 17 after climbing Cock's Comb peak in the background, 1900m but we crossed at 1200m - high enough! Aw shucks, it was nothing but thanks hey." Notes from Diarmuid.

Fisantehoek, Rooimuur, Dwarsrivier, Tygerkloof, Skilderkrantz, Kouenek, Juweeltjie, Rooihoek, Grasnek, Vlakkies en Geelhoutboom, 11 of the 21 camps we made on this epic hike, the names as descriptive, old and South African as it gets. They reflect a grand landscape that runs north east of the Knysna Elephant Park, through and across ranges of mountains, such as Langkloof, Tsitsikamma, Louterwater, Baviaans, Suurmans, Groot Winterhoek and more. It passes over flowing rivers, wide and narrow, Palmiet, Dwars, Bloukrans, Kouga. Groot and many others, to the plains of the Springbokvlakte (where herds of thousands of Springbok roamed before the era of guns and their owners) and that's where our journey ended in a new section of The Addo Elephant Park. No vapor trails above, no vehicle sounds below, no trains in the distance, no voices other than our own, just one huge area known only to those with access to it and the few two-legged animals who live there, like we did, and who were mere specks on a windscreen that shows off a vista just begging for silent observation and wonder. "Awesome" was the most used adjective on the trip and the best comment: "Sorry, I have to use the f-word again - Phenomenal."

Eighteen of us hiked up, down and along every single day, from 7.30am to 4.30pm if we were lucky, or 6.30pm if we got lost, or

had to detour because the mountain road had been washed away since last October, or the river was faster and deeper than two weeks ago on our last recce. We stopped for 'tea' of water and what you brought to eat at about 10.30, then for lunch from your daypack, which you had packed off the 'lunch' table that morning in camp, at about 1.30. Then off after a lunch often had on a river bank, often up the steepest climb of the day, just to remind you why you were there and how nature demanded and rewarded better than any teacher. From riverine forest to a mountain terrain of aloes, protea, restia, ericas, katstertslangbome (my new favourite Afrikaans name) and cycads, with dozens of others I just admired and stared at, knowing as little about them after as before, amazed at their brilliance and the astute survival skills learnt over many hundreds of years of experiencing the extremes of heat and cold and wind, and things that could eat you if the weather didn't get you. Humans look weathered in these conditions, the flowers looked anything but weathered, bright yellow, crimson, purple, blue, white, with intricate patterns and smells to remember when you return to your other life. The only unweathered old human we saw was a rock painting of a bushman maiden in half profile that was more suggestively lovely than any had ever seen.





Diarmuid with a well earned and documented beard (a no-no at home) and his poor feet!

One can simply define a Corridor as a strip of land that links historically connected natural areas, but what follows is some background on the 'Corridor' concept, now widely accepted around the world. It's importance to conservationists as it promotes the preservation of animals, reptiles, insects and birds and it also protects their historic migratory routes. It also preserves the artifacts of the ancient peoples who followed them, through undeveloped landmasses, river basins and areas invariably containing a plant biodiversity of great beauty. It is likely that most of you will know about their existence and ongoing attempts to create them. We do after all have our own well-known transfrontier Peace Park initiative, along our northern borders, starting with the Kruger National Park, But Corridors all share one challenge: the many vested interests in them of private landowners, affected communities, state owned land and a surprising number of existing private, provincial and national Reserves, and these all have to be accommodated, and that is only after the suitable properties for a Corridor have been identified and the financial implications planned for. So their creation is a slow process.

The E2A Corridor is a 6-year old NGO private initiative that was the brainchild of a working wife and mother on a farm. Her passion remains undiminished, and its Chairman is Dr. Robbie Robinson, ex-head of SANParks. It has the backing of SANParks and the provincial authorities as it sets out to link Tsitsikama National Park, The Baviaans

World Heritage Park and Addo on a 450km stretch of almost inaccessible mountain areas. In between these well-known Parks there are other provincial parks and private reserves where farmers have converted their properties into reserves, which all naturally fall into the Corridor.

Our project teams are cutting down the black wattles clogging watercourses, starting community schools and using trackers recently trained in Graaff-Reinet at the Rupert Foundation Tracking School. I walked for many hours with young Athenkosi Diba and who did not miss a spoor with his newly trained eagle-eye, interesting was the similarity between a baboon's and a leopard's spoor, both of which we saw a lot.

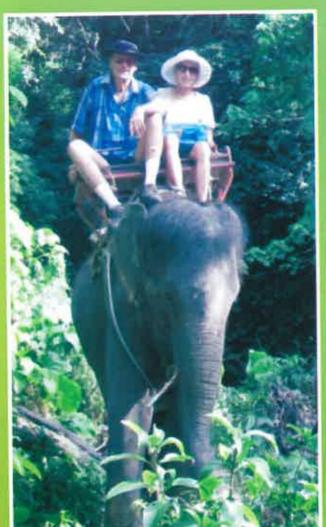
There are some common questions that need to be answered. What does one do about fences? How can one control wild animals? What about illegal hunters and poachers? These questions are best answered by not thinking in terms of a defined area like a game park. The Corridor will change routes as nature and new farm owners force change. So the fences one takes down are internal ones, the outer areas may not be suitable for a Corridor, perhaps because there are fences for railway tracks or a road, or a commercial farming area or villages,. Like our Rooiels Conservancy, nature's needs will take precedence over man's.



Washing day at the campsite. Left: "Ming - one of 3 washes. Minimal rules. Walked sonder onderbroek boete."

However, if the price of freedom is eternal vigilance, then this will be no different. Adjustments will be made, a rogue animal trapped and removed, poachers and illegal hunters pursued, farmers who lost sheep placated, cheap tunnels made across roads as in Kenya. The eradication of alien vegetation and the origoing protection of habitat and species will be a priority. And always the feelings of those with vested interests must be respected too.

I don't know any other Corridors as I now know E2A, and its route will meander, but I am sold on the concept!



## **Exotic moments!**

Jill and Dick Lockley on their recent trip in Thailand. Left, an uncomfortable elephant ride through the jungle. Read story on page 18.



"A lovely waterfall to cool off.

The daily temperature seldom drops below 35 with quite high humidity! Right: "We were able to cance right into amazing caves carved by the waves into the limestone cliffs."



# This season's gems







### Miracles all around us

An intricate network of people from all over helped identify three plant gems for this season.

In October Keith Moir discovered an unusual flower in Joan and Werner's walkway. It turned out to be a FERRARIA CRISPA, or inkpotjie of krulletjie." Keith tells us that his book says it smells like carrion. Our book (Field Guide to Fynbos by John Manning) says it smell like cocoa. Be that as it may, it has a strong smelliother interesting fact is that the flowers mostly last for less than a day."

Another find is the morea tripetala, which is beautiful, but not that special, says Joan.

The other gem was the Moederkappie.

