

Bries . Breeze

SOUTH-EASTER EDITION 2009

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



Pelly's Bay, 11/41

Photo by Anuta Scholtz

Redaksioneel / Editorial

Summer, sun, sea, South-westerlies, crayfish, braaivleis, wine, family and friends... and another year coming to an end. Welcome to all the old and new faces.

Dis die tyd van die jaar wat ek langs die pad moet sit en wag met my honde terwyl 'n Fisant kuiken heen en weer oor die pad skarrel. Dis die enigste een wat oor is van agt. En die spreekus en duiwe sit weer langs mekaar en babas grootmaak op my balkon.



"The Breeze reflects something of the spirit of Rooiels. It shows what makes Rooiels so special and unique and why we are so passionate about it. In sharing our stories and our photographs, we share our humanity and our lives with one another. And what a wonderful gift this is: the gift of letting another see through your eyes; sharing the joys, sorrows and miracles on our doorstep." Estelle Raymond wrote this in 2003. Thanks for all the contributions over the years.

In this Breeze we have a wonderful holiday program compiled by Hanna Reynders. (Extra copies can be found at the Village Shop.) Activities include an art exhibition of our outstanding local talent, activities for children as well as bird watching and hiking for the adults.

We also look at security as this is becoming a pressing issue due to another spate of robberies in the village. (There seems to be a pattern; always at this time of year before the festive season and especially on days when the wind howls or when we experience sudden storms.)

We also look at fires and those regulations regarding dogs. What we could do on windy days? And there's food, wine and even a song.

We ask that everybody respects the signboards protecting the oystercatchers on the beach.

Wishing everyone a prosperous and joyful festive season.


Editor / Redakteur
grietjie@mweb.co.za 0823668032

Whale Songlines

*From space, the planet is blue
From space, the planet is the territory
Not of humans, but of the whale.*

*Blue seas cover seven tenths of the
earth's surface,
And are the domain of the largest brain*



ROOI ELS CONTACTS

Baboon advice - Chris Burlock	028 273 8278
Drummond Arms	028 273 8458
EMERGENCIES - ASK Security	072 605 9512
Fijndraai (was Café Rio)	028 273 8070
Hack info - Werner Modinger	028 273 8032
Hangklip Help Radio - Tersia King	028 273 8438
RE Boat Club - Geoff Harris	028273 8164
RE Conservancy - Chris Burlock	028 273 8278
RE Ladies Group - Anuta Scholtz	028 273 8539
RE Village Shop	028 273 8383
RERA - Julia Aalbers	021 976 4378
RERA Security - Pat Devine	082 900 9997
Something Els	028 273 8516
Snake catching - Chris Burlock	028 273 8278

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

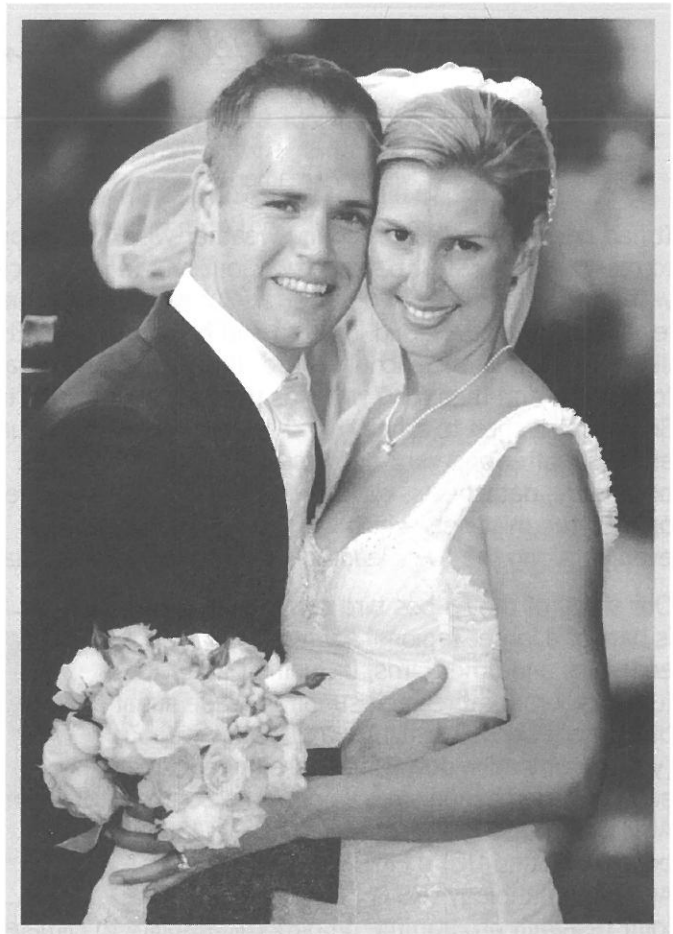
AMBULANCE - Ambustat	021 315 1124
AREA MANAGER Cecile Jonkheid	028 271 8100
ASK SECURITY - 24 hr HOT LINE	072 345 3041
COUNCILLOR - Louis van Heerden	083 538 1500
DENTISTS - Dr JP Duvenage	028 271 3467
- Dr Engelbrecht	028 271 3662
DOCTORS - Dr van Niekerk	028 271 4227
- Dr du Plessis a/h 0832 653 6355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

Rooiels Baba is Bruid van die Jaar

Een van Rooiels se babas wat hier onder ons oë grootgeword het, is onlangs getroud en die bruidspaar is as Die Burger se Bruidspaar van die Jaar aangewys! Hierdie baba is niemand anders nie as Georgie Serdyn, André en Johline Serdyn se dogter (die Serdyns van die grasdak 'Game Lodge!'), en kleindogter van ons eie Oom Hans en Tannie Gina Els.

Na haar troue vroeër vanjaar met Clinton Havenga, 'n navigator-offisier vir Maersk, het iemand hulle saam met 750 ander bruidspare genomineer as Die Burger se Bruidspaar van die Jaar. Na strawwe kompetisie het hulle deurgedring, eers as Bruidspaar van die Maand en het uiteindelik met die louere weggestap as 2009 se mooiste, aantreklikste, sjarmantste, innemendste bruidspaar. Dis nou wat Rooiels se Sedoos aan 'n mens doen! En vir die wat Oom Hans ken, dit moet ook die kreef en die vis en al die lekker kos wees.

Baie geluk aan Clinton en Georgie! Ook aan André en Johlene, en Oom Hans en Tannie Gina.



Yes We Can!

Inspired by Obama's pre-election promise; "YES, WE CAN!", our Rooi Els songwriter and insomniac, Geoff Harris, composed a song around this campaign prior to Obama's election.

Illah and Marti Nourbakhsh were so impressed by the song they recorded it when in Rooi Els and posted it on You Tube.

To watch Geoff perform his song, Google GeoffSouthAfrica.

FRESH WINDS OF CHANGE ARE BLOWING, ALL AROUND THE WORLD,
THE BREEZE COMES FROM AMERICA, THE 'STARS AND STRIPES' UNFURLED
AMERICANS HAVE SPOKEN, A VOICE BOTH LOUD AND CLEAR
OBAMA FOR PRESIDENT, ABOUT TO TAKE THE CHAIR
IT MATTERS NOT YOUR COLOUR, WHETHER WHITE OR BLACK OR BROWN
HE SAID, "VOTE FOR THE MAN", AND THREW THE GAUNTLET DOWN

HIS PARTY PICKED IT UP AND RAN - "YES WE CAN". (2)

HE FACES WORLD RECESSION AND DEEP FINANCIAL WOE,
WARS AND DISCONTENT, CHALLENGED BY "PLUMBER JOE"
AN ORATOR, A STATESMAN, WHO HAS MOVED THE WORLD TO TEARS
BY HIS WORDS OF WISDOM, SUPPORTED BY HIS PEERS
THEY CAME FROM EVERY BACKGROUND, TO OFFER THEIR LOYALTY
"GIVE US BACK OUR LIFE - OUR BELOVED COUNTRY".

THE NATION PICKED IT UP AND RAN - "YES, WE CAN!" (2)

THE CELEBRATION IS OVER, REALITY LOOMS AHEAD
HARD FACTS NEED TO BE FACED, THE WORLD MOURNS ITS DEAD
WHEN WILL THE WARS BE OVER, FINANCES BACK ON TRACK?
CAN WE FACE THE FUTURE, WITHOUT OUR LOOKING BACK?
FOR WHAT HAS PASSED IS HISTORY, SAD LESSONS WE HAVE LEARNED
NOT SOMETHING TO DWELL ON, OR FLAGS TO BE BURNED.

WILL THE WORLD PICK IT UP AND RUN - "YES, WE CAN!" (2)

BARACK, THE WORLD SALUTES YOU, AS YOU TAKE THE REINS
MAY GOD BLESS THE WORK AHEAD, REMOVING HISTORY'S STAINS
FIGHT FOR A BETTER WORLD, FOR RICH AND FOR POOR
BRING OTHERS TO THEIR SENSES, OPEN AMERICA'S DOOR.
AND WHEN THE DARK CLOUDS GATHER, AS THEY WILL ACROSS THE LAND,
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID, "YES, WE CAN! YES, WE CAN!" (2)

AND THE UNIVERSE WILL PICK IT UP - "YES. WE CAN!" (2)

Rooi Els' jewels in the mist ...observers needed!

This article by researcher Pheobe Barnard, just missed the 'North-wester' deadline which explains the allusions to 'wintery' weather!

It had been a miserable morning weather-wise. We'd hoped to make an early start before dawn, out on the jeep track with mist-nets for our bird research. But we grew less and less hopeful, as the cloud lowered and blanketed Rooi Els like a thoroughly melancholy mood. It seemed far too dark for 6 am – and then for 7 am – as the light mist turned to Scotch mist, then to a heavy and somber drizzle. Eventually at 09:30, after one very wet false start, and armed with binoculars, datasheets, clipboard and bird-ringing kit, we opened the mist-nets which we had set up the previous evening along the track leading south towards Pringle Bay.

Our study of the fynbos bird community in Rooi Els is part of a larger regional study of how fynbos endemics and other birds, including Cape rock-jumpers, orange-breasted sunbirds, Cape sugar-birds, grey-backed cisticolas and yellow bishops (yellow-rumped widows) may fare under climate and land use change. We work at the South African National Biodiversity Institute at Kirstenbosch (PB) and UCT's FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology (RS & PB), where we run a joint research programme on bird vulnerability to climate change.

You might have encountered us along the track, perched uncomfortably on boulders scanning rockjumper territories along the mountain slopes, or extracting jewel-like male orange-breasted sunbirds from mist-nets. Mist-nets are lightweight, soft nylon nets strung between two metal poles, used around the world for bird research. Birds barely see the nets as they fly through their territories, much as you might go into 'autopilot' when you enter your driveway. They fly into the nets, where they land in a pocket of the tiered net, and lie for a few moments (doubtless a bit confused, but totally unharmed) while we extract, process and release them.

Our "protocol" for handling the birds is simple, gentle and quick. We fit each bird with a uniquely numbered metal ring, and often a combination of coloured plastic rings which identify them from a distance. We then measure and weigh them, assess their state of moult, and let them fly on their way. This usually takes five to six minutes. If it's a busy morning with lots of birds flying into the nets, we pop them into individual soft cloth holding bags, where they usually lie quietly while awaiting their turn.

The ringing process is probably a little scary for birds, but it's brief. It's important for bird ringers to be very calm, patient and efficient (not to mention, trained for years and duly authorized with the correct A-level ringing permits!), so that birds are never stressed unduly or harmed in any way. Especially for 8- or 9-gram sunbirds on cold days, disruption from their normal feeding patterns could pose problems in meeting their metabolic energy needs, so we are particularly careful and quick with them.

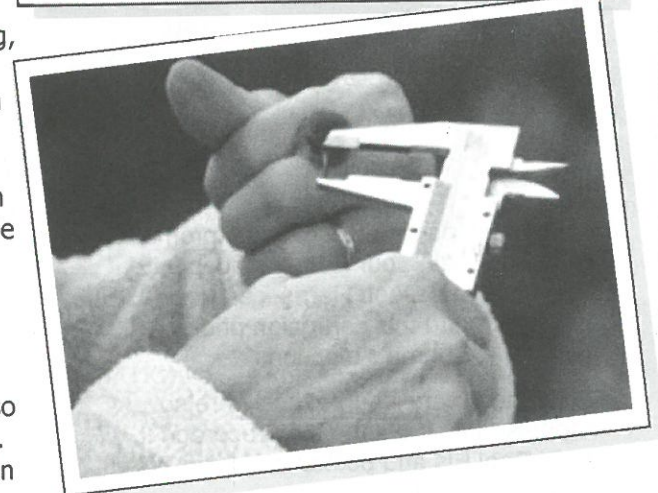


Above: Pheobe Barnard at work on Porter Drive



Left: The rockjumpers were fascinated by all the goings-on!

Below: The hero of the front cover hangs in the gentle web of the mist net



Above: A female sunbird has her vital statistics taken before being fitted with her ring.

What kinds of questions might justify this kind of research? For a start, how do land use change and climate change affect our familiar endemic species? How can we in the conservation community maximize their chances of adapting to it successfully? As conservationists, our aim must be to give species a fighting chance to survive the immense challenges of the next few centuries, with climate change and burgeoning human population growth.

These challenges should not be underestimated. Not only are birds facing hotter and often drier conditions than they have faced in their evolutionary past, but they also face multiple other threats – urbanization, habitat loss, invasive alien species, and so on. Things have probably never been tougher for some species. The Cape rockjumpers at Rooi Els are along the western edge of their global range. Also, they are at low altitude and have a west-facing, hot slope to breed on. Here is where we might expect to see changes, more than, say, on the Matroosberg, where rockjumpers frequently face snow.

While some species, like pied crows, hadedas, Egyptian geese and sacred ibis, adjust merrily to human-altered landscapes and warmer climates, producing several broods per year, other species may suffer. Research of this kind, which allows us to focus on individuals - their behaviour, breeding success, dispersal, genetics and physiology – is needed to get a full picture of bird species vulnerability.

Ours is a long-term project, which started last year on the Cape Peninsula and this year in the Kogelberg. We will be in Rooi Els several times a year for the next five or more years to gather data and learn how long birds survive, how often and when they breed, and where they go. You can help this national research by looking carefully for colour-ringed birds and sending us your sightings (see below). You can also help by bird atlasing. Many thanks for your help – see you next time!

Dr Phoebe Barnard (barnard@sanbi.org) and
Dr Rob Simmons (rob.simmons@uct.ac.za)

While out walking....

Beach puzzle?

Estelle le Roux was on main beach in the late afternoon on the 20th November and was intrigued to find a fellow armed with a spade frantically digging a shallow trench around a huge area of the beach. The trench seemed to meander in a shape that could have been a map of Africa.

Unable to contain her curiosity, Estelle asked the digger what he was doing. Hardly pausing, he politely said he couldn't stop as he had to get it finished "for the aircraft"... and sure enough a low-flying light aircraft swooped over the beach.

Later the plane began circling the area.

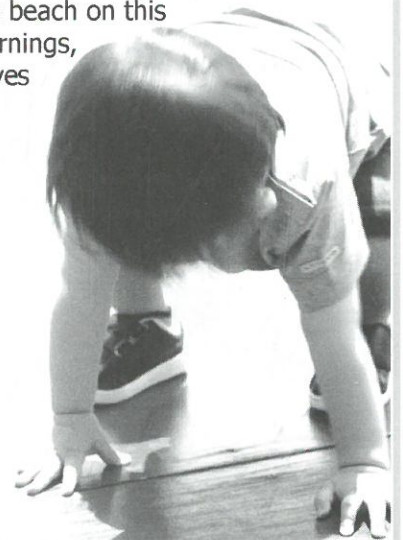
TV ad? Secret code? A word? Anyone able to solve the puzzle? Please let Estelle know - 028 273 8278.

Through the ears of a child...

