

# Bries Breeze

DESEMBER/DECEMBER 2003

ROOIELS BELASTINGBETALERSVERENIGING (REBV) POSBUS 89 BETTYSBAAI 7140  
ROOIELS RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION (RERA) PO BOX 89 BETTY'S BAY 7140



CONTAINER BAY, ROOI ELS

## DIE GEES VAN ROOI ELS

Rooiels is 'n verrassende plek. Dit betrap my telkemale onkant met 'n onverklaarbare helder vreugde.

Dis 'n vreugde wat ek ervaar elke keer as ek van die teerpad afdraai. Wanneer 'n spannetjie hardgebakte fisante vasbeslote in die stofstraat voor my motor uitdraf en weier om 'n sentimeter toe te gee - want in Rooiels geniet voetgangers voorrang.

Dit is suiwer vreugde wanneer ek droomverlore oor die see uitstaar en 'n walvis hier reg voor my uitspring en met 'n knal die water tref. Dis 'n stil vreugde van kaal voete in 'n helder rotspoel en die lawwe vreugde van klipvissies wat met my tone speel. En ek verwonder my aan elke klipvis. Want hoe klein en gering ookal, elkeen is anders. 'n Unieke individu wat is en nooit weer sal wees nie in hierdie groote wye heelal...

So ook is dit met die mense van Rooiels.

As uittredende voorsitter, was dit vir my 'n onverwagse vreugde om op hierdie toegewyde en entoesiastiese komitee te dien. Almal vrywilligers, menslik en onvolmaak, maar mense wat onbevange en met vreugde van hulself en hul tyd vir Rooiels gee.

Elkeen van ons word soms moedeloos. Daar's tye wanneer dit voel asof die Rooiels wat ons ken, vernietig word. En dit maak seer. Maar dis niks anders as die skadu-kant van omgee nie, dit is onlosmaaklik deel van die vreugde van Rooiels. Soos lig en donker, is vreugde en hartseer - kan die een nie sonder die ander bestaan nie.

Dan spring 'n walvis weer voor ons uit die water. Byna asof hy wil troos. Asof hy sê: "Kyk! Daar is veel sterker kragte hier teenwoordig." En hy herinner ons daaraan dat die gees van Rooi Els nie een van wanhoop en negatiewiteit en lafhartigheid is nie, maar een is van krag en liefde en respek.

ESTELLE RAYMOND  
VOORSITTER REBV

DAAR IS, GOD WEET DIT,  
VREUGDE IN WATER EN LIG.

-T. T. CLOETE

# TOWARDS A SHARED VISION..

## THE ROOTS OF THE FIRST VISION

A bit of a "once upon a time" story: Early in the 1990's ... on an average Saturday morning, there would be as many as 20 boat trailers scattered along the Rooi Els beach around the slipway. And there would be 4 x 4's and bakkies parked along the road to the slipway, preventing access and vehicles from turning, and also along the adjacent roads, blocking driveways.

Harsh words were spoken between swimmers and boatmen. Tempers would flare between boatmen, since some couldn't launch and others couldn't land their boats because there were too many trying to use the slipway, all at once.

So, the swimmers plotted to ban the boatmen, while the boatmen wanted to ban the swimmers. Swimmers argued that the boaters were a hazard to swimmers ... boaters argued that swimmers were a nuisance to boaters. Boaters wanted more parking at the beach and a bigger slipway to allow more boats.

A small working group was pulled together, comprised of representatives of the lobby to ban launching of boats and of those who wanted to enlarge the slipway facilities and remove the swimmers. Out of that meeting of minds arose the controlled facility both swimmers and boaters enjoy today ... neither boats nor swimmers losing the pleasure they wanted and the rampant poaching being reduced.

From this success was born the idea in 1994 of creating a broad vision for Rooi Els that would bring together the different ideas about the future of the town and would guide the development of our town, its facilities and its environs.

## THE BIRTH AND DECLINE OF THE 1995 VISION

The 1995 RERA Exco workshopped ideas to craft the vision statement and supporting ideals that are familiar to most residents in Rooi Els and presented this to RERA members for acceptance.

From the outset, the vision reflected a consciousness about conservation and the preservation of the nature of Rooi Els.

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

With time, the vision statement and the associated ideals needed to be refreshed. The idea was mooted in 2002 to start a more inclusive process to draw up a new vision that would enjoy broad support from the whole Rooi Els community and all organisations that represent community interests. At around the same time, the idea of forming a conservancy in Rooi Els came under discussion.

## A NEW VISIONING PROCESS IS LAUNCHED

In August 2002 representatives from all organisations within Rooi Els and interested people from the community were invited to participate in a visioning workshop facilitated by Dr Elizabeth Dostal.

The outcome of the workshop was a set of vision ideas and themes for Rooi Els that needed to be further worked. Those present nominated six people to develop and recommend a new vision from the output of the workshop. Those six were Izak Lessing, Chris Burlock, Estelle Raymond, Geoff Harris, Debby de Vries and Rob Fryer.



# ...TOWARDS A SHARED VISION

## INITIATION OF PROCESS TO ESTABLISH A CONSERVANCY

A meeting was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> April, to which all Rooielsers were invited, to test support for the establishment of a conservancy. The meeting was addressed by the Chairman of the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, Tony de Silva.

Guidelines for the establishment of a conservancy and a pro forma conservancy constitution, supplied by Nature Conservation were distributed.

Two motions were passed by the meeting:

- That we commence with the process of establishing a Conservancy for Rooi Els and any surrounding areas that may wish to participate.
- That the Vision work group should become the steering committee for the conservancy and that others be invited to join. A further 7 people were nominated at the meeting as an extension of the vision work group.

## DRAFTING A NEW VISION & PLANNING THE CONSERVANCY

The vision work group held weekly workshops during June and July to draft a new vision, values and supporting themes document, to consider the process for the establishment of a conservancy and to plan for engagement with the wider community.

During this time a questionnaire seeking input on the values the community identify with for Rooi Els was sent out with the Breeze. The questionnaire resulted in 32 responses all of which confirmed the general direction the vision working group had taken in drafting the values statements.

Chris and Debby attended a presentation on the experiences of others in the formation of conservancies. They found that many of the things that have been established in Rooi Els for some time have yet to become a reality in these conservancies (e.g. the Eco-Centre, hacks, black-bag days, waste recycling, nature education walks etc.) and were encouraged that we are on the right track.

## EXTENDED CONSERVANCY STEERING COMMITTEE

Two meetings of the extended conservancy steering committee were held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August and the 13<sup>th</sup> of September. These reviewed the draft vision document and amended the content and the format. The steps required for the registration of a conservancy and the proposed area of the conservancy were discussed. A draft constitution was worked via exchange of e-mails following the second meeting.



GRIZELDA HALL, JEAN COWEN & ROB FRYER AT THE WORKSHOP AT HAROLD PORTER GARDENS



DR ELISABETH DOSTAL, FACILITATOR & JENNY STARK

## PROCESS GOING FORWARD

The workshop on 15 November confirmed the vision process. A draft vision document will soon be distributed to the whole community. Public workshops will be held to further develop the vision and to promote understanding of and commitment to the vision. Local organizations and local government need also to be engaged to gain support for and understanding of the vision.

The Conservancy is an important strategy of living our vision. Founding Conservancy members on 15 November adopted the interim constitution and nominated an interim governing body / Exco to finalise and register the constitution, draw up a draft management plan, recruit members and conduct the first Conservancy AGM. It was decided to split the functions of the Vision and Conservancy Committees. The Conservancy Exco will go ahead and register the conservancy as many are ready to commit to membership of the Conservancy and its ethos. If you are interested in joining, please contact Debby de Vries or Chris Burlock with your e-mail address details.

ROB FREYER

# OUR CONSERVANCY SEARCHING FOR THE RIGHT LOGO..



## CAPE CLAWLESS OTTER

Otters are known as "indicator species". They only survive in ecologically well-balanced environments. An otter therefore is symbolic of a healthy ecosystem and that is what we are striving to maintain. Surely there is no greater pleasure than witnessing otters frolicking on our shores.

## CARING HAND/HANDS

At the Conservancy workshop Elizabeth suggested we look at introducing "us" into the logo. Caring hands is an example of how this could be done.



**ROOI ELS**  
CONSERVANCY / BEWAREA

## THE CHACMA BABOON

It is believed that baboons will soon be extinct on the Cape Peninsula! Here in Rooi Els they have their detractors...but they are an icon of this area and very much part of our lives. Should we not stand proud as a community that is concerned with the conservation of all Biosphere diversity ...not just the species that suit us! Here are 2 examples of baboon renditions...