"Die oggend van 14 November hierdie jaar tui bei ons

vriendin Hettie Classens en deel met Werner die nuus dat daar naby die hoek van Study- en Gnidiastrate 'n Moederkappie blom so tussen al die ander veldbommetjies deur. Werner en ek gaan stap om te gaan kyk. Ek neem 'n foto met my selfoon. Werner identifiseer dit as 'n moontlike 'Pterygodium' catholicum', en Dave de Klerk, wat besig is om pragtige piakkate van Rooieis blomme saam te stei, vat die saak verder. Harold Porter is nie seker of Werner reg is nie, en uiteindelik se Kirstenbosch die Moederkappie is Pterygodium acutifolium. Die wonder van die uitkring van navrae en die verkryging van kennis, net ondat iemand 'n besonderse biom in die veld raakgesien het, maak 'n reenboog in my hart!"

### Thailand when the crowds are home...

Jill and Dick Lockley had a three week holiday in Thailand during June/July this year. Dick wrote this account of their amazing experiences - from elephant rides, to dives to magical underwater worlds, to exquisite meals - all this at low season's cheaper prices. But the "low" has a reason, they discovered...

The journey from Rooi Els to Phuket was a long one - over 24 hours of travelling. The Thai Air flight from Johannesburg was good as we were able to get a 3-seater bulkhead to ourselves and had a very comfortable 11 hrs. 15 min flight to Bangkok. We then flew two hours later to Phuket where a limo from the hotel was awaiting our arrival. Our hotel was super; on the Patong Beach and we stayed there for 4 nights. Phuket, however, is not a place we will visit again. It is very much a young people's party town and is popular with the young Aussies. Lots of girlie bars and loud music but quite fun to walk down the party streets and see how the other half live! We had some excellent meals at a restaurant recommended to us by the hotel manager, a golfing Yank, so we got on very well! We took a large luxury ferry one day across to the famous Phi Phi Islands for about R200 each, which was well worth it. The boat trip was about 2 hours long each way with a snorkelling stop (not marvellous, although billed as the premier spot in all Thailand!) and an excellent buffet lunch in an open air beach side restaurant. None of the books or web sites I studied for this trip really explained why there is a high and low season here now we know! This time of the year westerly winds blow daily bringing high and rough seas and of course rain. We knew it was the "wet season", but the winds mean that snorkelling is not good as the water is so disturbed. So snorkelling was not as we would have liked, but we filled in with many other activities.

#### The highlight of our whole trip!

The ferry from Phuket to the island of Koh Lanta was not running due to rough seas so we went by mini- van. It was a 5 hour journey which included two car ferries across to these islands - with wonderful mountain and jungle scenery. We arrived at our first hotel to find that we were the ONLY guests staying there in a 117 bungalow hotel! Quite nice actually as we had a super cottage and they could not do enough for us. The manager sent us for dinner to a lovely family "cafe", restaurant being too grand a word for it! We ate there every night, mainly prawns, deep fried curried Thai spices with marvellous Thai veggies. Together with our beers (in the 7-11 they go for R8 each and in this cafe at R12) we had great dinners for a total of less than R100 for the two of us, which is pretty damn good!

We hired bikes and cycled around the island of Koh Lanta which is about 30 km long and 6 km wide with 11 long sweeping white sand beaches. Jill had a ladies delivery bike complete with basket and no gears and I had a heavy mountain bike, but with gears; not that I could keep up with her up the hills! Incidentally the bikes were R28 for the 12 hours we had them and worth every cent!

One of our adventures was a truly amazing experience.

We joined a memorable "4 Island Tour", which includes the Emerald Cave. On a long tailed boat, a traditional Thai wooden fishing vessel with a diesel truck engine and a rudder/propeller that juts out at least 15 foot behind the boat. Our first snorkelling stop was after a 40 minute cruise but visibility was poor. The variety of fish was excellent but not the coral. The next two snorkelling stops improved greatly as we got further east and were sheltered behind the islands. Incidentally, there are over 50 islands around Koh Lanta; all rising perpendicularly from the emerald Andaman Sea as clumps of large limestone peaks - quite spectacular.

Then we came to the highlight of the day and most probably of the whole trip. We were at entrance to the Emerald Cave. But it was high tide with very rough seas. Nevertheless our intrepid guide said "no problem"! We put on life jackets and our flippers and dived in after him. The entrance was a narrow slit in the sheer cliff face and we had to time our swim in to it with the swells quite hairy I can assure you! The guide had a torch, as the 80 metre cave/channel was in pitch darkness and with the rough sea we all bobbed up and down never knowing how close our heads were to hitting the top of the rocky channel. On the other side we had a most marvellous sight - a volcanic pit with a really beautiful little beach and jungle on the sheer cliffs reaching up hundreds of metres. There is no other way of getting to this, so it is pristine as it was when pirates discovered it many years ago to stash their loot. When we had done the return swim and were safely back on the boat, we all agreed that it was an experience of a lifetime, but one that none of us would like to repeat! The trip ended with a magnificent chicken curry and rice lunch on a typical "South Sea" island. We were exhausted and exhilarated. [2][2][2][2][2]

# AS FROM JUNE 1 THE SHARK SPOTTER PROGRAMME INCLUDES KOGEL BAY.

SHARK SPOTTERS ARE ON DUTY 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 09h00 – 17h00.

#### THE SHARK SPOTTER FLAG SYSTEM

Green flag – shark spotter on duty; visibility good Black flag – shark spotter on duty; visibility poor Red flag – High alert; sharks have been spotted in the

#### **EMERGENCY SHARK NUMBERS:**

107 (landline) 021 480 7700 (Cellphone) 021 449 3500 (NSRI)

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# Hack news for 2012

We have a long tradition (in excess of 32 years) of hacking in Rooi Els. Now we can see the cumulative effect of all these years of hard work. We have stopped the spread of Rooikrans, Australian Myrtle and Port Jacksons. Now we need those last few big trees to disappear from our landscape and to remain constantly vigilant as the seedlings continue to appear. Presently we are hacking away at the Rooikrans in Little Rooi Els which is, by far, the most infested area in the village. This is not a never-ending job as we have made some headway. Rooikrans and Port Jacksons, along with Bluegums and other invasive aliens, guzzle up the water our fynbos needs to survive in dry spells. Where large stands of Rooikrans have been removed, we have witnessed wonderful recovery of fynbos. I would like to suggest some indigenous trees you

I would like to suggest some indigenous trees you could plant that grow fast and give ample shade. Kusvaalbos is an excellent choice and can be bought locally in Betty's Bay or in Kleinmond. At the Kleinmond Bouhandel you can buy quite large trees. Our local botanist and gardening expert, Ernst Thompson, has planted several of them. He suggests that you feed your trees

with Bounceback, to strengthen them. The Camphor bush is hardy and an excellent windbreak. They are presently being exported to Ethiopia where the arid landscape has been severely denuded of trees. Milkwoods will grow into sturdy trees if you insert a water pipe next to the tree's roots, reaching 1½ to 2 meters in depth. Thus you can provide ample water for a strong root system to develop that will strengthen the

It would be ideal if people planted indigenous trees to replace their existing Rooikrans, Manatokas or other invasive aliens. Every year that an alien is allowed to produce seed is another year added to the battle to rid the village of them. Thank you to all of you who have helped with the hacks and to all the women who have hosted the teas after the hacks. You are all welcome to come and hack with us or to come and share our refreshments afterwards. We are particularly interested in those folks under 65 years of age joining!