Jenny Stark sent this delight to Breeze:

"I had a real blessed moment this morning. I was sitting on the beach on this most perfect of mornings, listening to the waves breaking gently on the shore, when a young woman and her small daughter walked past.

"Mamma, is the sea laughing?"
asked the little girl."



If you see a ringed bird, and it's not a pigeon or dove (we don't ring those!), please note the following carefully with binoculars:

- **What species is it?**
- **What is its colour combination?** Most birds we have ringed wear a metal ring and an orange ring on the right leg (signifying that it's a Rooi Els bird, as opposed to one from somewhere else). The left leg will have an individual colour combination. Record the leg rings from top to bottom – e.g blue over red, orange over dark green, light green over bright green, or purple over yellow.
- **Where is it?** Give us a specific location. If you have a GPS unit, that's great, but not needed.
- **What date is it?**
- **Anything else unusual?**

Please send this info to me at barnard@sanbi.org or call 021 799 8722 (work hours).
Thanks very much, this will be extremely valuable!

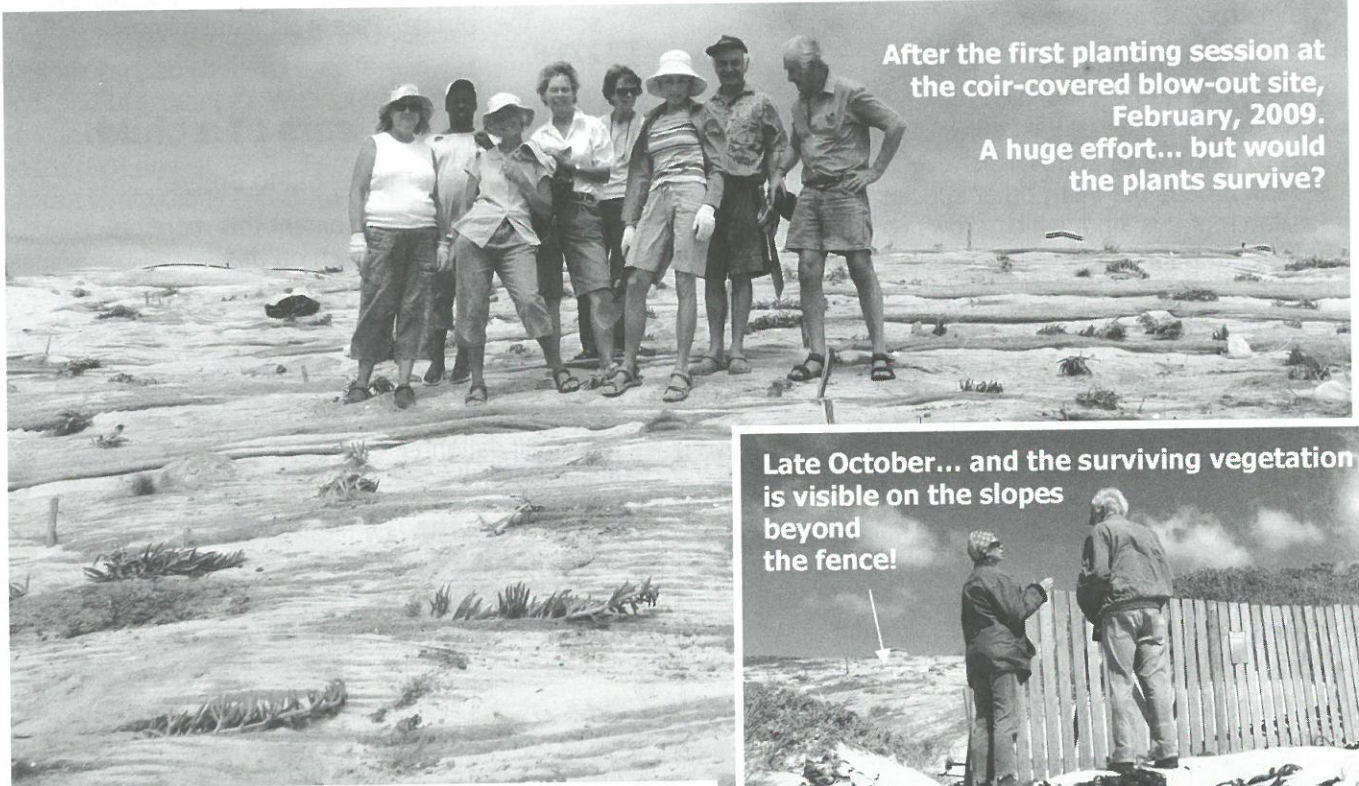
Phoebe



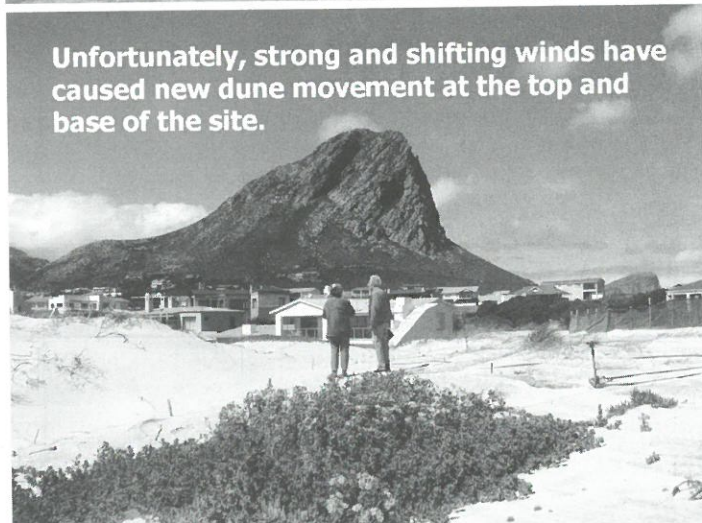
Getting our hands dirty!

Your Conservancy has been getting down and dirty since the last BREEZE;

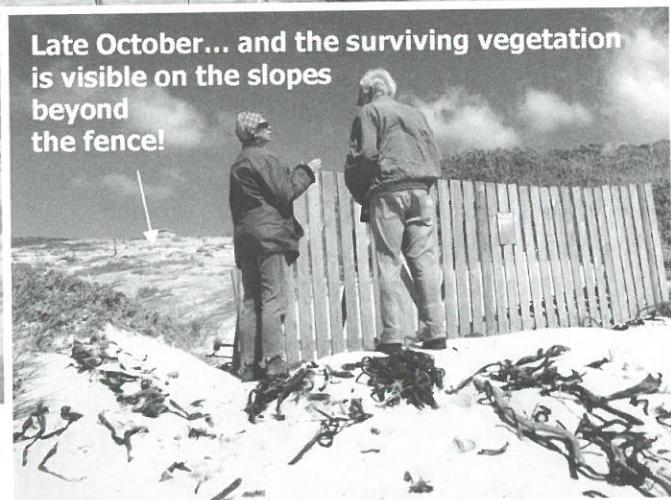
- Hacking vast amounts of rooikrans along the coastal areas (including a small forest on erf 324 and removing several thousand rooikrans and port jacksons on Lorna Lindsay's property assisted by Betty's Bay hack).
- Planting, watering and tending to hundreds of plants on the dune blow-out next to erf 115, (along the slip-way beach), and the CBD gardens.
- Motivating for a wind-fence to prevent further damage and placing tons of kelp under the fence when it was undermined by the winter winds.
- Applying for permission to erect a boardwalk at the next possible blow-out site but bumping our heads against the bureaucratic brick wall that is DEADP!
- Refreshing signage and putting up the FireWise signs.
- Producing the monthly emailed 'Beeze-e' newsletters.
- Fighting poaching with the help of SeaWatch and the Green Scorpions.
- Motivating the municipality for speed cameras along the RE hill (after witnessing a runner's near-death experience with a speeding motorist).
- Fighting for a by law change that will make the deliberate feeding of baboons a fineable offence.
- Promoting conservation awareness with our eco-centre exhibitions.
- Promoting Fire awareness through a Pub Quiz.
- Rescuing a lost penguin and some baby seals (and taking one to be humanely euthanized due to it being too far gone to be rehabilitated).
- Sanding and varnishing nature reserve benches
- Running a Beach Clean Up in International BCU week.
- Participating in KBR Marine Reserves management plan meetings and conservation focus group.



After the first planting session at the coir-covered blow-out site, February, 2009. A huge effort... but would the plants survive?



Unfortunately, strong and shifting winds have caused new dune movement at the top and base of the site.



Late October... and the surviving vegetation is visible on the slopes beyond the fence!

Environmental consultant, Dr Neil Fairall, (seen above and left, talking with our botanical expert, Janette Yeats), has been helping us with valuable advice. In September, he was astounded at how well the dune rehabilitation had gone. (He didn't want to dampen our enthusiasm in February, but felt that rehabilitation attempts in such aggressive wind areas seldom succeed!) But in November his worst fears almost came true as the wind-fence (which was not extended by Environmental Services as per his advice) funneled a new blow-out!

OM considering 'far reaching' baboon control measures

Ratepayers might have noticed a report in the August 2009 edition of the Overstrand Bulletin outlining some 'drastic measures' that the Overstrand municipality proposes as a long term solution to baboon problems. Executive Mayor Theo Beyleveldt was quoted as saying **'these may include far-reaching methods such as birth control and reduction of numbers in a humane way.'**

Retired Hermanus veterinarian, Dr. Pierre le Roux, investigated the birth control options in free-ranging baboons and discovered some difficulties with this "solution":

- Oral contraceptives would have to be given to sexually mature females only, ensuring that each female gets a single dose each day.
- All females could be surgically sterilized – a **very** expensive undertaking that would only manage the population in the short to medium-term.
- Males could be castrated – again expensive and unlikely to succeed as males from neighbouring troops would move in to exploit the females who, not becoming pregnant, would remain in season.
- Males could be vasectomized – which would cause a dramatic increase in mating frequency (as females remained in season), and increased levels of aggression within the troop, putting infants at particular risk.
- Hormone implants could be used. Deslorelin implants cost about R400 each and capture and immobilization costs for each baboon would have to be added to this. The implants would have to be replaced each year by (expensive) professional personnel. Of course, repeated trapping would make the baboons wary and increasingly difficult to capture.

So, while 'birth control for baboons' sounds like an easy solution, it is NOT a feasible option at this point.

As for the phrase **'reduction of numbers in a humane way'** - the RE Conservancy wrote to municipal manager, Mr. Werner Zybrands, asking for clarification of the term. His response skilfully avoided the issue. But recently, a baby baboon (whose mother had been killed by a car speeding down the Rooi Els hill) was reported to our municipal Environmental officer. Although concerned folk had been told that it would be taken to Monkey World, it was evidently 'euthanised' (shot and killed) with an AIR-GUN!

When all the fine phrases are examined, the most effective approach to managing baboons remains **waste management and securing entry points to houses**. Baboon monitors have been successfully used elsewhere, but Rooi Elsen have previously indicated that they are not in favour of this strategy for our village.

Jenny Stark

PRINGLE BAY BABOON MEETING REPORT BACK

The mindset of "destroy and eliminate" is not the answer, says Jenni Trethowen in the November meeting organized by Pringle Bay.

With increasing urbanization there is more conflict with baboons. Yet in a survey that probed opinions, 41% of respondents wanted **management** of the baboons and only 16% wanted eradication. Others suggested relocation...but this has proven not to be an option. Hurting baboons, (pain aversion) also does not keep baboons away.

So how does one manage wild animals? We first need to look at the root of the problem. Foxes in London, raccoons in America, bears in Canada and baboons in South Africa have all shown that the problem is not the animals - it's the easy pickings that human habitations offer. We humans are wasteful creatures. Surveys have found that two thirds of all purchases of food end up in dustbins!

The Cape Peninsula Monitor project proved successful. Prior to monitors, raids occurred (on average) on 24 days a month. This dropped by 75% when monitors were present to 'herd' the troop away from the villages.

However, monitors are expensive (6 people working in 2 shifts, 375 days a year), and cannot work alone. If garbage and homes remain accessible, baboons will continue to raid villages. And if gardens offer plants more delicious than fynbos, baboons will be there.

UCT are looking at "feeding programs" as a management tool as employed in Namibia. 3 or 4 feeding stations are situated away from the villages. (Multiple stations are needed so sites don't become contaminated with mouldy, uneaten food. Baboons are not greedy. They only eat what they need. The alpha male dominates any food site. He gets first pickings and the others have to fight for the rest...a very good reason why one should never confront baboons when food is involved.)

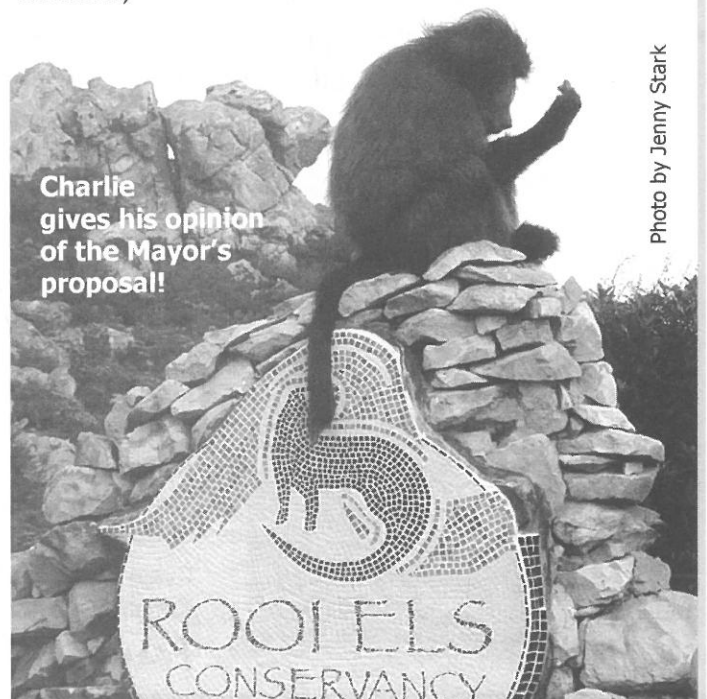


Photo by Jenny Stark

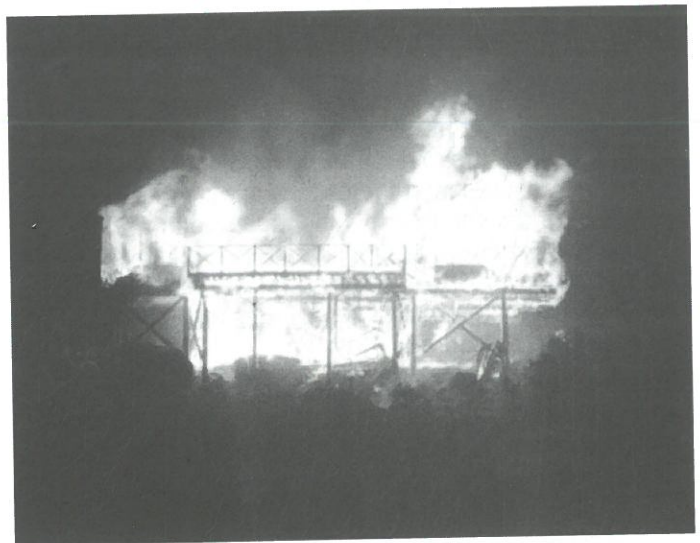
FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

Summer and the FIRE SEASON is here!

Those of you who have 'lived' through one of our fires will understand the need for caution and preparation. And if you've been lucky enough not to have had that frightening experience, believe me, FIRE IS A DAUNTING THING TO FACE!

From a FireWise point of view, **Rooi-Els is a disaster waiting to happen.** At an earlier FireWise Workshop, our vulnerable situation was calculated to put us over the top of the **EXTREME RISK** list. Much of this is to do with the 'urban edge' and surrounding topography, prevailing high winds, etc... and the fact that we have no firefighting equipment in the village. And Rooi Els is not the only Overstrand population at risk. Therefore, an over-arching **Disaster Management Plan** for the **entire** area is being drawn up by the municipality. However, "wheels of bureaucracy grind exceeding slow" so this may take some time to complete. But we already know that the plan will require every property owner to take steps to ensure the safety of their villages.

