

# BRTIES BREEZE

March/ Maart 2001

Rooi Els Ratepayers Association

PO Box 89 Betty's Bay 7141

redaksioneel

Op Rooiels het ons die afgelope paar maande weer van die skoonhede beleef wat so eie is aan die gebied. Om die Kers-tydperk heen het die natuur haar eie liggies vertoon. Die Wilkense wat naby die rivier woon, het die vuurvliegies gesien wat in hulle duisende hul parings dans ge doen het tydens donkermaan in November. Ook in November het warm rooi planktonryke water ons baai binne gekom en die golwe en strand weke lank snags groen verlig. In Januarie, op die eerste maansverduistering die eeu, het die oer rooi oog van die duister maan van agter die berge oor ons koppe verbybeweeg.

Despite the little rain this season some abundance still reigns in Rooiels. The prolific francolins are fat and happy. The otters are feasting on the overabundance of small crayfish and the baboons are well fed after the festive season. The festive season with all its joys and excesses has come and gone (with fewer people arriving this year) accompanied by the expected Southeaster in full force again.

With global warming the weather patterns are slowly changing. Our sea has been observably warmer over Christmass. Changes are even occurring in the nesting and migratory habits of birds. Changes have also occurred all over the country in man-made institutions bringing new municipal boundaries. For

our town to maintain its unique character within the larger municipal structure we will have to re-negotiate with the new authorities and make them aware of our environmentally friendly Rooiels Vision. Your RERA EXCO will definitely work to accomplish this. With all the changes around us the Rooiels Vision remains a thread of idealistic continuity in the successive EXCOs of RERA. The Rooiels Vision reminds us to consider each other and to tread softly on nature and the fynbos.

Ons woon in die buffersone van eerste internasionale biosfeer in S.A, die Kogelberg biosfeer, met sy hartland net hier agter die berg. Wat ons plant en wat ons doen in ons dorp affekteer die biosfeer. Ons is sy bewakers.

Julle entoesiastiese nuwe Bries komitee het "lewe binne 'n biosfeer" as oorhoofse tema gekies vir die jaar. In die eerste uitgawe kyk ons o.a. ook na die verskynsels wat binne 'n groter kosmiese struktuur funksioneer en nie onderhewig is aan die klein of "mikro-veranderinge" op ons planeet nie. Die Suiderkruis wys nog steeds 100% Suid. Weg van stads-besoedeling hier sien ons snags hoe die Skerpioen en Orion mekaar steeds deur die hemelruim jaag. Die uitspansel van die Melkweg lê snags steeds in skitterende glorie bo ons koppe en herinner ons aan die tydlose skoonheid van die kosmos.

*Evette Weyers*

OUR VISION:  
AN ECOLOGICALLY WELL  
BALANCED AREA  
WHERE MAN AND NATURE  
CAN LIVE IN HARMONY AND  
THRIVE

FROM the Chair

ons nuwe RaadsTid

THE FESTIVE SEASON IN ROOI ELS SEEMED TO BE QUIETER THAN IN THE PAST FEW YEARS; LESS SPEEDING AND FEWER PARKING PROBLEMS AND LUCKILY VERY LITTLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR.

MY THANKS TO ALL THOSE IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR FOR YOUR HELP IN MAKING THIS POSSIBLE, ALSO FOR KEEPING THE CBD CLEAN, AND THE NEW FYNBOS GARDENS WATERED. THEY ARE LOOKING GREAT, AND WE WILL EXTEND THEM SOON.

THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WAS ONCE AGAIN A GREAT SUCCESS- MY THANKS TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED.

THE ROOI ELS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION IS IN ITS 29TH YEAR, AND IS AS COMMITTED AS EVER TO OUR "ROOI ELS VISION" AND TO KEEPING ROOI ELS RURAL. A PLACE WHERE CHILDREN CAN SAFELY WALK TO THE SHOPS AND BEACHES, AND LEARN TO RIDE TRICYCLES AND BICYCLES ON REAL GRAVEL ROADS. A SMALL CORNER OF THE EARTH WHERE YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE CAN ENJOY THE "MAGIC OF ROOI ELS," (AS JENNY STARKE ONCE PUT IT IN THE BREEZE) - AND DO THAT IN SAFETY.

PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR THOUGHTS, IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS AND ALSO CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM.

*Basil Moss*

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Our new councillor  
in the larger municipal area:  
Marilyn van Rensburg  
from Hawston

Soms is dit goed as jy nie dadelik die persoon wat jy soek, kan opspoor nie. Ek bel vir Grabouw Kindersorg Vereniging op soek na ons nuwe raadslid, Marilyn van Rensburg en gesels eers met Elizabeth Witbooi, 'n kollega van Marilyn.

Tewyl ek verduidelik dat die Rooiels Bries graag 'n onderhoud met Marilyn wil voer, raak sy aan die gesels - "Marilyn, weet wat sy in glo, en as sy iets gedoen wil kry, doen sy dit stil en effektief, maar as daar moelikheid is, dan kan daai groen oë maar skerpsienende wees", sê Elizabeth.

Vir ons op Rooiels met ons positiewe omgewingsgesindheid is daai groen oë 'n goeie teken.

Marilyn is al 20 jaar betrokke met Kindersorg en Gemeenskapsdiens sedert haar sosiale opleiding by die Mienie Hofmeyer Kollege op Worcester. In 1989 is sy en Floris van Rensburg getroud. Hy is 'n kabinetmaker, ook met ervaring van gemeenskapswerk met straatkinders in die Kaap. Hulle twee kinders Lano (11 jaar) en Clemmie (7 jaar) is vir haar 'n bron van groot vreugde.

Oor die probleme van ons streek, veral om die marianne-bronne, het sy persoonlike ervaring waar sy gehelp het om die Hawston Vissersmaatskappy te vestig.

Klein van statur, vind Marilyn dat kinders en veral tieners in haar gemeenskap haar as 'n rolmodel beskou.

"As Raadslid, sal ek poog om eerlik inligting deur te gee aan die gemeenskappe in my groot wyk - ook is ek van voornemens om sekere dae van die week te Kleinmond beskikbaar te wees vir

die dorpe van Rooiels, Pringlebaai en Bettysbaai", sê Marilyn. In plaas van 'n volle werksdag by Grabouw, sal Marilyn slegs 3 dae van die week daar wees om 'n gemeenskapsprojek te voltooi. "Dan kan ek regtig aandag gee aan die groot wyk wat ek verteenwoordig."

*Julia Aalbers*

## TOEGANGSBESTUUR

Die wettige instel van toegangsbestuur vind toenemend in woongebiede landswyd plaas. Die Vereniging (REBV) stel tans ondersoek in na 'n gepaste stelsel om sekuriteit in Rooi Els te verbeter.

Slegs 'n stelsel wat die goedkeuring en ondersteuning van die oorgrote meerderheid van belanghebbendes en eienaars wegdra, sal geïmplimenter word.