(a) noble...or (b) stylized.



**ROOI ELS**

Rooi Els is really badly sign-posted on the R44. To rectify this and more importantly to immediately convey our community's commitment to conservation (to both visitors and potential property purchasers), it has been suggested that we erect a sign at the main entrance to Rooi Els. This would probably take the form of a neat wall with a stone-packed base that carries a Rooi Els conservancy logo.

The logo we finally select should be able to be translated into a small pottery conservancy badge that each conservancy member can display on their entrance.

Logos are hugely subjective...so we know that everyone will NOT choose the same one! But it would help to see if there is a general direction that is popular...ie. using Rooi Els leaves or the Klein-Hangklip mountain or an animal as the theme...

Here are some rough design ideas together with a motivation for each one.

Please give us your comment by post or email to Chris; PO Box 260, Pringle Bay, 7196 or [izulu@mweb.co.za](mailto:izulu@mweb.co.za)



**ROOI ELS**  
CONSERVANCY / BEWAREA

## THE ROOI ELS TREE

Rooi Els is the heart of the fynbos biome. This Floral kingdom is unique and under threat from the encroachment of urban development and agriculture. Our village is named for the Rooi Els (Red Alder) tree that still grows in some kloofs and gullies of the Kogelberg. To have been named Rooi Els there must have been many growing here once...but possibly felled for their timber. The super-imposition of the distinctive leaf pattern and "butter-spoon" on the Klein-Hangklip mountain links our conservation community to its position within the Biosphere Reserve and its position within the Cape Floral Kingdom.



**ROOI ELS**  
CONSERVANCY / BEWAREA

## KLEIN-HANGKLIP

This mountain is the custodian of the village and a landmark that identifies Rooi Els from afar. It is the icon of this unique place and represents all that live in its presence...our community, the fynbos, the wildlife and the sea at its base.

# APPEAL AGAINST N2 TOLL

I think I can safely state that we Rooielsers are united in our opposition to the proposed N2 toll road proposal and the high-handed treatment of our concerns.

Despite having voiced these at every opportunity, we, like others, are simply ignored as the steamroller rolls on crushing everything in its path. RERA, Overstrand Municipality and various local bodies of ratepayers have voiced strong opposition - all to no avail. Rumour has it that the only cognisance taken of any objection was that of the Taxi-owners from Khayelitsha who threatened a boycott of sorts and a section was re-routed to accommodate them. Perhaps we should join them!

Our main concern is the inevitable increase in traffic, especially the articulated "heavies", which will try to use the R44 (Clarence Drive) as an escape route. While this will no doubt be more serious during the envisaged construction period, the problem will certainly persist in the future. Clarence Drive was never designed with heavy traffic in mind. This stretch of the R44 is one of the outstanding scenic roads in the world and a major tourist attraction. This will most certainly cease to be the case if it becomes a high density traffic artery. Traffic jams and accidents will destroy the tourist appeal of the area and inevitably result in long-term loss in tourist related revenue and job creation. Noise, air and traffic pollution are also inevitable and, with the rumbling and 'resonance' of the 'heavies', yet another Chapman's Peak disaster is just waiting to happen. Already we experience regular rockfalls after high wind and rain to such an extent that the authorities have been forced to erect warning signs disclaiming any liability!

And remember, this disaster is about to unfold in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve!! A fact the developers are trying to ignore. We asked for a separate EIA to determine the possible impacts. This too was ignored - the official EIA only refers to the narrow "corridor" on either side of the N2.

RERA has appealed against the decision to accept the EIA on the basis that:

- the process has been flawed by the almost callous indifference towards public concerns raised.
- the alternative route along the R44 is completely unsuitable for ANY increase in traffic volume, let alone to accommodate heavy vehicles; and
- the EIA has been inadequate insofar as it failed to take any cognisance of impacts on the area along the R44 as a result of heavier use of this alternate route.

Public participation? -Phooey! That's a load of codswallop.

GEOFF HARRIS



## CECILE JONKHEID ONS NUWE AREABESTUURDER

Cecile Jonkheid, nuwe Areabestuurder vir Hangklip-Kleinmond is 'n vriendelik en toeganklike mens, en is vasberade om die meer omvattende visie vir plaaslike regering uit te leef.

"Die sosiale verantwoordelikhede met sy uitdagings om gemeenskappe en individue te bemagtig is 'n meer uitdagende rol as die diensleweringaspekte van vroëer".

Cecile en haar man het Kaap toe getrek in 1989 vanaf Natal. Hulle het vir 'n jaar in Somerset-Wes gebly en daagliks deurgery na Bettysbaai waar haar man stadsklerk en tesourier was en sy as administratiewe beampte by die Munisipaliteit in Kleinmond gewerk het. Later het hulle die 'Ou Losieshuis' op Kleinmond gekoop waar hulle nou nog woon. Die ou huis, sorgvuldig in karakter ingerig, met sy pragtige tuin is 'n aanwinst vir Kleinmond.

Cecile het die afgelope 3 jaar in die strategie kantoor op Hermanus gewerk waar sy die geleentheid gehad het om vele werkswinkels van die Departement van Provinsiale en Plaaslike Regering by te woon. "Ek het in al die afdelings van plaaslike bestuur gewerk oor die afgelope 23 jaar en het dus breë vlak ervaring, maar met die blootstelling van die afgelope 3 jaar kon ek meer vertrouwd word met die kernuitdagings van ons nuwe visie en missie vir die Overstrand Munisipaliteit."

"Op Kleinmond is ons 'n klein span wat mekaar goed ken, tog het ons goeie betrekkinge met die senior bestuur op Hermanus."

Cecile is bly om weer haar gewig in Kleinmond te kan in gooi en stel veral bewaring en mensontwikkeling as prioriteite voor.

# TWO MAGIC WORDS THAT HELP STOP ANIMAL ABUSE

Yes, there are two words that can help stop puppies from being destroyed because they have mange, help stop drunks from breaking dogs legs because they misbehave, and help stop cats from producing endless litters of unwanted kittens: the two magic words are "STOP ORDER"!

Working as a KAWS volunteer in the underprivileged areas of Kleinmond, I see so much need...the people need, their children need, so its not surprising that their dogs and cats come last!

"But why do people keep dogs when they are jobless, live in a shack in a squatter camp and have hardly enough food for themselves?" I am often asked.

In my experience there are several answers. A dog is their equivalent of a security company...protecting what little their master has, should a stranger get too close. But more importantly these people have the same desire to own a dog as we do! Many love their dogs just as much as more privileged folks, but they have been brought up in a very different 'culture of caring'. Yes, they often harshly beat their dogs if the animal misbehaves. But as kids they were harshly beaten when they did wrong! And that's why we KAWS volunteers are working very hard to try and instill a **new** 'culture of caring', because that's the only way we will get to stop having to treat burns where dogs have been doused with boiling water, set broken leg bones and stitch up stab wounds!

KAWS receives no funding support other than membership donations, fundraisers like jumble sales and the small change in collection boxes. Thankfully the Municipality partners us by subsidizing sterilizations and the euthanasia of sick or suffering animals, and Dr Peter Dave gives his time at the Clinic and cuts his fee in half to treat our welfare cases...(but we still have to find the money to pay the other half!)

And that's where you come in! KAWS needs ongoing funding. Just a few stop orders of R25 or R100 a month would really help! Many people have been very generous with their time, (although more helping hands are always welcome!) Thanks to volunteers, in its 2½ years of existence, KAWS has achieved much for animals and their owners.

3 KAWS fieldworkers, (all women!), collectively spend more than 7 days a week in the underprivileged areas, checking on animals and talking with their owners...instilling the concept of caring, responsible pet ownership. Fellow Rooi Elser, Chris Burlock, runs the KAWS Kadet programme, empowering school children to be pet care role models in their families and their neighbourhoods, and also teaches basic dog training skills to adults in Proteadorp.

KAWS volunteers have built, repaired and loaned out some 70 kennels, so dogs no longer spend winter in the freezing rain. And we run fortnightly Community Veterinary Clinics out of the Proteadorp Community Hall where animal owners (with incomes under R 2000 p.m.) can bring their dogs to be dipped, dewormed, vaccinated at a nominal cost, and receive free veterinary attention. Your stop order will help us continue this work... and you will have the satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference, every day of every month!



EXAMINING A TOWNSHIP DOG WITH MANGE

If you can help, please have a stop order made out to KAWS, BOE Bank, Branch code 440512, Account number 3447718701 D. Thank you!