Evette Weyers

#### Thailand continued ...

In our second week we moved hotels to the Long Beach Chalet and then extended our stay from 4 days to 9 days as it was so good. For an inexpensive holiday in Thailand, you can't do much better than this lovely little boutique hotel. It has only 15 chalets; all air conditioned with a delightful pool and only 150 m from the beach. We paid R189 per night for our superb chalet and more than adequate breakfast for the TWO of us!

### Caged bird singing competition

We had two really memorable experiences on this island. One was a caged bird singing competition! Birds arrived from all over the island in their lovely cages and were hung up on sturdy washing line arrangements. The judges then blew a whistle - the birds stopped singing; they blew another note and then they all sang and the judges moved down the lines of birds eliminating those that were not up to scratch and so the competition went on! Fascinating. Another great sighting was an elephant being used in a logging operation right next to the road. It was distressing to see how hard the poor animal worked in very hot conditions. It periodically put its trunk down its own throat and sucked up water from its stomach and sprayed itself to get cool!

On our kayaking trips we were able to canoe right into amazing caves carved by the waves into the limestone cliffs - great fun. And we swam to the Emerald Cave again, with pictures this time! Other adventures included an elephant ride (not very comfortable!) through the jungle followed by a hike to a lovely waterfall to cool off. The daily temperature seldom drops below 35 with quite high humidity so frequent dips are essential. The sea temperature stays at about 29 all year - really great for swimming.

Towards the end of our stay we had the first of the proper snorkelling trips in an excellent diving boat - large and comfortable with toilets, showers, sundecks with snorkellers and scuba divers. It took almost two hours to get to our destination Koh Haa (5 Islands in Thai). And then the true beauty of the Andaman Sea hit us - the underwater spectacle was just amazing with an enormous diversity of fish. We had two really long dives of about an hour each in two different areas. We had such fun that we went out again to celebrate our 44th wedding anniversary and it was one of our most memorable anniversaries! This time the trip was to Koh Bida which is part of the Phi Phi chain of islands - a very beautiful set of islands rising sheer out of the sea. The snorkelling was as good if not better. A wonderful day topped off by a third dive on the way back at a submerged island with the rocks protruding a few feet above the sea. The sea was very rough

#### Striding the leopard shark

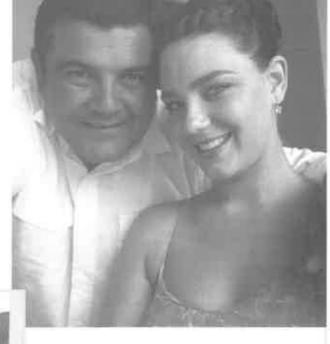
but luckily we had our "instructor" with us - a Welshman who has been living and diving here for the past 10 years. The reason for the dive in the open sea (quite scary really as we were literally sometimes out of sight of the boat) was to see the leopard and black tipped reef sharks. Well, we swam and swam and got more and more tired when suddenly there was a shark a few feet just below us. We were able to stay just above it for some minutes and it was quite undisturbed by our presence - a truly beautiful leopard shark, so our day was made!

On summary? Stick to the low season (May to end August) to avoid the crowds and get discounts on accommodation. Then sit back and enjoy the fascinating sights and adventures that an Andaman Sea island can offer.

#### **Good vibrations**



In October Rooielsers celebrated the arrival of spring at Mary Comrie's new house wirh delightful music provided by Miso Markovina (left) of Betty's Bay. Afterwards the usual sundowners (bottom), from left John Charalambous and Ali Scot, Joan Mödinger and Keith Moir in the back.



### Veels geluk!

Roberto Rosales en Izolde Steinbach, dogter van Karen en Wolf Steinbach, is op 21 November getroud in Mauritius. Baie geluk aan almal!



### Rooi Els Ladies Club



# A place for support and fun

On the second Tuesday of every month a couple of ladies from Rooiels meet for fellowship.

We would love some new faces and all you need to do is pitch. Margaret at the Village Shop, is one of our regulars and knows where the 'gatherings' are taking place, should you decide to visit. The get togethers normally take place at 3.30, with occasional exceptions. During the last few months, we have heard about life in New Zealand and about adventures in Antarctic and Europe. We had a vibrant friend of Martina' show us

how to 'dress up' our little black numbers, sundowners with Mary were enjoyed and an outing to Simply Coffee in Pringle Bay was fun.

Die tee is 'n goeie plek om van ander en hul behoeftes te leer ken, en te help waar ons kan. Die groep sorg ook vir die "Hack Teas" wat maandeliks plaasvind.

Mary Comrie has put us in touch with the needs of the school at Mooiuitsig and through her we are hoping to be more involved.  $\Box$ 

Gail Voigt

# Fried fish - food for a king

Dine van Zyl shares with us a typical Afrikaans dish from her newly published book The Great Boerekos Book. There are 224 pages filled with tested recipes and colour photographs.

There's no food in the world quite as delicious as a piece of freshly fried fish. Before sunflower or canola oil was available, the fish was fried in sheep's tail fat. You could smell the aromas of hot fat, oil lamps and the primus stove. Thick fillets of fish were liberally salted and peppered, dipped in beaten egg, and then rolled in flour before being fried in bubbling fat. Today it can still be fried in the same way, but use sunflower oil rather than olive oil (olive oil is not part of Boerekos and, in fact, tends to smoke quite easily). Here is a crispy batter made without egg.



6 fish fillets salt and pepper to taste cooking oil for frying

#### For the batter:

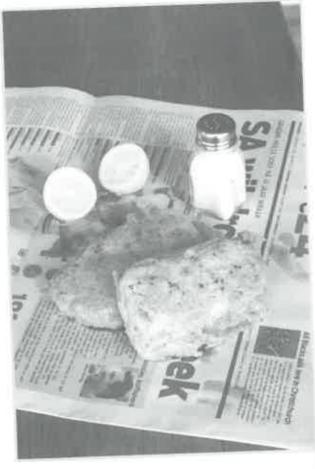
250 ml (1 c) bran-rich self-raising flour

1,25 ml (½ t) baking powder

2,5 ml (1/2 t) fine salt

1,25 ml (½ t) curry powder (optional)

250 ml (1 c) cold water for mixing

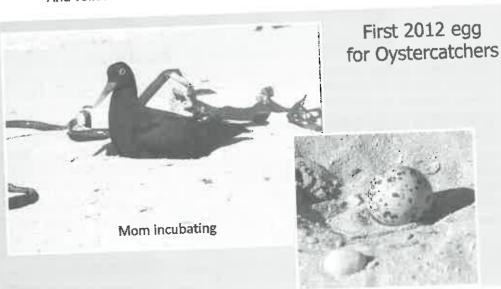


Wash the fish fillets and pat them dry using roller towel. Salt and pepper to taste. Prepare the batter by mixing the self-raising flour, baking powder and salt (and curry powder). Add water and mix until the batter is smooth.