Ons glo dat Rooi Els en die see aan almal in Suid-Afrika behoort om geniet te word, maar op so 'n wyse dat dit ook vir die nageslag behoue bly en wet en orde gehandhaaf word. Die doel van toegangsbestuur is dus nie om toegang tot Rooi Els aan enige persone te ontsê nie, maar bloot om te verseker dat die nodige meganismes in plek is om, sover moontlik, te verseker dat toegang nie met onwettige optrede gepaard gaan nie en om ook as 'n afskrikmiddel teen onwettige optrede te dien.

Toegangsbestuur is 'n baie wye begrip. Die begrip dek onder andere, die gebruik van fisiese versperrings (moontlik slegs gedurende sekere tye) die

gebruik van "slim-kaarte" om toegang te verkry, monitoring vanuit 'n motor deur 'n sekuriteitsmaatskappy; moontlik die aanstel van 'n permanente wetstoepassingsbeampte; dalk 'n kamera-monitoringsstelsel, of 'n kombinasie van opsies.

'n Vraelys hieroor is teen einde verlede jaar aan alle eienaars gestuur en waardevolle insette is vanuit die gemeenskap verkry. Die vraelys is deur 'n onafhanklike deskundige aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch ge-evalueer en 'n verslag is opgestel. Daaruit blyk dit dat daar wél in beginsel sterk steun in die gemeenskap vir 'n toegangsbestuurstelsel bestaan. Ons gaan nou voort om besonderhede en kwotasies rakende die verskeie opsies in te win. Daarna sal die gemeenskap daaroor ingelig word en die geleentheid kry om daarvoor te stem ooreenkomstig die toepaslike verordening. Toegangsbestuur kan slegs suksesvol wees as dit die ondersteuning van die meerderheid Rooi Elers geniet.

## ACCESS MANAGEMENT

PERA is presently investigating access management/ monitoring in Rooi Els to help prevent crime. The Council has in principle no objection to the implementation of some form of access management system, provided that the majority of Rooi Els residents are in favour thereof. No funding should however be expected from the Council.

A recent questionnaire to all property owners was evaluated by an independent sociologist at the University of Stellenbosch. The interim response rate was

47,3% of all privately-owned erven.

The findings were as follows:

- ❖ Most respondents (86,7%) were concerned about crime in Rooi Els.
- ❖ Most respondents were concerned about all 7 of the listed concerns. These were ranked as follows:
  - Burglary and Theft - 91,4%
  - Destruction of Fauna & Flora - 87,5%
  - Littering - 87,5%
  - Poaching - 86,7%
  - Reckless Driving - 84,4%
  - Illegal or Inconsiderate Parking - 84,4%
  - Vandalism - 82,8%
- ❖ Personal safety was a significant factor.
- ❖ Almost half (47,7%) of those responding had already experienced loss or damage as a result of crime.
- ❖ Most crime occurred while respondents were not in residence.
- ❖ Only 23,4% of the respondents live permanently in Rooi Els.
- ❖ most respondents are holiday or weekend residents.
- ❖ The vast majority of respondents (73,4%) were in favour of an access management system for Rooi Els with a wide variety of suggestions, ranging from electronic monitoring with cameras, physical barriers; reduced road access and increased vehicular control.
- ❖ The cost of an access management system is a significant factor but most of the respondents (68%) are prepared to financially support a suitable access management system.

The identified options will now be investigated (advantages, disadvantages and costs) and these details will be submitted to all property owners for their input in a democratic manner.



## VAKANSIEPROGRAM

Die vakansieprogram, gereël en gekoördineer deur Hettie Claassens was propvol familie pret en groepsaktiwiteite waar ons die omgewing en mekaar beter leer ken het. Dit het vroeg afgeskop met die Driekamp onder leiding van Nico Saaiman (hy en Theresa is self topfiks). Families en individue kon deelneem en een dame van oor die 60 het flink saam gekompeteer. Vir families en pretbewustes wat dit gemis het lê dit weer voor in Desember.

The Sandcastle competition, again run by Gail Voigt, also drew families and individual participants and produced an ingenious variety of creations. The Voigt brothers were also willing to organize volley ball on the beach.

Chantall Thompson het vir die eerste keer een van die twee See slypskole (of werksinkels) vir kinders aangebied en gewys dat sy baie van die see weet. Sy kom uit 'n gesin van kranige duikers (haar pa, broer en suster). Die jong Ernst Thompson het ons tydens sy praatjie goed ingelig oor die rasionaal agter die nuwe visvang- en duikregulasies. Hy doen tans sy Meestersgraad in

Marienebiologie aan Rhodes Universiteit in Grahamstad.

"Marius and Evette" had two packed performances at the Sea Horse.

Christine Malan van Kistenbosch Botaniese tuine, is 'n uithaler veldkos- en fynboskenner. Sy het ons op 'n slypskool geneem om te leer wat mens alles in die veld kan eet en hoe om te oorleef langs die kus. (Ons het sommer nuwe respek vir die bobbejane ook gekry wat so baie weet van fynbos!) Christine is 'n puik spreker en plaas al die inligting heerlik binne historiese konteks.

Sy het vertel dat die houtkapperbye 'n perfekte middel-C noot "sing" aan die pienk Satyn blomme, en so "besing", verslap die bekoorde blom haar stuifmeel drade en laat die by toe om haar nektar by te kom. So vind bestuiving plaas.

For those who can find the right notes to sing and the right pitch there were Carols by Candle Light hosted by Geoff and Lynn Harris. Even the wind held its breath to perfect the evening.

Evette Weyers

Living in a Biosphere



The Kogelberg biosphere was the first to be internationally declared in our country. What a blessing to live in its buffer zone and next to its core! With these pleasures also come certain responsibilities.

## WAT PLANT JY OP ROOI ELS?

EEN van die eerste bekorings wat Rooi Els op my persoonlik en ek is seker op die grootste aantal inwoners gehad het was die pragtige natuurlike fynbos. Om dus tuin te probeer maak, (behalwe waar grondversteurings rehabilitasie noodsaak) is vir my verbasend. Die enigste twee behoeftes wat eintlik bestaan is, na my mening, skadu en grasperk. Ons ken almal die wind op Rooi Els en weet dat hier feitlik geen groot bome natuurlik voorkom nie. Om die behoefte van skaduwee en windskerms te bevredig, is my advies dat ons eers bepaal presies waar ons dit benodig en die res van die erf natuurlik laat. Vergeet van 'n spesimen boom in ons wind. Plant liever die bome in groepe van drie sodat hulle mekaar teen die wind kan ondersteun. Die nuwe wet op indringers asook die waterbeperkings dwing ons om inheems te dink. Ons voël- en dierlewe is ook by die inheemse plante aangepas. Probeer om die bome in die somer gereeld te benat. Hiervoor is 'n outomatiese besproeiingsstelsel die beste.

My keuses vir bome:

Kusvaalbos: vinnig en gehard  
(*Brachyleana discolor*)

Wilde Salie: gehard  
(*Tarchonanthus camphoratu*)

Melkhout: Stadig en gehard  
(*Sideroxylon inerme*)

Gebruik asseblief ons pragtige natuurlike buffelgras en vermy Kikuyu in grasperke.

Sukses met die bome!!