It is up to EACH and EVERY plot owner to ensure their property offers the greatest possible resistance to any approaching fire, as well as any fires that might start in the village itself. This is something we can all do by **reducing the fuel load** on our plots by clearing away aliens, undergrowth and combustible materials. Each building should have a **fire-fuel-free zone** of at least 3 meters around its perimeter. **Gas bottles** should be stored away from prevailing fire-approach direction (usually SE) and protected against radiant heat. **Hoses** should be able to reach right around your house and be ready for immediate use. And, most important, each household should have their own rehearsed **evacuation plan** in case of this possibility becoming a reality.



The FireWise team has been asked by Fire Chief, Riaan Jacobs, to supply a list of overgrown properties so the OM can send out letter of warning to owners. If you receive such a letter PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE IT! Even better get the dead wood and alien trees off your property first! Here's a list of people who clear plots of dead wood and aliens for reasonable rates:

- Frazer & Virgil Barry 084 887 6648.
- Quinton 079 074 6716.
- Bob Bradnick 082 468 5622.
- Cuan McGeorge 072 220 5291)

In the meantime, examine your property and assess the dangers yourself – AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM. Ask for advice and help – we don't profess to be professionals but a little common sense and co-operation will achieve a lot. The first TWO MINUTES of a fire are vital, so DON'T HESITATE – DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO PUT IT OUT IMMEDIATELY BEFORE IT SPREADS. Remember – unauthorized open fires are illegal, so don't burn garden refuse and don't braai in the open. It could be a costly mistake!

Geoff Harris for FireWise

IN MEMORIAM: "Oom Rykie" - Rykie van Rensburg



Rooi Els residents mourn the untimely passing of ASK Security's "Oom" Rykie van Rensburg on the 4th of November. His death at 62 followed complications that developed during treatment for a stomach ulcer.

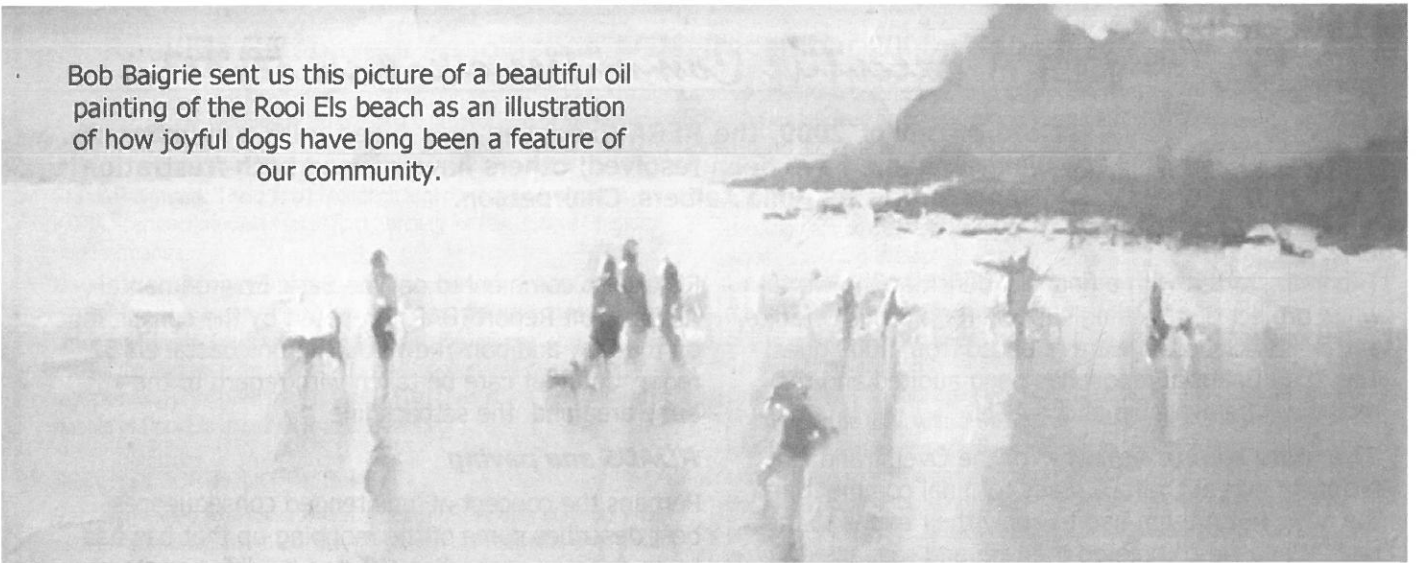
Rykie joined ASK in May 2004 and made a significant contribution to the security and safety of the area. He was fondly regarded as a father figure by Ask staff members and clients alike. His professionalism and sincere approach in dealing with his clients in Rooi Els will always be appreciated.

Rykie was born in Pretoria and moved to Germiston where he served in a security capacity for the municipality. He did not have children of his own but regarded those of his family as his.

Rykie is survived by Mina, his wife of 41 years. He was buried in Kleinmond after a moving service.

Farewell, Rykie

Bob Baigrie sent us this picture of a beautiful oil painting of the Rooi Els beach as an illustration of how joyful dogs have long been a feature of our community.



THE DOG DEBATE!

How we got to this point.

In the July 2008 Minutes of the Ward Committee, in the record of municipal achievements for the preceding quarter, the following was tabled :

“New pets by-law to be enforced from 1 July 2008. Overstrand Municipality’s new by-law relating to dogs and cats is expected to come into force at the beginning of July. From the lively debate that this has sparked in local newspapers’ letter columns, it is clear that while it is widely welcomed, there are a number of issues that should be clarified. It must be kept in mind that the new by-law is not entirely new, it is replacing a large number of by-laws that were created for the different areas that now form Overstrand Municipality. The principles of a bylaw relating to dogs are well-established and with this new clear and concise piece of legislation it will be easier to put them into practice. The main purpose is to have proper control over the number of dogs and cats in the area and to deal with problems that endanger the safety and well-being of the community...”

From the outset therefore the dog by-laws were contentious and according to Izak Smit, both he and Chris Burlock indicated that Rooiels would like to see a more lenient approach. Nothing more came of the matter until a dog owner in Betty’s Bay was fined in terms of the by law for not having her dog on a lead on a local beach. The request was then made at the October 2009 Ward Committee that the Municipality should provide some ‘dog-friendly’ areas in each village, following the mayor’s indication that this is a possibility. RERA and the Conservancy tried to get maximum community input - all which will be available at the RERA AGM.

In order to meet the needs of most of Rooiels, it is clear that the community must be behind proposals that are made - otherwise they will not work.

Obviously dog owners can ignore the by-laws, be fined and perhaps incur the ire of their neighbours.

The RERA Exco view is to respect dog owners and non-dog owners, so the following recommendation for Rooiels has been given to the Area Manager. Other villages have addressed their community’s views in their own way.

The RERA proposal distinguishes between “The time of the people” and “the time of quiet in Rooiels” and proposes the following:

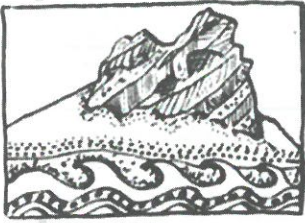
IN SEASON, from 1 December to mid-January (end of school holidays) and over the Easter weekend, the following regulations will apply in terms of the municipal bylaw:

- (a) **All dogs to be on a leash when out with their owners between 08h00 and 17h00.**
This means free walking with a dog throughout Rooiels between 08h00 and 17h00 is NOT permitted. When dogs ARE allowed to be walked free, (before 8h00 and after 17h00), they must be under the control of their owner. All dog leavings must be collected and bagged by the owner. Free roaming dogs are not permitted at any time.
- (b) **No dogs on the main beach** (from the RE river to Clarence Drive) **between 08h00 and 17h00 in the above mentioned holiday periods**
- (c) **No dogs are allowed in the vicinity of breeding Oystercatchers at any time.**
The Oystercatcher breeding area/s will be designated by signage from the RE Conservancy and during the breeding season.

Again, this sort of approach will only work if the community believes in it and considers the broad views of other people and their animals.

This matter will be on the RERA AGM Agenda on Saturday 19 December at 15h30.

RERA Executive Committee



RERA Executive Committee overview report.

“At the outset of 2009, the RERA Executive was faced with a number of challenges; some have been resolved; others have caused both frustration and concern.” writes Julia Aalbers, Chairperson.

The year started with a financial deficit as the worthwhile project of providing support for a security radio and 2008 AGM costs were financed from 2009 dues. The 2008 financial report has been audited and the report will be available at the AGM.

The new zoning scheme for the Overstrand Municipality was at Draft 3, ready for final comment and the new RERA team had to apply their minds to this task. While we completed the task and requested that various aspects of town planning from the RE vision be included at this stage and not at a later overlay stage; our information from the consultants is that this request is unlikely to be effected; the final report will go to Council for enactment in the New Year (According to our Area Manager).

The implications of the new zoning for Rooiels are the following:

Erf 324, will still fall into **Undetermined Zone**.

Within **Residential Zone I**, (most of Rooi Els), there are no changes to the building lines and height restriction, except for the base-line measurement which refers directly as being calculated from the **average** contour of the erf (not the current vaguer interpretation). A day care centre, guest rooms and home office occupation becomes part of the primary use, (but still subject to the by laws and policies of the Municipality). A crèche, greenhouse, guest-house, house shop, institution, place of instruction, place of worship, residential building and tourist accommodation are added consent uses.

Within the **Business Zoning**, flats (above ground floor), offices and service trade are added primary uses. Added consent uses are: bottle-store, business premises, clinic, conference facility, group housing, hotel, informal trading, institution, place of assembly, place of entertainment, place of instruction, place of worship, recreational facilities, restaurant, rooftop base station, sale of alcoholic beverages, service station and transmission tower.

The land with the zoning of **Open Space III**, (nature reserve), will be changed to **Open Space I** (Nature Reserve) with the added protection that tourist accommodation will no longer be part of the primary use but a consent use.

Developments along the Rooi Els coastline.

The placing of sand and ground from the site preparation of erf115 was done (with permission from the authorities) on the adjacent public open space within the Coastal Nature Reserve Zoning. This development has further complicated the dune dynamics with the Conservancy and RERA trying to assist the municipality in the rehabilitation of this area.

RERA also commented on The Basic Environmental Assessment Report (BAR) prepared by the consultant on the new additions/new building on coastal erf 52, requesting that care be taken with regard to the dune area and the setback line

ROADS and paving

Perhaps the concept of ‘unintended consequences’ best describes some of the mopping up that has had to be done on properties affected by differing storm water flows from newly paved road areas. Bruce Relly and Mike Bartman have done their best to address these problems, and Bruce’s calm approach has been very productive. (See Bruce Relly’s Roads report for details).

While the RERA Executive has weathered these storms, we are currently under-powered to deliver what is expected of us. As chairperson, I will deal with this aspect in more depth at the AGM.

Ward 10 Committee meetings (Consultative meetings with the Ward Councillor and officials)

Rooiels was represented at all but one of the Ward Committee meetings and provided input on a range of planning and budgetary matters. Further details will be provided at the AGM on the following aspects:

- Finalisation of zoning scheme
- Council ‘Policy framework’ on the development of Rural Land
- Taxation for smallholdings that are ecologically well-managed and not farming operations.
- Ward demarcation for the Municipal election in 2010/2011
- Water supply and quality
- Development within 100 metres of high water mark
- By laws on ‘Lighting’; ‘Bed & Breakfasts’ and ‘Dogs/ Cats’
- Heritage aspects that affect Rooiels
- Inclusion of the Rooiels Nature Reserve on the Protected Areas Register (Local Reserve)
- Bringing local concerns to the Ward Committee such as: Poaching and Parking abuses (overnight stays) along Ocean View Drive at entrance to Erf 324; flooding of properties due to erosion/paving, amongst others.
- Security aspects and ‘Zero Tolerance’ to crime - the Municipal response

The RERA Executive would appreciate attendance at the annual general meeting on 19 December at 15h00 for 15h30. Venue will either be Something Else or erf 239 (Hannah and Nic’s home). Please watch out for confirmation notices in the village shops.

Rooi Els Ratepayers Association AGM, December 2008: Record of Proceedings

Acting chair Pat Devine welcomed all present including, councillor Louis van Heerden and his wife, and Mayor Theo Beyleveldt and his wife.

Mayor Beyleveldt presented an overview of the Municipality which was followed by questions and RERA Portfolio reports.

Salient points from the meeting are summarised in this abbreviated record of proceedings.

Frank Raymond: There is a perception that planning disregards the KOBIO-centred principles regarding planning for Rooi Els vs Stanford and Hermanus.

Mayor: We have a planning process. Hermanus Administration is decentralized. Inputs of the community are there, but the community sometimes overreacts. Louis van Heerden chairs the informal environmental committee and we listen to that. It is a perception that we don't incorporate planning principles from this part of the Overstrand. We invite the people of Rooi Els to call us in to discuss this.

SECURITY PORTFOLIO- Pat Devine

Pat commended Axel Maier and Wayne Kruger for their contribution to security improvement in Rooi Els. (Rykje van der Berg was unfortunately not present to receive his commendation and gift.)

Axel Maier reported that the vehicle dedicated to PB and RE is manned by Inspector Mostert and himself. The portable radios, including the one donated by RERA, have already worked wonders in limiting criminal activity.

RERA had extensive involvement with the Community Police Forum (CPF) this year, leading to a close relationship with the police, Axel and ASK. The CPF sponsored a golf day which raised R25,000 towards a mobile police station to provide a closer service to Rooi Els and Betty's Bay over holiday periods.

The biggest project which the RERA security portfolio has for next year is to get a neighbourhood watch and sms communication system (for fire and security) up and running. We will start by subdividing the village into small units of a few roads and get a patrol in place which will feed into ASK. Units will be in radio contact with Axel and Inspector Mostert. We would like to have achieved this by the middle of the year.

FIRE: Chris Burlock, Geoff Harris, Izak Smit, Pat Devine and Koos Smit attended a Firewise workshop at which a fire risk assessment was conducted. RE is a disaster waiting to happen! The audit dealt with communication, water supply, roads in and out of RE, nature of geography, winds etc. We will be sending people on training courses on how to deal with fire during the course of the year. We will hopefully get our own fire tender this year – Pringle Bay is getting a new unit and we can hopefully take their present one over.

Frank Raymond raised the problem with fires started by power lines and asked Councillor Van Heerden to raise this with Eskom. Louis van Heerden replied that the chief engineer had addressed this with Eskom but there had been no response as yet.

BUILDING MATTERS PORTFOLIO- Bruce Relly

The municipality is conscious that Rooi Elers are concerned with builders not conforming with by-laws. Residents with complaints should contact RERA and we will try to take concerns further.

There were questions from the floor about inspection of building plans and regulations regarding coverage areas of plots and also a suggestion that we communicate the local ambience of the village to new property owners before they build.

Louis Van Heerden: I copied Rooi Els' building guidelines and had them approved by council to be added to all building plans. I will check whether these are attached to building plans at approval stage, but often it's too late by then. I ask you to look at building plans very carefully. People are taking shortcuts because they don't understand building conditions here. I have insisted all difficult building plans are seen by environmental officer, Neville Green, before they are approved.

Vision: Eldie Brink raised the Rooi Els vision which he sees as having been taken over by the Conservancy. He felt that the new RERA committee should take back the Rooi Els Vision and consider if it shouldn't be communicated in a different way to Rooi Elers.

IDP budget: Louis van Heerden noted that although RERA put forward a good budget, the officials alter the budget as funds allow.

Dairmuir Baigrie: I agree with Gerhard Scholtz's views in the latest Breeze. I am desperately unhappy to see the brick roads and am not sure where it is going to stop.

Louis Van Heerden advised that it costs more to bring in gravel for these roads to maintain them than it costs to hard surface them. The poor quality of gravel and the foreign plant material in the gravel is another concern. So what is the solution?