Heat the cooking oil (poured to about 5 mm deep in the pan) until the oil starts moving in the pan. Drop a little batter into the pan – if it fries merrily, then the oil is hot enough. Dip the fish in the batter and fry until golden brown on both sides. And voila! The best meal in the world.  $\Box$ 

#### Christmas cheer

The first breeding attempt of the Oystercatchers on the Main beach were snapped by Sandra Yeo on the 26th Nov. All "Oyster-carers" are reminded to respect their presence and keep dogs in check. Thanks for the help in the past our prodigies are flourishing!



### Safe travels!





Bon voyage! Jo and Margaret Henson in front of the village shop. Look at those smiles (right), yes, the shop is sold and they are leaving on New Year's Eve. The first of many holidays to be spent with the family in Australia. Go well, you will be missed here in Rooi Els.

# Every village needs this kind of shopkeepers

Most Rooielser have a story about how they were "saved" by Jo and Margret Henson in a crisis — be it running out of electricity at 7 pm before the guest arrive, or keys that need to be sorted, or a baboon raid. They were more that just the village shop.

As the "face" of the shop, Margaret's cheerfulness, and practical wisdom and advice will be missed! About the shop: "Every village needs a shop. Not just any shop, but somewhere you can find just about Anything You Want! The Rooi Els Village Shop is just that place. Run by Jo and Margaret Henson for the past 22 years, it has an almost unlimited range of goods and you feel that Margaret has uncannily just read your mind and got in just what you were looking for! In addition to foodstuffs – and there is much more than the basics - you might be wanting a hook, line or sinker, a fly swatter, flip flops, crossword puzzles, rope, a cricket set, socks, games and toys for the kids when the south-easter is howling, t-shirts, hats, needle and cotton (so you can

finally turn up those jeans that are too long — aren't they always?), any amount of hardware and DIY stuff, and oh joy! good filter coffee. Rooi Els just wouldn't be the same without it," writes Mary Comrie.

George Rijke bought one of their daughter's horses, in 1989 and so began the Rooi Els connection and in 1993 they moved into the flat above the now expanded shop.

Jo, being extremely practical and multi-skilled, did maintenance work in the village and also sold houses and ran a farm on the side for a while! They were also Keepers of Keys for anyone who doesn't live here permanently; they also housed the Eco-Centre in their shop which is a community run facility. And, most importantly, they had the baboon warning flag to warn villagers of primate visits. Now they are joining their two sons and Monica who have all emigrated to Australia. Margaret has been counting the holidays that she was away from her family. Rooi Els wishes them safe travels and lots of fun.





#### Dine wins Gourmand award!

The Great Boerekos Book" is the South-African category winner in the prestigious international Gourmand Awards for Cookery Books. The winner of each country will compete against winners in the same category in other countries for The Best in the World. The results will be announced early next year in Paris. Dink net hoe bewe Jamie Oliver se broekie nou!

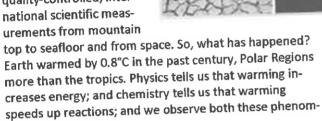
Links: Dine van Zyl en Graham in September by die viering van die groot Suid-Afrikaanse sukses van haar boek. Dit is gehou by die Drummond Arms.

# Global climate change

Prof Michael Orren has a look at Global Climate Change in general. In the previous issue he analyzed the the implications for the Overberg. Prof Orren belongs to the Whale Cost Conservation, and wrote this article for the Feb 2012 WCC newsletter.

"Global warming" implies that the planet is warming regularly everywhere - this is not so. Global Climate Change, abbreviated GCC, is a better name for this phenomenon. GCC is neither myth nor theory but founded solidly on observed facts and thousands of daily, quality-controlled, international scientific measurements from mountain

ena on Earth's surface.



"Extreme weather events have always occurred but the probability of these happening has dramatically increased through the extra energy added by GCC. Cold snaps and heat waves, severe floods and droughts and

Meteorologists and oceanographers now realise that atmosphere and ocean behave as one, very complex, system. The ocean is the major player; about 90% incoming energy is stored in the sea; in fact the upper 3.5m of the ocean holds as much heat as the entire atmosphere. Adding energy to the system resembles putting your foot on your car's accelerator - it speeds up. Climate changes occur in "jumps", both up and down; hence the long term average is the true indicator of change.

Weather in any area seems to vary randomly, but when many observations are combined statistically, a pattern emerges, that of climate.

Weather is powered almost entirely by solar radiation warming our earth; other energy sources are negligible. Earth should really have an average temperature of -18°C, some 33°C cooler than observed. "Something like a blanket" must warm the planet. Invisible water vapour and carbon dioxide gas cause the earth to heat up by trapping outgoing infra-red (heat) radiation and radiating it back to the surface. This is the so-called "greenhouse effect".

Greenhouse warming by water vapour is quite complex. Water is a 'condensing gas'. As it cools, cloud forms, then rain or snow falls, reducing atmospheric moisture and hence the heating by water vapour. Conversely, warmed water evaporates add-



ing atmospheric water vapour to the atmosphere. However, the heating is not simply additive, since clouds create complex "feedbacks" such as by reflecting heat and exerting a cooling effect. When water vapour condenses it releases its pent-up energy. This so-called latent heat of evapo-

ration of water powers the atmospheric "heat engine" driving our weather.

Carbon dioxide, on the other hand, is neither condensing nor evaporating, and absorbs and emits far more heat per molecule than does water. While it occurs in smaller quantities, it acts as an efficient greenhouse gas. Since the start of the industrial revolution the balance of nature has changed. Burning fossil fuel adds 3.5 million tonnes carbon dioxide every single hour to our atmosphere-ocean system. Despite 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide dissolving hourly in the ocean (and acidifying it in the process), this vast addition overwhelmed the system's natural ability to absorb the excess CO2. Carbon dioxide is steadily accumulating, increasing the warming effect, adding energy to the Earth's ocean, and then to the atmosphere

Today's computer models are reliable and fed with high quality data, but models are not perfect and cannot reproduce the complicated atmosphere/ocean system exactly. Science magazine reported (December 23, 2011) that the very latest "fancy, new" climate models are — reassuringly – not revealing any dramatic new changes from previous predictions. The results are the best we have, and while challenging, are far better than some sceptic's opinion, guess, or belief, all unsupported by any scientifically acceptable evidence.  $\square$ 

# Unintentional accuracy

Duries are an integral part of sandy shore systems.

Dunes are the build-up of sand blown inland, trapped by plants. As the sand accumulates, the dune grows higher and wider. they serve as an important buffer zone between land and sea - protecting coastal developments from flooding the sea unintentional accuracy!

Unintentional accuracy on the Rooi Els sign at the slipway, picked up by Sandra Yeo.