Ernst Thompson

## HACKS

The monthly hacks have started again. Come and help us curb these threats to the fynbos. Enjoy some refreshments with us afterwards. If you are not able to hack but would like to help you could host the refreshments afterwards on one of the Saturday morning! Call (028) 2738483 to arrange it.

## 'N OPLOSSING

Swart Kat kom by die trappe af. Sy wil na buite. Adoons wag a die hele oggend daarbuite. Hy wil na binne. Die twee ontmoet van aangesig tot aangesig by die skuifdeur. Swart Kat trek haar krom en spoeg verwoed na Adoons. Adoons skiet op en agtertoe soos 'n bobbejaan in 'n Walt Disney strokiesprent. Hy kyk glad nie om soos hy skoonmaak oor die bultjie nie.

Vir dié wat skote en klappers afvuur om die bobbejane te verwilder moet miskien ou Swart Kat by ons kom leen.

Debby de Vries

## FYNBOS CURIOSITIES

Fynbos is full of strange quirks of nature and it is always a pleasure to sit down with a good book about them, especially if it is too hot or too windy for a walk. Some of the notes that follow come from our end-of-year walks through the nature reserve. For a good book, find a copy of Richard Cowling and Dave Richardson's *Fynbos, South Africa's Unique Floral Kingdom*, Fernwood Press 1995. For a start, let's try three topics

and lets have some feedback from you.

### Fynbos in the Ice-Ages:

Uptake of water by the great ice-sheets of Antarctica and the Arctic caused sea-levels to drop. As False Bay is fairly shallow, it was empty, dry land until the ice melted, only some ten thousand years ago. At maximum glaciation, the Agulhas plain extended 160 kilometres further south than it is today. The resulting broad 'land-bridges' supply answers to otherwise puzzling plant distributions. There were some 17 phases of ice-age cold, the more recent ones lasting about 90 000 years, alternating with warm periods of 5 000 to 15 000 years. The change-overs were sometimes swift. According to fossil pollens, it took about a hundred years to go from a mid-France forest to Scandinavian tundra (dwarf frost-desert). How sensitive are the equilibria which cause such rapid changes? How fast will global warming be?

### Fynbos further back in time:

Flowering plants appeared on the scene about 100 million years ago. Great fossil deposits of wood, leaves and pollens show this. When the underground railway was being made in Washington, D.C. the diggings produced enormous heaps of soil, black with fossils. Cores drilled nearby in broad alluvial fans showed leaves much like today's plane trees used in the Cape as roadside plantings. Starting about 140 million years ago the huge super-continent called Gondwana started breaking up into today's gigantic rafts of rock, taking parts of the floras with them. Africa was the first to break away but the process was slow,

so all the pieces had time to take up shared floras. This is how the Fynbos and Australian floras, especially, come to share plants looking so much like our Protea, Erica and Restio families. Other places with fynbos-like fossils are South America, Antarctica and India.

**ALIEN ALERT:**  
**PLEASE DON'T PLANT**  
**NEW ZEALAND**  
**CHRISTMAS TREES,**  
**MYRTLES, MANATOKAS**

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### Fynbos' rich post-burn mosaics:

Having seen our nature reserve develop in the three and a half years since the planned burn one can appreciate how Fynbos lives in patches making up a post-fire mosaic. Past the first 15 years or so the vegetation is, in a sense waiting for the next fire. So many plants in the Fynbos need fire to complete their life-cycle. The irregularity of burns, super-imposed on previous mosaics, gives a variety of short, intense selective pressures which might be at least partly responsible for the richness of species in so many parts of the Fynbos. Many plots have a good sixty to ninety species on them. Between the houses, we need to have a method that gives a fire-like stimulus without the flame. We may be part-way towards this. The horticulturists at Kirstenbosch have found a way of bubbling smoke through water. The resulting solution is sprayed over the soil or soaked into blotting paper. In either way the result is enhanced germination. Heat also has a stimulating effect

for some species but the soil is too good an insulator for this to be of general value. With fire being so important, everyone needs a quick guide as to the age of the vegetation since the last burn. For each of several plants (especially Proteas), count the number of zones of rapid growth, long unbranched stretches contrasting with the short, maybe branched, dormant phase which has a much shorter growth. The plant with the most growth-phase units gives the age of the veld.

*Anthony Hall*

### Pleidooi van die Miskruiers

Die groeiende miskruier bevolking van Rooiels het 'n pleidooi aan RERA gelewer. Hulle is heeltemaal ten gunste daarvan dat mense hulle honde se "pakkette" op die strand optel want dit is onaangenaam vir mense om per ongeluk op een van die sandbedekte honde "slagysters" te trap of gaan lê. Wat die res van die dorp betref vra hulle egter dat ons asseblief die einste slagysters laat lê vir hulle om weg te rol en hulle eiers in te lê. Hulle sê hulle word nie verniet "miskruiers" genoem nie.

*Evette Weyers*



### Some inhabitants of Rooiels are snakes !

The tinkinkies and the robin let us know very shrilly, that all was not well in their realm. On closer inspection (although not too closely), we spotted a sleekly elegant boomslang gliding through the bushes outside our

bathroom window. The birds let us know exactly where he was, even if we could not see him at that moment.

At one point he rose straight out of a bush and viewed the vociferous birds with his large Smartie-like eyes with as much indignation as his reptile head could indicate. He was moving very quickly as compared to the lazy slither of the puffadders we have seen. We kept careful track of him until he left the precincts of our house. We now realise that boomslange are not confined to tall trees and that fynbos-high bush is good enough for them.

That has brought our tally of snakes spotted this summer to three - a puffadder, a coral snake and a boomslang. All were seen on really hot days on our property or near the Nature Garden. So watch the path when out walking even in open places and look before breaking through the undergrowth on hot days.  
*Debby de Vries*

**REDUCE  
RE-USE  
RECYCLE**

## Piekfyn Pikkewyn

Kyk, hier op Rooiels kry mens mos mooi dae en dan kry jy daardie oomblikke in die jaar wanneer die dag sy asem ophou – 'n ongelooflike dag wat jy nie vir buitestaanders kan beskryf nie, omdat dit so onwerklik is. Nou die oggend toe ek 5:30 opstaan, was dit so 'n ademlose dag en terwyl ek staan en proe aan my koffie op die mooiweerbalkon, balk 'n donkie hier reg voor die huis op die

strand! Skielik trek daar 'n hele koor van donkies los en vir 'n vlietende oomblik dog ek ek is weer 25 jaar gelede in Owamboland toe die bronstige wildedonkiehingste hulle merries in die vroegoggend aangekeer het.

Ek gryp my verkyker en daar tel ek een vir een 358 brilpikkewyne in groepies van 20 tot 25 net anderkant die bamboeslyn in Rooielsbaai. Vandaar die Engelse naam Jackass Penguin of Donkie Pikkewyn. (En moes dit nie eintlik *Brulpikkewyn* wees nie?)