ESTELLE LE ROUX

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TO HIS DOG, EVERY MAN IS NAPOLEON. HENCE, THE CONSTANT POPULARITY OF DOGS.  
- ALDOUS HUXLEY

## INVASION AND DEVASTATION

Devastation of fynbos and littering in Rooi Els has reached unprecedented levels in the last year. The blame can be placed fairly and squarely on the shoulders of certain builders operating in Rooi Els.

Many property owners have been subjected to, amongst others, the inconvenience of pollution, littering, trespassing and damage to their properties by building construction activities in their proximity. They have also witnessed the appalling devastation of the fynbos and other natural features by inappropriate building methods which have included earth moving equipment and blasting and denuding the whole erf of all its natural vegetation.

In order to address this situation, RERA, at the request of many hapless neighbours of sites on which construction has, and is occurring, has drawn up a document that outlines the regulations and guidelines for builders operating in eco-sensitive areas such as Rooi Els. This has been approved by Mr Nel, the building inspector at the Hangklip / Kleinmond district of the Overstrand and is now being attached to all plans approved for Rooi Els. There has been interest from the other villages in this district to obtain and implement these guidelines too.

The document was based on a dated municipal set of guidelines. However, the new document includes input gleaned from the experience and observations of several residents of Rooi Els.

It guides the prospective builder and the property owner through procedures that should occur before building even begins. The 10 categories covering all aspects of construction work, is comprehensively covered. These include excavation and demolition, environmental protection, stockpiling of building materials, waste and pollution control, water management, site re-instatement (and other re-instatement if necessary), staff management, site buildings and toilets and advertising boards.

*"Regulations and Guidelines applicable to owners and builders in ecologically sensitive areas"* is available from Mr Nel at Kleinmond Municipality or from RERA.

Contact persons: Mr Nel 028 2729 263 or Debby de Vries 028 2738 037

## NATIONAL WINNER

The Overstrand won R 1 million as national winner in the cleanest town competition. The prize money has been awarded by Department of Environmental Affairs and comes out of the poverty relief fund. The intention is identify or initiate waste management and environmental projects which benefit the entire community now and into the future. There will be a strong emphasis on environmental education and job creation so that the successes already achieved are sustainable. The residents of the Overstrand will be given the opportunity to make suggestions and provide ideas on how best they feel the prize money should be spent.

## SALE OF HOLIDAYSCAPE

Holidayscape the exclusive holiday accommodation company working with Rooi Els, Pringle Bay and Bettys Bay was sold to Tom and Eleanor Prinsloo in October 2003.

They can be contacted on email [holidayscape@holidayscape.co.za](mailto:holidayscape@holidayscape.co.za) or the website [www.holidayscape.co.za](http://www.holidayscape.co.za) or tel/fax 028 271 5775 for further information, a copy of their brochure, bookings and enquiries.

The founders of this Rooi Els company of 14 years, Helen and Alison wish them continued success in the coming years.



LET'S KEEP PARADISE  
PRISTINE - THANKS FOR  
CLEANING UP AFTER  
YOUR DOG.

( ESPECIALLY ON THE  
BEACH )

# KLIPKRONIEKE

OP ROOIELS IS DAAR NIE EINTLIK STOEPSTORIES NIE. KLIPSTORIES WEL. EN VAT JY AAN IEMAND SE KLIPPE, DAN BREEK DIE KLIPPE LOS. DIT MOET WEES OOR DIE GROOT KLIP WAT SO OOR ONS WAAK. WAT SO LEKKER ALLITIREER : KLEIN-HANGKLIP. DIT MOET WEES OOR HY SY KOP SO TEVREDE KNIK AS ONS SO BEKLIP OOR ONS KLIPPE RAAK.

EK KAN MY MOS SO VERKYK AAN 'N KLIP

WANT EK IS OOK KLIPMENS

GEVORM UIT STOF

GEKAP UIT KLIP

Gaan kyk in my tuin en jy sal my klippe sien. Elkeen uitgegrou, opgetel en aangedra. Neergesit sodat hy/sy in verhouding met 'n ander klip kan staan. Party is afsydig en ander onbeskaamd. Sommiges wil elke jaar omgedraai word en ander woel dieper in. Gou kom jy agter as 'n klip nie sy lê kry nie. Dan rol jy hom verder om.

Van oral in die wêreld bring ek 'n klip saam. Daar is 'n rivierklippie uit die Volga. En 'n splinterklip van 'n eensame eiland naby Ierland. Van iewers uit die Karoo spook gestolde mossels langs my kaggel - om uit die klip te breek. Daar is 'n plat klip uit die Sederberg en 'n halfklip uit die Transkei. Vanuit die Verre Ooste 'n ronde maalklippie wat ek vir maande in my broeksak gedra het. In die mure van my huis is seeklippies

En ek kén my klippe. En dis na hulle wat ek so vrek-verlang. As ek net weer al met die sandspoor kan opstap na my stoep met klippe wat my flank. As ek hulle net weer in die somer kan natspuit as hulle so warm gebak is en die stoom kan ruik. As ek net weer die klippe op my vensterbanke, boekrakke, vloere en studeertafel kan optel en ruik en beluister.

Maar hier sit ons vasgesweet op 'n tropiese eiland.

Toe ek my kon kry het ek hier in die berge drie klippe opgetel en aangedra huis toe. Die ene beginne afskil asof hy van binne wil oopbars. Die ander een is niervormig en dan die groter, ronder ene. Toe ek my kom kry het hulle plek gekry op die retro glastafel. Styf teenmekaar. Klip langs klip. Klip op glas. Toe koop ons twee glasharte, rooi en blou, en sit dit langs die klippe. Glas op glas. Klip langs glas. Soos 'n Andy Warhol-print.

'n Paar dae later laat die metafoor my steier. Toe ek kliek. Watter klipgedagtes in die onderbewussyn saamklip. Toe bars alles oop: dat ek nie sonder 'n klip kan lewe; dat hulle daar op die glastafel lê om my te herinner aan my rooielsklippe; dat daar hoeveel oergedagtes en oergebeure in daardie drie klippe saamgeklip is; dat ons die harte is, gekoester deur klip.

(VERVOLG LANGSAAN)





# KLEIN-HANGKLIP SE KLIPLEGENDES (VERVOLG)

Eldie Brink pak na elke naweekkuier sy klippe so mooi in gelid uit op sy inrit.

Daar is huise met klipname: Klipsweet. Rotsig.

'n Straatnaam: Rocklands

Pieter Fourie bou sy folly daar teen die berg met klip. Om volmaanaande daar konsert te hou.

George Ryke bou 'n huis om 'n yslike rots. Vandag staan dit die helfte van Geoff Harris se sitkamer vol.

Daar is die storie van kwaibuurmenskap oor klippe op die dak, soos pampoene, teen die wind.

Herbert en Gail Voigt noem hulle klipboma Zimbabwe.

Buurman Louis de Villiers sien ek nounog. Hoe hy die voorlaaier voorkeer en die groot Eskom rotse in sy tuin laat stort. Seker ook nou onwettig, maar wat.

So dra ons met moeite klippe aan om te keer dat motors in die natuuresrvaat inry, destyds. Die volgende dag toe stop mev. xxx daar met haar motor en vat al ons klippe. Toe daar alarm gemaak word, jaag sy weg en gaan sluit haar motor in haar motorhuis toe. Met die klippe in die donker katebak. Op so 'n skitterblou wintersdag.

Toe hulle die slote vir die elektriese bedrading grou, kom hulle op mooi wit ronde rivierklip op my werf af. Vir miljoene jaar daar gelê en wag vir Eskom. In kliptaal praat hulle nou en vertel van die groot bevryding.

Ek hoor daar is 'n kliphuis op Rooiels gebou.

Toe Petra Muller Rooiels besoek, kry sy 'n Rooielsklip vir onder haar kussing. Sodat sy meer klipgedigte dig.

Dan sien ek vir Dennis Cowen en sy klipmuur. Soos 'n ouwêreldse Moses en sy staf staan hy daar en sê voor hoe die klipkunstenaar die muur moet bou. Maar eers kap hy elke klip met sy staf. Laat dit omrol, Bekyk die klip. Besweer die klip. Totdat die klip sy plek kry. Nou is daardie muur vir my soos 'n breë Brahms simfonie. Vol tekstuur en kleur.