# How to keep your cool in summer

Graham McCleland van "Mooi Elsie" shares his experiences of his 42 years in the heating, ventilating and air conditioning industry. He says that we do not always think practically about heat distribution, and he has some suggestions to keep cool in summer:

We are privileged to live in a conservancy, where we are more aware of our surroundings than the average suburban resident. There are the fauna and flora, the weather, the seasons, the wind, the sea and the mountain, all working in harmony to shape the total beauty of the biosphere around us. Every day of the year is "nature-ally" unpredictable, and we can only marvel at that.

However, there is one weather condition that we can always predict with certainty: there will be a summer with a lot of sunshine and heat waves, driving us into the cool of the house.

Not all houses are cool. Some houses are cooler than others, while others are simply unbearably hot during certain summer weather conditions.

After 42 years in the heating, ventilating and air conditioning industry, I have come to realize that we do not always think practically about heat distribution.

For example, at some stage in our lives you would have walked on a tarred road in summer and felt the incredible heat of the black surface of the tarred road burning your feet. You step (or should I say jump) off the road onto the lighter coloured concrete side walk where you can walk comfortably again.

Another example is the dark metal manhole cover in your back yard covering your sewer or plumbing. Try standing on that with bare feet in summer.

Technically speaking, the dark coloured tar on the road surface or the dark coloured man hole cover acts as a heat sink and absorbs the sun's heat while the lighter surfaces of the concrete pavement reflects more of the sun's heat and therefore does not get as hot.

The summer temperature that these dark heat absorbing surfaces reach is often over 70°C. Sometimes in the hotter areas of our sunny country you can literally "fry an egg" on the dark surface that is standing in the midday sun. It therefore stands to reason that in summer, the darker the roof of the house, the hotter the area under

the roof becomes. The hot roof of the house becomes a large radiator of heat into your house.

I have taken temperatures inside ceiling voids where offices and houses are uncomfortably hot and have found that in-ceiling temperatures often approach 60°C in summer. That's nearly equivalent to the temperature of the hot water that comes out of your hot water tap in the bathroom.

This heat sink inside your ceiling void is positioned directly above your head and act as a radiator of heat into your living space — that is often the reason why you have some houses that are hotter than others in summer.

It is very often all in the roof, or should I say "on" the roof. Over the years engineers have designed amazing insulation and heat reflecting products and methods of preventing the transmission of this radiant heat into the house by applying these solar reflecting products to the roof surfaces and insulation products to the areas below the roof. Insulation is inserted into that small space between your roof and the knotty pine ceiling that lies just below the roof, or an insulation "blanket" is placed on the ceiling inside the ceiling void. And then there is always the installation of an air conditioning system to cool the house down.

In our country where we have an abundance of sunshine, we find many houses with dark roof finishes. This is rather impractical, for the darker the surface of the roof in the sun, the hotter the surface temperature of the roof will become — and therefore the hotter the house is going to be.

We recently undertook some fairly extensive alterations to our house and had to decide what colour to paint the roof. It was not going to be a dark or heat absorbing colour, in fact, the lighter the colour the better.

The roof had previously been painted green, which looked good, but it was unbearably hot inside.

We approached all the normal paint wholesalers and found that the standard colours of the normal roof paints were very limiting, with no imagination at all. So, after speaking to our paint specialist we were guided towards a 100% acrylic (must be 100% acrylic & good quality) paint mixed to the "light" colour of our choice.

We finally, after testing many paint samples mixed to different light colours, made the "roof colour" decision. Of course there are other factors that also affect the inside temperature of your house – that is a discussion for another day. But with the first heat of summer, we are already enjoying our cool house. The lighter colour has made a vast difference!



# Bird Chat

# Frankly cranky!

"Oh hell is it that time again!" This, dear readers, is how I was greeted a few days ago by Francesca (Franny) when I dared to mention the need for a column in the South-Easter edition of the Breeze! Franny isn't at her most effervescent self, a brood of definitely six, possibly more, have left her irascible and frankly cranky! Like all her relatives counting isn't high up on the

Spurfowls attributes, a chick here or there goes with the territory. Mongoose et al rub their paws together in Spring with the birth of dozens of chicks from Spurfowl (Francolin) & Guinea Fowl, a sort of MacDonald's with legs, a great take away snack. With such poor eyesight loosing a chick, no matter how valued, is just too easy. Their precocial nature leads to all sorts of naughtiness and consequently trouble. However coaxed by suitable bribes I finally managed to unruffled feathers, calm squawking and flatter her ladyship into putting something

together for this column what idiot said journalism was about writing!?

While Franny deigns to think about composing herself in front of the qwerty board and adding her "bit", I shall attempt to update sightings beginning with a pair of Caspian Terns, sighted by "Mr Oystercatcher," no less, on the main beach. These are the largest terns in Southern Africa and conspicuous with there heavy bright red bill. They are near threatened, nomadic and more often seen at Rooi Sands

than Rooi Els, it was a great spot Werner! The huge Cape Eagle Owl has been sighted again by several residents, the Waddell's flagpole a favourite regurgitation point for its pellets. The flowers in Rooi Els this year have been wonderful and with them came the nectar feeders in droves, sunbirds & sugarbirds aplenty. With the seed heads came the seed eaters and the harbinger of summer, the South - Easter, scattering seeds far and wide for

next season. Though the rockjumpers have temporally hopped off to rockier zones, ground woodpeckers have found other ground,

the spectacular Paradise Flycatcher has returned from its northern winter areas. After a particularly nasty wintry spell in late September I was alerted to an eagle on the rocks in front of Rocklands Road. Indeed a mature Black Eagle, more correctly called Verrauxs Eagle. It was hungry and there are some pretty fat dassies hiding in the nocks and crannies there. Startling it, this magnificent bird took



flight revealing that distinctive "white cross" that give the bird it's Afrikaans name Witkruis Arend. I also noted a very relieved dassie bolt for cover. This wind-battered foray, led to another exciting discovery, a caracal dropping on the public right of way. An omnivore, caracal / rooi kat / lynx, will find rich pickings in Rooi Els and sightings of

one have occurred more often recently, a worrying presence for Franny, I'm afraid but I digress!!

Her ingratiating majesty has appeared through the Trellidor armed with quill and ink would you believe, announcing she will write this time not type her column! Me, I ask not how or why – would be a fruitless task anyway, fact remains ,I will still have to do it! Come on Franny, do your

Moi at your most wonderful service! Well what a carry on this Spring, fab weather, foul weather, heat, dust and downpours! I sometimes wonder how we manage to have chicks at all; (obviously when I say that, of course I know about the birds and bees - I'm one half of that duo to start with)! What I actually mean, is the variables have been more strange than usual this year. My six have nearly driven me scatty with their seemingly wilful nature and deafness. We're supposed to be nearly blind with good hearing, this lot have obviously got a serious case of "convenient deafness". Still a run in with one of those



A Cape Eagle Owl and Paradise Flycatcher - both familiar faces in the village.