Ek het tevrede my beker weer opgevol. As jy 358 van 'n bedreigde spesie op een plek kan tel, voorspel dit 'n piekfyn toekoms vir ons Rooiels mariene habitat

*André Wagener*

**Selfs in 'n biosfeer kom daar soms indringers wat skade aanrig**



## Misdaadvoorkoming

- Huise met alarm en gewapende reaksiestelsels word deur misdadigers vermy. Dis raadsaam om die dienste van so 'n sekuriteitsmaatskappy aan te skaf en die kennisgewing van die maatskappy duidelik op die huis aan te bring.
- Huise met aluminiumvensters en -skuifdeure is sagte teikens. Boor gate deur die skuifdeurrame en skroef hulle vas as u huis vir 'n tydperk leeg staan. Maak seker dat die aluminium-

vensters dig sluit, sodat inbrekers nie 'n hefboom kan indruk en hulle oopbreek nie.

- Inbrake vind meer dikwels plaas tydens donkermaan en tydens lang oornagkragonderbrekings. Tydens hierdie kragonderbrekings werk slegs daardie alarmstelsels wat bystandbatterye het. Maak seker dat u so 'n stelsel aanskaf.
- Inbrekers het meestal selfone vir vroeë waarskuwing.

Koester ons ouer inwoners. Behou telefoniese kontak en bel hulle veral as daar 'n verdagte voertuig in die omgewing is. Maak seker dat u die telefoon- en selfoonnommers van die mense in u onmiddellike omgewing byderhand het.

- Ons kan met vrymoedigheid die Kleinmond polisie bel om 'n verdagte voertuig se maak, nommer en kleur aan te meld. Hou die volgende in gedagte:
  - Die polisie reaksietyd is ongeveer 40 minute.
  - Die polisieradios werk nie in Rooiels nie.
  - Oor naweke is daar net twee beamptes aan diens, waarvan een in die kantoor moet bly.
- Rooiels is 'n klein dorpie met beperkte in- en uitgange. Dit is veral maklik om hier suksesvolle misdaadvoorkommingsmaatreëls te implementeer. Die voorwaarde is net dat alle inwoners betrokke moet raak by misdaadvoorkoming.
- Bel die polisie 271333 of Seewag 083 212 2252/3.

*André Wagener*

# Features

There's no road has not a star above it. - RW Emerson



## 'N STERREWEG LOOP TOT BY MY VOORDEUR

Op die *Isle of Man* is daar 'n mite wat beweer dat die Towenaar-Heerser van die eiland, Mannanin, jaloers was op sy pragtige eiland. As Mannanin enigsins gevoel het dat te veel nuwelinge die eiland oorstrom, het hy 'n mistigheid oor die eiland laat daal om die eiland te versteek. Sodoende het hy die eiland vir homself behou.

Ek bly elke jaar 'n ruk lank op die eiland. Die sagte wit-grys mistigheid bestaan werklik en sak stilletjies oor alles toe, amper elke somersaand. Die seeklanke verdof, die heuwels verdwyn en daar heers 'n misterieuse kalmte in die dale. Dit is 'n ander soort prag. Die kleure van alles is verbleik en selfs gewone daaglikse verskynsels neem ander gedaantes aan. Dan word die eiland 'n sprokiesplek.

Maar na soveel maande se saamlewe met hierdie natuurverskynsel, al is dit hoe mooi, het ek agtergekom dat ek iets mis as ek saans gaan stap. Laat een aand het ons terug huis toe gestap, na 'n ete met vriende, en toe ons opkyk was daar vir eens ope lug en sterre. Ek het gaan staan en net gekyk. Toe besef ek wat ek eintlik mis - die Sterre!

Daar is sterre in die Noorde, maar die wolke, mistigheid en veral die lig- en lugbesoedeling van die groot stede is so erg dat die mense daar nie meer besef hoe lyk sterrelig in 'n ope sterrelug. Die kristalhelder, dansende liggies wat amper elke nag oor ons hang op Rooiels is 'n skoonheid wat ek seker is almal op Rooiels waardeer.

Teen die donker Afrika naglug lyk die sterre soos 'n besprinkling van glinsterende diamante bestrooi deur 'n reuse towerstok. En toevallig (of miskien nie) is een van die groepeerings sterre wat ook op die eiland te vinde is, die Suiderkruis, en dit is juis hierdie konstellasie wat eeue-lank al aan mense in die Suidelike Halfrond rigting aanwys.

Ek het op die eiland op 'n Keltiese gesegde afgekom: *Gun till do cheum, as gach Ceàrn fo Rionnag - iuil An dachaidh* - Mag al jou treë van die uithoeke van die wêreld terugwaarts keer, onder die ster wat die pad huistoe aandui.

Vir my sal die ster altyd die een wees wat die blinkste skyn uit die Suiderkruis.  
*Debby de Vries*



## SKAKEL AF EN SIEN DIE STERRE



## DIE STERREHEMEL

Die mens het hom vanaf die vroegste tye verwonder oor die

sterreheemel. Daarvan getuig oeroue monumente. Ons weet ook dat toe die mens landbou begin beoefen het, 'n kalender onontbeerlik geraak het en dat die sterreheemel die mens se eerste kalender was.

Vanaf die vroegste tye af tot vandag toe, is die belangrikste astronomiese gebeurtenis die wonderlike en perfekte opeenvolging van dag en nag. Hierdie feit gee ritme aan ons lewens. Al ons liggaamsfunksies is daarop ingestel. Dis in ons gene vasgelê. Ons kan uit die posisie van die son sê min of meer hoeveel daglig nog oor is, terwyl die punt waar die son saans op die horison ondergaan (wat elke dag 'n bietjie verskuif) weer vir ons sê of winter of somer in aantog is.

Saans wanneer die son onder die horison verdwyn, verskyn die eerste sterre een vir een, amper asof iemand klein lampies in die hemelruim opsteek. Mens merk dat die eerste helder ster na sonsondergang in die weste, elke aand 'n bietjie laer op die horison hang, terwyl die sterre in die ooste effens hoër sit. Jy merk ook dat sommige helder sterre anders is, spesiaal is. Anders as die oorgrote meerderheid van sterre wat in vaste patrone voorkom, is hierdie "spesiale sterre" wandelaars, reisigers. Hulle beweeg in die hemel rond en reis van konstellasies tot konstellasie. Hierdie spesiale sterre staan bekend as "planete". Die woord laat mens sommer dink aan sferie wat deur die ruimte tol - soos die aarde self. Maar hierdie woord kom oorspronklik uit Grieks, waar dit "swerwers" beteken, en onderskei die planete (dws. ons mede-Sonnestelsel "bewoners") van die

sterre wat in vaste patrone aan die hemele hang.

Hierdie vaste konstellasies is nog dieselde as toe die eerste mense die sterrehele aanskou het; soos soveel ander voor ons in die geskiedenis. Die konstellasies sou maklik herken kon word deur enige soldaat in Julius Caesar se legioene, die burgers van antieke Athene en die swerwende Israëliete op hulle omwandelinge deur die woestyn.

