

Bries Breeze

December 2000

Rooiels Ratepayers Association

PO Box 89 Betty's Bay 7141

Redaksioneel

Die jaareinde is 'n geleentheid om al die Rooielsers weer bymekaar te sien. U komitee het sukses, frustrasie, teleurstelling en opgewondenheid ondervind. Groot veranderinge op munisipale vlak sal aanpassings noodsaak - soos om totsiens te sê aan ons raadslid en die nuwe onbekende gesag te betree.

Ons hoop u was tevrede met u REBBV komitee se pogings tot dusver. Ons vakansieprogram is belaaie met interessante vermaaklikhede en ons nooi almal uit om daaraan deel te hê. Dit is 'n aangename manier om mekaar beter te leer ken en ons gemeenskapsbande te versterk.

This Bries/Breeze focuses on what is special about this time of year - festivity, food, the whales (at least the tail end of them) and the wind. Those balmy days of the 'secret season' have slipped away, and as the thermometer rises the Southeaster stirs. Whatever the weather, Rooiels bestows its magic on all who come. *Magic Moments* is proving popular and we ask for your continued contributions so that other readers can share in your delight.

May the joy of Christmas and a bright, peaceful, 'greener' New Year be yours.

Jenny Stark

**Our Vision.....
An ecologically
well balanced area
Where man and nature
thrive in harmony**

From the Chair

Looking back over the past year a lot has been accomplished, always keeping the Rooiels Vision in mind. The first phase of the planting of indigenous flora in the CBD is now complete. Many thanks to Ernst Thompson who has been invaluable in coordinating the compost, plants, planting and irrigation system and just generally getting the job done! Landscaping expert Jenny Berrisford, graciously donated her time and expertise by designing the layout and compiling a plant list for us to use. Thanks also to Julia Aalbers and Mike Baartman who made this initiative possible. The waste disposal site is looking a lot tidier and we're hoping to landscape this area next. The removal of waste is working well - much to Charlie's disgust! It is good to see such a team spirit in the community!

Basil Moss

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From our Councillor

**Council speeds up
towards end-of-tenure**

The Hanglip/Kleinmond Council will have its last meeting on 28 November 2000, just before the local government elections. In the last few months Council has tried to put its 'house in order' in terms of strategic plans for the future. Some good news is that the Community Improvement District (CID) by-law has been approved by Council (27/09/00) and will now be published for

public comment before going the legal route of publishing a by-law. Within the very large new Municipal area of 'Overstrand', this legislation will place a powerful tool in the hands of Rooiels inhabitants to maintain security and other Municipal Services, using private sector options where feasible (copies are available from the Rooiels Ratepayers Association).

The Spatial Development Framework (SDF) document with strategic guidelines for the future of our area is approaching finality. The draft final report has been available for public comment for the statutory 60 consecutive days (15 Sept - 15 Nov 2000). Comments and objections will be included in the final document that has already been referred as a planning principle to the new Transitional Executive Committee of the WC032 (our new area).

A worthy quote from this report is relevant: "Rooiels's location between the mountains and the ocean make it a place of exceptional beauty that has become a popular tourist and holiday destination within the Hangklip-Kleinmond area. There are only a few permanent residents within Rooiels, which thus has a limited economic base. Rooiels has become the most popular holiday destination within the study area and this may be (surely is) due to its exceptional beauty, biodiversity, as well as it being the closest destination within the study area from the Central Metropolitan Area ". Our challenge is to keep Rooiels a place of exceptional beauty and biodiversity.

If I may be allowed one wish as a departing Councillor, it is that the human diversity of Rooiels be seen as a strength and be used to protect Rooiels from speculative and exploitative development. In this way Rooiels will maintain its natural beauty as a legacy for future visitors,

residents and the fauna and flora with which we share our environment.

My best wishes to you all for Xmas and the New Year.

Julia Aalbers

Julia

With the inclusion of Rooiels in the Overstrand municipal area and the advent of fully-fledged party-politics in local government, Julia Aalbers, our local councillor, has decided not to make herself available for re-election. She has served Rooiels as councillor since 1995. We asked a few people who served with Julia for their impressions -

Geoff Harris:

"One of her greatest contributions was keeping the rurality of Rooiels intact. She piloted the Zoning Procedure ethically and managed to keep creeping commercialism at bay. She has always championed ecologically-acceptable options, such as low-key signage and our "muisgange" roads. She fought against sub-division and against the inclusion of outside erven into Rooiels. I admire the fact that she donated all her Councillor remuneration towards the betterment of Rooiels. She literally put her money where her heart was, always acting in the interest of the broader community wishes as set out in the Rooiels Vision.

Another aspect which earned my respect was the way Julia, as an independent, took on the party-political machinery in Council and handled the frustrations of seeing the steamroller flatten many sound proposals and perpetuate many mistakes. Her gutsy conduct, knowledge,

insight and tenacity earned her the grudging respect of many of her fellow Councillors.

Then there was the lengthy "Somchem Affair"! Without Julia's input and professional guidance, this might have had a very different outcome. Here her experience was invaluable not only to Rooiels but to the wider Hangklip community."

Evette Weyers:

"Wat vir my besonders is aan haar, is dat sy nooit, nooit persoonlike mag of bewondering soek nie. Sy bly soos 'n boerboel vasbyt. Die saak wat sy takel klou sy tot sy hom deurgebyt het. Sy sorg dat daar van die Rooiels Visie op munisipale vlak kennis geneem word. Sy is 'groen', maar het ook empatie met die minderbevoorregtes en sal vir die demokrasie baklei."

Diarmuid Baigrie:

"Julia served Rooiels during a period of such historic change for our country that Rooiels was inevitably caught up in it, having also to adapt in many ways. The Somchem saga required enormous patience, resourcefulness, tenacity and diplomacy. We are all delighted with the outcome, which she so conscientiously oversaw to the end. The advent of electricity was another thorny issue in which she immersed herself, again never failing to grasp the nettle when it was required. Bricking our entrance, establishing a boat club to control our slipway, building public toilets, having road names placed, - alien vegetation removed, the publication of Bries/Breeze, our dune restoration programme initiated, the protection of our nature reserve, the property rezoning process - these and others were all hotly debated issues that Julia tackled, putting in enormous effort while trying to establish a consensus view.

Rooiels has been incredibly fortunate to have had someone of Julia's calibre, who has tried with all her soul and best judgement to fight for our rights in a sometimes hostile environment. We also need to thank Holmer and her girls (who grace our beaches so beautifully to my son's and friends' great delight) for giving Julia the space and support to do the wonderful job she has done for all of us in Rooiels."

André en Dine Wagener:

"Julia Aalbers is as raadslid vir Rooiels verkies met die mandaat van die Belastingbetalersvereniging en die Rooiels Visie. By haar het dit altyd gegaan oor die belange van Rooiels en sy natuurlike omgewing en nooit oor 'n politieke agenda nie. Sy het haarself bewys as 'n standvastige, doelgerigte, konsekwente persoon met 'n sterk morele inslag wat nie geskroom het om op te tree binne die raamwerk van haar mandaat nie. In die proses moes sy geweldig kritiek verduur. Sy het ons pragtige, unieke dorpie van verskeie ontwikkelingsrampe gered en gesorg dat Rooiels nie op die partypolitieke altaar geoffer word nie. Hierdie gemeenskap sal Julia Aalbers altyd hoog ag en dankbaar wees vir wat sy alles vir Rooiels gedoen het."

Thank you, Julia, for your very tangible contribution to Rooiels. We know you're too full of energy and enthusiasm to go to ground, and expect to see your continued involvement in village and community issues.