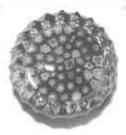
metal can with spherical things you humans whiz about in, has calmed them all down somewhat. Enough of that and to the jardin – that's 'garden' to you non - Francophiles! 127 Rocklands has been a haven this Spring with several nests other than the swallows. They've had a bit of a bad time with squabbling sparrows and searching swifts vying for the nest itself – impressive birding real estate there! As I scratch away with quill and ink, (much to "her indoors" annoyance!) I note that the terns haven't returned yet, but the oystercatchers are

beginning to become rather noisy again, an indication of breeding intention. The kestrels have been successful again and the "poor man's vultures" too much in evidence (that's those hideous scavenging ravens to you humans). They've 'done for' some of the other covey members youngsters, a francolin chick is only meaty popcorn to them. They'll have a go at anything - I'd



## A thing of beauty . . .

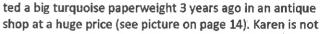
Karen Steinbach has been collecting paper weights for nearly 25 years and still draws huge inspiration from their intricate detail. Anita le Roux spoke to her and also came away very inspired. See



Has the beauty of a paperweight ever caught your eye? It does more than that for Karen Steinbach. Whenever she

feels a little down in the dumps, she picks one from her collection, focuses her attention on the intricate detail and allows the artist's dedication, patience and vision for the end product, inspire her.

Karen has been collecting paperweights for nearly 25 years. Her most precious piece dates back to the 1800. She displays them around the house, and apart from their ornamental qualities, they certainly serve as a fascinating conversation piece. Karen spot-



a serious collector and she often forgoes a paperweight in favour of another beautiful thing, like a porcelain plate. However, last year, when it was still not sold, she talked the dealer into letting it go at a good price. But she still remembers the one that got away - a lime green number with little peepholes that acted like kaleidoscopes. Spectacular at R40 000 a pop. But she has patience...
Her lamp work ones are most

spectacular. Many people think the realistic looking flowers are inserted whole into the glass. They are in fact made laboriously, petal by petal, and kept at just the right temperature as clear molten glass is dropped over the top, layer by layer, with repeated dipping and shaping to make the paperweight. And the term "Bohemian" when applied to paperweights (picture top left) means that they were made in southern Germany or Czechoslovakia from Bohemian glass of the 19<sup>th</sup>C.

Paperweights make lovely gifts. They can be found at antique markets, "but keep an eye open at car boot sales", informs Karen. Most people don't know their value and throw them out with other "junk" when they clear out granny's flat. This, when in fact some of these paperweights are worth up to R10 000...

Now that is a paperweight that could cheer anyone up!  $\ \sqcup$ 





watch those sock things you humans wear if I were you! <u>THE</u> best nest has been the wagtails in the fishing net, they've even

manage to keep the cats bird friendly driving them away with their incessant chirping and sledging, making the Aussies cricket team appear quiet most days! I'm always looking over my wing at this time of year, I'm fully aware of the significance of fowls and Xmas. Perhaps this lot will become vegans overnight and leave us alone. No - bad idea, then there'll be no seed left for us, perhaps they should go piscatorial and I'll have no worries then!! Must say everyone has been most generous with seed this year, what with that and copious quantities of garden seeds we're all nicely rounded, which does not mean we're fattened up for a potjie. Just one bitch before I put away my scribe, please warn humans yet again about oystercatchers breeding on the main beach! Enjoy your festive season and remember je t'aime mes amies toodle-pip!

What I can add after that is about nil, except to wish our readers a *very* happy holiday time and to make merry

with the time you all have here in never—dull Rooi Els! Franny and I will drink to that too after I typed this lot up on the computer!  $\Box$ 

Alison Ayre -ably (?!) assisted by Madame Francesca

#### That damn door!

Ever walk into a room with some purpose in mind, only to completely forget what that purpose was?

Turns out, doors themselves are to blame for these strange memory lapses.

Psychologists at the University of Notre Dame have discovered that passing through a doorway triggers what's known as an event boundary in the mind, separating one set of thoughts and memories from the next. Your brain files away the thoughts you had in the previous room and prepares a blank slate for the new locale.

Soooo it's not aging, it's the damn door !

# A gentle way to free

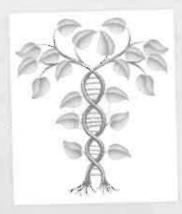
Ever wondered why that pain and stiffness in the lower back as you get up in the morning, eases after a couple of minutes? Thought that was just the normal aging process?

Not necessarily, say Peter Little, Body Stress Release practitioner in Pringle Bay. Often, even from childhood, we get used to our discomforts and start living with them. But a "chronic niggle" (tension stuck in some muscle) over time can lead to pain in the knees, back, or neck, numbness and postural distortions. In the end, the body's ability to function at all can undermined.

The trick is to release the lines of tension and stop the process. At 80 you can even release stress from childhood injuries!

"I studied Body Stress Release because I was suffering from the after effects of years of accumulating body stress through hard work (and play). In a particularly bad back episode, after trying everyone and everything, I in desperation turned to BSR and like a miracle it changed everything!"

How does it work? In the therapy the practitioner does a few initial tests using the body (it's all in the feet) as a biofeedback mechanism. The way the feet move helps the practitioner decide on treatment. Then light but sure pressure is applied on the sites of body stress. A lot of the



# your body of pain

stress is held in the muscles, and it is as if "they freeze in spasm" until this tension is released. The pressure helps to let it go, and thus starts the healing process. Stress is not bad. Our bodies and minds in thrive on stress, and needs it in manageable doses to grow and develop. The problem arises when we overload. This does not allow the body enough time to process and release the tension, and then it locks into our physical structure as lines of tension. These lines often become entrenched in the body, and

results in increasing pain as we age. Body Stess Release offers a way to release the tension in the muscles and take away the pain and stiffness.

George Harris from Rooi Els is a firm believer in this method. He also had a back injury and also went to a Body Stress release man in total desperation. "After the first session I thought this was a lot of BS without the R! But I went for the second treatment, and it was unbelievable, I was totally healed."

Peter explains that a first treatment could cause discomfort as "old wounds" are activated. It is often after the second one that the amazing release and rejuvenation happens. In acute cases the process could be longer. He opened his practice in Pringle Bay this year and can be contacted at 083-626 8747.

# Seven steps to heal cancer

Cancer is a multifactorial 'disease'. When we treat the cause, instead of simply focusing on the symptoms (the tumours), complete healing from any stage of cancer can become a reality, writes Dr Janey Little, a vet from Houtbay and author of You can heal yourself from cancer now! Few people understand the primary underlying cause for the development of cancer in the first place, and so treatments are often not effective.

She created a "7 step plan for healing" which creates a shift in people's minds about cancer and this plays a crucial part in healing from it.

In Step 1 you re-build your immune system from 'the ground up' with several age-old and timeless cleansing protocols. They are highly effective, and completely safe and can easily be carried out at home having received our expert guidance and coaching.