Bruce Relly: 4-5 years ago the process was initiated to examine how the roads would be dealt with. It was democratically run and the consensus was to start with paving with brick rather than tar in the busiest roads and extend these over time as funds became available.

Dairmuir Baigrie: I was not aware that RERA had adopted a policy of gradually bricking RE. But it's not too late and I would like to help council conceptualize another format that is not brick or tar. As RERA, let us identify what roads need to be done and develop from there.

Jo Hensen: Most people appreciate paving except for the unprofessional way in which it was done at the slipway.

Frank Raymond: I attended a meeting 10 years ago where it was suggested Betty's Bay make all its roads one-way instead of broadening the roads. Maybe we need to look at that approach as well.

FEDERATION of RATEPAYERS / SMALLHOLDINGS – Mike Harrison

The Federation has carried on with its case in connection with Arabella II. There was a great deal of disappointment when it was approved by Province and the municipality (with one abstention). The court case looks likely to go through in February 09.

Erf 324 including the land on the slopes of Klein Hangklip, is on the market for R10m. We don't want development on the slopes of Klein Hangklip.

Louis Van Heerden: The Arabella issue revolves around the minister and her provincial advisor turning it down as an unacceptable concept for that area. (Our own spatial development framework says 'agricultural and conservation' – it doesn't allow for a housing component of 450 houses). Political issues then forced the minister to approve the development with 74 conditions, each with 7-9 points. The community needs to support the court case initiative as it concerns all of us.

FINANCIAL: RERA has recently been registered as a non-profit company which allows various banking and fund-raising benefits.

Constitution: RERA needs to comply with non-profit organisation's constitutional requirements. Mike Harris confirmed that changes are minimal and do not affect the material nature of document. Frank Raymond proposed acceptance to the amendments. Kay le Riche seconded.

Pat Devine commended Izak Smit for his involvement and his report-backs on Ward and other meetings.

Liaison with REC and Boatclub - BR: The level of co-operation has fallen somewhat short of what we intended and should be rectified.

Community centre: Izak Smit and Chris Burlock were most involved.

Kogelberg Biosphere Association (KOBIO): RERA should renew its membership. A lot of people have fought very hard in the past 10 years for the KBR and we are being reassessed by UNESCO next year..

Mike Harrison: I've always thought the KBR as being complemented by a marine reserve. We were promised this and as far as I can make out there's been no progress.

Louis Van Heerden: We've made a lot of progress. I sit on the marine reserve committee but the problem is that Marine and Coastal Management do not know about the KBR. They are working on the reserve aspect and we will perhaps have a bigger marine area with 'no take' zones.

Election of new Executive Committee—Pat Devine

Izak Smit made himself available to serve. He has sold his house but has a proxy to act on behalf of the owner. Bruce Relly, Mike Harrison and Pat Devine made themselves available in their current positions. Johlene de Villiers proposed Julia Aalbers, seconded by Hannah Reinders. Julia agreed to serve. Geoff Harris to be approached.

Pat Devine thanked Louis Van Heerden for his contribution and closed the meeting.



Security... a search for a permanent solution!

Pat Devine was recently inducted as chairman of the Kleinmond Community Police Forum.

After 12 months of relative calm, Rooi Els, Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay and Kleinmond have been subjected to a wave of housebreaking and theft. Poaching continues unabated.

In just under nine weeks Pringle Bay reported 37 incidents of housebreaking. Rooi Els reported 10 incidents in just over 30 days.

They varied from organized targeting of solar equipment to housebreaking and blatant, opportunistic vandalism. Even as one couple attended a security meeting at Something Els on the 18th of November, an attempt was made to crowbar open their back door!

Pertinent to these figures is the fact that the vast majority of the homes targeted were **not alarmed**. Others were fitted with alarms which **failed**. At least one home was **not locked** and the perpetrator simply let himself in and helped himself to coffee and cash before drinking himself into a stupor and falling asleep in the house. When removed by police he told them: "Nobody wants me." No kidding.

More concerning, the Baigrie home was occupied when it was broken into early on the 6th of November. No-one was hurt but the thieves, under the cloak of a howling South-Easter, made off with, among other things, a TV set and binoculars. The unoccupied areas of the home are now alarmed at night.

Some vigorous policing resulted in several arrests in Pringle Bay. Pat Dewil of the Pringle Ratepayers' security portfolio, reported that some heavy visible policing has helped a great deal to return things to normal. The anti-poaching unit has also made some dramatic arrests – one very recently in Porter Drive.

The upsurge in criminal activity in the area has been brought to the attention of regional police authorities at the highest level. We have been assured that action will be taken.

Once again police and security companies have asked that erf numbers are clearly visible from the road, that alarms are tested regularly and doors are kept locked.

A recent survey by a blockwatch in Kleinmond revealed that a shocking number of people still leave windows and doors open to the street. These are exactly the opportunities criminals are looking for.

The Security meeting on the 18th of November was very well attended. The RERA security portfolio reported on the criminal activity and suggested that short term and long term strategies be developed to deal with the security problem. Attendees were asked to write down their suggestions. Each will be carefully considered by a

security committee to be formed of geographically selected residents. It is proposed that the village be divided into four or five "wards" or zones, each with a zone representative linked by radio. These representatives will serve on the security committee to achieve the short and long term objectives. From this would emerge the beginnings of neighbourhood watch which would steer any other security initiatives on behalf of ratepayers.

The security portfolio is currently liaising with the Kleinmond and Pringle Bay security representatives as well the Community Police Forum to share information, ideas and progress. Pringle Bay ratepayers plan to have a sophisticated camera erected on a building to monitor the entrance to the village up and running by end February 2010.

The concept of a 24-hour security patrol for Rooi Els was put to ASK. It was reported at the meeting that ASK currently has 42% or 134 of the 320 erven on its books. To financially justify a 24-hour patrol more than 500 properties would be required. (A 24-hour patrol with two officers, a vehicle working two shifts would cost in the region of R22 000 a month.) CEO of ASK, Michael Kiessling, suggested other forms of patrols such as guards on bicycles (as practiced successfully in Greyton and Hermanus) and the formation of a neighbourhood watch.

Once again the issue of our resident "bergie" was raised. There is grave concern that the man's behaviour is becoming increasingly aggressive and he is frequently under the influence of alcohol or drugs. His activities have been reported to the police and action will be taken. The community was asked to refrain from perpetuating the problem by giving loiterers food and drink. Several calls were made for **zero tolerance** of squatting, loitering and begging.

A follow-up meeting took place on Wednesday 2nd December to get the process of establishing the zones underway. Licenced, two-way radios were successfully tested on the 26th of November and the results were to be discussed with Philipp Wagner.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the meetings. **There are obstacles but I remain convinced that by working together we can keep our village and its environment safe for residents and absent homeowners alike.**

The committee will undertake to pursue the suggestions made at the to find out how they can work. Those of you who have served the community of Rooi Els over the years all know that these are not new problems but it is time to find permanent solutions to them – even if it costs money.

Best wishes and a safe Festive Season

Pat Devine



Roads... a report back

A number of concerns have been expressed by RE residents and committees round the subject of road maintenance and improvement...

As an informal conduit between RE communal opinion and the Overstrand Municipality (OM), RERA and REC asked me to initiate - with their input - a process of clarification with the municipality. The points that follow are therefore based on conversations between myself and municipal engineer, Mike Bartman (MB), and have his approval.

In general MB is sensitive to our suggestions and concerns and I am grateful to him for his willingness to listen to us and clarify some points which have caused confusion. The list of points that follows is not meant to imply that further discussion on the subject is closed, merely that this is how things stand between us and the municipality at present – other items for discussion could have been missed or could arise in the future.

1. On the subject of preserving our '**natural road curves**', there is no municipal principle which states that in future roads (whether for paving or grading) will be straightened so as to lie, say, in the centre of the road reserve, rather they will follow the existing curves. Obviously, if sidewalks are planned regular space must be set aside for this.

2. **Future brick paving** (no tar) will, as far as possible, match the existing red colour (not grey or black) – unless for markers.

3. Because of drainage/erosion/flooding problems in January the following limited sections will receive **priority for paving** with current funding

- a. the lower section of Reggia below Harveya.
- b. extension of existing paving in front of 222 (Scholtz) by 20m or so.
- c. extension of slipway paving to Ixia-Bathers junction.

MB feels that any remaining funds for paving should be applied to **Anemone** on the grounds that it is a maintenance headache with severe tendency to form potholes and corrugations. Harveya has been suggested by some as an alternative target for paving; MB's view is that Harveya at present is a highly functional road and is less busy than Anemone and is therefore not a high priority. (I understand that funds will be available in the 2010 budget for the completion of Anemone Road)

Under present OM policy, other than paving and local damage, roads will be **maintained** but **not** upgraded.

4. MB assures me that the **consultant's designs** for the paving items will be based on proper preparatory surveys and will be submitted to us for comment and discussion before being executed. These projects are, incidentally, all part of a substantial **regional** contract. (I would be glad to hear from anyone who would be interested in viewing these designs when they are made available to us.)

5. In regard to marginal **road ridges** that may be formed during the annual grading of the gravel roads, where the road edge is above the immediate ground level, these will be opened at regular intervals with spades to allow rainwater to flow into the fynbos verge. The frequency of the cuts will depend on longitudinal gradient, the size of the ridge and the existence of property entrances etc. but in any case, as frequently as possible so as to avoid losing water eventually to the sea - which would otherwise have been available to support the natural vegetation. This is especially important given the predictions of fewer but heavier rainfall incidences due to climate change. **When grading is done in RE this aspect can be monitored and reported on.**

Where existing roads have been paved with a ridge on the outer edge (such as Ocean View) this is because of the longitudinal (lengthwise) slope of the road which would otherwise have resulted in a municipal concern for property flooding. Thus where paving is to be carried out on flat sections of road (e.g. most of Anemone) such ridges will not be required - unless the municipality justifies it locally to avoid possible flooding of property or lateral erosion. It is understood that absence of ridges will prevent the concentration of storm water on the road and enable it to soak harmlessly into the adjoining soil - as it seems to do successfully along Harveya.

6. Existing **speed bumps or berms** will be restored where flattened. One will be created at the junction of Priestleya and Gazania in order to convey water towards the dunes and reduce flooding in the area of Rocklands/Gazania. Another on Mammosa in front of erf 151 is suggested as a speed calmer as well to reduce erosion of the road which seems to be active in that area.

7. It is agreed that where the need arises to **cut back fynbos** along specific sections of roads for reasons of traffic safety etc. RE will not be informed; but when a general cut back is planned RE will be informed ahead of time. One metre from the gravel edge is the prescribed cutting width.

8. It has been agreed that at the north, triangular intersection of Ocean View the vital importance of the **STOP signs** should be emphasised with the addition of white road markings as the present signs are not always respected.

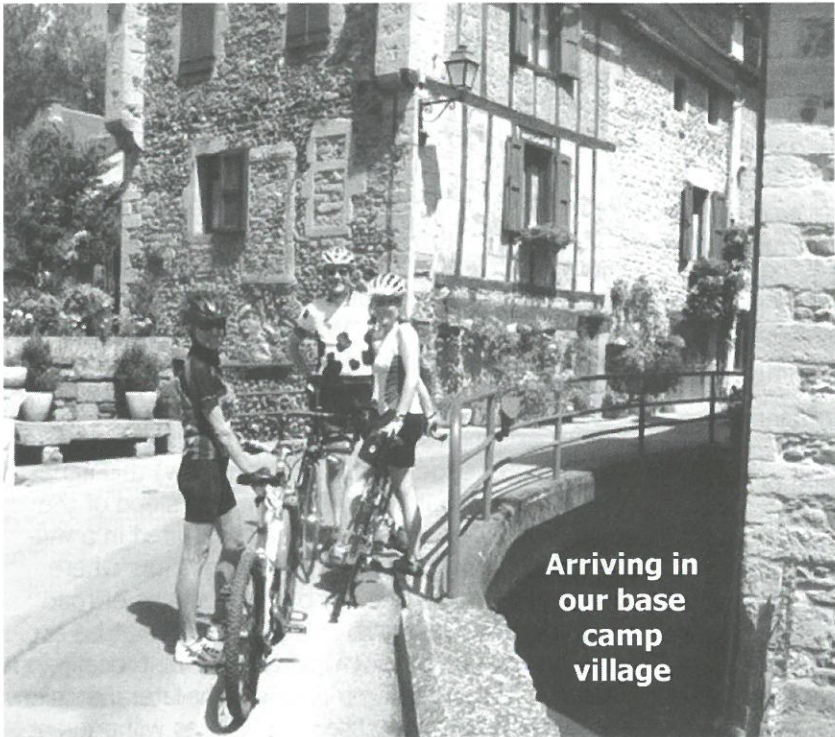
Bruce Relly (for RERA & REC)

Doing what's on your 'Bucket List'

Do YOU have a 'Bucket List'? (It's a list of things to do before you 'kick the bucket' as per the wonderful film starring Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson.) If you do, please share your experiences with us.

In this issue, Rooi Elzers, Dick and Jill Lockley, share their most recent 'tick off' from their 'Bucket List'... a camping and cycling trip in France with one son and his wife...

Fooling around in France!

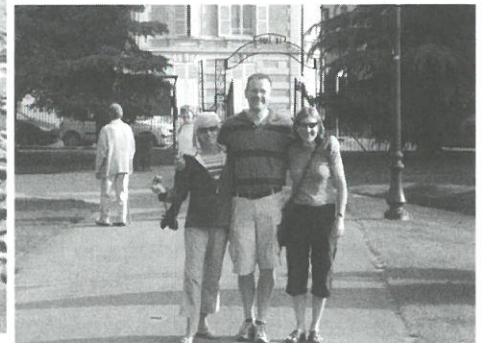


Arriving in our base camp village



Above: Down-hills are sooo much easier than up-hills!

Below: Jill, Rob (guess who takes after Dad!) and Tanya.



In June, Jill and I were invited to join our eldest son, Rob, and daughter-in-law Tanya, on a 10 day camping and cycling trip to the south of France. They provided everything necessary for the trip from bikes to tents and all the camping gear, so we had it easy. The most amazing part was that everything - tents, bikes, fridge, all camping gear, 4 adults and all their baggage - was expertly packed into and onto Rob's Renault Scenic!

So off we went. We motored from Surrey to Dover and then down through France to the Central Massif and on into the Aveyron region. We based ourselves in a superb and picturesque village called St Geniez d'Olt. Our camping site was on the banks of a trout stream with a gentle stroll along the river bank into the village itself.

We cycled daily up into the mountains, had lunch at village cafes and restaurants and then had some exhilarating descents back to our camp site.