The nice thing about living in a small town is, when you don't know what you're doing, someone else does!

Special Report

Poaching

Flying over the southern coast of South Africa recently, the Minister of Environmental Affairs commended the South African Police Service for what he termed "brilliant work" in clamping down on poaching of marine resources. But now, marine conservation officials say much more needs to be done to stop the ecological rape of the Cape Floral Kingdom's globally unique marine resources. Poachers seeking to serve the lucrative Asian market have been stripping the protected coastal areas of abalone, known locally as perlemoen. Marine and Coastal Management law enforcement officers will be working with the SA Police Services and Eastern Cape Nature Conservation to battle poachers in the Wild Coast region. Poachers have stripped the protected marine area off Betty's Bay of abalone. Recent scientific estimates show that the abalone in the Hermanus-Hawston area have "all but disappeared" since organized poaching started 7 years ago. Local poaching gangs reportedly control the Hermanus-Hawston area. Poaching has meant considerable wealth for a handful of middlemen, but very little social or economic benefits for the majority of inhabitants of depressed coastal settlements in the most heavily poached areas. The marine emergency extends to fish as well as abalone. Eight of the 10 most important line fish species have either "collapsed" or are "over-exploited" the researchers found and the numbers of some species have declined 90% within the past 10 years.

Under the Cape Action Plan for the Environment (CAPE), conservation officials are now

developing a strategic plan to conserve marine biodiversity in the Cape Floral Kingdom - the smallest and most diverse of the world's 6 floral kingdoms, and also the most threatened. The CAPE project is not limited to research on the region's plant life. It also has aquatic marine, estuarine and freshwater components. Effective law enforcement, joint training strategies and a comprehensive coastal monitoring compliance program have all been identified by CAPE as priority projects

Via e-wire

Portfolio Reports

Seawatch

As you may have gathered from the above report, poaching remains a big problem along our coastline. SEAWATCH is tackling it from the educational side with a pre-school educational programme and a primary school programme. They are also raising public awareness through radio broadcasts and newspaper coverage. SEAWATCH organised and ran the "International Beach Clean-up Actions" in Rooiels, Pringle Bay and further along the coast. In addition, several fundraising dinners were organized to help fund SEAWATCH projects.

Evette Weyers

You CAN help protect the sea:

- ◆ Make sure you, your family and your friends stick to the open seasons and only catch limits when taking out seafood.
- ◆ Be aware what is happening in and around the water and report any poaching or suspected poaching to 083 212 2252/3

Waste management

The wooden bins in Porter Drive have been fitted with baboon-proof flaps that have proved very effective. Mike Bartman of the H-K Municipality's Engineering Section had great fun designing something that was people-friendly and baboon-impossible! Residents who have used them have given the thumbs-up, so we have asked Mike to go ahead and fit all our wooden bins with these flaps. The Municipality also donated 3 baboon-proof bins to the CBD, in an attempt to discourage bin-raiding. PLEASE keep all foodstuffs out of baboon reach - after all we don't want OUR baboons eating junk food! A big thank you to Basil Moss for donating and putting in place metal steps in front of the garbage trailer. This was done to make it easier for us to reach and open the trailer door. We're doing what we can to keep our village clean - please do your part too, and don't dump bags outside the trailer.

Saturday 23 September was International Coastal Clean-up Day. This is an initiative started in 1986 and aims to remove debris from the shorelines of the world's oceans. Valuable data on the amount and types of debris found is collected and it is a way to educate people and enhance marine conservation. Since the clean-up began, over 1 million people (all volunteers) from more than 90 countries have taken hands-on action to clean the ocean and shores of our planet. 16 volunteers from Rooiels met at the Seahorse Inn and collected 28 bags.

Koos Smit was filling his bag along the far side of the Rooiels river when a canoe filled with young people came slowly past. Those of the group that couldn't fit in the canoe were following it's progress along the waters edge. Obviously overwhelmed by the amount of rubbish to be picked

up, and seeing a canoe full of potential helpers, Koos suggested the group come and help. After staring at him in disbelief for a few moments, the youngsters shook their heads and moved on. A cynical friend, to whom we recalled the incident a while later had this to say - "Don't be too hard on the young. Given the choice between strutting around scantily covered firm young flesh and picking up refuse I think I'd go for the strutting too. The reason we pick up rubbish is that we're no longer in a position to pick up firm young flesh!"

Estelle and Frank Raymond stood the group to tea and sandwiches at the Sea Horse Inn, while we filled in detailed forms. Some thought this a bind, but I am told that information from these forms was instrumental in persuading our Minister of Environmental Affairs, Valli Moosa, to take steps to ban plastic bags in SA.

Jenny Stark

***Each clean-up
creates ripples
that become
waves of change***

Magic Moments

Dis 'n Woensdag in Julie. Dis bitter koud en die see het 'n glas-groen kwaliteit. Oorlopensvol skommel hy sy ewigheidsdans tussen kontinente en bring boodskappe van verre strande, rol ongelooflike deinings hulself skuimend en bulderend te pletter teen die rotse. Die wit skuim lê tot teen die stoep van 'n huis. Dis my Rooiels!

Lida van Dyk

Ek dink elke mens kry een keer in sy lewe 'n hemelse oomblik. Woensdag 30 Augustus 2000 was vir my so 'n geleentheid. Die bergkuspad van Gordonsbaai na Rooiels toe is 'n baie donker stuk pad as dit donkermaan is en as jy dit in die aand moet aanpak. Dit was my laat-aand skof aan



diens by die biblioteek en ek was op pad huistoe. 'n Bietjie bangerig en dus baie bewus van my omgewing is ek stoksiel alleen op die pad - geen ander liggie naby nie. Amper tuis, so ongeveer 50 tree anderkant die myngrot, val die motor se hoofligte op hom! Pragtig staan hy daar op die veiligheidsmuur, kop omhoog en met 'n trotse krul in sy stert - 'n luiperd.

Ek het aan die gil gegaan en toe besef daar is niemand naby my nie. Vir daardie oomblik was dit net ek en die luiperd.....

Ina Coetzee, Waaijgat

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Chris Gillmore and Jo Henson were out in a boat, fishing. The water was very murky that day. They had just cast their lines when they noticed a very large piece of builder's black plastic floating next to the boat. Chris leaned over to pick it up when he observed a large white eye staring at him. With his hand outstretched above the water, it dawned on him that he was about to pull a whale aboard! Chris jerked back in surprised

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fright and the whale took off with much the same response. It was about 7 metres long and turned out to be a Bryde Whale. She is our resident whale and lives here all year round, unlike the Southern Rights that migrate to our waters during June-November to mate or calf. Chris has seen her several times since. She is very interested in the nets cast out, since she eats small fish herself and knows to approach the boat from the stern and not to come near the anchor.

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Hester de Villiers se hart het vinnig wortel geskiet in Rooiels en sy het ook haar kleinkinders geleer om in vrede saam te leef met die oerbewoners van die gebied. So het die kleintjies begin met "bobbejaansoentjies". As die een oorlamse jong bobbejaan só voor die venster sit, sal 'n kleinkind haar gesig teen die venster se glas druk en, sowaar, daar druk boggom se

kind sy gesig ook teen die glas. So soen hulle mekaar deur die glas. Hester, wat skrik vir niks, gee nou ook soms vir "Maaitjie" (soos hulle die spesifieke bobbejaan gedoop het) 'n "bobbejaansoentjie" en "Maaitjie" sit dan onmiddelik sy gesig en sy hande teen die glas om terug te soen. Moet dus nie verbaas wees as julle by Hester se knus houthuis verbyloop en 'n bobbejaan sien wat sy gesig so gretig teen die glas druk nie. Hy soek nie kos nie, maar liefde - en dis net waar hy dit kry.