By die elegante boekwinkel langs die kanaal met die palmbome ontdek ek Afrikaklip. Agter glasdeure vasgevang lê visfossiele van Marokko. Vir 'n dag se salaris koop ek oopgebreekte klippe met die fynste sardiengeraamtes daarin vasgestol. Dit moet saam terug na Afrika. En die glasharte. Na my hart daar langs die see.

GERARD SCHOLTZ  
OKTOBER 2003  
HSINCHU



# THE POWER OF APPRECIATION

We live in a unique time. This could be our finest hour. You might not have noticed it with all the bad news in the media but there are some good things happening out there. Most of this good news tells the stories of individuals or small groups of people who decided to make a difference by choosing to make their dreams become a reality. Homo sapiens (that's us!) plays an active and critical role in shaping what our world becomes.

WE IN ROOI ELS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME ONE OF THOSE PIECES OF GOOD NEWS.

We could be the story of how a small community lives in an ecologically balanced way to the benefit of all - not just for our time but for the lives of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

We will leave a legacy - a wealth of diversity and beauty or a barren wasteland which is a monument to our own shortsightedness.

It is our choice and that choice is now.

We live in the midst of the most diverse floral kingdom on the planet. We have been blessed with clean air, clean water, the natural beauty of the mountains and sea not to mention a wonderful climate. What can we do in Rooi Els to conserve this for future generations?

We can begin by appreciating what we have. By seeing the best of 'what is' we hope to ignite our collective imagination of 'what might be'. We hope that you will help us to generate a vision of what is possible. Dreams become reality when we have a shared vision.

TO HELP US DISCOVER OUR DREAM WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT ROOI ELS?
- WHAT DO YOU WANT ROOI ELS TO BE LIKE IN 10- 50 YEARS TIME?
- WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ACHIEVE THIS?
- WHAT COULD THE COMMUNITY OF ROOI ELS DO?

PLEASE SEND YOUR ANSWERS TO [ruthmatt@mweb.co.za](mailto:ruthmatt@mweb.co.za)

There are many perspectives and each one, when combined with others, creates new possibilities for action. Your views are important because you are a part of the future. We know that Rooi Els will thrive when each person has the enthusiasm and commitment to create a desirable shared future.

RUTH MATTISON



"OF WHAT IS HOPE COMPOSED?  
PART OF THE ANSWER IS THE  
ABILITY TO MAKE CHOICES.  
TO BE WITHOUT CHOICE LEADS TO  
HOPELESSNESS AND CYNICISM.  
OUR CHOICES SHAPE OUR FUTURE."

-MAX DU PREEZ

# IN MEMORIAM ISSIE RYKE

Baie van ons het vir Issie Ryke leer ken in die dae toe jy nog jou erf sommer daar by die Sea Horse kon koop. Oor 'n koppie goeie koffie en haar beroemde appeltert is die transaksie beklank. Op haar gulhartige manier het Issie jou dan ingelyf tot die geheime van Rooiels. Dit was in die dae toe die Sea Horse die middelpunt van Rooiels se bestaan was en geliefde Issie haar restaurant en Rooiels soos 'n koningin regeer het.

Nou is Issie nie meer daar nie. En saam met haar is 'n kas vol stories oor Rooiels toegesluit.

Ek onthou eendag toe Charlie I, die ander koning, doodrustig verby Issie stap waar sy met groot lawaai hom met 'n besemstok probeer keer - daar voor die Sea Horse. Moedeloos roep sy uit: "Hij had geen respek vir een vroumens!"

Daar is die storie wat Die Burger gehaal het oor ou Charlie, die connoisseur, wat haar appeltert uit die oond kom steel het. Ek hoor haar vannaand weer lag as sy vertel van Charlie se vrou, die diva, wat van skok agteroor van die balkon tuimel, toe George met 'n solo en die trekklavier lostrek. So het baie van ons kosbare herrinneringe aan hierdie ruim vrou.

Issie kon lekker stories vertel. Ons het hoeveelmaale aan haar lippe gehang as sy vertel hoe sy as jongmeisie in Holland aartappels vir haar familie in die nag moes uitgrawe om hulle aan die lewe te hou. Van lang afstande per fiets om noodsaaklike middele bymekaar te kry. Van swaarkry. Van die groot liefde in haar lewe: George. Met trots het sy telkens die trouportret gewys. Issie die mooi jong vrou. Langs haar die fier jong George. Hulle koms na Suid-Afrika en die grootmaak van die kinders. En dan Rooiels, die Sea Horse wat sy begin het, die plasië agter die berge, die mense, die see, en altyd die bobbejane.

'n Saluut vannaand aan George wat sy geliefde Issie die laaste paar jaar so teer versorg het. Aan hom, die kinders en kleinkinders, ons innige meegevoel met julle verlies. En aan Rooiels, wat sy koningin verloor het, luister hoe die bobbejane vannaand in die klowe treur.

Ek hoor Issie se lag weer opborrel.

GERARD SCHOLTZ

WHEN IT IS OVER,  
I WANT TO SAY: ALL MY LIFE  
I WAS A BRIDE MARRIED TO  
AMAZEMENT.  
I WAS THE BRIDEGROOM, TAKING  
THE WORLD INTO MY ARMS.

MARY OLIVER:  
WHEN DEATH COMES



'N FYNBOSTUIN VIR DIE NAGESLAG - GEORGE EN  
ISSIE PLANT FYNBOS BY DIE INGANG VAN  
ROOIELS OP 'N REENERIGE LENTEDAG

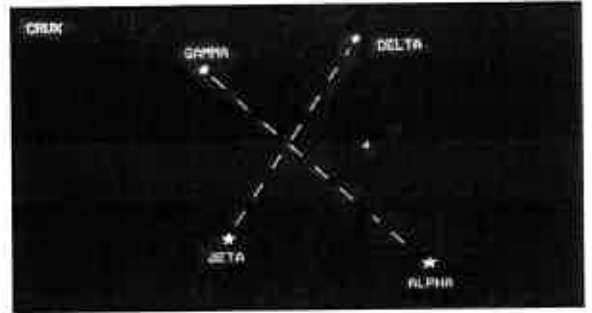
# KEN ONS STERRE: DIE SUIDERKRUIS

"EN MAG DIE SUIDERKRUIS EN NEGESTERRE

WITTER

AS DIE STADSLIGTE IN JOU SIEL BLY SKITTER"

- DJ OPPERMAN



Die Suiderkruis is elke nag regoor Suid-Afrika sigbaar, maar nie orals, dwarsdeur die nag nie. Net in die wintermaande is hy oral in die land in die suid-weste sigbaar. In Kaapstad (en Rooiels) gaan die Suiderkruis nooit onder nie, en kan dwarsdeur die nag gesien word.

Die Suiderkruis is sonder twyfel die herkenbaarste sterrebeeld in die aarde se lugruim. Die eerste letters van die Griekse alfabet word gebruik om sy sterre aan te dui. Die helderste ster aan die punt van die "lang been" van die Suiderkruis is Alpha Cruxis, die tweede (kloksgewys) is Beta Cruxis, die "boonste" ster is Gamma Cruxis en die vierde ster is Delta Cruxis.

Die vier sterre is nie net pragtig nie, maar die kruis-beeld wat hul vorm is baie opsigtelik. Daarby het die Suiderkruis 'n baie praktiese nut vir die mensdom. Soos 'n groot horlosiewysers wys sy punt altyd na die suider hemelpool. Verleng die lengte van die Suiderkruis vier en 'n half maal en bepaal die ligging van die suider hemelpool.

UIT "KEN ONS STERRE - 'N GIDS VIR DIE GROENTJIE" DEUR FRANZ CONRADIE,  
ISBN 0-620-15932-4, KRANSBERG KOMMUNIKASIES.

## DIE MELKWEG

OP 'N MOOI DONKER AAND KAN MENS  
DIE MELKWEG PRAGTIG SIEN. DIT LOOP  
DEUR DIE SUIDERKRUIS EN STREK VAN  
HORISON TOT HORISON.

IN ONS MELKWEGSTELSEL IS DAAR  
VOLGENS KONSERWATIEWE  
BEREKENINGS TUSSEN 100 000 MILJOEN  
EN 400 000 MILJOEN STERRE.  
STERREKUNDIGES IS NOG NIE SEKER NIE  
WANT HULLE VERMOED DAT DAAR  
STERRE IS WATONSIGBAAR IS VANAF DIE  
AARDE. DAAR IS VERDER DUISENDE,  
MILJOENE, BIJJOENE SOORTGELYKE  
MELKWEGSTELSELS IN DIE KOSMOS...