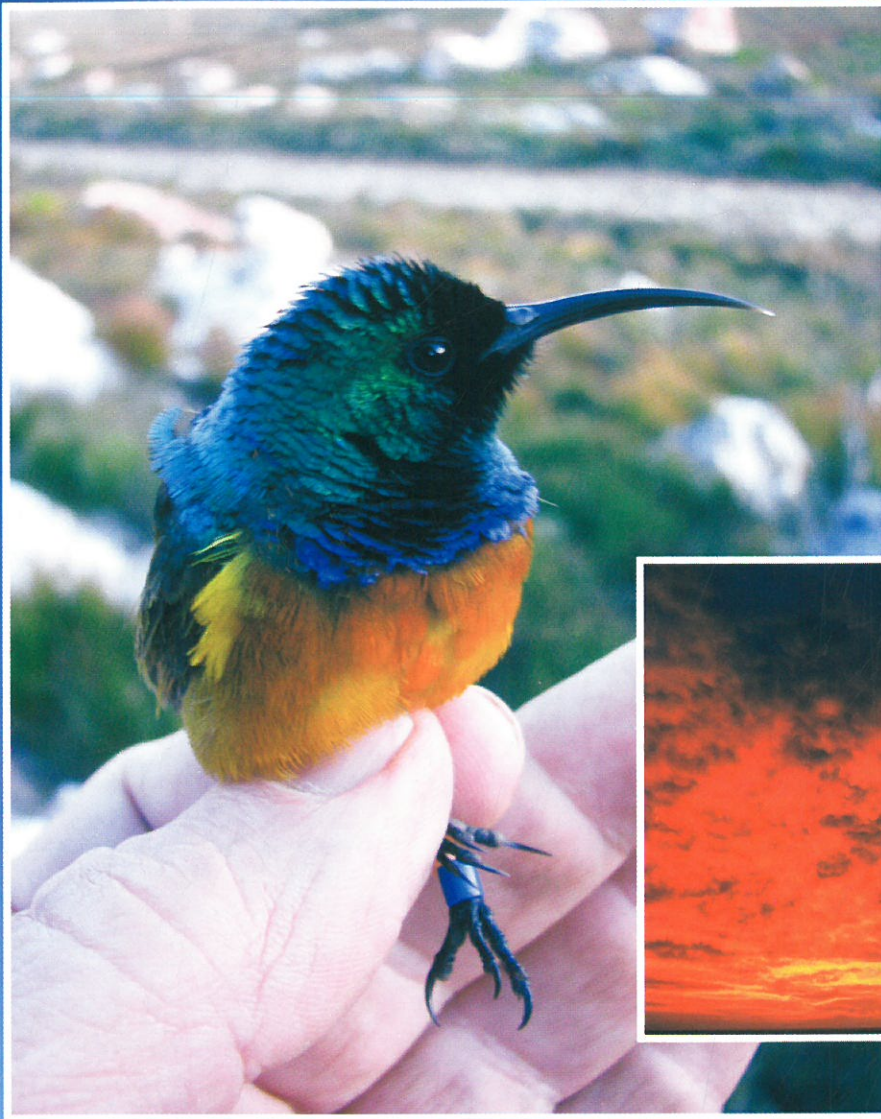
The countryside in that area of France was really awesome. At that time of the year the farmers were incredibly busy mowing and baling the hay and there was frenzied activity in all the fields. At last I understood where the term "making hay while the sun shines" comes from! Also the term "hayfever" as we all suffered from that a bit.

The efficiency of these farmers was most impressive. Riding out daily along the same roads we were amazed how quickly the bales were collected and stored in the farm outbuildings; often only 24 hours had passed and the only labourers were often 2 to 3 men with their tractors, harvesters and trailers.

France generally impressed us immensely. Jill and I had last visited France in 1973 so we were very out of date. Rural France is so clean, unspoilt and runs like clockwork. We *loved* the food, (must tell you about a local delicacy called aligot - it is made of melted cheese blended into mashed potatoes and garlic; has a smooth elastic texture and is sold fresh in the markets - absolutely delicious!), enjoyed the wine and found the people really friendly and helpful.

All too soon it was time to retrace our path back to Dunkirk to board the ferry to Dover. But before we left we spent a night in a camp site in Chalons-en-Champagne on the River Marne. What a beautiful medieval city this is which is well worth exploring if only for the photographic opportunities that abound. We will certainly be going back to France as soon as we can, (N.B. to self ~ put France back onto the 'Bucket List!'), and hope to repeat the great cycling experiences we had there!

Dick



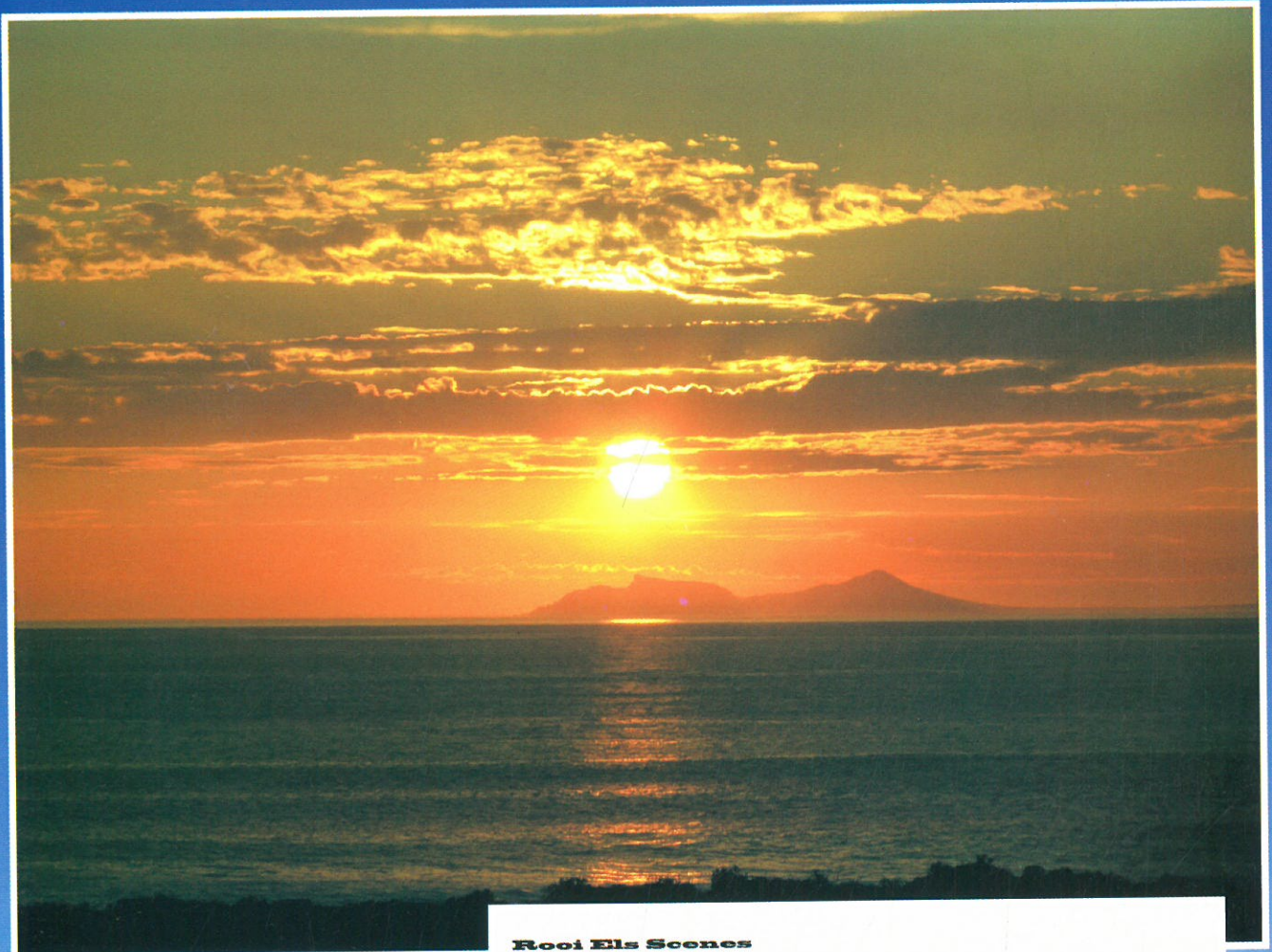
Left: see
'Jewels of the Mist'
on page 3

Below: One of the seven
wonders of Rooi Els...
see page 27



Left: Try
Dine's
fabulous
recipe
on the
opposite
page...

Rooi Els Gallery ... memories we'll long treasure



The sun turns towards summer -
Izak Smit

Rooi Els Scenes



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Between a rock and a soft place - Alison Ayre

A fogbow is an arc of light or white rainbow that forms when light refracts the reflects inside microscopic fog droplets. Unlike a rainbow which is sharp and colourful, fogbows are often white with pale color as the droplet are so small that diffraction dominates and the colors overlap, forming white. The best time to look for a fogbow is in the morning when the sun is rising, penetrating the fog. A fogbow can also form around an artificial light source. Wait for a foggy night, turn on your headlights and look down the beam and you'll see the bow as a complete circle. Sometimes the droplets composing the fog can be even size and when this happens the bow will become more defined and will have supernumeries like a standard rainbow, but will be more spread apart and at the center you'll find a glory.

Photo and text by Dine van Zyl



The Conservancy's work on defining the path from the Point is helping protect the vegetation



Breakfast's up - Alison Ayre

OUR BUCKET LIST ALBUM



Above: 4 bikes, 4 passengers (plus camping gear) in a well packed scenic!



Above: Leaving the white cliffs of Dover
Left: Mais ouis... c'est Jill and Dick



Above: Boule in the village square



Left: The Gorges du Tarn

Above: A mountain village en route

Straatkos!

Dine van Zyl shares an excerpt from her new book 'Nog 'n stukkie' which will be available in March in Afrikaans and English. Dine and I have dogs, so we walk. Over the year we 'cooked' all the way to Pringle Bay and back from shortcrust pastries to sosaties.

I really respect the discipline and dedication and single-mindedness that went into the birthing of this project. Well done, Dine!

Griet

Hanlie Styles bring vir my 'n boks groente van die plaas af, hopeloos te veel om te eet. Ek stap na die bure. "Kom ons maak straatkos." Ek het die groente, hulle moet net genoeg vleis gee vir hulself.

"Watter soort vleis?"

"Enige vleis. Skaap, bees, vark, volstruis. Jy mag nie gaan koop nie, jy moet net gee wat jy het; ek maak die kos op die stoof."

Die Saterdagoggend kom hulle hier aan, ons pak alles uit op die tafel: daar is genoeg vleis om die hele dorp te voed. Maar dit is mos hoe ons Suid-Afrikaners is, altyd overdaad. Daar is skaapskenkels en skaapnek, daar is varkrib, gewoon en gerook, daar is hoendervlerkies en hoenderborsies en 'n pakkie varkskenkels, wat net die nodige tekstuur sal gee.

Ons was sewe mense dié dag. Ons het geëet vir 10 en daar het nog oorgebly.

Vir hoeveel mense?

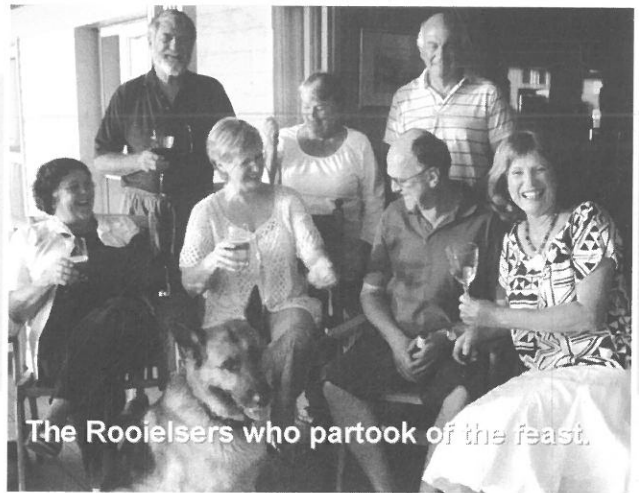
Dit gaan afhang hoeveel mense in jou straat baklei oor die hond se geblaf of die kinders se musiek. Pas maar self aan, maar onthou as jou straat lank is, moet jou pot groot wees! Gebruik 350 g vleis per persoon as dit bene bevat. Hierdie resep is vir 6 mense (eet vir 10.)

Die vleis:

Ongeveer 2,1 kg vleis, 'n mengsel van skaap-, bees- en varkstowe vleis, hoenderporsies, volstruis, gerookte varkvleis of opgesnyde gerookte worsies. Olie om in te braai

Die groente:

- 1 bos preie, gewas en in groterige stukke gekap
- 6 groot knoffelhuisies, gestamp
- 1 bos wortels, gekrap en in kwarte in die lengte gesny
- 5 mediumgrootte rape, geskil en in kwarte gesny
- 1 groot eiervrug in skywe, sout oorgestrooi, laat afdrup en afgespoel
- 500g groenboontjies, gewas en kop en stert afgesny
- 30 ml (2 E) sout
- 'n groot handvol vars tuinkruie (pietersielie, organum, tiemie) of 15 ml (1 E) droë kruie
- 250 ml (2 glase of 1 k) droë rooiwyn
- 1 blik (410 g) tamatiepuree
- 30 ml (2 E) suiker



Braai die vleis in 'n bietjie olie in die pan. Dit moet efen bruin verseël wees aan die buitekant, maar steeds rou. Skep uit, hou eenkant. Roerbraai die preie, knoffel, wortels en rape tot dit verkleur. Skep uit, hou eenkant. Maak die pan redelik warm, skroei die eiervrug aan die buitekant. Moenie gaarkook nie. Skep uit.

Pak lae – begin by die vleis, strooi sout oor. Sit die tuinkruie by en dan die groente, insluitende die boontjies. Meng die wyn met die tamatiepuree en suiker en giet dit oor die kos.

Sit die deksel op en laat stadig prut. Wees versigtig om die kos nie te gaar te maak nie. Jy wil nie 'n pappery hê nie.

Wanneer die vleis sag is, sal daar 'n lang sous in die kastrol wees. Proe daaraan. Te soet? Voeg suurlemoensap by. Te suur van die droëwyn? Te bitter van die tamatie? Voeg nog 'n bietjie suiker by en laat dit vinnig deurkook.

Om te bedien:

- Motiveer die een buurvrou om rys te kook.
- Motiveer die ander buurvrou om brood met 'n broskors te bak en doop die brood in die sous.
- Motiveer die ander buurvrou om 'n groenslaai te maak.

Geniet goeie buurmanskap!

Die wyn:

In die straat waar ek bly, is ons ernstig oor ons wyn. Die Scholtze werk by 'n wynlandgoed en Izak Smith het sy hand geslaan aan 'n wyngids. So sal ons gedurig 'n wyntjie na mekaar toe vat: "Kom, proe dié saam met my."

Die Cabernet Sauvignon uit die Wolverine Creek-reeks van Van Loveren is 'n wyn wat jy maar kan oopmaak vir jou uitsoekerige vriende. Die beste druiwe in die wingerd word uitgekies en met die hand gepluk en daar word nie baie met die wyn ingemeng nie.

Die wingerd staan op 'n oostelike helling op mineraalryke Karoo-klipgrond en kry Suidooswind. Die stokke is in 'n Ooswes-ryrigting geplant.

Die wyn gee vir jou 'n volbekgeur van vrugte en tannien en is in eikehout verouder. Salig. Nie vir jou goedkoop glase nie; poleer die glase wat jy saam met die familiesilwer geërf het.

Bird Chat

Summer arrived after a mild winter and again there were few pelagic species in False Bay because of



that. Spring, the time of four seasons in one day, very early gale-force South-Easters followed by equally strong NorthWesters! It is a wonderful time in the world, full of new life, new beginnings, hopes and the changes therein. Yet again late October saw a brief, if nasty, period of weather

which has been compounded by a very unseasonal storm cell in mid November and probably accounted for some mortalities in the Cape Spurfowl broods.

Rooi Els now has a healthy group of guinea fowl, a brood of 12 chicks arrived in our garden at the very end of October ! However like all birds of this type of species they may have large broods but they are appalling parents and sad to say they haven't been seen since – any feedback from anyone !!? Did you know a young guinea fowl is called a 'keet'?

October is the time when unusual birds pop up in the area, inter - African migrants begin returning to us, White-rumped Swifts, Greater striped Swallows to note two of our regular summer visitors. However occasionally something "different" appears. October saw a new bird to our list (now standing at a remarkable 194) a Southern Red Bishop with two females in tow ! When in breeding plumage, as this one was, the male is quite unmistakable with his red and black feathers. The 'red' varies from deep red to an orangey red. This trio spent most of their time in and around Lover's Walk occasionally venturing into Hotel Crescent and was a regular visitor to Griet's balcony after the seed goodies she had placed there for them. The species breeds chiefly in spring and early summer in the Western Cape and is usually found in marshy grasslands and wetlands, which is why it's an uncommon bird in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. It usually nests over water and the lagoon would be an ideal location for them. They are polygamous, hence the two females though they can have up to eight wives! It feeds primarily on seeds and plant material but also takes insects and nectar. In coastal areas they have been recorded as eating kelp flies and sandhoppers, good supply of those here ! In non-breeding plumage it is a drab buffy brown, with a darkly streaked breast, not unlike our resident Yellow Bishop, who are also resplendent in their breeding finery of yellow and black. This LBJ appearance means they are easily over-looked out of the breeding season.