Blokkiesraaisel

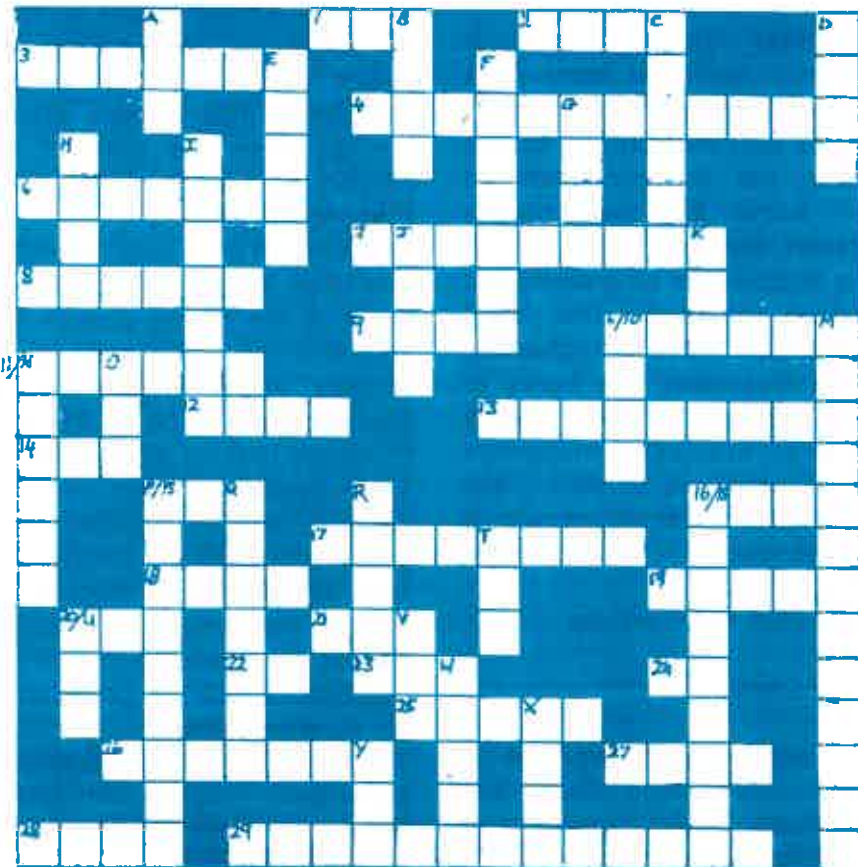
Louise du Toit gee vir ons 'n vet blokkiesraaisel vir die vakansie. Dit het net op Rooiels betrekking, en die oplossing is op bladsy 15.

Af:

- A luiperd het 'n mooie
- B vel van rob
- C intelligente seedier
- D besoedeling op see
- E seevoël-sitplek
- F gevaarlik in wind vir bote
- G besitlike wyfie
- H gooi dood na braaivleis
- I ligene
- J risiko by stranding
- K iemand wat die omgewing minag
- L koue verblyf van walvis
- M aanskoulike weste
- N pragtige nagtelike verskynse!
- O muskeljaatkat se besoektyd
- P naby familie
- Q Strandloper-eetplek
- R kerk, slang
- S besondere Rooielsvoël
- T prooi soek
- U nie kalm nie
- V verraderlik in Valsbaai
- W behuising van seediere
- X Vals, Gordons
- Y winterkos voor kaggel

Dwars:

- 1 Klein-Hangklip
- 2 Duine bestaan hieruit
- 3 Misbruiker van die see
- 4 Bote benut dit
- 6 Venynig in die somer
- 7 Pes
- 8 Blyplek van witkruisarend
- 9 Rekord van dooie voël
- 10 Spermwalvis
- 11 Wes-Kaapse veld
- 12 Gewilde tydverdryf
- 13 Erg bedreig
- 14 Week
- 15 By swarttobie is dit rooi
- 16 Goeie gewig vir perlemoen
- 17 Ou naam vir Rooiels
- 18 Min groei hier
- 19 Kolonie plante
- 20 Seedier
- 21 By ons kraai is dit wit
- 22 Braai saam met vis
- 23 Baie voel so oor seekos
- 24 Permit nodig vir mossels?
- 25 Rondkyk onder die see
- 26 Stapelvoedsel van witkruisarende
- 27 Hoog en laag
- 28 Hoender wat va die dak afwaai
- 29 Net 3 oor by Klein-Hangklip



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Book Reviews

Two excellent books on the sea -

Margo and George Branch; photographs, Anthony Bannister: *The Living Shores of Southern Africa*. Struik.

GM Branch, CL Griffiths, ML Branch, LE Beckley: *Two Oceans*. David Phillip.

The authors of these two excellent books are internationally recognised scientists, associated with Cape Town University. The first is a large coffee table book and is more expansive and detailed in content, exploring rocky shores, sandy beaches, estuaries, kelp beds and the open sea. It also looks at man's involvement in the sea. Then it discusses the sea creatures in detail, what they eat, how they procreate etc. It is very readable for a layman, and fascinating. It is illustrated with beautiful photographs

The second book is an excellent field guide, great to take along while exploring rock pools or to consult after a dive. This book makes it possible for you to identify a creature you are observing, quickly and easily. You can see where in South Africa it is found, exactly what it looks like (great colour photographs), and gain some information about its behaviour.

The books really compliment each other. Both are perfect companions for people spending time in Rooiels.

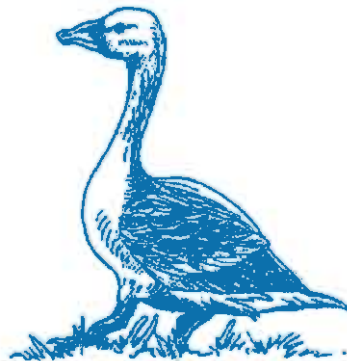
Evette Weyers

A Leopard and a Goose!

Gerald McCann, the pastor of Betty's Bay Lakeside Chapel, has gone into print again, for the second time in two months. During September he published

his first book, *Designed for Destiny*. Now follow two tales with a local flavour.

The Leopard Man of Oudebos is a distinctly Rooiels tale of the Kogelberg, telling the remarkable story of Wessel de Beer - at that time Patrolman at Oudebos - and his remarkable three-year relationship with a wild she-leopard. The story starts with a posse of leopard-hunters setting off up the Rooiels valley, and ends back at the Rooiels bridge. What comprises most of the tale, are de Beer's reminiscences of his memorable encounters with "Old Tufted Tail".



Big Goose - Daddy Goose is a delightful, feel-good story of a macho gander with personality. It starts with the courting couple making the McCann barnyard their home for their mating nuptials, followed by the raising of a succession of green-shoot gobbling goslings. The story follows their move to Highlands, in the Kogelberg; the frolics of the barnyard brood; Daddy Goose's brawling encounters with a mean old Muscovy, and his delicate indiscretions with a spinster goose - among other things!

A rollicking, fun-filled tale.

Jenny Stark

Both booklets are available at the Rooiels Village Shop, and will make super, inexpensive Christmas gifts.

By Invitation

Following Geoff Harris's article on *Tourism in the last edition of Bries/Breeze*, Diarmuid Baigrie gives another perspective

Creeping Commercialism

I have just been overseas for a few weeks, around a relatively undeveloped part of eastern England that is quite beautiful. It is striking how some villages have chosen to attract tourists, and do so in great numbers, with neon and other garish signs, streets of antique shops filled with junk, big parking areas "Ye Olde England" signage on every street. Others have decided not to go this route and are far more appealing to be in, discreetly providing friendly B&B's and good food, while retaining their integrity and authenticity.