## A ROOIELSER'S LAMENT

THERE IS A STRANGE PERSON CALLED BRIGHT  
WHO NEVER CAN GET ENOUGH LIGHT  
HE TURNS ON ALL FOUR  
AND, OH, WHAT A BORE,  
HE LEAVES THEM BURNING ALL NIGHT!

-JOHN ON THE HILL

# HEAVENLY WONDERS NEAR THE SOUTHERN CROSS

## THE JEWEL BOX

Take a look at the second star of the Southern Cross, Beta Crusis. Right next to it, a faint "star" can be seen. Now take your telescope and look at it. What appeared to be an indistinct little star to the naked eye, is actually one of heaven's most beautiful sights. It's a star cluster. Nowhere else in the skies of the earth is there such a gathering of bright and multi-coloured stars. Pastel shades of blue, red, green, purple and yellow. Truly, a jewel box!

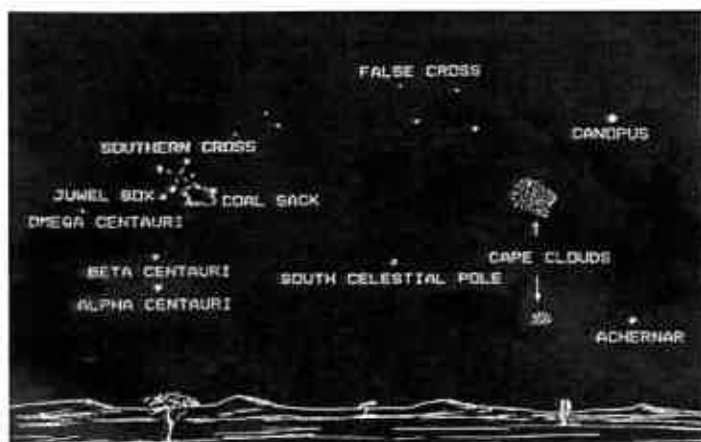
## THE COAL SACK

In between the four bright stars of the Southern Cross, countless other faint stars of the Milky Way can be seen. The Southern Cross is, of course, part of the Milky Way. However, there is one spot where virtually no stars can be seen, no matter how dark the night. Take your binoculars and have a look: between Alpha and Beta Crusis, you will see a dark patch with no stars at all: as dark as a coal sack...

Is it possible that there are, by design or accident, no stars in this part of the Milky Way? No, say astronomers who listen to stars with radio telescopes, there are just as many stars beyond the Coal Sack as in other parts of the Milky Way. The Coal Sack is actually an enormous, vast cloud of gas and dust, so dense that all stars beyond it are obliterated.

## BETA CENTAURI

Beta Centauri, also called Hadar or Agena, is the closer companion or pointer to the Southern Cross. Beta is the 10<sup>th</sup> brightest star in our night sky and estimated to be more than 10 000 times brighter than our sun. Beta Centauri is 490 light years from Earth, so it appears to be less bright than the other pointer, Alpha Centauri, which is a "mere" 4,3 light years away.



## ALPHA CENTAURI, OUR CLOSEST NEIGHBOUR

The other pointer to the Southern Cross, Alpha Centauri is the third brightest star in the earth's night sky. This is because it is so close to us, compared to the other stars. Alpha Centauri is not the name of a single star, but three stars orbiting each other. Through a binoculars you might see two. The third is so faint that it can only be observed through large telescopes.

## THE CAPE CLOUDS

Take a line from the long axis of the Southern Cross, through the South Pole, to about the same distance beyond. There you will notice, on a dark, clear night, two faint "clouds" in the sky. These "clouds" fascinated the old Portuguese seafarer, Magellan, in his circumnavigation of the world in 1552. He realized that they were not real clouds and speculated that they may be part of the Milky Way which had "drifted away". Whatever the case may be, these "clouds" are two of only three examples of other galaxies, apart from our own Milky Way, that are visible to the naked eye. Many years after Magellan discovered them, the two galaxies were named after him: the Magellanic Clouds. However, in layman's terms, they are often referred to as the Cape Clouds.

## ACHERNAR

While we are looking towards the south, quite near the smaller Magellanic Cloud, we see a brilliant blue-white star. This star was one of the most southern stars the old Arab astronomers could see. They named it Achernar, meaning "end of the river". Achernar is about 650 times as bright as our sun.

EXTRACT FROM "STARGAZING FOR THE NOVICE" BY FRANZ CONRADIE,  
ISBN 0-620-15932-4, KRANSBERG PUBLICATIONS.

LET'S KNOCK LIGHT POLLUTION LIGHTS OUT!

DO NOT MISS OUR ART EXHIBITION  
ABUNDANCE AND FRAGILITY: OUR SEA  
IN SCULPTURE, PHOTOGRAPHY, PAINTING, FLORAL ART AND JEWELRY  
WEER BY PERSPICUAWEG 260  
22-27 DESEMBER  
10:00 - 17:00  
10 INTERPRETASIES

\*\*\*\*\*

KOM KOOP OF BRING AL JOU  
WIT OLIFANTE  
TEN BATE VAN NATUURBEWARING  
OP 29 DESEMBER, PERSPICUAWEG 260.

LOOKING FOR CROCKERY OR FURNITURE OR A PLACE TO GET RID OF STUFF?  
MAY WE HAVE YOUR FUNDS? THEN LET US HAVE IT BY 27 DECEMBER

(JAMMER MANS VERKOOP NIE GOED NIE!)

## PARADISE

Extract from a poem about Rooi Els  
by a visitor from Holland

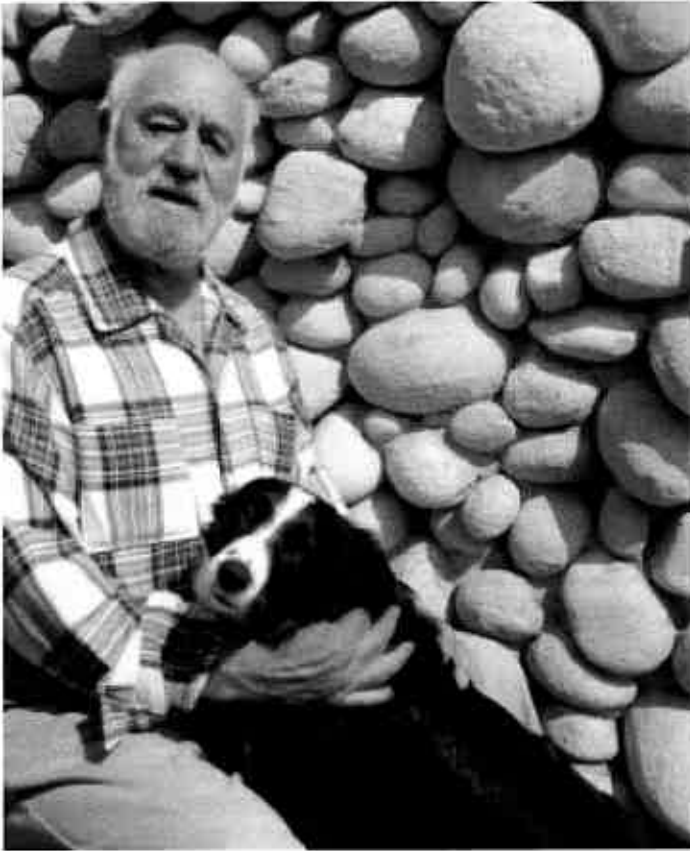
THE OCEAN WIDE THE WHALES THE  
SHARKS THE SEALS AND MANY MORE  
THE EAGLES FLYING MOUNTAIN HIGH  
THE BIRDS THE BEES THE FLEAS  
THE SNAKES THE LEOPARDS AND BABOONS  
BARKING AT ENEMIES THEY CAN'T SEE  
THE FYNBOS PROTEAS FLOWERS WILD  
THE COLOURS THERE TO PLEASE  
AND THERE WE HAVE A LITTLE BEACH  
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL  
WITH SAND AND DUNES AND GRASS  
AND ROCK FOR THE RAIN FROGS TO  
PLAY AND LAUGH AT FULL BLAST  
TO SAY THE LEAST OF THE HOWLING  
WIND BOY COULD THAT ONLY LAST  
WHAT A WONDER OF A PLACE TO BE..

CATHINKA DE VRIES  
NOVEMBER 2003  
LEEK, NETHERLANDS



# ROOI ELSERS EN HUL DINGE..

## JAKKALSSTREKE IN LONDEN



GEORGE EN MAX (ALIAS JAKKALS)

'n Ruk gelede keer George Ryke my voor. Kaalkop, stokdoof, en sonder tande. "Dis mijn skaaphondjie," sê hy. "Sy kan baie kwaad doen." Toe het Jakkals sy mus, tande en gehoorstuk opgevreet.