Legendes is om die konstellasies verweef - soos die van Perseus en Andromeda, Hercules en Pegasus, die jagter Orion met sy glinsterende gordel en die Groot Hond wat die helderste ster in die hemel (Sirrius) in sy konstellasie het. En dan is daar die fyn sprankel van die Melkweg - die antieke weg van die gode. Die Melkweg is ons eie Sterrestelsel (een van ontelbaar baie in die Heelal). Al die sterre wat ons in die hemel sien, is deel van die Melkweg.

Die Maan neem verskeie vorme aan soos sy van nag tot nag, maand tot maand deur die hemelruim reis. Partykeer is sy 'n dun silver boog. Partykeer groei sy tot 'n kragtige sirkel van lig. En partykeer beleef die Maan 'n avontuur. Met maansverduistering lyk dit amper asof iets die maan stadig insluk totdat sy dof en rooi gloei in die maag van 'n half-deursigtige roofdier. Maar die Maan kruip altyd weer stadig, moeitewol terug - om uiteindelik weer triomfantlik en in volle glorie in die hemel te hang.

Ja, die aandhemel is vol verrassings. Verskietende sterre (meteoriete) val onverwags deur die hemelruim sodat mens tot 5

of 6 per uur op 'n perfekte helder nag kan waarneem! Soms stroom hulle eenvoudig die hemelruim binne. Die rotskuns van die KhoiSan wys hoe die verskietende sterre ook hulle betower het.

Selfs die son laat sy merk op die naghemel - as jy weet waar om te kyk. Maar dan moet 'n mens ook die sterrehele leer ken om baie van sy wonderre raak te sien.

Die naghemel is gratis. Dit gee mens persektief oor waar jy in die Heelal inpas. Dit stimuleer 'n mens se intellek, maar spreek ook jou siel aan. En wanneer jy partymaal so eng in jou eie klein wêreldtjie vaskyk, herinner dit jou dat jy deel is van iets onbeskryflik groots, dwing dit jou eenvoudig om uitwaarts, bóóntoe te kyk...

*Estelle Raymond*

(Bron: *The Sky at Night* deur Terry Maloney) ☆



## COME STARGAZING WITH US



### RERA'S HOLIDAY PROGRAM 2001



### *Die Legende van Orion*

*Orion was die seun van Neptunus en 'n magtige onverskrokke jagter; 'n reus. Hy het gedreig dat hy al die diere op aarde kon vernietig. Gaia, die godin van die aarde, was woedend hieroor en het die Skerpioen gestuur om Orion in die hak te steek en dood te maak.*

*Snags speel hierdie verhaal speel hom in die hemele af. Wanneer Skerpioen in die ooste opkom gaan die konstellasie van Orion in die weste onder.*



## MAANSVERDUISTERING

Dis ou nuus. Almal het dit gesien. Diegene wat krietek op TV gekyk het, het dit gesien met die komplimente van die regisseur en kameraman. Dit is gesien vanaf Messina, Hillbrow, Gugulethu, Sutherland, oral. Die volgende een kom in die jaar 2003. So wat was nou spesiaal aan die maansverduistering op Rooiels? Miskien net dit: die verstommende stilte, geaksentueer deur die verskrikte gefluit van die tobie-paar (oestervreters) en 'n surrealistiese sensasie van 'n groot dier wat stadig sy oog knip, danksy die gebrek aan beligting op Rooiels. En die feit dat jy dit altyd sal onthou as een van die oermomente van Rooiels.

*André Wagener*



....dis die laaste skuiwende verduistering van hierdie bloederige duisend jaar die aarde vreet die hemele swart en die oogappel in die sterwensbaan van stof en rook word rooi van afstand en van ouderdom om deur gluisende verbystering ingesluk te word...

*uit Breyten Breytenbach se gedig: Boom agter die Maan, oor die laaste maansverduistering van die 20ste eeu*





### THE GREEN FLASH

Ever heard of a mysterious green flash that sometimes occurs for about a second or two at sunset?

Yes, it exists. Few people have seen this elusive green flash, yet it is one of the most startling and colourful of sunset or sunrise phenomena, requiring patience and lots of good luck to be seen. When atmospheric conditions are just right, at the last moment of the setting Sun, a green beam of light shoots up for a few seconds immediately after sundown.

I have been privileged to see it at Rooiels – once. And judging from the wealth of material written about this subject and the enthusiasm of all those who have observed it, having seen the green flash once is enough to be hooked for life. Thereafter each sunset holds a special promise. You involuntarily find yourself holding your breath for that last second or two as the Sun sinks into the sea.

If you want to see green flashes, you must be in the right place at the right time. Green flashes are related to mirages and, according to the established theory, mirages can only occur below an astronomical horizon formed by some barrier. The ocean meets this requirement perfectly. During the summer, when the sun sets over the ocean, Rooiels offers an excellent vantage point for viewing the green flash.

This phenomenon is caused by the atmosphere bending the light from the setting sun. Blue light is bent the most - therefore in

theory the last thing we should see should be a blue flash. But, the atmosphere also scatters blue light the most. With light having to travel through more of the atmosphere when the sun is low in the sky, most of the blue light is scattered away. The resulting "compromise" is a flash of green light. But if the air is full of cloud, smog or haze, there won't be enough green light transmitted for you to see the green flash. It therefore remains a relatively rare phenomenon which is limited to clear skies.

This is a much-simplified version of a complicated and hotly debated topic to which numerous scientific papers and web sites have been devoted. It was even mentioned by the author Jules Verne in his 1882 novel, *Le Rayon-Vert*, citing an ancient legend which holds that one who has seen the green ray at sunset is incapable of being deceived in matters of sentiment and that he who has been fortunate enough once to behold it, is enabled to see closely into his own heart and to read the thoughts of others.

These are romantic thoughts indeed. But it is as good an excuse as any, to share a sundowner with a loved one at Rooiels, waiting for that elusive green flash.

*Estelle Raymond*

Rooiels, Rooi-els, Rooi Els???  
Die taaldeskundiges stem  
nog nie saam oor die  
korrekte spelling nie.  
Intussen kan ons mekaar  
gerus ons verskillende  
opinies en voor keure gun.  
"Vivre la Difference!"

Studies undertaken at Rooi Els have indicated that the 'green flash' phenomenon that allegedly occurs milli-seconds after the sun has set, is more readily able to be seen in direct proportion with the amount of whisky being consumed!

*Anonymous Rooi Els Whisky-Tasters Association Member*

### RED TIDE IN ROOIELS

All animal life in the open sea, from microscopic protozoa to whales, depend on the tiniest forms of plant life, the phytoplankton. Few species of phytoplankton exceed the size of a pinhead, yet when seen under a microscope they have beautifully sculptured surfaces or dainty spines that link one cell to the next. It has been claimed that phytoplankton accounts for 90% of the total plant production on earth, but its growth is limited to the surface skin of the sea where there is light, and to nutrient-rich water that wells up from below in response to prevailing winds and currents.

The Southeaster in Rooiels moves water away from the coast. The displaced water is replaced by upwelling currents of cold, nutrient-rich water containing phytoplankton. If a Northwesterly wind now follows, the plankton will be concentrated inshore. Calm, sunny days will ensure that the water is heated, the plankton will proliferate and begin to bloom, and provided it is the right species of phytoplankton, a red tide will form.