When I read in the last *Bries/Breeze* of a new notice board with maps, addresses of B&B's, with a night reading light nogal, and elsewhere a suggested plan to create turning circles to open up servitudes for parking and beach access, I become very concerned that Rooiels should not go down the road of the African equivalent of "Ye Olde England for Tourists".

Of course, it is all very subjective and often just a case of degree, but it is the bigger picture that concerns me. The spirit of the Rooiels Vision should not be sacrificed, bit by bit, at the altar of money-making and misplaced value systems. Apart from the commercial side operators and those with B&B's, I cannot see how the people of Rooiels (or indeed the greater population) benefit, for whom no jobs of any significance will be provided or tax revenue raised.

Tourism as an economic imperative, I agree with totally. But do you prefer Hermanus, say to Amiston?

Gordon's Bay to Betty's Bay? Several years ago, Botswana decided to cut the number of tourists in the Okavango and to increase Park costs. The environment, I believe, has benefited and the economy no less so. Before this change they had the overland tourists, who brought everything they needed with them and spent little, if anything and gave employment to no-one except cleaners. Rooiels still has a chance not to follow the masses and yet to participate in a quality of tourism that is infinitely more appealing in attracting people with binoculars and walking boots, instead of day-visitor invasions and Sunday breakfast-runs. We have thousands of kilometres of beach and mountain in our lovely country. Rooiels should not be trying to be something for which it is not suited, with its restrictive geographic limitations - mountain to sea and little in between. Indeed we should cherish it as a quiet backwater where genuine ecotourists will find a rural area and population who appreciate what we are trying to preserve. As a community, we have to decide which route we want to follow. In over 20 years of owning a house in Rooiels, my family's own experience, along with those of visitors, both local and foreign, is the complete wonder that such a 'raw and rural' environment is able to exist so unspoilt, yet so close to a big popular city. If we want to keep it like this, we will have to be prepared to resist the body of opinion which holds that change of this area is inevitable and then goes all-out to prove itself right.

Diarmuid Baigrie

**Extra copies of
Bries/Breeze
available from
Rooiels Village Shop**

Charlie's Corner



"It would be less than honest of me not to admit that we await the arrival of the "smooth-skins" with keen anticipation. Pickings will be easy, especially in homes brimming with edible Christmas fare, whose occupants think us incapable of climbing a sheer wall or squeezing through a small open space. Then there are those who leave their windows invitingly open while they go out, not wanting to return to a stuffy home. It's interesting to watch them come back from an outing - the expressions on their faces change like Cape weather as they gaze in anger and disbelief at the rearrangements inside!

And do they bring food! Enough to feed a starving continent, and the fatter the "smooth-skin", the more food he seems to bring with him. He packs it into his house, and takes it with him wherever he goes. Then he has to spend all his time protecting it - from heat, sand, wind, flies and us! Fruit, the god-food we love so much, is bound to be displayed in tempting and accessible places, as are bread and cakes. The rubbish bins will overflow with the healthiest parts of fruits and vegetables. Sweets and sandwiches will abound, simply discarded on the beach. Then, of course, our favourites are the visitors who've never seen a baboon before. One glimpse of

us, and they rush inside to grab bananas, which they generously hand out. In return, it seems we are expected to pose for photographs, while they tremble, babble and gesticulate excitedly. Christmas is indeed a time of feasting for all, including us - though I have noticed a bit of an attitude problem when a "smooth-skin" catches us with his Christmas fare - the goodwill part of the Christmas spirit seems to vanish with the food we take."

Features

Swart Mossels

Vir my is swart mossels van die lekkerste kos in die see. Gelukkig het ons redelik baie mossels hier rond. En in teenstelling met perlemoen, groei mossels vinnig. Daar is een mosseltuyn waar mens op 'n mooi stil dag sommer 'n klomp Rooielsers gebukkend kan vind, besig om mossels af te haal. Die mossels is met lang baarde aan die rotse vasgesement. Die jonges stoot die ou grotes geleidelik meer en meer uit en dus is laasgenoemde soms makliker om af te haal. Die oranje en beige kleure is 'n aanduiding van die geslag. Die oranjekleurige vleis is die van die wyfies. Interessant ook dat mens uit dieselfde bedding sekere tye vettes en soms skrales sal kry, ongeag die skulpgröte. Ek het al gehoor dit het met die maan te doen. Jaqui, van "Hook, Line and Sinker" in Pringlebaai, wat vir 'n mossel-telery gewerk het, vertel my weer dat dit te make het met wanneer die mossel saad of eiers skiet. Net daarvóór is die mossel op sy vetste. Die mossels skiet saad in die water wanneer die watertemperature sterk verander, van koud na warm of van warm na

koud. Ek was al verbaas om te sien hoe krimp die mossels na hulle saad geskiet het. Mossels is egter ryk kos en hoog in cholesterol. As hoë cholesterol jou probleem is moet jy liewer net so nou en dan mossels eet.

Evette Weyers

Wenke by mossels aphaal

- ◆ Permitte is nodig om mossels af te haal en is 'n jaar lank geldig. Elke permitthouer mag 30 mossels per dag aphaal.
- ◆ Trap versigtig dat jy nie per ongeluk 'n hele klomp mossels stukkend trap terwyl jy die ou vettes probeer bykom nie.
- ◆ Kies elke mossel versigtig want as jy kleintjies saam afsteek, tel hulle ook as jou kwota.
- ◆ Laat die mossels in 'n emmer seewater staan om hulself "skoon" te maak van sand in die vleis.
- ◆ Haal al die klein perdevoetjies (limpets) en anemone af van die mossels terwyl jy by die see is en gooi dit terug in die see. Hulle word gou vrot buite die water en affekteer die smaak van die mossels.

The Australians have found that mussel shells are useful for stabilizing sandy paths.

Treading on them breaks the shells and eventually makes a fairly smooth walking surface.

The practice is catching on in Rooiels, giving a new look to modern middens!

Lynn Harris has discovered a delicious recipe for Mussel quiche, which she is happy to share.

MUSSEL QUICHE

Processor pastry

375 ml flour
1 ml salt
100 g butter, diced
5ml lemon juice
50ml cold water

Filling

20 ml oil
2 slim leeks, finely chopped
3 eggs
250 ml milk
125 ml cream
large pinch freshly grated nutmeg
2 ml salt
5 ml flour
1x225g can mussels in brine, drained
coarsely chopped paprika

Method

Pastry: Use grinding blade of processor and blend flour, salt and butter well. With motor running, slowly add lemon juice and water through feed tube. Continue blending until mixture forms a ball. Wrap and chill for 1 hr, then roll out and line a 24cm deep fluted flan tin. Cover pastry with greaseproof paper and fill to the brim with dried beans. Preheat oven to 200 C and heat a large baking sheet. Place flan tin on baking sheet and bake blind for 10 min. Remove paper and beans and bake for 5 min longer.

Filling: Heat oil and add leeks. Cover and sweat slowly until soft. Drain on paper towels. Beat eggs, milk, cream, nutmeg and salt. Brush base of pastry crust with 5 ml flour. Arrange leeks and mussels on base. Carefully pour egg mixture over and dust with paprika. Place tin on baking sheet and bake for 35–40 min until just set. Serve immediately with suitable salad for light lunch or slice as a starter. Serves 6 to 8.