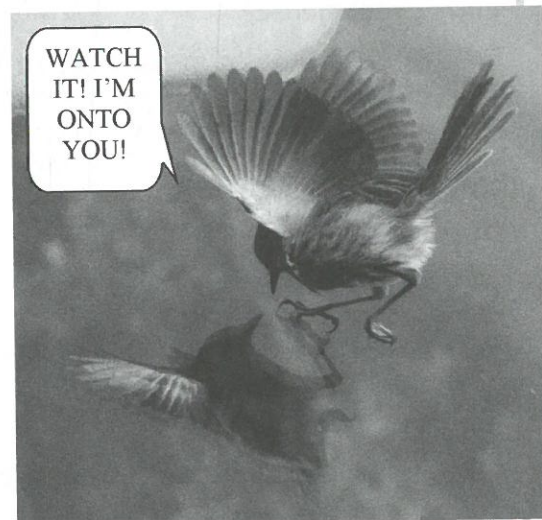
Three Namaqua Doves also made an appearance in Lover's Walk – (what's going on there !??) This exquisitely marked little dove is the smallest-bodied dove in South Africa and the only one to have a long tail. They are highly nomadic but are usually found in semi-arid areas and acacia savanna. We've seen them in Rooi Els before also in October. They are monogamous so three suggests a youngster. Their food is almost entirely tiny grass seeds, weeds and sedges. A Ruddy Turnstone also returned to the beach this October. This striking bird is a non-breeding migrant from the Arctic tundra region, so it's had quite a journey to get here. Much more common in suburbia there is a single Olive Thrush currently in the village. It is usually heard rather than seen. Lynne Fryer told us of a Cape Batis nest in her garden. This compact fly-catcher has rufous flanks and the male a broad black chest band. It is often the host of the parasitic Klaas's Cuckoo. This cuckoo makes use of up to 18 species in total to raise their chick and will be around ever hopeful of a host nest. It is also a very colourful bird with white under parts topped by a bright green back and a particularly monotonous call.

The breeding frenzy brings out some quaint behaviour in some species. Take the Karoo Prinia, males see other males as potential rivals and will fight. Griet has one such male who is either very narcissistic or confused as he has taken to flying up and down her car wing mirror remonstrating with his reflection. This is quite common behaviour and can result in harm to some birds who vigorously attack their 'rivals' and come out second best!

Should you ever be in such a situation, put the bird in a towel or softly lined box and keep it quiet in the dark by closing the box. The bird will be in shock but will quickly re-

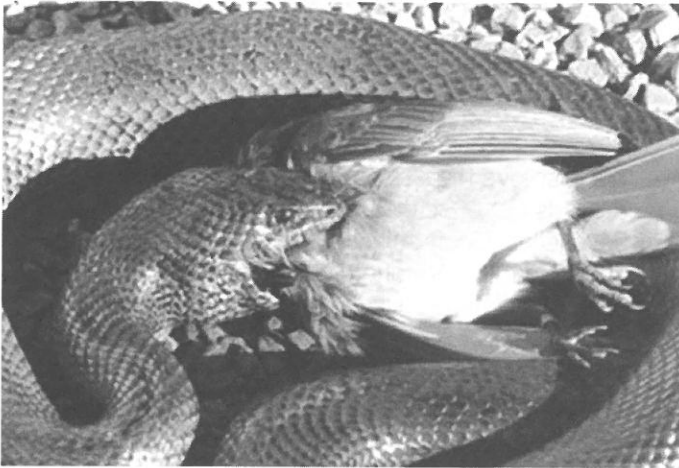
cover and should be released as soon as possible.

On that note we do occasionally get calls about a chick / fledgling that's been found and taken to the finders home. Though this is done with the best intention it is actually detrimental to the chick's health and indeed it's life. Parent birds force their youngsters to fly by encouraging them with offerings of food and often we come in the way of this process. A fledgling that has fallen out the nest is usually found and feed by the parents, so as a rule of thumb *please leave* Nature to do it's own work, even if the outcome isn't the 'Hollywood scripted ending' !



Bird Chat continued...

Glass patio doors also cause injuries to birds sadly a Spurfowl chick broke its neck and died after flying into one of our windows having been frightened into flight by something. Fortunately such incidents rare. On that note Lynne and Rob Fryer were witness to an unhappy ending in the Heldeberg Nature Reserve when a cheeky Cape Robin-Chat, who had dined well on crumbs from the patrons of the restaurant , went a bit too far when teasing a mole snake. This placid and very useful snake had clearly had enough of being pecked and taunted by said robin – chat and wound up as lunch for the snake, which also looked as if he'd bitten off more than he could chew ! Rob kindly emailed photos of the event.



Several years ago we were asked to look at an injured 'young Black Eagle'. This turned out to be a juvenile Black Swift ! OK I hear you say *how could that possibly* be mistaken for a Black Eagle chick ??? In fact the chap involved had identified the colour, the small grasping and for it's size sharp talons and a hooked beak. What he hadn't taken into account was the *size* – so not as daft as it sounds ! The swift had an injured wing and quickly recovered leaving to fly away – urh 'swiftly' !

As you are reading this please remind dog walkers that the Oystercatcher breeding season is again upon us and they are beginning to make out their territories. We are all very aware in Rooi Els of how special these endangered birds are, however it is pertinent to remember *why* they are endangered ! They nest on open beaches at the height of the summer season and Darwinian Theory clearly isn't a topic in Oystercatcher school, they simply haven't evolved away from this breeding habit !

As other villages are beginning to vigorously enforce the by-laws about dogs and beaches we have noticed an increasing number of 'outsiders' bringing their dogs to the village to run loose on the beach. It is in everyone's interest to draw attention to the "small" notice boards that clearly state the rules - otherwise get used to the beach without Oystercatchers.

Crayfishers remember there is plenty of birding 'at sea' – so while you're waiting to pull up the 'red gold' look around . In the course of our last crayfish season we saw penguins, shearwaters, gannets as well as the ubiquitous cormorants, terns and gulls. If you happen to be fishing too then 'guts and rubbish' attract many a free-loading scavenger.

Please keep us posted on your sightings, we can't be everywhere and birds get 'missed'. Before I wind up in the guano, Cedric sends his avian wishes to his numerous fans and wants everyone to know he's in fine fettle and is busy looking for a new residence. He is also in moult so has no quills for writing purposes and is a bit miffed he can't scribble some controversial chat for you, hence you've had to put up with me ! He asked me to tell you that he fully intends to rectify this next time, though I fail to see why I should, I'm the one who usually ends up in hot water after one of his rants, still as they say that's what friends are for !

Just a quick reminder our annual bird walk is scheduled for Monday December 28th at 08.00, we sincerely hope the South-Easter is in festive mood too and doesn't blow too hard as any self-respecting bird will be super glued to its perch and reluctant to leave home.

Whatever your religious slant I wish you all a very happy, rejuvenating and 'peaceful' holiday period . Travel well and enjoy the uniqueness that is Rooi Els.

Alison Ayre



"Beginning today | will learn something new;
| will savour all the various flavours life has to offer.
| will change what | can and the rest | will let go.
| will strive to become the best me | can possibly be."

Penny Jacqueline White

Where ever they go... Gerard Scholtz reveals all about his neighbours!

I remember the day 26 years ago. Hier kom 'n jong Gail Voigt aangehardloop met: have you met your new neighbour yet? I just saw him in his diving suit and what a sexy body! And I think he has a beard. I wonder what his wife looks like?

Nuuskerig, as usual, we took a bottle of wine across the street as a welcome gift to check them out: how old are they, are they green enough, would they follow the unwritten Rooiels rules and ethos, would they be quiet neighbours? And a hundred other questions.

We met the man with the beard, Geoff Harris - the Gunstone man incarnate - and Lyn Harris, the impersonation of a *materfamilias*. Their Pondoland roots and accompanying jovial hospitality were evident when they invited all the other neighbours that glorious evening for crayfish, wine, and cowboy music on the balcony. That night was the beginning of a beautiful friendship - with much laughter and sometimes serious moments. And there were times when we cried together. A much cherished buurmanskap.

After Geoff's retirement as Standard Bank's regional manager about 12 years ago, they followed us and came to live here permanently. The three piece suits and high heel shoes were packed away immediately and they created their own Rooiels rhythm. Up early for letter writing (en kán die man 'n brief skryf!) and Geoff's contributions on Radio567 - 'this is Geoff from Rooiels...', a morning walk with us, pottering in the garden, a call for morning tea with their famous crunchies, another call for fresh homemade bread for lunch, sometimes a call for afternoon coffee with Lynn's latest coffee time treat, and many times a last call for their Thai chicken curry for supper.

Then we hear more stories - and after all these years there are still new ones - about their Kokstad prize-winning garden with acres of flowers and enough veggies to fill a kombi each morning for the local market, the happy carefree days on the South Coast when the kids were young, Geoff's attempt to become the most famous singer in South Africa and the record that was cut... About holidays at their family cottage at Msikaba, the move to Cape Town, the transfer to PE and the mussels they

picked by just walking across the road from their apartment, and the move back to their beautiful Pinelands cottage where they looked after Geoff's father until he died at the age of 101. We hear about the renovation of a house in New Mexico, their world travels.

And, while listening to all the stories, one gains a sense of their values, their beliefs and the importance of family and friends. As Carri, their eldest daughter puts it: "I consider myself really fortunate to have found myself parents who ooze love and support, whilst at the same time sticking to firm boundaries with an incredible amount of consistency. I think they have succeeded in giving all four of their children both a very strong pair of roots and a sturdy pair of wings - great tools to make a success of whatever we wish to in life."

We just love their sense of adventure. They hauled the kids out of school for a yacht trip to the Seychelles, Geoff still keeps the record for spearing a blue marlin (this one didn't get away - it is resting against the huge rock in the lounge!), we never tire of the story of how Geoff discovered the wreck of the Sao Bentao (1554) in front of the family cottage and salvaged the canons (It's true: one of the huge canons lies in front of the fireplace!), they travelled in their motorhome from New Mexico to Canada and back and stopped at every river to catch trout for supper.

They are not half-hearted people. They are passionate about their dreams and what they do. Soon after their arrival, Geoff joined RERA and became one of the most successful chairpersons - a hard act to follow after the legendary Prof Denis Cowan. I was a member of the committee at the time and the meetings were businesslike, things happened, the portfolio system and report backs we introduced are still in practice and the Breeze got a facelift. It was the time of the exhausting Somchem saga - and Geoff even appeared on 50/50...

And as neighbour, Jean Cowen says: Geoff played a helpful role in the fight against Somchem. And Lyn did a great service to



our village in help starting the Rooiels Ladies Group. Jean adds: They love their home, and work very hard to make for themselves, their family and friends a lovely environment within it.

Today, at 70, Geoff is still an active tennis player. He is also the chairperson of the Rooiels Boat Club, is the 'Fire Chief' of our village and plays the role of the wise old man in town. Lyn thinks of every little detail, but boy, if she is determined to do something, she does it!

But to know another side of Geoff and Lyn (the real side!?) is to experience a holiday with them at **Seaways**, a typical Wildcoast cottage that Geoff's dad built more than 60 years ago. The cottage with its driftwood, shells, old photos against the walls, the collection of rocks and washed up porcelain and beads, stands at the edge of an indigenous forest with a breathtaking view of the Msikaba River Mouth where you hear the rumbling of waves and the call of the

fish eagle simultaneously. Here, we discovered that they are both fluent in Xhosa, that the locals call Lyn *Notsibela* – the one who jumps, who is always busy, and Geoff is *Madonda*, ...you could only guess! They are the perfect hosts. Generations of sea spray are in their blood. Here the tides, the sun, moon and stars determine their real rhythm. Geoff goes snorkelling or spear fishing, takes you to breathtaking places and shares forlorn tales. Lyn, the one who jumps, prepares magical Pondoland dishes like *skwamba* and *nero* soup, fries fish like only she can, uses new recipes for the crayfish...

Then we realise again, what extraordinary people they are. How adaptable and pliable. How spiritual and practical. And there is a *bonhomie* wherever they go and in whatever company they find themselves. And how blessed we all are with our **Wayward Wind** neighbours.

So how did you end up in Rooi Els?

This will (hopefully) become a regular feature in Breeze because it is fascinating to discover how we were all drawn to this special place! We asked Geoff and Lynn Harris to start the ball rolling seeing that, (unbeknown to them), Gerard has given us such a brilliant insight into their lives.

Our family had for many, many, years enjoyed our Wild Coast beach shack at Msikaba on the Eastern Pondoland coast. My brother and I practically grew up there and our children enjoyed the same privilege.

Then we moved to Cape Town and 'Seaways' was not nearly so accessible – now 14 or so hours instead of two! How we missed our weekends and school holidays at our hideaway.

We decided that when possible we would buy a beach cottage within two hours of Cape Town, so our family could continue to enjoy holidays together, doing what we loved most – diving, swimming, surfing, fishing and fossicking. So when the KZN government expropriated a property we owned in Pt Shepstone, those funds were earmarked for our dream. And so the search started!

Having eliminated several prospects along the Peninsula, we started along the Eastern False Bay seaboard – and found a position we liked in Gordon's Bay. However, it was in the process of being altered and, according the estate agent, the builder "would return with the keys after lunch". Having an hour or two to kill, we drove out along a very winding, narrow little road alongside the sea. Rather beautiful, but Lynn fell asleep anyway. I turned off into this funny little village and I went over to the estate agent's window – more to absorb time than anything else. Lynn enquired sleepily where we were, and, when I said "Rooi-Els" she grunted and turned over – not one iota interested as she wanted to be closer to Town. However, when I explained that the prices appeared to be about half those of similar properties in Gordon's Bay, she sat up and took notice.

Expecting us to be put off, Harriet explained in some trepidation, that Rooi-Els had no electricity, or sewerage

etc. However, having lived with and enjoyed candle and paraffin-power at Msikaba, (and a 'long-drop' loo!) this was no problem to us. We were shown 206, 231(now Herbert and Gail's), 243 (now Tienie and Marina's), 179 (now Hettie's) but returned to 206 and, within an half-an-hour, had signed the deal. (The Gordon's Bay agent was absolutely furious when we phoned to cancel our 2.00 pm appointment!!!)

And, in addition to the wonderful relaxing times, what interesting experiences Rooi-Els (and being on RERA all those years) has provided ever since:

- (A) Electrification (feeling for the permanents, we voted 'for' it even though we had no intention of ever living here permanently – in retrospect, thank Heavens!
- (B) Somchem (we fought the good fight alongside wonderful people like Jean and Denis, Julia and Avril – what a team!!)
- (C) City folks who wanted street-lights and wider roads to replace our 'muisgange', but who seem to have slowly integrated and accepted the status quo with good grace.

And so many other weird and wonderful things that ensure one is NEVER bored in Rooi-Els.

And have we ever regretted the decision? Nope! (Except maybe just occasionally, when the South-Easter pumps for two weeks or more! Then, instead of succumbing to 'cabin fever', we migrate to the Mall and lose ourselves in the wonders of the modern 'Magic Lantern' shows - now known as 'cinema'.)

Geoff Harris

Wat 'n week van hemelse belewenisse.

Die ander aand begin met 'n bangmaakrooi skemer. Dis soos die vure in die hel moet brand.

Maar dit was die volgende oggend met donker toe een van die skouspelagtigste storms oor die Skiereiland verbytrek en ons al die bure wakkerbel om op te staan en te kyk. Dramaties het nie meer 'n betekenis nie, dit word 'n oorweldigende emosie. Voor ons ontplof die wereld in blitse van swael en vuur. Listige vlamme slaan hemelhoog terug. Toe trek dit verby en word die see 'n slagveld. Ek sukkel met my nuwe kamera wat nie na my wil luister nie.