Red tide was first described over 3000 years ago as one of the plagues that struck the Egyptians before the Israelites were allowed to leave Egypt (Exodus 7:20-21). Most red tides are not harmful, but those that produce toxins that accumulate in filter feeders higher up the food chain. Thus, shellfish (such as mussels, clams, oysters and abalone), as well as filter feeding fish (such as sardines, anchovy, mackerel and herring) may concentrate toxins in their flesh to poisonous levels. Fish will die from such accumulations and are therefore not usually eaten by man, but their carcasses may poison sea birds and seals. Shellfish survive high levels of accumulated toxins and therefore pose the most danger to humans who unwittingly eat contaminated specimens. People may also be affected by ingesting tainted water or from inhaling plankton-containing aerosols in sea-spray. Whales may be poisoned, either from filtering plankton directly or from eating contaminated fish (depending on the feeding habits of the whale species). In 1837, the *Cape Illustrated Monthly* reported on the stranding of millions of fish on the beaches of Table Bay, claiming that people eating the dead fish died and at the same time large numbers of dead whales were cast ashore.

The symptoms experienced by man depend on the type of toxin ingested. Paralytic toxins cause tingling and numbness of the mouth, lips and fingers and are the most dangerous since death may result from respiratory failure. Diarrhetic toxins cause nausea, abdominal pain, diarrhoea and vomiting - symptoms sometimes experienced by surfers and divers without

there necessarily being swathes of water discolouration in the area. Although found in shellfish overseas, the neurotoxins encountered in our area are usually transmitted in aerosol form and may cause irritation of the eyes and mucous membranes, persistent coughing and sneezing. During the summer of 1995/96, holidaymakers in False Bay found themselves sniffing, snorting and sneezing after inhaling neurotoxins whipped up by strong winds. Conditions persisted over the peak holiday period, causing disappointment to many upcountry folk.

\*

*Some plankton is luminescent, and when mechanically disturbed produce what fishermen have, for ages, called "firewater". Plankton can control the production of light, switching it on or off, but the purpose of their luminescence remains obscure. Luminescence differs from phosphorescence in that it is the result of chemical energy being converted into light energy, while phosphorescence requires an outside source of light. This is why a display of plankton luminescence is best on dark nights when the sea is disturbed by wind and waves.*

The Department of Marine and Coastal Management has an ongoing programme to monitor the occurrence of phytoplankton in False Bay. Water samples from Gordon's Bay are collected daily and tested along with samples of shellfish. The red tide experienced in False Bay in November/December 2000 was due to the non-toxic dinoflagellate, *Gonyaulax polygramma*.

Jenny Stark

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## SWINGING TO ROOIELS

In the last row of houses high above Rooiels on Roela Road, is a new perch. In natural pine, a rustic two-seater swings gently under the powerful push of the South Easter.

On quiet days, when Vincent Bergh and his wife are about their daily routine the young baboons play with gusto in their new playground.

"I watch them playing using the swing frame as a jungle gym and I am happy that this little bench can give them so much fun."

On quiet evenings the two-seater has a magical view and the power to quieten any personal storm.

The sad part is the Bergh's have sold their home, but by the sounds of it new owner Dawn Kempen was caught by the two-seater "that stays" she said, before any sales contract was signed.

The Berghs will help to keep the swing well oiled as they have been asked to housesit for Dawn Kempen who is frequently abroad. So if you feel down in the dumps, get into the swing high above the rest of us.

Julia Aalbers

## Magic Moments

### DIAMANTE

Ons het lank in Belville gewoon met 'n ongelooflike uitsig vanaf die Tygerberg oor Valsbaai tot by Rooiels en Kaappunt. Onder ons het die verskillende dorpe se huise en geboue gelê so ver soos die oog kan sien. Snags was die mooiste. Dan het dit soos 'n groot diamantstad geskitter. Dit was hierdie diamantstad wat ek die meeste gemis het toe ons permanent Rooiels toe getrek het. Tot laasnag, 17 Nov 2000. Ek het teen 2 uur opgestaan en oudergewoonte in ons sitkamer gaan sit om die rustigheid van die nag te geniet. Toe, daar voor my oë, het my diamantstad herrys uit die see. Vanaf die strand tot sowat 500 meter see-in en so wyd soos my oë kon sien het die see soos een groot stad gelyk. Dit het gegloei en geskitter met 'n magiese krag! Aan die soom van hierdie stad het die golwe met lang blink arms gebreek. Ongelooflik mooi: baie mooier nog as die herinnering aan my diamantstad.

geseënd, dis hoe ek gevoel het. So sal 'n deel van die hemel sekerlik eendag lyk

*Drieka Wilkens*



### MUSKELJAATKAT

Dit was 'n vreedsame nag met sterre soos diamante in 'n hemel van swart fluweel. Ons het om

die laaste sag-gloeiende kole van die braaivuur gesit en gesels - tevrede en gelukkig.

Die lig van die vuur het met die skaduwees van die taaibos gespeel en die vorm van 'n muskeljaatkat aangeneem. 'n Perfekte muskeljaatkat, met 'n lang soepel gekolde lyf en 'n nóg langer, gestrepte stert - 'n koningin van die nag. Haar gesig was vriendelik - soos die van 'n hanswors, met 'n wit streep onder elke oog geverf.

'n Tyd lank het sy net daar gesit - grasieus en droomverlore. Toe het sy nader gekom: rustig, doelgerig - direk na my kaal voete toe! Ek het onwillekeurig verstyf. Wat as sy byt? Nee. Haar sysagte snorbaarde het my tone gestreel en ek het my oorgegee aan haar betowering en die wonder van die oomblik. Wat 'n eer, wat 'n voorreg! Ek het twee klein voetjies sagkens soekend teen my been gevoel. Die volgende oomblik was sy op my skoot. En so het ons gesit. Van aangesig tot aangesig, susters onder die sterre.

Ek weet nie hoe lank sy op my skoot gesit het nie, voordat sy weer in die nag verdwyn het - miskien het dit alles net 'n paar sekondes geduur. Maar vir my het dit soos 'n ewigheid gevoel - 'n tydlose oomblik van vrede op aarde en in alle wesens 'n welbehag.

*Estelle Raymond*

### ANDER ROOIELS INWONERS IS WEER BOBBEJANE

## charlie's corner

As van die oudste inwoners van die gebied het ons trop besluit om ook 'n meningopname te doen oor hoe *ons* voel en dink oor die gladde lywe se intrek in ons gebied. Alhoewel hulle soms lastig is sien ons die gladde lywe wel as 'n bate.

- Hulle is morsig en gooi baie kos weg en strooi dit (en die plastiek houers en viskoppe) die wêreld vol. Plastiek proe te sleg.
- Hulle bou lekker speelplekke vir ons kinders soos geute, skuinsdakke en selfs swembaddens!
- Hoekom hulle so lief is vir vuur en soms die wêreld aan die brand steek is, vir ons duister
- Hulle kry swaar oor hulle nie haarpelse het soos ons nie en dra stukkies klere vir elke deel van hulle lywe, selfs hulle hande en oë.
- Hulle is suinig en wil niks uit hulle huise deel met ons nie maar hulle voer die fisante, ander voëls en selfs die muishonde vet.
- Hulle het hope kos in hulle huise maar hulle eet ONS suurvytjies!