Whales

A whale of a story

Rooiels simmered with excitement! It was late August and three Southern Right whales had arrived in our bay. Perfect, calm weather, and the fact that they stayed very close to shore allowed us to watch them, mostly from the comfort of our sitting rooms. And the longer we watched the more "authoritative" became the accounts of what they were up to!



A birth had occurred, I was told, right in front of our eyes. Three whales had arrived on Wednesday afternoon. By Thursday morning, there were only two. With remarkable fidelity to popular legend, the story unfolded. The third whale was a scout who had been dispatched to sea on "shark patrol". The expectant Mom and the midwife waited quietly close to shore and sometime on Thursday night the calf was born. Friday morning saw the quiet scene change to one of jubilant activity as Mom swam out to sea, breaching repeatedly. I was confidently told that she was going to expel the afterbirth, far from her calf, and while she was away the midwife would take care of the new baby. I had watched proceedings from the beginning, and the bits visible above the water could easily be interpreted in accordance with common wisdoms. On Friday afternoon I stood on the high ground close to the sea and

could indeed see two adult whales and one that was very much smaller. Apparently Mom had returned, and they were just taking things quietly for awhile. Sunday saw them still in our bay, until a few young visitors paddled out to them on surfboards and our whale group left the area. This is not the first time I have heard of whale births occurring with the assistance of a shark scout and a midwife. What I had seen might support modern folklore but is this what really happens?

I contacted South Africa's own whale expert, Dr Peter Best of the Mammal Research Institute, University of Pretoria, who has been studying these creatures for the past 30 years.

He listened to my story with the critical cynicism of a good scientist and asked if anyone had actually seen the birth, seen blood in the water at the time of birth, or better still had photographs (preferably underwater ones) of what had happened. "No, no, no" I said, at the same time thinking what a wonderful opportunity for camera-equipped divers to make an important contribution to science.

Although August is peak calving month, Dr Best told me that good evidence to support whale births reportedly seen from the shore is rare. One video sequence sent to him turned out to be a Cape Fur Seal swimming around a whale! He suspects calves are born outside of nursery areas and then brought into them, to avoid the attraction for sharks caused by mass calving. De Hoop/St Sebastian Bay is the most popular nursery for Southern Right whales, harbouring about 100 cow/calf pairs during the breeding season (June-November). They will stay in the nursery for weeks to months. Research is done using aerial photographs and since 1979 more than 1,000

photographs of 1,451 cows with calves have been taken. Southern Rights can be individually identified by different callosity patterns on their heads and 550 cows have now been catalogued. Relatively few cow/calf pairs are seen in Walker Bay, and False Bay is considered a "very low activity" area.

The good news is that the whale population off our coast is growing at a rate of 7% per year, which means that current numbers of roughly 2000 will double within 10 years. So, the next time the opportunity presents itself, take your camera, take the plunge and take enough photographs to establish your place in the annals of marine biological science!

Jenny Stark

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 ever created,
With a fifty-million-year old smile.*

*(from WHALE NATION by
Heathcote Williams)*

Music is possibly the most evocative of the arts. It transcends spoken language and speaks directly to our emotions. On land birds and humans sing, though for very different reasons. I haven't seen any men trying to stake out their territory with songs, lately. And if my husband would have had to woo me (or any other woman, for that matter) with his songs he would have had meagre pickings! Surprising therefore that the Humpback whales sing

extensively, under water to boot. When a calf is born the first thing it hears is a whale song. Humpback whales also court their mates with song. Their songs are complex, change over time and are often half an hour long. They have been recorded singing for more than 10 hours. All the whales in a pod sing the same songs and learn the changes to the songs as they evolve. In other areas Humpbacks will be singing totally different songs. But sometimes whales up to 5,000 kilometers apart will be singing the same songs and making the same changes to their songs.

Sound travels 5 times faster under water. When Humpback whales bounce their songs within a reflecting layer of cold water, trapped between warmer layers, their songs can travel across the breadth of the Pacific Ocean. This is done at a depth of about 1,100 metres. These songs are varied and complex. Our understanding of these long complex songs is limited and we rely on speculation.

*What do whales sing?
Why do their songs evolve?
Do they communicate emotions
Do they pass on knowledge?*

We don't know, just as we do not know why dolphins sometimes rescue humans who are in trouble in the sea. The sea makes children out of us all, full of wonderment and questions.

I read a wonderful book called 'Songlines', by Bruce Chatwin, about Australia. When an Aborigine child is born he inherits a piece of a song that describes a part of the landscape. (They believe the world was sung into being). The child is responsible for that song and that piece of land. He has to sing it in order to keep that part of the

earth created. The whole of the Australian landscape is covered with such songlines. The continent of Australia is thus like a Beethoven opus, a symphony of creation.

I imagine that the vast seas of our planet are criss-crossed with the songlines of the whales. I would love to think that these songs help to keep the seas in place and that the huge submerged landscapes are poetically described in Humpback whale songs that are passed on to their young calves.

Evette Weyers

References:

Bruce Chatwin: *Songlines*

Heathcote Williams:

Whale Nation

The Southeaster

Boerneef oor die Suidoos

*Hoe stil kan dit word as Sedoos
gaan lê
wie kan dit mooier assie tortel sê
wie roerender assie bladstil
bome
assie skewe verwaaide
damwalbome
innie stil vroeërmôre as Sedoos
gaan lê
hoe om 'n stilte in die hart te vind
genadig soos wanneer Sedoos
gaan lê.*

(Op die *Flotina*, Nasionale
Boekhandel, 1967)

The South Easter

Some say that the wind is born in Rooiels, but you only need experience one real South Easter to know that Rooiels is not a wind nursery and these winds are not newborns. No, some other, gentler place gives birth to our winds. There they

begin to grow and gust, swirl and strengthen. Testing their power in some faraway place, only the strongest and most determined are selected to move faster and faster across a vast, flat space, twirling and dancing, skipping, sprinting and surging - growing and strengthening all the while. At some point, the 'kid winds' fuse, become unimaginably large and later quite unstoppable. Now huge and unmanageable, they set off in a surge of energy that speeds them across the Indian Ocean towards the Cape mountain ranges. Here, jagged rocks cleave and carve and smash them, splitting them into faster streams that whip around obstacles and then reunite in whirls and thrusts and spins of accelerating power, each tugging in its own direction, all in the mainstream South Easter.

This is the South Easter that hurtles over Klein Hangklip and the Kogelberg and then tears through the road cutting and along the Rooiels River and over the beach and out to the sea. It carries with it huge quantities of sand, whiplashes incoming waves and drives the water into scores of ghostly dervishes that spiral across an agitated sea in a strangely uncoordinated dance. These are the "rukwinde" of Rooiels, the hugely powerful squalls that gust and tug and make things whistle and bang and slam. They push us and shove us, and pound at our eardrums. They rob us of sleep and make us irritable. They uproot lawns and manage to direct sand and dust through glass and bricks and cement, onto our carpets and into our beds. These are the winds that keep us imprisoned in our houses for days on end. We long for outside, yet keep our heads down and focus our eyes on things indoors - to avoid seeing the windowpanes bending. At night we draw the curtains for

the same reason. These are the winds that lift off roofs, overturn caravans and suck out windows. They loosen rocks that tumble down the mountainsides, sparking fynbos fires, driving small flames into raging infernos.

But, these are the winds that

Put the clouds into fast-forward mode, folding and unfolding in quickly changing patterns.

They sweep the roads and the verges, pick up all the plastic bags and deposit them on the other side of False Bay.

They polish the beaches and sparkle up the sea.