Jakkals kuier gereeld die hele dorp rond opsoek na speelmaats en opwinding. Verder dra sy goed aan huis toe en die Rykes se werf lê vol voos gekoude skoene, uitgespoelde karkasse, blikke, stokke en bene. Alles Jakkals se skatte.

Ek stuur die storie vir die koerant en Jakkals en George beland op bls. 3 van Die Burger.

Maar dis nie al nie. In Londen slaan Marius Weyers die *Independent on Sunday* oop. Hy was daar om die rol van Verwoerd te speel in Anthony Sher se I.D. En op die agterblad lees hy die storie van Jakkals en George van Rooi Els. Njannies. Nugter weet hoe dit daar beland het, nogal met 'n foto van 'n skaaphond daarby wat definitief nie Jakkals is nie.

Internasionale roem dus vir Marius en Jakkals.

DINE VAN ZYL

## PLANTDIEWE (AMPER) VASGETREK!

Dis die laaste Saterdag van Augustus. Dit reën. En onherkenbaar in reënhoede en jasse is 'n man en 'n vrou besig om doodluiters met vurk en graaf fynbos uit die klam aarde oorkant die Village Shop te verwyder.

Een persoon, kom ons noem hom Jo se vriend, staan nader, verduidelik ontsteld dat hulle oortree want die erf behoort aan Jo. Nee, sê die plantverwyderaars, kyk daar loop die grens, dis munisipale grond dîe en ons wil net 'n paar plante verplaas. Argumente trek heen en weer. Want sien, Jo is in New Zealand en iemand wil sy belange beskerm.

Die man en vrou word moeg van verduidelik en gaan voort om die plante te verwyder, oënskynlik oortuig van hul reg daartoe.

Perspektiewe verskil egter, en Jo se vriend maak alarm. Die boosdoeners het die plante verwyder en loop nou weg daarmee, sê hy. Jenny en Koos arriveer, uitasem en rooi in die gesig, om die astrante fynbosdiewe aan te keer, ook Chris, met die vaak nog vlak in haar oë, om die plante te red.

Nou ja, tot almal se verligting en vreugde was dit toe maar net Hettie en Ernst, ons energieke en toegewyde tuinmakers besig om die plante verplaas na die nuwe beddings. Nogtans, dankie Jo se vriend, ons is bly as mense omgee. Omgee is wat die verskil maak.

Maar mens kan darem nie help om (tong in die kies) te wonder waar kom al daai mooi klippe by die nuwe beddings vandaan nie? Debby! sê die mense, was die gawe...en wettige omgee-gewer.

LIDA VAN DYK

# THE ROOI ELS HEALTH & HACKIT CLUB

## "AN ALIEN A DAY, KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY"



AFTER ACTION - TEA AT WONDERLINGS:  
TONY, GRIZELDA, EVETTE, ELSABE, MIKE, JANE, JENNY,  
SHIRLEY, FRANK, IAN AND PHILIPP

Over the past three months the Health and Hackit volunteers have been hacking at Klein Rooiels, clearing the area from Camp road to Clarence Drive. We have had a marvelous turnout over the last few hacks and everyone concerned has worked hard to remove Rooikrans and Manatoka from the area. Keeping up with the chain saws is quite challenging with so much vegetation cleared but the results have been noticeable with pristine views now available down to the glimmering sea below.

P.R.O.T.E.A. have also been working in Klein Rooiels clearing alien vegetation around the Clarence Drive bend and clearing Kikuyu grass which had invaded the municipal land.

At the P.R.O.T.E.A. report back meeting on the 22 November the Hack Groups from Rooiels, Betty's Bay and Kleinmond were warmly thanked for their efforts. Some interesting statistics emerged from the meeting:

- 71.49 hectares have been cleared from April 1999 to date. This figure is probably understated as only verified data has been included.
- 4971 person hours are officially recorded again only using verified data.
- At a miserly R25 per hour this equates to a saving of approximately R75,000 to the municipality.

Although significant progress has been made, Rooiels is still not pristine in terms of the presence of alien vegetation. A number of privately owned plots are badly infested with alien trees. The seeds from these trees infect the clean areas and undermine all our efforts. The law requires any person in control of land to remove alien invading plants growing there. Some local authorities are now even looking at increasing the rates liability for land owners whose land is infested.

We appeal to owners of such plots to contact us and we would be very happy to clear the land on their behalf. In doing so we would be grateful if a donation could be made which would contribute to the purchase and maintenance of our hack equipment.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the hack this year. Much has been achieved.

SHIRLEY RICHTER



DO THE RIGHT THING - TAKE OUT ALIEN INVADERS!



# LIVING IN THE BIOSPHERE

## NEWS FROM KOBIO

KOBIO was established to promote the registration of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. Since this was successfully accomplished, KOBIO has assumed a new role, that of watchdog over the management of the Reserve according to the intentions of the UNESCO guidelines. We strive to see that the Reserve is well managed and that the core and buffer zones are protected against undesirable developments.

To clarify this goal, in March we organised a workshop at which 45 influential conservationists, planners, officials and legal authorities gathered to highlight problems and find a way forward for the management of the Reserve.

A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT HAS BEEN THE FAILURE OF THE SECTION 21 COMPANY ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE KBR.

According to Ruida Pool of Cape Nature Conservation, the company is not operational due to unforeseen circumstances. It is worrying that according to press reports, some directors seem to be acting independently in accepting donations for projects that are questionable from a conservation viewpoint without consultation with other directors or reference to a proper management plan.

Because of this, KOBIO has proceeded to take action where appropriate against some undesirable developments in the buffer zone of the KBR.

During the year objections were made to:

- The large scale housing development on the farm De Draay, east of Kleinmond. The Minister recently upheld our appeal against the Municipality's decision to approve development.
- Arabella phase 2 which proposes construction of an additional 18 hole golf course and some 380 additional houses adjacent to and north of the existing development.
- The decision of the Department of Mining and Minerals to allow the construction of a quarry near Grabouw.
- The decision to allow the construction of a perlmoen out-growing facility in Pringle Bay.

Various other NGO's have joined us in these objections.



KOBIO also appealed to Dennis Moss & Associates and BMW not to continue with the proposed construction of an artificial island and a 30 metre steel causeway into the Botvlei on Arabella for the launch of a new motorcycle model. These plans have subsequently been revised and we thank them for that.

These actions have led some of our critics to claim that KOBIO is against all development. Our critics seem to think we wish to take away owners' rights. We contend that if a property zoned for agriculture was bought, it is not removing any of the owner's rights to object to his trying to have it rezoned for group housing or an industrial development. Contrary to what our critics seem to believe KOBIO is not against development per se, but only that which is inappropriate to what we feel the UNESCO guidelines indicate for a biosphere reserve.

LOUIS VAN HEERDEN  
CHAIRMAN: KOBIO

### THE SEAMLESS WEB OF LIFE

RECOGNIZING THAT ALL FORMS OF LIFE  
ARE INTERRELATED,  
AND THAT WHAT AFFECTS ONE, AFFECTS ALL,  
WE STRIVE  
TO BE CARING AND SUPPORTIVE TOWARDS  
EACH OTHER, AND TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR THE CARE OF OUR  
PRICELESS NATURAL HERITAGE,  
BOTH IN ROOI ELS AND  
THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

-JEAN & DENNIS COWEN

# BIRD CHAT

Yes it's **that** time of year again. The festive season has always been a time for reflection; contemplating the promises to ourselves to redress the transgressions of the year and to try and keep those resolutions we'll foolishly(?) make at some totally inopportune time, ah *c'est la vie!!*

History will remember 2003 as the year the USA and Britain once again joined forces to, rightly or wrongly, to unseat a tyrant, while Israel and Palestine continued along their self-destruct road. Our grandchildren will read documentation of heroics, appalling injuries and devastation but I doubt they will recall the impact of the Iraq War on birdlife.

"WHAT ARE YOU TWEETING ABOUT?"

Many of "our" birds are migratory and the war will have had a potentially dramatic effect on their migration. Millions of birds pass through Iraq and the rest of the Middle East *en route* to their varied breeding, wintering or summer grounds. These astonishing journeys are not non-stop, but as with ourselves, are punctuated with 'refuelling' and stop-overs where they may remain for several days. Disruption or destruction of such areas could cause havoc to the many species involved. As early as March this year leading South African ornithologists were voicing their serious concerns citing the consequences of the 1990's Gulf War with the destruction of wetlands, by warfare or post combat drainage examples.