Teen daardie tyd staan ons al in die straat, steeds in ons nagklere en ons en die bure skreeu oor en weer. Maar dit was eers toe ons omdraai en ons sien wat agter die Buffelstalberge gebeur: Die dag breek oop met Halleluja-wolke en trompetgeskal. Ons begin straatop hardloop om beter te sien. Ek skreeu: It's the second coming of our Lord. Hulle skreeu: It's Ascension day!

Dis 'n wonderwerk in strale, beweging, wolke en dagbreekrooi saam met grootse Barokmusiek. Ons hardloop verder om groter impak te kry. Ons grondpad word 'n hemelse straat van goud. Die bure roep: Kyk oor die see.

Daar is 'n gloeiende nagreenboog oor die see. Die kamera en ek verstaan mekaar nie. Die oomblik gaan te vinnig verby. Die dag word vinnig silwer.

Die son is heeldag teer. Die wolke is teer. Ons is teer.

Toe kom die aand. Ek roep: dis die wegraping! Kyk hoe bestraal die Here die aarde. Ons bel weer die bure: Kyk!

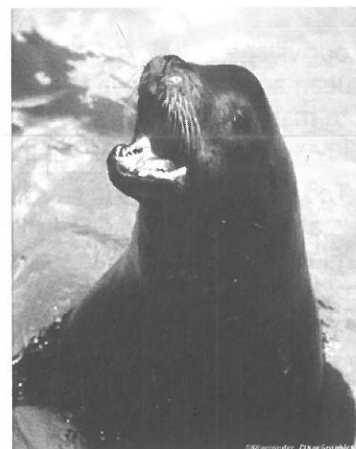
Gisteraand kom ons terug van Hermanus. Die son gooi vir ons 'n goue pad reguit hemel toe. En die hemelse stad brand in goud.

Gerard Scholtz

See the Scholtz's spectacular pictures of the storm on page 17

As I was Diving...

What interesting creatures one gets to meet under water. There used to be a large residential seal next to the nature reserve. But he was very blasé about humans. Must have seen plenty of divers.



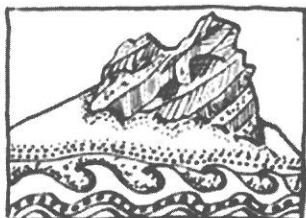
I was diving down amongst the kelp when a seal cow and her youngster swam past me. I must have been the youngster's first human for it swam back and forth with flapping fins right next to me, eyes wide open and a broad smile on his face. Sometimes a creature plummets down from above past me, with an amazing thrust... a cormorant in pursuit of a fish. Once a cormorant got hold of a small blaasoppie but soon spat it out as they are quite poisonous.

Meeting an otter close up is one of the most magical moments. The females were scared of me but the male swam up to me and at a meter distance dived down, circling me for closer inspection. I was found acceptable and allowed to remain in the sea. Once a male otter followed me and tugged at my flippers to see if I was edible, but my flipper was found not fit for otter consumption...a rejection I embraced.

Disturbing thought that about 2 months ago carcasses of very large seals washed up from the main beach to Nick and Hanna's house. One, I presume was our nature reserve resident as he is missing. What could have killed these large creatures? They are shark food, but these seals weren't eaten on at all. Could commercial fishers have been shooting them to keep them away from their crayfish traps?

In summer we regularly get seal pup carcasses on our beaches. They have fallen into the sea before able to hunt and fend for themselves and are unable to find their way back to their mothers. They died of hunger. Sometimes they sit on the rocks, too cold to return to the sea as they had used up their fat layers. Some do get rescued.

Evette Weyers



**RERA AGM
19 Dec
15h00 for 15h30**

Please bring your Membership (R100) and completed membership form to the AGM.

**CONSERVANCY AGM
29 Dec
17h30 for 18h00**



Please renew your membership subs (R100) at the AGM or by EFT: ABSA branch 334312, account 912 669 4863 or leave it at the RE Village Shop. Advise Dick Lockley: dicklock@global.co.za / 028 273 8852

Black Eagle watching...

"No Verreaux's (Black) Eagle babies this year", says Mr Dirk De Kock, volunteer at the Western Cape Raptor Research Project, at the Percy FitzPatrick Institution for African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town.

Your comments and observations regarding the Black Eagles are most welcome. Send information to Dirk de Kock at 082 075 2498, 021-856 3776; or dirkdek@telkomsa.net.



Dirk reported the following on his visits in August/September 2009:

"When arriving at Rooiels, saw both Eagles at Klein-Hangklip peak. Observed them coming and going at peak during 7- hour observation period. Observed them copulate (3 times) as well as one of them once putting nesting material on the very old and dilapidated nest structure, situated about 20m Pringle Bay-side from the fully build-up nest on top of the aloes. It was a cold day with a strong NW-wind ; a fore-runner of rain the next day. On the way home, again stopped for half an hour at Blousteen ; no Eagle activity.

"Seeing copulation behaviour and nest building at Rooiels, it was a sure indication that the Blousteen nest must have failed, as the Eagles would not start a new breeding cycle with a juvenile still on the nest. This is the **third** consecutive year that the Blousteen nest in the crevice failed. In **2006** the Blousteen nest on top of the aloes and about 200m away from the crevice-nest, produced a chick that successfully fledged and left the area.

"Seeing the copulation and nest building activities during the long weekend, made me think that the Black Eagles were going for a second breeding attempt at Rooi Els this season. However, when I checked on them about 3 weeks ago, they both were at Blousteen and, at one stage, were feeding low-down at the front of the mountain on a dassie they must have caught earlier. The copulation behaviour and nest building I observed at Rooiels have apparently come to nothing.

Possible reasons why the Blousteen nest keeps failing

Weather: During cold fronts the Blousteen Mountains, including the nest site, is completely covered in thick cloud. From below it looks like the NW-wind is also blowing strongly up there. Although the nest is in a crevice, it is not (completely) sheltered from the rain. Maybe the chick(s) thus have succumbed due to exposure.

Predators: A pair of **Jackal Buzzards** have been frequently observed in the area. The ubiquitous **Whitenecked Ravens** are sometimes observed scanning the R44 for pieces of discarded food items or roadkill; sometimes they are seen flying with the Eagles high over the mountain. An unguarded young chick, covered with white down on a dark-coloured nest, would make an attractive prey item.

Baboons and mongooses can be ruled out due to the inaccessibility of the nesting site for four-legged animals.

Food scarcity: Difficult to determine, but there *seems* to be a fair number of dassies (rock hyraxes) in the Rooiels area. During my visit to Blousteen about 3 weeks ago, the pair was observed feeding on a dassie, as already mentioned. They left the uneaten part lying on a rock, it was spotted by two Whitenecked Ravens, which descended and then started to feed on it. While busy feeding, the remains slipped of the rock into some bushes next to the rock, where it would have been difficult for a bird to retrieve. They then flew off.

"The fact that the Eagles left prey remains lying out in the open without guarding it, is to me, an indication that food cannot be that scarce then."

There are three things which are too wonderful for me...

The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship upon the sea...

Proverbs ch 30 v 18

The Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2 (SABAP2)

Bird atlasing is a great social activity, or a solitary, peaceful, invigorating activity, depending on your personality and mood. Just as usefully at a larger scale, however, it's a great way to contribute to an important national and regional project.

A bird atlas, basically, is a way to involve hundreds of volunteers (or "citizen scientists" if you prefer) in a massive snapshot of bird populations in space and time. It allows us to gauge the distribution and relative abundance of all our bird species, and especially, to determine which have shrinking ranges, which have expanding ranges, and which bird species might be in trouble.

If you are pretty good at bird identification, and relish a little bit of fun competition with your friends, then why not join the bird atlas team? Visit www.sabap2.org (the internet browser will automatically redirect you to a less easily remembered project website) and register!

SABAP2 is a major flagship project of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), BirdLife South Africa, and the Animal Demography Unit at UCT. Over 500 volunteers across the region already participate enthusiastically. The project team, led by manager Doug Harebottle at the Animal Demography Unit, will help you get started with all the basics. It's fun, it's healthy, it's simple to do, and it's for a great cause.

So why procrastinate? All you need are binoculars and an ability to do the basics (see below). Look forward to welcoming you to the team!

Dr Phoebe Barnard (barnard@sanbi.org) and Dr Rob Simmons (rob.simmons@uct.ac.za) – South African National Biodiversity Institute and Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African

The basics of bird atlasing

The aim is to record the birds you see in a period of at least two hours, in a defined part of the region called a pentad (a grid cell of about 9 km x 9 km, or if you are comfortable with maps, 5' x 5').

The southern African region is divided into pentads. You can identify your pentad if you have a GPS, or if not, you can download a list and map of pentads from the website www.sabap2.org.

Remember:

- **Spend at least 2 hours recording the birds you see**
- **Record bird species in the order you see them**
- **When making your bird list, note your starting and stopping time, and the point at which you pass 1 hour, 2 hours etc**
- **Visit as many different habitats in a pentad as possible (to record as many bird species as are there – we try to have a complete record of the bird species present)**
- **Start a new checklist if more than 5 days have passed since your first record.**
- **Register at www.sabap2.org and ask Doug.Harebottle@uct.ac.za (tel. 021 650 2330) for help if you need it!**
- **You can submit your info by email, by post, or (most easily) online.**

It's fun, it's social, it's healthy, it's simple, it's for a good cause!

Oystercatcher Update

At the time of going to print, the pair of Oystercatchers on Main Beach were still running around with no indicating that they have babies in mind. But once they show the first signs of nesting, new signage provided by the Conservancy will be erected at every access, making it clear that DOGS MUST BE LEASHED in the area until the end of the breeding season.

See more 'doggie laws' in this issue.

**OYSTERCATCHERS
BREED HERE
NOVEMBER-MARCH**



**Overstrand Municipal
By Law states**

**ALL DOGS
MUST BE ON
LEASHES**

**AND DOG LITTER TO BE
BAGGED AND BINNED**

FINE: R500 PER DOG



Thank you – The Rooi Els Conservancy
**Owners with dogs off leashes can be
reported to Law Enforcement hot line:
028 313 8000**

Snippets

SUMMER SWARM – Notes from a Biosphere Abroad

It happens every year; the first warm evening of a Devon summer. This year, after some warm days end of June it happened on July 1st.

I was finishing up in the study and wanting to get out again: earlier, it had been a tad too hot even for me! The sunlight dimmed and I thought of a thunder shower. I gazed out of the window and suddenly saw the landscape/skyscape in the familiar way I have never been able to adequately capture on film: not a thunder cloud but a host of birds, mainly seabirds – and this year terns rather than herring gulls – performing an aerial ballet that has to be seen to be believed.

The words *poetry in motion* are not adequate and neither are *aerial acrobatics*: perhaps a combination of those words, but nothing other than your own eyes can imbibe the sheer thrill of the sight. It is warfare: the basic food chain war of survival... but this is not a philosophical treatise!

This is just an observer's awe-struck view as winged, fertile, ants swarm, wherever, flying the gauntlet of the masters of aerial combat, as they dive, stall, soar and stall again, levelling briefly before repeating the procedures in seemingly infinite intricacies.

Sandra Yeo



Say a prayer for the Porcupine!

When next you buy porcupine quills, say a prayer for the porcupine that died for this fashion statement. It is estimated that by 2015 they will be extinct!



A porcupine quill lampshade is high fashion in the world today and can be found in up-market shops like Liberties in London. And the price for this is that porcupine numbers are rapidly decreasing. They seldom drop quills naturally.

Christy Bragg did her PhD research on porcupines in the endangered Renosterveld around Nieuwoutville. In this region there were 8 per hectare. She radio collared five porcupines and marked their diggings to see what effect they had on the endemic species. She found that they are great gardeners and their activities in abandoned wheat fields caused seeds and bulbs to grow. Although they eat a lot of bulbs, they do not reduce the amount, but actually maintain the species richness of bulbs through their selective foraging and disturbance. They also help to propagate rare and endemic bulb species, especially species with baby bulbs. These bulblets or cormlets grow on the mother bulb and are released when the porcupine eats the mother bulb. Porcupines promote soil turnover. They dig holes looking for food. These holes collect water, soil and organic matter, resulting in plant productivity being higher in them than outside the hole. Porcupines dig many burrows (dens), providing shelter to other animals such as ant-eaters, mongooses, bat-eared foxes, hyenas, mice, spiders and lizards.

Porcupine Facts

- Porcupines are monogamous and mate for life.
- They live in extended family groups and bear litters of 2-4 babies per year. The quills are soft when a baby is born and takes a week to harden. Only then will they leave the burrow to start foraging.
- They are rodents and are not related to hedgehogs, despite their similar appearance.
- It is a myth that they can shoot their quills. But they do reverse very quickly into a predator and leave their quills behind in its flesh.
- They are very short-sighted but can smell and hear well.
- They live for up to 20 years in captivity.
- The porcupine is the second-largest rodent in the world, weighing up to 24 kg. The largest is the South American capybara at \pm 60 kg.

A history of the HPNBG

The earliest inhabitants of the Kogelberg were the Khoi-Khoi or Strandlopers (literally 'beachcombers', i.e. people who searched the beaches for valuables), a people who lived along the coast of South Africa for thousands of years before Europeans arrived at the Cape. The many shell middens and some remaining fish traps constructed in the shallow waters of Cape Hangklip are stark reminders of a simple yet sustainable lifestyle that revolved around a dependency on natural food sources like shellfish, berries, fish, fruit and meat.

The first record of Europeans to arrive in the area dates back to September 1652 when four deserters escaped from Van Riebeeck's fort in an attempt to reach Mozambique and in so doing find their way back to Europe via ships that navigated the Indian Ocean trading route. Thereafter Governor Simon van der Stel carried out a survey for military purposes in 1687 and sailed along False Bay, reaching as far as the mouth of the Rooiels River without setting foot on the rocky shores or the rugged mountain. The first stock farmer families, among them surnames such as Grové and Louw, arrived in the Kogelberg in the mid 18th century, followed by numerous arrivals, mostly slaves, soldiers of fortune, looters, whalers, fishing boats and even pirates who occasionally anchored in the sheltered bays.

For nearly two centuries after the arrival of the first stock farmers, the Kogelberg remained a wilderness area, unknown and largely isolated. During the Second World War this changed when a military road (the present-day Clarence Drive) was built round the coast to service the radar stations at Stony Point. The opening of this road meant the end of a long period of isolation and heralded the start of township developments in an area that would later be described as the epicentre of floral diversity in South Africa.

In the early 20th century, the Walsh family acquired practically all the coastal farms between the Rooiels and Palmiet Rivers. At the time, Harold Porter, Arthur Youldon and Jack Clarence were business partners and they formed the Hangklip Beach Estates when they purchased these farms from the Walsh family in the 1930s. The new owners divided it into three villages, namely Rooiels (possibly named after the Red Elder/Rooi-els trees that used to occur along the river), Pringle Bay (named after the 1796 commander of the British Navy, Admiral Sir Thomas Pringle) and Betty's Bay (named after Youlden's daughter, Betty).

Werner Voigt, curator of the Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens, wrote this piece in celebration of the Gardens 50th anniversary.

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In 1940, Harold Porter acquired a vast tract of land in the Betty's Bay area with the intention of developing it as a private nature reserve. He named the land "Shangri-La", a Tibetan word meaning land of sacredness and peace.

He turned the first sod on 5 October 1950 and with the assistance of his overseer, Mr Veldman, and another helper they marked out and built various pathways in the reserve. Today the Zig-Zag Trail leading to the saddle at the top of Bobbejaanskop is still in use, the most popular path in the Garden.

The Shangri-La Botanical Reserve Company (a non-profit company) recorded the following paragraph in their minutes:

"In creating Shangri-La, Mr. Porter was ensuring the preservation of a most valuable and magnificent part of the indigenous flora of South Africa, and in so doing has built a monument to an interest and love which always remained foremost in his life. South Africa will always be indebted to Mr. Porter for his gift".