They turn the air to crystal and bring the stars closer at night

They give us the fascinating genetic adaptations of the Cape Floral Kingdom. They make us feel small and powerless and help us keep a sense of proportion in the greater scheme of Nature.

And then they stop. Always suddenly, always a surprise.

When it is over, our world seems to pause - as if all living creatures are waiting to see if the calmness will hold.

Finally convinced that it will, the plants start to straighten up, The birds and animals come out to feed.

The people tentatively start to smile.

We don't talk much.

We open the windows and walk around our houses.

(Checking for damage will come later.)

For now, we marvel at the passion that was,

And we savour the wonderful sound of stillness.

Jenny Stark

BAIE DANKIE aan die
Rooielsbootklub
wat hierdie uitgawe van
Bries/Breeze geborg het!

Kersfees

*Die Suid-oos het die Kaap
Novembermaand besoek,
stropers stormwoes
die boorde ingestuur
om waai-waai groen te oes.*

*God van die wind -
waai deur ons harte
en maak dan, as u dit wil
die storm stil.*

*God van die tempelsweep -
slaan die skynvrug af
en reinig, sonder skroom,
elke tak en boom.*

*Stuur hierdie Kersfees
weer U seun
met sweep en wind,
en teen ons sin,
die Weskaap in.*

Marius Titus

Fynbos

Rooiels Nature Reserve

The entire Hangklip Kleinmond municipal area is situated on the coastal plain between the Kogelberg Mountain catchment area and the Atlantic ocean. Our coastal plain supports many different habitats and ecosystems which, in turn, support many rare and unique species not found in the mountainous areas. Many of the species, which were once abundant on the coastal plain, are now threatened with extinction due to past mismanagement, development or the encroachment of alien vegetation. One percent of the coastal plain is conserved for the future in the nature reserves. Thus Rooiels Nature Reserve has an important function in conservation and we should look after it well.

We have a management plan for the reserve in place and the

advisory committee, headed by professor Tony Hall, has been appointed by the Minister. The public visit the Rooiels Nature Reserve almost daily and people enjoy its beauty, variety of habitats and abundance of species. Professor Hall has conducted several on site talks in the reserve and we plan another one later in the year. Several years back we set aside two other public areas as nature reserves: the "koppie" (erf 199) overlooking the business area, and erf 1 which is situated on the North side of Clarence drive, opposite Roella Road. Erf 1 runs down to the river and provides excellent bird watching opportunities. These three areas incorporate a wide variety of floral habitats and species. They are protected fynbos "stepping stones" from the biosphere to the coast.

We have decided to have a path cleared along the river up to erf 1 and to erect a hide from which one can observe the rich bird life, unnoticed. As soon as it has been completed we will let you know via the hack letters.

Evette Weyers

**Best wishes for a
Blessed Christmas and
a Happy New Year!**

Alien plant species

In many parts of the world "alien" (introduced) plants are responsible for major disruptions to natural ecosystems. Because alien species have evolved in other parts of the world, they are often less severely attacked by predators and pathogens than similar indigenous species. They tend, therefore, to be at a competitive advantage in the struggle for resources. Their spread can result in the decline

and possible extinction of indigenous species that have taken aeons to evolve.

About 160 plant species introduced from abroad have become invasive in this country, affecting 10 million hectares of land. Most of these species are deep-rooted alien trees (like rooikrans and Port Jackson), that consume more water than natural fynbos. Altogether the invasives use about 7% of the water that would normally flow into our river systems. Besides threatening South Africa's water resources, invasive aliens are a dangerous fire hazard because they burn intensely and at high temperatures, endangering lives, threatening property and killing indigenous fauna and flora.

As one of the signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity, South Africa has an obligation to "prevent the introduction of, and control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats, or species". We are currently engaged in formulating legislation to this end.

The Wildlife and Environment Society of SA (WSSA) has recommended a National Action against Aliens.

Suggested National Action

- ◆ Create an awareness of the problem posed by alien species.
- ◆ Support government efforts to impose tougher controls.
- ◆ Support national eradication campaigns.

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**Thanks to the
Rooiels Hackers
for helping
preserve our
natural fynbos**

Planting a fynbos garden in Rooiels

Having tried my own hand at planting *Proteaceae* in our new garden, I have noticed that my success rate with hybrids is much higher than with wild species, which means that my garden (and those of my neighbours) are being systematically populated with beautiful hybrids. Is this a threat to indigenous species, and living as we do in the buffer zone of the biosphere, do we have a responsibility to prevent hybridization?

Hybridization is a natural process that results from cross-pollination between two species (sometimes genera) growing in close proximity. The seeds produced yield plants having characteristics of both parents. However, most NATURAL hybrids produce weak plants that are sterile or bear only few seeds. Dr John Rourke of the National Botanical Institute says that on a walk through the Kogelberg Biosphere, he would be surprised if he did NOT see at least 3 or 4 natural hybrids. He has noticed *Erica perspicua/patersonii* hybrids near the Betty's Bay rubbish dump and recently saw a *Spatalla/Sorocephalus* cross in the Suurvlakte near Porterville. According to Dr Tony Rebelo of the Protea Atlas Project, these little runts of nature are not serious contenders for a 'take-over' bid of naturally-occurring wild species.

But what about commercial hybrids? Unlike their natural counterparts, these plants are specifically selected for characteristics such as prolific blooms and vigorous plant growth. It is the fine, healthy specimens we will probably be attracted to while strolling through a nursery and it is important to remember that because they are products of repeated hybridizations, SOME

are extremely fecund and will happily hybridize with other plants, producing more vigorous offspring. In some cases commercial hybrids are seed-sterile, but unless they are also pollen-sterile they can still pollinate other plants in the area, and thus produce more hybrids with wild species.

Dr Rebelo says that gardeners worried about the effect of hybrids on natural populations should only plant what is indigenous to the area. Thus *Pr longifolia* and *Pr mundii* would be permissible in Rooiels, but not *Pr susannae*. Furthermore, red *Pr repens* (from the West Coast) should not be planted in Rooiels, where the white variety occurs naturally. Dead-heading plants is an artificial hybrid control strategy that gardeners might consider. But in order to be effective, all seeds would have to be destroyed (e.g. plucked, removed and incinerated), and dead-heading would have to be done over the entire area covered by plant pollinators (e.g. for birds this would be over several kilometres). If you wish to avoid genetic adulteration, only plants from seeds collected in the area should be grown, which means you should avoid buying plants from nurseries in Hermanus, Caledon and Villiersdorp and when buying from local nurseries should seek reassurance that plants are grown from locally collected seeds.

Mark Johns, Manager of the Kogelberg Nature Reserve, says that while he is aware of the potential danger of plant hybridization in the buffer zone of the biosphere, the limited financial resources at his disposal must be used to control aggressive alien invasives such as *Hakea*, *Pine* and *Acacia* species. Alien proteas (e.g. Australian species) can be aggressively invasive since they have left their natural enemies at home, but existing evidence is

that indigenous *Protea* hybrids are not, and their impact on the biosphere, if any, will be slow and subtle - at least Mark hopes so!