While in Europe this winter we noticed a decline of swallows in the U.K. but a substantial increase in Greece. The widening of the Sahara has meant that the journey is becoming increasingly difficult notably with regard to access to water. Only time will tell if the European Swallow will become domiciled in Europe alone and deny us those "summer sights" of telephone wires weighed-down by their arrival and their autumnal departure, or simply stay in Africa, or find new destinations by avoiding the obstacle of the Sahara altogether.

Our francolin seem to have had a bumper breeding year with several clutches, the smallest was four, the largest eight spread over a period of nearly two months. There have been few fatalities. A chance sighting in early November of several Alpine Swifts lead us to discover a small breeding colony on the southern side of Klein Hangklip below the Eagle's nest. These are the largest swifts in South Africa and are ironically both summer visitors and residents, (one presumes the resident ones are fed-up with the Eurasian weather too!). They are flight personified and quite unmistakable with their white belly and black chest band.

We had the pleasure of seeing a young bokmakerie at the entrance to the small-holdings in late October therefore establishing that there is / was a breeding pair in Rooi Els at some point. The white-fronted sandpipers have once again tried their nesting luck along the 'hotel site' beach path. As with the oystercatchers their survival rate is not good - man, beaches and birds don't mix that well .



Unusual sightings in our late spring following wintery weather were a single grey plover and a whimbrel not by any means rarities, but more usual on the West Coast. Perhaps the most unusual was a group of 20 flamingos flying over the house as dusk turned to dark in October. Whether they were lesser or greater flamingos wasn't exactly easy to ascertain considering the time! It isn't strange for these birds to fly at this time and they were probably en route to the Fisherhaven lagoon.

That brings me to a thought teaser on birds just right for the Festive season trivial pursuits specialists: What do you call a group of flamingos?

Collective names began in the 15th century and added to in the early 19th. In recent editions of *Promerops* (the magazine of the Cape Bird Club) Peter Steyn has been reminding us of some that are appropriate for Africa. (A group of Flamingos is called a stand.)

Here are a few more for you to enjoy :

A charm of hummingbirds, or finches  
A covey of partridges, or in S.A. of francolin  
A host of sparrows  
A flight of swallows  
A skein (flying) or gaggle of geese  
An unkindness of ravens  
An exaltation of larks  
A murmuration of starlings  
A siege of herons  
A pandemonium of parrots  
A rookery of penguins  
A parliament or stare of owls

I was asked not long ago what the fastest birds were? What would you answer ? The swift family would be an excellent guess, but I think it would be any of the turkey family in November!

However you're spending your well-earned holiday;  
**ENJOY!**

ALISON AYRE

# BOOK REVIEW

## THE SKIPPER'S LITTLE CRAYFISH RECIPE BOOK

This recipe book contains almost 50 different ways to prepare our favourite crustacean. *The Skipper's Little Crayfish Recipe Book* was born out of a passion for the sea, a love of cooking and entertaining friends and a need for the Skipper to divert his focus from his day job. The 70 page book describes how to clean, prepare and store crayfish before presenting a range of recipes for snacks starters, soups and main courses. The Skipper argues the best way to eat a crayfish is freshly naked from the sea, served with a seafood sauce and lots of white wine. He accepts, however, recipes from around the world offer fun and exciting ways to prepare these highly sought-after decapods. Recipes range from the traditional bouillabaisse, bisques and paella through to the fun and funky kebabs, cocktails and pasta's. The A5-sized book has been designed for ease-of-use in the kitchen and wire-bound so it stays open on the page you want. If you are someone who enjoys seafood - this recipe book is a must.

Below is a selection of some off the recipes, just to whet your appetite.

TO ORDER COPIES OF THE SKIPPER'S LITTLE CRAYFISH RECIPE BOOK SEND AN EMAIL TO [skipper@pasgc.co.za](mailto:skipper@pasgc.co.za).  
PRICE: R 65.00 EXCLUDING POSTAGE.

### CRAYFISH AND BACON KEBABS

#### *Ingredients*

4 crayfish - steamed, meat removed and diced in 2 cm cubes  
freshly ground black pepper  
16 rashers rindless streaky bacon  
16 button mushrooms  
garlic butter  
lemon wedges

#### *Method*

- Season the crayfish with pepper.
- Cut bacon rashers in half and wrap crayfish and mushrooms individually. Thread onto thin wet bamboo skewers. Brush liberally with garlic butter.
- Braai kebabs over hot coals, or under oven griller, turning frequently until bacon is crisp and crayfish cooked to perfection (about 5 mins). Baste occasionally to keep them moist.
- Serve kebabs the moment they're cooked, with lemon wedges and remaining garlic butter.

*Skipper's notes: A mixture of prawns and crayfish makes an even more delicious kebab, or make a shellfish mixed grill by adding a few scallops, fresh oysters and black mussels. Serving with rice and a simple salad results in this recipe being suitable as a main course.*



'N GROTE VIR DIE POT - GERT EN INA COETZEE

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

31ST AGM OF ROOI ELS RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

DATE: SATURDAY 27 DECEMBER 2003

TIME: 16:30 FOR 17:00

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM 16:30

VENUE: ERF 239 ROOI ELS (THE AUGUSTIDES' HOME)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR!

# WHY HAVE A CONSERVANCY AT ROOI ELS?

A conservancy, as most people at Rooi Els are now well aware, is formed when a group of landowners undertake a voluntary agreement to maintain and manage their properties in an environmentally friendly and conservation orientated way.

This is done to ensure that indigenous fauna and flora are not only conserved, but have enough freedom of movement and space to thrive, interact and continue to exist into the future.

Members of a conservancy elect a committee which draws up both a constitution and a management plan, in close collaboration with all the conservancy members and Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (WCNCB), and collects fees from the participating landowners in order to carry out the functions stated in the management plan.

Conservancies are registered with the WCNCB in order to give them validation. The WCNCB website encourages the formation of conservancies in order to: "promote off-reserve conservation through co-operative management...conserving fauna and flora and the development of environmentally friendly business opportunities". The WCNCB will also provide the conservancy members with guidance and expertise in drawing up the Conservancy Management Plan.

In our region, especially around Hermanus, so many groups of landowners and farmers have formed conservancies that the WCNCB is setting up a committee to support them! This is extremely encouraging. It seems that there will be links, through conservancies, to most small nature reserves along the coast from the larger Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve to Vogelgat, Maanskynkop and beyond. These "links" will form the necessary corridors for plant and animal interactions, in amongst human habitation and interactions.

The special WCNCB conservancy committee will comprise two or three local WCNCB managers and representatives from the various conservancies in the area. It is designed to deal with all the queries and management issues that arise, and to share experiences and expertise amongst the conservancies. It will probably be the body to guide us in our management plan conception and advise us on education opportunities.

The WCNCB website states that: "Although they are based on a voluntary agreement, legislation is being investigated to strengthen the status of conservancies." On farms there is an even greater incentive to preserve land as tax benefits are being introduced for land set aside for conservation. Our village may not have the same sort of tax benefits (small holdings?), but legislation would give us more of a clout in our battle against poachers etc. So, yes, what are the benefits of a conservancy at Rooi Els?

## BENEFITS OF JOINING A CONSERVANCY

Most of us care about the environment we live in but do not have the time or energy to investigate environmentally friendly practices or to implement them if they are not on our doorstep. In a conservancy, the community shares in the management of the environment, so guidelines are set up, eco-friendly practices implemented and knowledge shared for day to day activities and education programmes.

Fortunately, at Rooi Els, we do not have to start completely from scratch as some co-operative environmental functions are already in place. We need to make use of and participate in these, while building up and enabling the new practices.

We hope to see the conservation status of our little village improve, with a corresponding domino effect: fauna (including humans!) and flora flourishing, education possibilities, aesthetic, security and economic value increasing.