In Step 2 you start a plan for eating in a manner that will facilitate the healing from cancer. What to eat, and crucially 'when to eat' in accordance with nature's circadian rhythm in order to optimise absorption and digestion. Step 3 is aimed at clearing the body of years of toxin accumulation (including the heavy metals), thus allowing the cells of a previously toxic and congested cellular terrain to receive a steady supply of oxygen and nutrients so essential for healing from cancer.

Step 4: Avoidance of ongoing exposure to toxins from our external world. Often day-to-day habits expose us unnecessarily to carcinogenic (cancer causing) toxins.

Step 5: Many of us have lost sight of the incredible healing agents available to us everywhere throughout nature. They are the things that most of us love to do! With this step your daily enjoyment of life will rocket, as will your immune system!

Step 6: Say goodbye to mental 'toxins'. It is not uncommon for cancer to present itself after a significant emotional trauma in a person's life. Similarly, if the mind is plagued with ongoing destructive emotions such as guilt, low self-worth etc to name just a couple, the body's immune system will suffer too and cancer can follow. There are 'no secrets' between the mind and the body! In fact cancer, when approached holistically, can be regarded as an opportunity to address issues of imbalance that exist between the body, mind and soul; a chance to make us whole again!

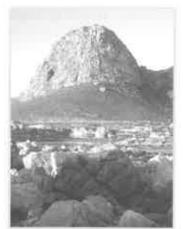
Numerous powerful natural healing remedies exist to treat cancer and several of the most effective ones are covered in Step 7. While many of these remedies can be very effective, we must never lose sight of the reasons why cancer developed in the first place and we must always address the primary cause (which is attended to in detail during Steps 1-6) to attain complete healing from cancer!

# Rooiels - from lawless hideaway to tranquil getaway

Strandlopers of the Chainoqua tribe, runaway slaves and sailors used to inhabit the caves and small beaches in the Rooiels area. At times they conducted a reign of terror, causing severe problems. The farm Waaygat became the property of Adrian Louw in 1760, and after him that of his son, Jacobus. In 1899 the Walsh brothers bought the land, and in 1930 Hangklip Beach Estates became the owner when Youldon, Porter and Clarence bought the farm for £20,000. Rooiels was laid out on a section of the farm and proclaimed in 1942.

More than one coastal town was planned and laid out in distant Johannesburg and promulgated there. This was the case with Pearly Beach and with Rooiels. Beautiful full colour brochures of the proposed towns, showing where two hotels, a school and even an airport were going to be built, were compiled. In her booklet, Rooiels, Rita Blake relates how these advertisers showed boathouses on the Palmiet river and a golf course on their plans.

True development at Rooiels stood virtually still until after World War II, when the new road, Clarence Drive, from Gordon's Bay, was opened. In 1942 a radar station had been built at Rooiels to monitor naval activities along the coast. Two radar screens were erected at



Hangklip and Betty's Bay. These were shrouded in secrecy. Today, the buildings accompanying the former are part of the Hangklip hotel, and at Betty's Bay the erstwhile barracks have become Mooihawens. Since the old road fell short of military requirements, construction of a new road commenced in 1942. Italian prisoners of war worked on the project. A permit was required to travel on this road. Previously, the only way to reach Rooiels was via SirLowry's Pass and a low-water bridge over the Palmiet River, so the new road was a real improvement.

The first shops were opened in 1970. Eskom electricity was laid on in 1992. Between 1991 and 1998 the people of Rooiels were engaged in a fierce battle with Somchem, a subsidiary of Armscor. The latter had obtained the rights to utilise the area above Rooiels as testing grounds for ammunition. This would have caused untold ecological and other damage. Rooiels won the battle and Somchem withdrew in 1998.

In its short existence, Rooiels has accumulated a wealth of stories about fires, shipwrecks and deserters, and even ghost stories. It has a very pleasant swimming beach called Waaigatbaai. A number of well-known film actors own property at Rooiels.

Susara du Toit



#### Roof blown off!

The Black South-East in early December claimed at least one casualty when the roof of the Venters (259 Perspicua Road) was partially blown off, as seen in the heap of rubble in front of the house. The house is on the far side of Rooi Els, across from "God's Gift". - Denise Esterhuyse

Kay Leresche snapped these two lovebirds on a morning walk in November "that brightened my day, despite the roaring winds". There were two tortoises ensuring the reptilian health of Rooiels in the coming years! Love in Rooiels. The oyster catchers have been much noisier than usual at night and so perhaps they are also getting ready annual face-off with the sea and baboons. Let's hope this year they chose their time and spot so that they are not taken out in the spring tides. Dogs have not been culprits in the last couple of years - let's keep it that way. A black eagle swooped down to look

#### Rooi Els lovers



for dassies who have been under threat this year from the Rooikat with scat indicating its presence still in our midst. And the otters are once again coming quite far up out of the rocks to play at night, softly whistling and leaving their delightfully scented droppings to keep us in touch with their presence. We truly live in a natural paradise!

Ps. Avoid picking up a wild tortoise. If it is in immediate danger from road traffic, you may pick it up, hold it level, and move it several yards beyond the road edge in the direction in which the tortoise was heading.

# Roet en grimering in 'n land wat brand

Evette Weyers deel met ons "gewone werksdag" in haar en Marius se lewe. 'n Fotosessie in die Kaap word 'n mikrokosmos van wat in die land gebeur. Soos paljas kom alles bymekaar op die regte tyd!

Op 'n Woensdag oggend, midde 'n dolle gejaag om beelde vir my groot solo uitstalling in Pretoria klaar te kry, moet Marius en ek haastig Kaapstad toe ry. Ten spyte van min slaap en werk stres moet ons boonop nog mooi lyk. Ons is dikbek. lou kierinkies braai egter as jy nie jou beloftes nakom nie. Dus gaan ons vandag moet poseer vir die buiteblad van 'n bekende vroue tydskrif, maande gelede belowe. Die fotograaf, Johan Wilke is gelukkig van die bestes! Onderweg hoor ons oor die radio dat trokke vandag op hierdie pad, die N2, aan die brand gesteek is. Elders is trokke ook voorgelê en veertien karre was saam met die trokke verbrand. Gaan die pad Kaap toe gevaarlik word? Ons dag kry skielik "n heel

word: Ons day kiy skielik it liee! ander perspektief. Die feit dat iemand anders vandag

Twee sterre op die voorblad van Vrouekeur.

On the question why she does not get face lifts the Jazz singer, Lena Horn replied, "My wrinkles are the credentials of my humanity."

gaan kies wat ek moet aantrek en hoe my hare moet lyk word 'n onbenuligheid binne die konteks van 'n land wat brand. Alles is so relatief. Ons beluit om hierdie foto sessie lig en speels te hou.

René bring modieuse klere met pragtige diep kleure vir die fotos. Dit gaan nouwel glad nie soos ek lyk nie, maar ek hou van die kleure. Nou grimeer Liz my. Ons misverstaan mekaar toe sy vra of ek "a sooty eyes look" wil hê. Niks wetend oor grimering nie sê êk 'ja'. Tydens onderbrekings in die grimering wag ek, gesuspendeerd in misterie. . . Dit vat oënskynlik lank om al die roet aan te smeer vir die "sooty look" Miskien is roet gepas in "n brandende land. Maar die uurglas LOOP en ek moet gaan beelde maak!