Where does that leave the Rooiels gardener? Dr Rebelo has this to say -

*Remember,
Hybrids are natural
Hybridization can be bad, but it can also be good - ask any horticulturist*

Hybridization can occur between natural species and commercial hybrids

We don't yet know the hybridizing effects of garden plants on natural species

We don't even know if hybridization with garden plants is a problem

At this stage we need to monitor hybridization in the biosphere

*But most important,
We have an urgent and pressing responsibility to ensure that indigenous plants survive alien invasives and fires.*

Jenny Stark

Die Nuwe Wapen Teen Rooikranse

Daar is 'n nuwe toevoeging tot die span uitkappers op Rooiels, en sowaar nie uit die geledere van *Homo sapiens* nie. Nee, die nuweling is 'n vierpoot. Sy vat die rooikransboompie, uitgewys deur haar eienaar, netjies tussen haar tande vas en trek dan die jong boompie uit. (Ek het dit met my eie oë gesien, helder oor dag!) Sy is dan baie ingenome met haar sukses en hardloop eers vir 'n ruk lank met die boompie rond. Ons kla egter nie oor sulke entoesiasme nie. Inteendeel, dit word verwelkom saam met die langasem passie van Koos Smit en Diarmuid Baigrie vir die uitroei van rooikranse. Die slim dier ter sprake is die Duitse herdershond, Klara, en die man wat

haar touwys gemaak het is haar eenaar, Andreas Claassens.

Intussen het ons nog steeds die ou wapen teen rooikranse die jaar gebruik, nl. 'n groep tweebeenige kappers gewapen met langsteel knippers, sae, en enkele kettingsae. Let bietjie op hoe die rooikranse verminder in ons dorp en hoe die fynbos meer vasskopplek kry.

Baie dankie aan almal van julle wat gehelp het met die kapdae.

Evette Weyers

Bird Chat



Firstly, happy festive greetings one and all!

Compressing the last few months into a few sentences isn't the easiest task, but here goes. Winter came and went rather meekly this year and heralded a typical Cape spring. With it came the usual flurry of nest-building, nesting, chick raising and all the melodrama of predator-versus-prey. Would-be predators come in many shapes and sizes (mongoose, snakes, ravens, other birds too numerous to list, and domestic animals). Our own garden has for many years been a sanctuary for birds to raise their young, and they have rewarded us by trustingly bringing their offspring to show them the local restaurant, presumably good since several generations have repeated the process! This is especially true of 'our' francolins, as spring

brought two hens with a total of 11 balls of fluff, now teenagers. The chicks are semi-precocial (able to walk at hatching), and though still partially dependent on their parents they are quite able to fend for themselves. This contrasts with the altricial birds, e.g. yellow-rumped widows and robins that are quite helpless at birth. We 'lost' one robin's nest, probably to a snake, but the determined parents built a second nest at the heart of our palm tree, ensuring would-be predators a spiky reception.

The widows this year have been a surprise, as the males are usually polygynous (having more than one female to each male). Last years broods seem to have produced too many males with the result that the females have called the tune this year - don't we always?

Bird watching starts with the eyes and ears. Far better 'eyes' are a pair of binoculars and a reference book is indispensable, especially to beginners. There are an amazing variety of good bird books on the market, if anyone is short of a Christmas present idea. I personally find *Sasol: The Larger Illustrated Guide to Birds of Southern Africa* ideal for quick reference and fieldwork, but it is short on information. So, *Roberts' Birds of Southern Africa* still remains a birding 'must have'. Garden birds in your own environment depend on where in Rooiels your erf is situated. Look out for bulbuls, buntings, sparrows, wagtails and flycatchers. Less obvious might be the sunbirds, apalis, cisticola and grassbirds.

I have found birding in Rooiels over the years an exciting and varied experience - as varied as the numerous bird types we have seen. Our list now stands at 159 species. Copies can be obtained from the Village Shop, for a small donation to Sea Rescue.

As it is the festive season, how about these for crackers this year? A barn owl, a penguin and flamingos! As all crackers have a witticism included, let me finish with an actual funny incident. A leading Cape ornithologist was caught out by a colleague, using the Roberts numbers for quick identification (e.g. robin is 601 bulbul 566 etc) when he exclaimed "Look at that 747"!

Enough of that! In conclusion may your holiday period be full of chat (hopefully not always stone(d) chat), lots to swallow, much raven about, a bit of a lark with a few nightjars, but not too many to make your neighbours grouse and in tern phone the police secretary bird, thus bringing it to a swift end!!

Happy birding indeed!

Alison Ayre

Lok voëls na jou tuin

Jare gelede het dr Douglas Hey, destydse Hoof, Natuurbewaring van die Kaap-Provinsie in "Die Burger" wenke gegee vir die bewaring van voëls in die tuin. Hier is 'n opsomming vir ons tuine.

Voëls het drie basiese behoeftes: skuiling, kos en water. By gebrek aan bome om in te sit sonder om deur vyande bedreig te word, sal digte bos skuiling bied, ook teen wind en weer.

Die grootste vyand is huiskatte, gebore jagters van voëls. Selfs 'n nekklokkie om voëls te waarsku, help nie veel nie. Verwilder hulle met kluite! Voer- en drinkplekke moet so geplaas word dat katte hulle nie kan voorlê nie.

Voëlbaddens moet vlak en wyd genoeg wees sodat 'n aantal voëls saam kan drink of selfs bad. Dit moet daagliks skoon gemaak word en soms tot drie maal per dag volgemaak word. Plaas dit waar dit maklik dopgehou dan word.

Vrugte- en saadvretende voëls kan gelok word deur saad- en bessiedraende struik. Maar vul natuurlike kos aan met 'n spesiale voerplekkie. 'n Platform op 'n vensterbank of hangende basis of een op 'n steel moet ook nie skuiling vir die vyand bied nie. Saadeters: gee 'n mengsel saad of broodkrummels daaglik, maar vir 'n groter verskeidenheid voëls bied 'n mens 'n groter verskeidenheid kos aan. Slagtersaagsels is 'n mengsel van been, murg, vet, bloed en vleis. Dis kos vir die bokmakierie, janfrederik, lyster en janfiskaal. Kap spykers in die voerplank om stukkies kaas in vas te druk. 'n Slap spiraalveer waarin blokkies kaas gesit en in 'n boom opgehang is, sal kraologies lok. Almal weet vrugte, in 'n droë tak gedruk, is 'n vreugde vir tiptolle en muisvoëls. Bamboes, met ingeboorde gate, maak 'n goeie koshouer uit, maar miere moet te alle tye weggehou word. Die vyfstertuin maak ook voorsiening vir suikerbekkies. Om hulle te voer, neem jy 'n klein geurselbotteltjie, verf dit geel of rooi en sit 'n prop met 'n kort glasbuisie daarin. Die buisie moet so wees dat die voël sy bek daarin kan steek. Vul die botteltjie met 'n mengsel verdunde kondensmelk, heuning en 'n bietjie vleisekstrak. Plaas dit langs nektardraende blomme. Voëls sal bly terugkom selfs na die blomme af is. Verryk jou lewe met voëls!

Louise du Toit

***A fed baboon
Is a DEAD baboon***

BOBBEJANE In Rooiels moet ons bewus wees van die probleem om bobbejane onbewustelik te voer. Alle voëlkos word ook deur bobbejane geniet en strategieë moet gevind word om die twee van tafel te skei. Die beste manier is om kos vir die

voëltjies vroegoggend uit te sit en dan nie in oormaat nie. Dit sal verseker dat die bobbejane wat effens later slaap, geen oorskietkos in die voedselbakke sal vind nie. In die middag, vertrek die bobbejane gewoonlik vroeg genoeg na hulle bergvestings sodat aandete vir die voëls na 17h00 uitgesit kan word.

**From the ridiculous
to the sublime**

*Of, die vergroening van
Rooiërs!*

Ligbesoedeling het 'n kwessie geword ná elektrisiteit die tjoeftjoeft van kragopwekkers saans vervang het. Laat daar lig wees. En daar was lig. Skielik was daar somer baie lig! Die gedreun van die kragopwekkers was weg, maar ook die fluweelswart nagte. En wat beligting betref moes ons 'n nuwe "saamleef met mekaar" voel en vind.