Ja-nee, die gladdelywe is 'n onkosekwente spul. Sommiges is baie vriendelik, maar ander weer! Ons het gewoon geraak aan hulle almal en gun hulle ook 'n bakkrans en sonkoltjie aan die voet van Klein Hangklip.

*Charlie*

There is symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of the birds, the ebb and flow of the tides, the folded bud ready for the spring.

Rachel Carson

## JUWELIERS UITSTALLING OP ROOIELS

Louise du Toit het voor Kersfees verras met 'n uitstalling van haar juweliersware in die wonderlike ambience van haar huis: Louise se liefde en entoesiasme vir die natuur vind hier gestalte in fassinerende ontwerp uit die omgewing ontleen; die materiaal, ook meesal uit die see en veld, is in kombinasie met een of meer metale (nikkel, silwer, goud en koper) gebruik, selfs Coke doppies en haarkrullers op die strand gevind, verbeeldingryk herbenut. Heelwat van die stukke is skulptureel, en "is veronderstel om gedra te word", verseker Louise. Rooiëlsers kon veral identifiseer met die enkele items waarin Rooiëls-hout aangewend is, asook die silwer speld ("pin") waarin die deurtjie (*Operkulum*) van die endemiese Tulbandskulp (*Turbo cidaris cidaris*) in alle eenvoud pryk. Die deurtjies is in die strandkombuis ("*middens*") van die Khoi-San op haar erf gevind.

Baie dankie Louise, vir die hoogs professionele en interessante uitstalling, en deurlopende kommentaar. Dis sulke tye wat mens werklik bevooreg voel om 'n Rooiëlsers te wees.

Lida van Dyk

## RERA IN A NUTSHELL

The Rooi Els Ratepayers' Association (RERA) celebrates its 29<sup>th</sup> year of existence this year and remains committed to preserving Rooi Els and its unique ambience and environment. Over the past 5 years RERA has maintained an amazing paid-up membership of close to 50 % of all property owners in Rooi Els. This is an indication of the commitment and support of ratepayers for the Rooi Els Vision. It also greatly increases our ability to fairly represent the interests of *all* Rooi Els property owners with the authorities.

### Permanent/Non-permanent

It has long been acknowledged that the selfless efforts of many non-permanent residents such as "Oom" Skakel Kriek, Dolf Diedericks and Kay de Villiers of yesteryear, have largely ensured that Rooi Els is what it is today; a relatively unspoilt paradise with property values on average higher than those of its neighbours Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay. RERA is committed to serving the interests of the Rooi Els community in accordance with the Rooi Els Vision and does this without discriminating between permanent and non-permanent property owners. At the end of the day we *all* contribute equally to rates and taxes.

A vision without a plan is a dream

A plan without a vision is drudgery

But a plan with a vision can change the world

## RERA achievements and activities over the years:

- ❖ preventing the provincial main road from continuing along Porter Drive along the seafront through the smallholdings to Pringle Bay;
- ❖ proclamation of the old school site as nature reserve, thereby contributing to the Kogelberg Biosphere "stepping stone" principle;
- ❖ researching and publishing the Rooi Els Vision, which establishes a credo for the village which is recognised by the authorities;
- ❖ participating in the Somchem investigation and court case resulting in the rehabilitation of the armaments testing site in our water-catchment area;
- ❖ initiating the process leading to the founding the Rooi Els Boat Club;
- ❖ the upgrading of the waste transfer station by purchasing and painting re-cycling igloos and minimising the visual impact thereof by erecting the wooden enclosure around it;
- ❖ the installation of aesthetically acceptable baboon-proof wooden rubbish bins throughout the village;
- ❖ the upgrading of the Rooi Els entrance and business area through paving, the erection of speed-calming measures and landscaping with fynbos plants. (A new notice board and further landscaping is planned, funds permitting.);
- ❖ facilitating the erection of benches and boardwalk in the Nature Reserve as well as the establishment of the Herbarium for the Reserve.
- ❖ Clearing of invasive aliens through the activities of the Hack Group.

- ❖ Co-operation with Provincial authorities in the Zoning Procedure. RERA's submissions were successful and were accepted.
- ❖ Continuous contact and monitoring of municipal activities in Rooi Els.
- ❖ Organising "Black Bag Days" for cleaning up our village and environs.
- ❖ Publication of the informative and ever-popular Rooi Els Breeze
- ❖ Arranging an annual Christmas programme. Fun for all.

**Aktiwiteite**

Die REBV verteenwoordig Rooi-Els se belange op verskeie plaaslike liggame: soos Kobio; die Habitatraad, die BCCC; Federasie van Belastingbetalers; Seewag; die Hangklip Heritage Trust; Hangklip-Kleinmond Co-Management Forum, Hangklip-Kleinmond Toerisme-buro en verskeie advies-komitees van die Raad. Ons is betrokke by die bestuur van die Rooi-Els Natuureservaat en verskeie ander omgewingsaktiwiteite, soos die reël van gereëldes kapdae om indringerplantegroei uit te roei asook standskoonmaaksies. Die REBV reël verder jaarliks 'n vakansie-program en ons gee 'n paar keer gedurende die jaar die Bries/Breeze, ons nuusbrief uit.

**Dienste**

Die Vereniging beywer hom vir die lewering van behoorlike dienste deur die Raad en die behoorlike aanwending van belastingbetalersgelde.

**Conservation**

We would like to see Erf 1 and the "koppie" included into the Rooi Els Nature Reserve. The

reserve is being managed according to the management plan compiled by the Advisory Committee and the path was recently cleared. We actively support a marine reserve in our area (from Roman Rock to the Buffels River Mouth), in accordance with the survey conducted among all Rooi-Elsers 2 years ago.

**Aesthetics**

RERA requested the provincial road authorities to remove the gang-related graffiti on Clarence Drive. Unfortunately the area was again vandalised and we are presently considering the various options discussed at our AGM to make the area less graffiti-prone.

RERA wishes to combat the cumulative effect of "sign-pollution" by consolidating existing signage in a single notice board at the entrance of Rooi Els. This project has been approved by the Council and will proceed subject to the availability of funds. Any sponsors?

With the changes in local municipal affairs, we believe RERA will have to play an ever-increasing role in the governance of our future - to quote our chairman: *"This is going to be a period of 'do it yourself' if you want to achieve anything for the community."*

In order to keep the momentum going, we need YOUR support through continuing membership. So please sign and return the enclosed form with your fees.