In preparation of the Garden's jubilee celebrations in August 2009 a new pedestrian bridge in Disa Kloof was completed at the end of August 2008, there are new ponds and a new Limestone Fynbos Demonstration Garden completed in June 2009.

The Garden incorporates two waterfalls, a complete river system and unique ecosystems such as wetlands, dunes, mountain fynbos and relic Afromontane forests. The main Circular Route, Ecosystems Walk, and Disa Kloof Walk (1 km long) are all wheelchair-friendly and expose the visitor to the impressive biodiversity of the Kogelberg. For the more energetic there are the Fynbos Trail (1.85 km) through natural fynbos along the lower slopes of The Plateau and the Leopard's Kloof Trail (1.5 km), which passes through beautiful forests and ends at cascading waterfalls.

The seven wonders of Rooiels

As compiled by a Rooieler in 1998

1. Klein-Hangklip Mountain, especially its pristine southern face and slopes.
2. The nesting pair of black eagles and their nesting sites on the Klein-Hangklip.
3. The rock monolith on erf 324. Miraculously, this huge vertical slab of rock remains steady!
4. The Cape Clawless Otters seen mornings and evenings along the Rooiels shores.
5. The troop of baboons that frequently visits the village. To see a fully grown baboon foraging while the breeze ruffles its fur into flowing waves is one of nature's truly beautiful moments.
6. The rockjumpers with their inquiring minds found along Porter Drive.
7. The sun setting behind the peninsula as seen through a lattice of layers of cloud, (best observed with a glass of good red wine).

More snippets...

Bruce Relly celebrates his 80th!



The Relly cottage was heaving with Rooi Elers late November as the village and Bruce's children assembled to congratulate this remarkable man.

Amongst Rooi Els' amazing community of artists, writers, songwriters, photographers, ex-politicians, botanical experts, scientists, wine experts, crayfishing experts, etc, etc, etc, there is one person who stands out when it comes to **caring**... and that's Bruce!

He sits on not one committee committee...but two! And he doesn't just 'sit'... He works on possibly the most demanding RERA portfolio...roads and buildings.

And who else over 70 has the energy to spend 20 years writing a book... or still does yoga... or is keen to master new computer programmes... or to sleep under the stars... ? And how many of us still walk down the roads hand in hand with our 'other half' like Bruce and Mary do?

Thank you, Bruce, for being such a wonderful role model for those of us heading towards our 80's!

Moedige Janfrederik!

"Ek word na buite gelok deur 'n geraas en van my balkon sien ek 'n meter en 'n half lang boomsag wat uit my bure se heining oor my grasperk aangesuiker kom na die hotelerf se kant toe. En die Janfrederik duik sy kop! Die slang staan bakkop. En die voëltjie bly in die lug net bokant hom, met so 'n gekwarakwara.... En die Janfrederik bly aanval. Twee fisante kom toe hand bysit en pik die slang op sy rug.

"Die slang seil aan en ek kon die Janfrederik hoor tot lank nadat hy in die bosse verdwyn het.

"Maar die moedigheid van die Janfrederik het my so verstom. Hy het lank daarna nog in die boom sit en ge-luide maak. Miskien het hy sy nes verdedig?"

June van Reenen

STOP PRESS!

Just before this issue of Breeze was sent to press, a further 3 break-ins occurred in Rooi Els on Saturday night, the 28th. Four immigrants from Zimbabwe in a car laden with loot were apprehended in a roadblock on the way to Strand. This vehicle was observed entering Rooi Els at 2am. Clearly access monitoring/control is becoming a matter of urgency. Well done to the police personnel involved.

I WISH YOU ENOUGH

(unfinished thoughts)

*If only I had grown up with the soil of the earth in my hands; either dry and falling down or as in a time glass
or perhaps wet like clay, to create some form through my fingers in order to have an experience of creation...*

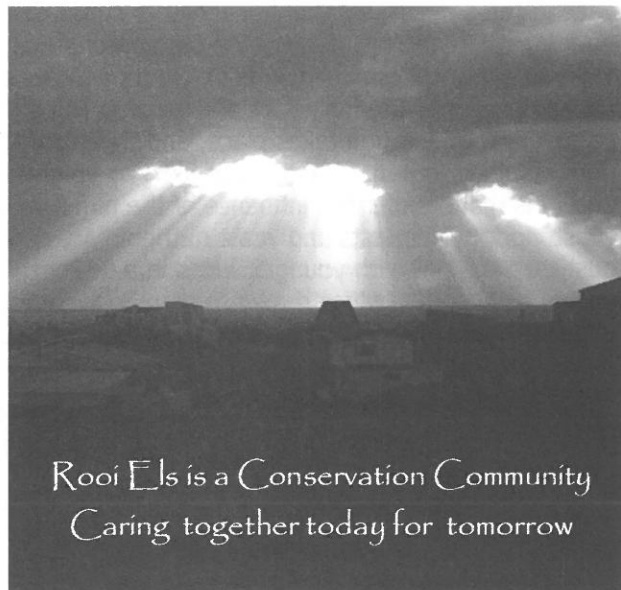
If only I could look into Christ's eyes to know what a relationship means in order to understand love...

If only I had learned to write a song of love every day, about wind and sky in order to express my soul more meaningfully...

If only I had discovered the purpose of life early enough to grasp the extent of human boundaries in order to discover the truth and live life to the full...

THIS TO ME WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH

Izak Smit.



Rooi Els is a Conservation Community
Caring together today for tomorrow

What exactly is Desert Wine? (A 'taster' from Izak Smit)

While there remains an overwhelming tendency towards natural wine drinking, the best of dessert wines have long been accorded a worthy role, with more and more excellent examples being produced. The production of sweeter wines in South Africa is widespread, normally stemming from our warmer climate areas.

In years gone by, due to the exceptionally high sugar or alcohol content, dessert wines were praised as 'vin de liquer', with the most famous stemming from Great Constantia. Today, the addition of brandy to wine has opened up all sorts of possibilities.

The term 'dessert wine' is given to wines where the fermentation process has been stopped prematurely when sugar levels are still relatively high, (over 30-40 grams per liter compared to natural table wines at less than 20 grams). They include Stein and Noble Late Harvest wines - the latter being made from Botrytis Cinerea grapes which have been left longer on the vine to the brink of shriveling like raisins when the sugar content is at its peak.

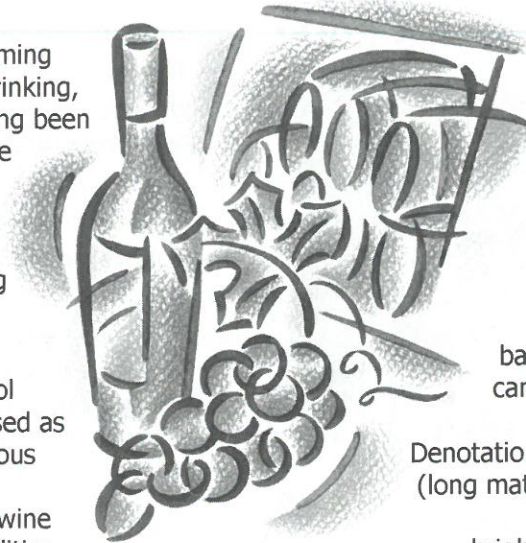
Dessert Wines such as Muscadel, Sherry, Hanepoot, and Jeripigo are all fortified by the addition of spirits *during* the fermentation process. Port and the drier fortified wines have spirits added *after* fermentation, resulting in the exceptionally high alcohol content which determines the nature and characteristics of the product.

The different types of dessert wines are distinguished on the basis of sweetness. Before fortification the wine can be either 'dry' (as for Sherry), 'medium' (as for Port) or 'sweet fermented' (as for Jeripigo). In South Africa all wines containing more than 2% sugar must be fortified to a minimum of 16.6% alcohol per volume.

For a sweet wine like **Sherry**, there is a slight difference in the process, with an initial higher sugar content of at least 30° balling. (Balling the amount of sugar in the grape that determines ripeness). No fermentation takes place while the husks are still present. But once removed, fermentation takes place, and then fortification, resulting in a natural spirit of 97% by volume. Sherry is made under the influence of the film-forming yeast 'flor', where casts and yeast nutrients are continuously replenished with younger wines in a system known as 'Solera', (wines drawn from various casks), and the whole system is fed by new wine from the most recent harvest.

Muscadel is a syrupy matured concentrate favoured by those with an affiliation for sweeter wines rather than natural table wines.

Jeripigo is an unfermented dessert wine made mostly from Muscadel grapes with around 17% alcohol.



Both Muscadel and Jeripigo are referred to as 'vin doux naturel', but differ from each other in terms of processing and quality characteristics.

While sweeter table wines don't require much maturation, the opposite is true of semi-sweet wines. Sherry is matured in oak barrels just like Port. Muscadel wines can be matured for up to 2 years and then blended for market.

Denotations relating to Port include 'Vintage' (long maturation), 'Ruby' (fining with tannin and bentonite to remain clear and bright), and 'Tawny' (with less extract).

The area around Calitzdorp, South Africa's Port capital, is semi arid. Here, the hot dry climate is similar to that of the Duoro region in Portugal, with vineyards planted on poor clay soils. Clay soils are ideal for the production of Port grape varieties. Preferred grape varieties include Touriga Nacional, Tinta Barocca, Tinta Roritz and Souzao. The area where Bokkeveld Slate washed into the expanse of the Little Karoo, has proved to be ideal for Muscadel grape cultivation.

Hanepoot, (ex Muscat d' Alexandrie), and Muscat de Frontignac grapes like soils that tend to be drier and exposed to the ferocity of the elements in a climate of extremes where irrigation is required. The region, starts at Worcester and follows the Breede River, Nuy, Vink and Klaas Voogs Rivers, through Sandvliet and Kogmans Kloof to beyond Montagu.

Certain granite, sandstone and slate soils such as those around the Swartland, favour Port production in particular with wines yielding low tonnages but a high 25° balling.

Dessert wines will remain a wine to drink at the right moment, (there's nothing like a good Port on a cold day!)... or 'a choice wine for a choice occasion'. It is precisely for this reason that it is perhaps time that we rediscover dessert wines in this country. South Africa has a very impressive track record in the production of these satisfying and diverse wines. **In fact, many connoisseurs believe that our dessert wines are the best product of South Africa's entire viticulture industry!**

Don't wait... explore the different SA dessert wine experiences at every meal out!

Look out for Izak's recently launched wine web-site: www.sawineindex.com plus the second edition of his award winning 'Essential Guide to SA Wines' is in bookshops now.

What's on the Menu?

Drummond Arms – 273 8458

Drummond Arms Restaurant & Pub's Summer Sizzlers include:

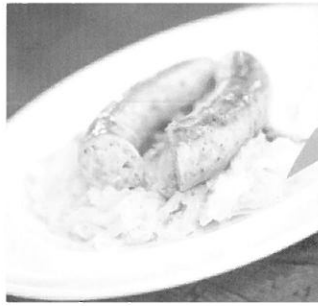
'Best of British' on Wednesday nights.

There is a choice of three tasty dishes: liver and onions with mash and veg - bangers and mash with veg - and homemade steak pie, mash and veg. Price R45.50 .

Friday evenings - 500 g T-bone steaks available at R70.

On Sunday afternoons - Sunday roast, with two meats and four vegetables for only R49!

Don't forget our New Year's bash with live music, karaoke and an open mike! On the menu we have curry and rice, with a choice of lamb, beef and chicken. You can eat as much as you like and the price is only R160 per person! Children under 12 pay half price. Booking is essential and tickets can be bought at the Pub.



RIGHT POSTAL ADDRESS?

We have been experiencing huge problems

with addresses when posting the BREEZE magazine.

Please make sure any address change is provided to the body you are a member of (RERA, RE Conservancy or the RE Boat Club) with clear instructions that this is an address change.

If you are not a permanent resident of Rooi Els but live in SA and would like your Breeze posted to you...

please mail your preferred address to: **RERA, P.O. Box 89, BETTY'S BAY 7141.**

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

Something Els - 028 273 8516

Since opening in December 2007, Something Els has set out to create a place for customers to enjoy an elegant meal in a relaxed atmosphere at an affordable price. For this holiday season, they offer a **Seafood or Prawn platter**; and their lunchtime special is a **Hake or Calamari and Chips**.

They have a bar facility, and offer cakes with teas and coffees, as well as light meals and main courses. Zee and Adrian van Zyl invite all to their home-made pastas and food that are made of the freshest ingredients. Even sandwiches are made with delicious freshly home baked bread!

Doors are open:

Tues – Fri: 12 pm to 22h00

Saturday: 9 am to 22h00

Sunday: 9 am to 14h00



Fijndraai 028 273 8070

Cafe Rio has changed it's name to "Fijndraai" (referring to the sharp turn at the Rooiels entrance). Signage was sponsored by the renowned Beyerskloof Wine Estate. It is envisaged to establish a wine tasting centre in addition to Fijndraai's existing facilities which are currently accommodation, a bistro and pub. Beyerskloof will be the leading brand at the wine tasting centre. Other prestigious red and white wine estates will also be involved.

Our December menu is simple and affordable :

Seafood platter

Meat Platter

Cheese platter

Kiddies platter (also available to adults)

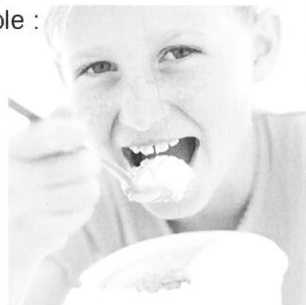
A "Special" of the day at R35.00

Deserts

Open each day at 11am (except Mondays) and at 10am on holidays and weekends.

We decided not to increase accommodation rates for the season. So accommodation is be available from as little as R125 pp - a self catering two bedroom flat (sleeps 6), a double bedroom (sleeps 3) and a "backpackers" (sleeps 6)

For more information or bookings, contact Johann or Connie at 082 443 7048 or (028) 273 8070.



Breeze Breeze SEPTEMBER 2009

Welcome to the 8th issue of Breeze! Congratulations on a successful year from the Conservation Boat Club, Ladies Club and Fijndraai Wine Estate. Send them all your love on 28 & 29 by 20th of each month.

Quiz night great fun, despite disappointing turnout!
A great night of 20 general knowledge based on a delicious supper of bangers, more fish and salad prepared by the Conservation Boat Club. Over and over again the community spirit of the members of the boat club was on display in the hall. The members of the boat club were so generous to the quiz night.

Quiz the table winners were divided by the number of participants.
1st: Mrs. M. J. C. 2nd: Mrs. M. J. C. 3rd: Mrs. M. J. C. 4th: Mrs. M. J. C. 5th: Mrs. M. J. C. 6th: Mrs. M. J. C. 7th: Mrs. M. J. C. 8th: Mrs. M. J. C. 9th: Mrs. M. J. C. 10th: Mrs. M. J. C.

FIRE SEASON NEAR - ARE YOU FIREWISE YET?
The fire season is officially open from 1st October and continues to the 31st of March. The fire season is high and the danger is very high. It is very important to be firewise. Please take the time to be firewise. Please take the time to be firewise.

RE FIRE-RISK ASSESSMENT
On 7 October, Tuesday 8 October, and 14 October, the Rooi Els Fire Risk Assessment will be conducted. The Rooi Els Fire Risk Assessment will be conducted. The Rooi Els Fire Risk Assessment will be conducted.

ROOI ELS BEACH CLEAN-UP
Beach and Marine Unit and of the Rooi Els Conservation Boat Club. The Rooi Els Beach Clean-up will be conducted. The Rooi Els Beach Clean-up will be conducted.

ROOI ELS IS A CONSERVATION COMMUNITY CARING TOGETHER TODAY FOR TOMORROW

RIGHT EMAIL ADDRESS?

Due to the costs of production, BREEZE is now being produced twice a year with the monthly BREEZE-E newsletter keeping us in touch with day-to-day events.

If you are **not** receiving BREEZE-E (and would like to), please send your email address to estelle@overstrand-isp.co.za and copy di@peripheral.co.za

Thanks!