Ek let op hoe ons om mekaar dans as ons met ons diere gaan stap (honde, katte, ens). Ons hou mekaar se staptje en roetes dop en vleg ons eie roetes en tye daaromheen. Wat ons diere betref, het ons goed leer saam dans in ons pogings om mekaar te akkommodeer. Daar is ander areas waar ons nog moet leer saamdans of immers minder op mekaar se tone te trap. Mag ons nog die Stadige Minuet met ons karre aanleer, om nie te veel stof op die naburige huise te strooi nie; die Afrika Riel om die indringer plante uit mekaar se tuine te weer en die Swartnag Samba om ons bure se genieting van die donkernag sterreheem te akkommodeer.

Evette Weyers

**Remember!
RERA AGM
Wed, 27th December**

Nuusflitse

Erf 324

On 3 November, the High Court set aside, on environmental grounds, the decision of ex-minister Kobus Meiring to approve the subdivision of Erf 324 Rooiels into 13 erven. Judges Conradie and van Heerden also awarded costs in the matter to the Save Klein Hangklip Association, which took the decision on review. This effectively brings to a close more than 7 years of opposition by members of the Rooiels community to the development of this sensitive and pristine area on the slopes of Klein Hangklip. During this time more than 185 objections, as well as a petition, were lodged against the sub-division

We HAVE made a difference!

Slegte nuus

'n Mens sal nie weer die pienk sluier blomme aan die rooiels bome by die Clarencerylaan teken op pad Gordonsbaai toe sien nie. Trouens, 'n mens sal nooit weer die pragtige groot bome daar sien nie. Hulle is daarmee heen. 'n Groot rots het in die klofie afgestort en hulle flenters geval. Net kaal kort stompies het bly staan.

Daar was nie berigte van motors of mense wat in die slag gebly het nie, maar ons bome..! Al plant hulle dadelik 'n sterk jong boom, neem dit jare om die leemte te vul.

Nog slegte nuus

In die week van 28 Augustus het die harde gepiep van die arendkuiken stil geraak. Hy is op 7 weke dood*. Ons vermoed dat die swaar reën in die tyd gekeer het dat die ouerpaar kos kon gaan soek. Geen dassie waag dit in die reën onder 'n rots uit

nie. 1997 het die laaste vorige kuiken opgelewer. Dit is 'n goeie teken dat daar vanjaar hoe-genaamd 'n eier(s) gelê is. Dalk is ons volgende jaar gelukkig. Dalk is die een voël tóg nie 'n onervare nuwe maat nie en kry hulle die kuiken groot.
**Interessant, 1998 se kleintjie is op 31 Augustus dood.*

Congratulations!

To Elizabeth Moss, one of 3 winners of The Premier's MTN Cape Tourism Good Samaritan Award, for her part in helping 7 members of a Swiss soccer team injured in a motor accident on Clarence Drive on Monday 7 February, 2000. As a trained nurse, she was able to assist the paramedics and, by making a quick assessment of the situation, help the injured in the best way possible.

Blokkiesraaisel oplossing

Het jy geweet?

Deur die geskiedenis het juweliers beelde gemaak van 'n stof wat uit die ingewande van 'n walvis kom. Ambergris, dit is letterlik grys barnsteen, kom net by die potvis ("sperm whale") voor en by geen ander walvis nie. Dit is 'n abnormale wasagtige swart-grys afskeiding wat aanvanklik naar ruik. Dit word binne die potvis aangetref of drywend op see.

Groot geld is vroeër vir ambergris betaal, ook toe potvis aan ons kus gejag is. Dit is veral in die parfuumbedryf gebruik tot sintetiese plaasvervangers bekend geraak het.

Herman Melville wy 'n hele hoofstuk in sy boek Moby Dick aan ambergris.

Louise du Toit

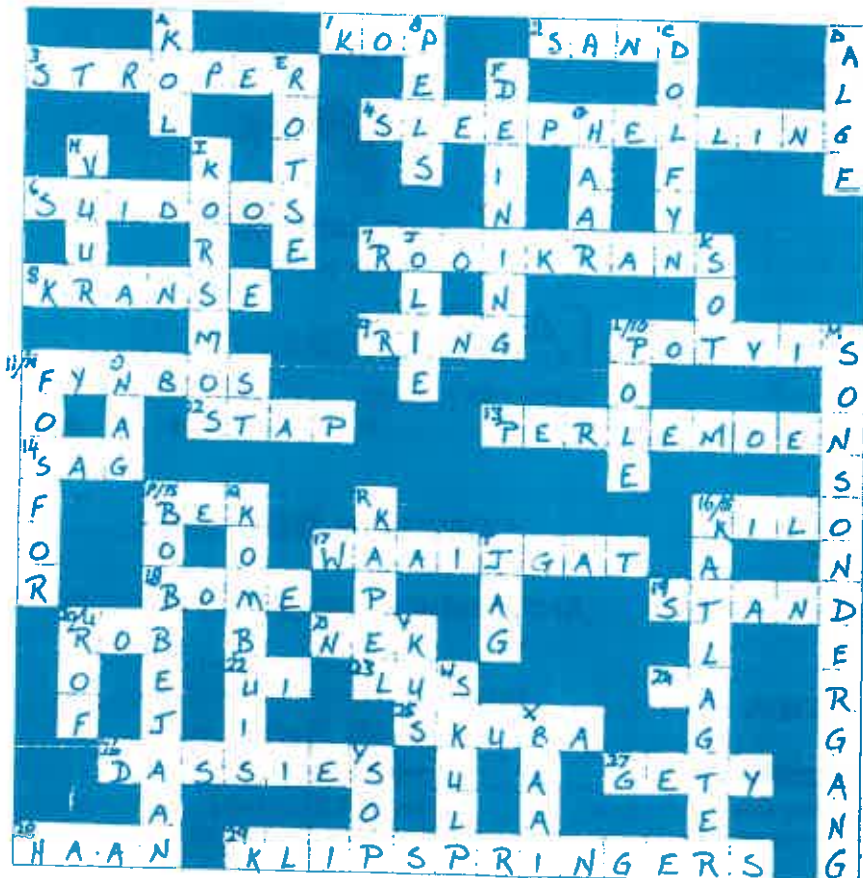
Notices

Rooiels Boat Club

The new season is fast upon us and our membership continues to remain very stable with few changes each year. Faces and first names are now familiar and if someone has had a "good" year we are quick to spot the new shiny engines and the new model inflatable with deck chairs and ashtrays.

This year we are again having our Village Boat Day on Friday, December 29 to which all Rooielsers and their families and friends are invited. Be down at the slipway at 9am and, on a first-come-first-serve basis, have a boat trip with one of the club members and his crew. Life belts are obligatory and will be provided by the boat skipper if the weather is poor an alternative date will be announced.

Our annual Club Crayfishing Competition is held on New Year's Eve and funds are raised for Sea Watch and the NSRI. Last year they received R2500 and R1000 respectively. It is a fun morning and a good day to hang around at the prize giving and enjoy the banter and beer while bumming a kreef or two. We would also like to pay public tribute to Margaret Hensen who administers the issuing of keys and receives subscriptions for the club. Without her we would be organisationally shipwrecked.



**Remember,
 Letting off firecrackers
 Terrifies the tortoises
 Jangles genet nerves
 Baffles baboons and
 Dumbfounds the dassies
 It is also illegal!**

dassie droppings!

...

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