# JOINING THE CONSERVANCY (CONT)

WE HAVE MANY CONSERVANCY PRACTICES IN PLACE ALREADY:

- recycling: we have collection points for glass, paper and aluminium tins; we should make use of them and encourage new owners and visitors to do the same.
- beach clean-up days: these occur twice a year but we should try to pick up litter whenever we are at the beach (and elsewhere in the village).
- eradicating invasive alien plants: we have a hack group that meets once a month, but we should remove alien species whenever we come across them in the veld.
- ensuring that litter is contained: we have a baboon and gull-proof cage for refuse, we must ensure that visitors and residents use this facility.
- Seawatch: we have a network of people connected with Seawatch, keeping an eye-out for marine poachers, we should be aware of whom to contact in this regard.
- education: we have an Eco-centre with environmental information and relevant displays that change every month, we should encourage people to visit this.
- education: we have the Biosphere Reserve Action Group that produces educational pamphlets and talks to groups to help people understand human interaction with nature, especially in the case of "problem" animals, such as baboons, and much maligned animals such as snakes, scorpions and spiders!
- guidelines for building: are being set up to encourage builders and owners to approach building operations in an environmentally sensitive way.

POSSIBLE PRACTICES / IDEAS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- sharing information, amongst ourselves and with the wider community, to enable conservation practices to be implemented and understood
- restoring degraded areas to as original an condition as possible
- encouraging indigenous gardens and so...conserving water
- continued monitoring of floral, faunal and marine poaching
- documenting the flora and fauna and other interesting features (eg middens, holts etc)
- information leaflets for visitors and new owners
- keeping an eye on building operations
- being aware of and limiting light and noise pollution
- sending out newsletters with environmental tips, news and happenings

WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO AND WHAT DO WE GET OUT OF THE DEAL?

First and foremost, we have to be interested enough to take part. This means not only joining the conservancy but having a say in the management plan as it is being set up: as to what we want to see happening.

- we have to co-operate with authorities in the management of the conservancy
- we may want to introduce some special environmental function and so raise funds for this activity
- we want to provide opportunities for those able to take part in environmental education programmes, to interact with local communities and encourage awareness and an environmentally friendly way of living, where possible

What we get, apart from the practical elements mentioned above, is a Rooi Els that is community and environmentally friendly. We hope to enjoy a Rooi Els which is not only able to preserve its flora, fauna and unspoilt character into the future, but one which allows us the knowledge that we are helping to ensure this and helping WCNCB in its endeavour to conserve nature and provide guidelines for communities to live and thrive while doing so.

KATE HENDERSON



# WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE LIVING

## A NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Bettys Bay dump was closed on 1 December, necessitating finding innovative new ways to minimize and deal with the waste generated in this beautiful and sensitive area. Both the general public and the Overstrand Municipality have to adjust their existing disposal practices.

### BETTY'S BAY DUMP

The dump did not comply with environmental legislation and the Municipality was instructed to close it. Rehabilitation will commence in March 2004. This will entail the provision of clay material as a capping layer and topsoil as a growing medium. Household refuse will continue to be collected in the usual manner and transferred to Kleinmond.

### NEW GARDEN AND BUSH WASTE DROP-OFF FACILITY IN BETTY'S BAY

A garden and bush waste drop-off facility for use by the local residents and garden service contractors is being established adjacent to the Bettys Bay dump site. The new facility will have limited operating hours to ensure on-site control while curtailing the cost of supervision. It will open on weekdays from 16.00 to 17.00 and on public holidays and peak holiday periods from 12h00 to 16h00. No charge will be levied (ie the costs are shared by all ratepayers). Bush waste will be chipped on site and transported to Karwyderskraal to be made into compost. Large pieces of wood will be taken to Kleinmond for distribution to the community at Overhills so as to help reduce the cutting down of fynbos in that area.

### RECYCLING AT SOURCE

Recycling provides a savings on haulage costs as well as landfill disposal costs. It is a potential source of job creation for the poor and can create a sense of pride in all stakeholders. The recycling at source program will be implemented during the Easter Holidays in 2004 using a similar method to that used in Hermanus, where participants receive a free, clear recycling bag in exchange for their bag of recyclables. Recyclables will be collected by the Municipality as part of the existing collection schedule. The trailer cage at the waste transfer station will be modified to creating separate loading compartments.

### TRIAL OF BABOON-PROOF WASTE BINS ON VERGES FOR CURB-SIDE COLLECTION

A number of curbside bins will be placed in Rooi Els for a trial period in consultation with the Ratepayers' Association. This will allow black bags and recycled bags to be left overnight by weekenders without the risk of spillage by baboons, wind and dogs. The bins are manufactured from recycled plastic and are aesthetically pleasing and maintenance free. It will also eliminate the need for the Municipal collection staff to enter private property in search of black bags in garbage bins located in backyards. Ideally, neighbours will share the bins. The performance of the bins will be assessed for a trial period of 3 months before deciding whether they should become a standard requirement for the area. Should you be interested in participating in this project please contact RERA. The criteria is to position a couple of bins together to look at the streetscape and aesthetics and to create a mix between weekenders and permanent residents. Remember, the bins are mainly intended for weekenders as permanent residents can place their garbage out responsibly if they choose. The bins remain the property of the Municipality and must be returned after the trial.

### BUILDERS RUBBLE PREVENTING ILLEGAL DUMPING BY MAKING IT VALUABLE

We have increased the deposit for building plans by an extra R500 to provide an incentive to bring builders rubble to the transfer stations. Transgressions and warnings will be recorded and published in the press. Building rubble can be disposed of at the Kleinmond Transfer Station free of charge.

MIKE BARTMAN (OPERATIONAL MANAGER: HANGKLIP-KLEINMOND)  
ROB MACFARLAINE (GEOSTATUS CO)



## MEET MIKE BARTMAN

Mike Bartman, new Operational Manager and well-known engineer of Kleinmond, is a 'no-fuss man'.

"I like to see projects come to completion - the new soccer field on the old refuse site and the efficient waste transfer station at Kleinmond were particularly satisfying recent projects".

Over the past almost 20 years, Mike has seen many changes - he feels probably the greatest of these has been the major impact on that environmental conservation has had on engineering service delivery. A further factor influencing the traditional municipal approach to infrastructure development is affordability, which will be crucial in the years ahead.

"As infrastructure development involving improved water quality, electricity supply and sewerage availability has been bedded in our area, the community focus is moving to other aspects - roads, building regulations and sports facilities. "Retaining the eco-tourism potential and its accompanying employment opportunities is vital as we develop the infrastructure further", he noted.

Mike is no stranger to small business and its needs, his wife Susan runs a gift shop. His son, Reynard is in grade 12 next year in Hermanus and 15-year old daughter Hilmarie is an active sport enthusiast.

Mike's leisure activities are tennis, the occasional crayfish diving expedition and off-road motor biking. "Not on the dunes or in the Nature Reserve", he comments quickly with an engaging grin.

Mike, congratulations on your appointment and we look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

JULIA AALBERS

## KREEF SEISOEN

SLEGS TUSSEN 8VM EN 4NM

4 KREWE PER PERSOON.  
SLEGS 20 KREWE MAG OP EEN SLAG PER  
WOONHUIS GEBERG WORD ONGEAG  
HOEVEELHEID PERMITTE

VERDEELDE SEISOEN

15 NOV - 31 DES ELKE DAG

1 JAN - 1 FEB SLEGS SATERDAE EN  
SONDAE, PUBLIEKE VAKANSIEDAE  
UITGESLUIT

L.W. GEEN VERWYDERING VAN  
PERLEMOEN WORD TOEGELAAT NIE



## KENNISGEWING VAN ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING

31STE AJV VAN DIE ROOIELS  
BELASTINGBETALERSVERENING

DATUM: SATERDAG 27 DESEMBER 2003

TYD 16:30 VIR 17:00

REGISTRASIE EN BETALING VAN  
LIDMAATSKAPGELDE VANAF 16:30

PLEK: ERF 239 (WONING VAN NICK EN  
HANNAH AUGUSTIDES.)

BRING ASB EIE STOEL SAAM!

## LIDMAATSKAP OF SKENKINGS

REBV BANKREKENINGNOMMER:  
ABSA 29-0016-6152  
TAKKODE 334-712

STUUR LIDMAATBESONDERHEDE AAN:  
DIE SEKRETARIS, REBV, POSBUS 89,  
BETTY'SBAAI, 7141.

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**Many thanks to Geoff Harris who represented Rooi Els on Toll Road issues and Basil Moss who acted in an advisory capacity. Above all, thank you to all Rooielsers for your generous support and caring...**



UNITED BY OUR PASSION FOR THE NATURAL SPLENDOR OF ROOIELS,  
WE PLEDGE THAT HERE..  
NATURE WILL BE NURTURED, FLORA, FAUNA AND MARINE LIFE PROTECTED,  
OUR EVERY IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT LIMITED  
SO THAT OUR LIVES.. AND THOSE OF GENERATIONS TO COME..  
WILL CONTINUE TO BE ENRICHED BY CARE