Uiteindelik sien ek hoe ek lyk – soos 'n volgeling van die Gotiese musiek ster, Alice Kooper– swart, baie middeleeus en "sooty". Ek vra Liz om al die roet onder my oë af te vee Wil haar nie in die gesig vat en *alles* laat afvee nie. Ek het mos 'ja' gesê vir die 'sooty look'. Met verskillende klere aan en teen verskillende kleure agtergronde word ons afgeneem. Ons moet op elke foto lag. Ons wend ons tot sleutel woorde (uit privaat grappies binne die familie). en sê vir mekaar, 'SUSHI', wat ons elke keer laat skater lag en die ander stom slaan. Na vier ure is ons klaar, en terwyl Johan die fotos opstel en uitsoek, kyk Marius en ek na ou foto's teen die mure in sy ateljee. Johan se oupa het "n sirkus in die Karoo gehad en soms met al sy leeus en kamele deur die dorp geloop. Kinders het van die sirkusdiere aan leibande deur die strate gelei. Met Johan se vertellings raak ons ingetrek in die SA sirkuskultuur van

vroeër jare. Die bruinerige fotos skep "n ou wêreldse" gevoel. Sou daar nog van die vrouens wat as dogtertjies die einste sirkusdiere deur die strate gelei het, in die Karoo dorpie woon, wonder ek? As akteur en kunstenaar het Marius en ek beslis te doen met die optoor van die buitengewone en magiese. My verbeelding kry vlerke. Nou wys Johan die fotos van ons wat hy opgetower het. Ons is verstom oor hoe ons lyk. Uit "n ander wêreld. Onherkenbaar mooi. Gelukkig sal geen van ons vriende ons herken nie.

## Afrodite en Venus

Afrodite is nie uitsluitlik die godin van liefde nie, maar onder andere is sy ook die skikgodin van voëls. Alle soorte voëls - kuifreiers, kraaie en korhane, kokkewiete, kropduiwe en kwikkie kuikens. Maar veral vir 'n swaan is sy bitter lief. As ek aan swane dink, fladder 'n swerm migrerende woorde voor my uit die vlakwater op. ( Marlene van Niekerk)

Afrodite metamorfoseer oor die Etruskiese periode na 'n skitterende Venus tydens die Romeinse Ryk. So helder flikker haar liggies dat die aanbiddende mensdom die tweede helderste planeet, naas die maan, na haar vernoem. Venus gloei op haar helderste net voor sonsopkoms en net na sononder. So word sy dan ook die beminde Oggend- en Aandster van die hemeltrans. Venus is so liggewend dat sy 'n skaduwee kan werp. Is jou lig helder genoeg om 'n skadu te gooi? 

Evette

## Lag en die kese lag saam...



T.O. Honiball was toe al die tyd reg met sy humor in Adoons-hulle!

Primate, soos orangoetangs, sjimpansees en gorillas, lag as iemand op 'n piesangskil gly.

Hulle geniet hansworsery, het geesteswetenskaplikes van die Oxford-universiteit in Brittanie bevind.

In die navorsing, wat onlangs in die tydskrif Evolution and Human Behavior gepubliseer is, is gevind grappe wat deur middel van taal oorgedra word, prikkel eksklusief die mens se lagspiere, maar primate lag vir snaakse gedrag, aldus 'n berig in Oktober in Die Burger.

Die navorsing is gedoen om te probeer vasstel wat die corsprong van lag is. Dit was ook daarop gemik om die sosiale aspekte van sulke gedrag te probeer vasstel. Volgens prof. Robin Dunbar, dosent in evolusionêre sielkunde aan Oxford, is die gebruik van taal om grappe oor te vertel net vir mense snaaks, terwyl primate van praktiese grappe hou. Uit die navorsing het geblyk dat primate ander (binne hul ele geledere of mense) se foute of mislukkings, soos die piesangskil-scenario, snaaks vind. Hulle het gevind dat bonobo's (die pigmeesjimpansee) dikwels lag terwyi hulie speei.

Die mens se lag het 'n dierlike kwaliteit, in dié sin dat wanneer iemand lag, asem hy vinnig in en uit en dié bewegings kom in reekse en siklusse voor. Die geluid wat mense maak wanneer hulle lag is vergelykbaar met geluide wat primate maak.

Lag bind mense én primate saam. Dit laat mense goed voel. Genskynlik laat dit die primate ook goed voel omdat dit wil voorkom asof hulle die spel wat daarmee saamgaan geniet, het die navorsers bevind.

Volgens Dunbar meen die navorsers mense het begin lag lank voordat taal ohtwikkel is. "Lag laat sogenaamde goedvoel-hormone (endomorfe) vry." Hulle het ook gevind wanneer mense in kleiner groepe is, lag hulle - nes die primate - meer gesinchroniseerd en patroonmatig, Die ape lag in a spelerige konteks, baie soos die mens se lag. Hulle lag cok as hulle mekaar kielle en stoei. Van die wetenskapilkes dink dit is selfs moontlik dat pri-

mate 'n sin vir humor kan hê.

Huile se net daar is nie 'n akkurate manier om so iets te toets nie. 🗆

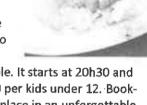
### Rooi Els couple opens restaurant in Pringle

Rooielsers have taken over the Hanging Rock Kitchen in Pringle Bay, where Bella Donna used to be. Gary and Karin Isenberg from Klein Rooi Els invite all to give them a try! They concentrate on Italian and fresh fish meals with Pizza on Fridays, Saturday and Sunday lunch. They are open every evening of the week except 

# What's on the Menu?

#### **Drummond Arms** 028 273 8458

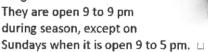
Our New Year's party with the theme "The Mask" promises to be fun for all. There will be a



hot and cold snacks buffet table. It starts at 20h30 and will be R95 per adults and R50 per kids under 12. Booking is essential to secure your place in an unforgettable evening. Denis, Peter and all the staff wish everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. 😐

#### Something Els 083 3701960

The restaurant specializes in seafood combos of calamari, hake and prawns and then offers breakfasts, light lunches and steaks and burgers.





## Shark egg cases

Sheraine van Wyk of Whale Coast Conservation has started a monitoring project in order to identify the sharks present in the Overstrand and to start to track their breeding patterns. She has school groups assisting with the collections. Anyone finding these along our beaches is asked to contact Sheraine by visiting the WCC offices (now in the Green House on the R43 just before the first turn-off to Vermont) or contact Sheraine on 0834840202 or at

sheraine.vanwyk@ocf.org.za. E



dasie 'n lantie so ver of woes geleë, Jirre, sos die sandland wat U vi my kom gee, want selfs in hierrie dro annerlikheid groei die gemsbokkomkommer van u heerlikheid

Griekwopsalms van Hans du Plessis

Rooi Els scenes by Paul Perton