**RERA EXCO/REBV BESTUUR:**

- Basil Moss
- Bill Rabie
- Julia Aalbers
- Estelle Raymond
- André Wagener
- Evette Weyers
- Ian Richter

*BOOK REVIEW*

**The Alien Clearing Handbook for the Western Cape**

by Jeremy Croudace  
(ISBN 0-620-23924-7)

This handy little book (only 40 pages) has been produced primarily for hack workers and nature lovers rather than for scientists. It identifies the major invasive species by pictures and explains the method and tools necessary for their eradication by means of pictures. This is to make the book accessible to illiterate workers also. Botanical concepts such as *serotiny* (the retention of seeds until the death of the plant) and *myrmecochory* (dispersal of seeds by ants) as well as other "tricks" employed by the species to ensure its survival are depicted. It focusses on some 17 problem plants in the Western Cape, including Port Jackson, Rooikrans, Black Wattle, Blackwood, Sesbania, Spanish Broom, Pines, Gums, Myrtle, Manatoka and Pittisporum.

The book is available from Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens at R35.

## Bird Chat

Easter greetings one and all! The Christian festival of Easter is a moveable feast on the calendar, however this time of year is generally regarded as summer's swan-song and heralds the approach of winter in the Cape. But does it anymore? Gone are the south-easter free February days and the rain-sodden May days! We are increasingly aware of seasonal changes, not just locally with the vagaries of Klein Hangklip's micro-climate, but globally. The seasons have 'moved on'; October is just as likely to be 'wintery' and May, in recent years has produced gloriously sunny days etc. What on earth has this got to do with birds?

Breeding and migration are not governed by the calendar but by seasonal change. Our birding records kept since our arrival in Rooi Els note that in 1995 and 1996 July and August recorded shy albatross (11), blackbrowed albatross (12), southern great petrel (17), and greatwinged petrel (23). The weather was unusually savage and these pelagic species had come into False Bay for more shelter. In contrast last year's mild July and August resulted in no sightings of these large oceanic birds. White-chinned petrels (32) with their distinctive flight pattern have always been seen more regularly. In our early Rooi Els days the presence of gannets (53) in False Bay signalled the probable arrival of inclement winter weather; this is no longer the case. They are now present all year round in mid-Bay but do

venture much closer to shore in poor weather.

Our three sunbirds ( malachite (775), orangebreasted (777), lesser double-collared (783) ) are all winter breeding birds dependent on winter-flowering proteas and ericas for their nectar. Insects and spiders also form part of their diet. This is also true of the Cape sugarbird (773). Any variation in weather does affect the number of successful breeding birds and their clutches.

Strange weather can result in bizarre behaviour in migratory birds. The sighting of a mangrove kingfisher (431) in 1997 was such an example. At least a thousand kilometres off-course this bird had performed a "reverse" migration, i.e. it had turned right instead of left and literally gone the wrong way. We were not the only people that saw this bird and, as with all rarities, the sighting had to be, and was ratified.

Currently we have sent a report in for ratification to the Rarity Committee for a bird that has apparently done exactly the same thing.

*In mid-January we watched astonished as an African golden oriole (544) gorged itself on myaporum berries in the garden. It was a male and quite unlike any other bird in this area; our local birds were very unhappy about its presence, i.e. a stranger in town. We were unable to take a photograph which would have been a great help to the*

*Committee. It was with us for twenty minutes. Did anyone else see this very striking golden bird? It is seen only in northern Southern Africa, so please contact us !! Anyone seen the now elusive bokmakerie lately? Sadly we personally didn't see one at all last year.*

We have noted over the last two years an increase in hadeda (94) and sacrid ibis(92) - both doing well on the scraps from the local rubbish tip! Though not often seen in Rooi Els, Greg Goddard's bee hives have resulted in a growing population of fork-tailed drongos (541) in the area.

There has been a decline in Cap sparrows (803), and a marked increase in house sparrows (801). In this case there is a question of hybridisation. European-starlings (757) are much more in evidence than previously noted. As you can see I have now used Robert's numbers for easy finding in the bird books. So out with those binoculars and get spotting!! Happy birding.

Alison Ayre

## NUUSflitse

- ❖ Die marienereservaat is reeds goedgekeur op parlementêre vlak. Die details van die polisiering word nou uitgewerk.
- ❖ New legislation about removing alien invasive trees from one's property is coming into operation in March. The owners will have to remove these trees at their own cost. The fire hazards of alien invasives became very evident in the severe brush fires in Cape Town and surroundings last year.

# Commercial News

## LETTER FROM JO, MARGARET & MONICA

Dear Rooielsers

Thank you for your support during the holiday season.

Our extensions to the shop have been a tremendous success. Customers expressed their delight at the range of our stock and the lovely atmosphere in the shop - music to our ears! We could handle the extra crowds over the festive season with ease, due not only to the extra space but also with the help of our daughter Monica.

Monica left in February to spend some time travelling with the new man in her life, Tim Harrison, an ex-Rooi Els property owner. Tim's wife Meg died some 3 years ago of cancer. Monica and Tim have hit it off very well. They would like to thank everyone for their concern and good wishes. Margaret and I will certainly miss Monica's gay and jovial presence in the shop.

Did you know that Jo has been conducting a house maintenance service for the last 10 years or so? Well, Rooi Els Building and Maintenance Contractors, (RBC) is expanding its operations in Rooi Els, Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay.

Jo has joined hands with Ludo Mumpaya, who has been building in Gauteng for the last 7 years. After having been hi-

jackd and his friend killed in another holding, Ludo decided to settle in Gordons Bay. Ludo is originally from Belgium and guarantees quality work.

Rooielsers know Jo well enough to know that what he promises gets done properly and that he makes sure that every client is satisfied. RBC does maintenance, alterations, waterproofing and even builds new houses. Knowing the extreme weather conditions in Rooi Els, their paintwork stands the test of time. Ask Jo to show you work done some time ago.

This venture is a win-win situation for Rooi Els. With a local contractor who already takes care of many houses and employs only completely trustworthy workers, it is not necessary to employ unknown labour who might perhaps come back later to break in. Furthermore Jo and Margaret have been here for 12 years and live here permanently. They cannot afford to do work that is shoddy because they have to live with the consequences.

If you are contemplating maintenance or alterations, ask Jo and Ludo for a free quote - no job is too big or too small.

Please support your local businesses.

We wish you a very pleasant and healthy remainder of 2001.

Love

Jo, Margaret and Monica

\* \* ○ \* \*

## ROOIELS BREEZE

Thank you to Jenny Stark who headed the editorial committee last year, did all the layouts and introduced "Magic Moments". Dankie aan Louise du Toit en Hettie Claassens vir al julle vindingryke bydraes en harde werk.

### Breeze Committee:

Evette Weyers  
Estelle Raymond  
Julia Aalbers  
Andre Wagener  
Debby de Vries

## PRAYER FOR ROOI ELS

Dear Lord

When I have to go away from here

I know that You will send the tide that cleans the shore;  
that You will provide the food for the dassie and baboon;

that You will blow the wind that clears the smog;  
that You will rain the water for fynbos irrigation;  
that You will shine the sun that turns our village into a sparkling piece of paradise.

All I ask is that when I return, the changes that are wrought, are changes made by the wind, the rain, the sea and sun.

Thank you, Lord

(PS: We could do with a little less wind, please)

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## Rooiels Village Shop

Margaret says :

"I now stock everything except cold beer"

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SUPPORT LOCAL !!! -

they know how and where the winds blow, they know the flow of the waves ...