

Bries Breeze

SUMMER / SOMER 2005

ROOI-ELS BELASTINGBETALERSVERENIGING (REBV) POSBUS 89 BETTYSBAAI 7141
ROOI-ELS RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION (RERA) PO BOX 89 BETTY'S BAY 7141

REDAKSIONEEL

'N GEMEENSAP WAT OMGEE

Toe gebeur dit weer. Op 'n Woensdagmiddag in November kom 'n weghol-brand aangerol deur 'n woedende wind uit die Suid-ooste. Dit vernietig huise en groot stukke veld, die habitat van mens en dier. Dis pynlik om te ervaar.

Ek word geraak deur die omgee van soveel mense met wie ek praat. Nie net Rooielsers nie, maar ook talle ander vir wie hierdie stuk aarde ook spesiale betekenis het. Die praat is sag en nederig, soos balsem vir wonde.

Die brand herinner my aan my eie beperkinge en sterflikheid. Ook dat ek deel is van die natuur en van veel groter siklusse van lewe as waarvan ek bewus mag wees. Ek besef skielik hoe kort en kosbaar hierdie lewe is wat ons hier aan die voet van Klein-Hangklip met mekaar deel en hoe belangrik dit is om goed te wees vir mekaar. Daar's nie tyd vir kleinlike nonsens nie.

Elkeen van ons in Rooiels het 'n impak het op mekaar en op die natuur. Ek dink hoe ons elkeen elke dag onbewustelik soveel keuses maak wat bepaal watter tipe gemeenskap en omgewing ons besig is om saam te skep. Mag ons ook bewustelik keuses maak vir 'n gemeenskap van omgee - vir mekaar en vir die natuur.

Teen die naweek ná die brand begin die eerste reën saggies val - soos woorde van troos. Ek kyk op na die vlae reën wat oor Klein-Hangklip aangewaaï kom. Ek sien die deel van die berg raak wat einde Januarie 2004 gebrand het. Uit die swart niks het daar weer lewe en oorfloed gekom. Dit voel soos seën.

ESTELLE RAYMOND
REDAKTEUR
E-pos: eraymond@mweb.co.za



PHOTO: SANDRA YEO

"WHEN WE LOVE THE EARTH, WE ARE ABLE TO LOVE OURSELVES MORE FULLY" - BEL HOOKS

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Rooi-Elsers,

Welcome to the second 2005 edition of the Rooi Els Breeze ... I hope you find it both informative and entertaining. On behalf of the RERA executive committee, I wish you a blessed Christmas and a peaceful and fulfilling 2006!

The year 2005 will no doubt go down in the records as being the year in which Rooi Els experienced the effects of both flood and fire. In April, Rooi Els was cut off from the external world by mud drifts on both the Gordon's Bay and the Betty's Bay access routes. November again saw the roads closed from both directions because they had become impassable due to fire and smoke hazards. Both incidents have raised serious questions about the adequacy of our Local Municipality's plan and capacity to handle emergencies. The Ward Committee has discussed this issue and needs to work it further in the new year.



ROB FRYER

Alhoewel ons dikwels kla oor die diens van die Overstrand Munisipaliteit, word hierdie munisipaliteit beskou as een van die tien bes-bestuurde plaaslike owerhede in die land. Die Overstrand was een van die voorlopers met die daarstel van wykskomitees. Die finansiële kontrole-maatreëls van die munisipaliteit word ook aangeprys. Dit lyk my ons het heelwat om voor dankbaar te wees. Ons wens die munisipaliteit geluk met hul handhawing van 'n relatief hoë standaard in vergelyking met baie munisipaliteite in Suid-Afrika.

The challenge for RERA and for other organisations like it, is to give recognition for and positively reinforce our Municipality's achievements and at the same time to keep pressure on our Municipal officials to improve in the areas that are most important.

Fortunately, there are developments that give cause for hope that improvements in service delivery will occur. Firstly, there has been a reorganisation of the Municipal management structure that has given the Area Manager more authority. The Area Services Manager now responds in a line relationship to the Area Manager. This is a positive move and should improve service delivery.

Secondly, the demarcation of the Wards has been revised and has resulted in Rooi Els Betty's Bay being grouped with part of Kleinmond instead of Hawston. The Ward Committee for our area is therefore more likely to work better.

Thirdly, there are positive discussions taking place about making improvements to the way the Ward Committee system is managed, within the legislative framework that should make the voice of the Ward Committees more effective. The Overstrand Municipal Advisory Forum spent half a day recently providing feedback to the Mayor and Municipal Manager on how the system can be improved and gave various assurances that the input will be used to address shortcomings.

The current councillors go into recess on the 6th December in preparation for the elections on the 1st March 2006. Indications are that there will be major changes in representation, with many existing councillors not standing in the new elections. With these changes in the wind, along with new Ward boundaries and Ward Committee members also to be replaced, it is vitally important for RERA to be ready to respond and for all those who have a keen interest in Rooi Els and who are eligible to vote to register and to become well acquainted with the issues we need to face in 2006!

Warm regards,

ROB FRYER

FIRE!

WEDNESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2005:

07:00 Tagged onto the morning news is a warning of runaway fires. The south-easter is strong and we plan to spend the day indoors.

08:30 Lynne Fryer, driving towards Gordon's Bay, notices the Rooi Els baboons running recklessly in the road near Kogel Bay. Seemingly oblivious to her car, she is puzzled at the way they have thrown their usual 'traffic sense' to the wind.

09:00 Our Security Company alerts us that sparks from an Escom power cable have started a fire at the Habonim Camp, opposite the R44/Pringle Bay turn-off. The firefighters are on their way, but "we're letting you know because of the 70kph wind blowing towards Rooi Els".

09h30 We're at the fire, watching 6-metre flames sweep towards the road. Two fire engines are on site. It seems a long way from our home, but the valley between Pringle Bay and Rooi Els last burned in 1995, the fynbos is dry, and a black south-easter rages. The water spurting from the 2 fire hoses seems small and insignificant. **Turns out, it is!**

10:00 Tony Weaver, editor of the Cape Times and owner of a home in the Pringle Bay valley, is told by his chief photographer on the scene: "Unless they get the choppers in, this fire could take out Rooi Els".

12:30 I'm back at the scene of the fire. Now it's just 3 km from Rooi Els. I speak to one of the fire teams and am assured that they will stop it, using a back-burn from the tarred Somchem road.

13:15 I watch as a fire engine is maneuvered into position and the back-burn is lit. Almost immediately it turns with the wind and when the call goes out to turn on the water, the hose remains limp and dry. Within minutes the main fire jumps the Somchem road and the chance to save Rooi Els is lost. All of us watching, now know that things are out of control. We use our cell phones. Our voices are sharp with concern...



10 AM : PRINGLE BAY



JENNY STARK

I watch a fire team from Cape Town start to withdraw and my heart sinks. I go over to speak to one of them. "We want to help" he says "but we don't know where the best place is for us to go. Now, it's too dangerous for us here".

I call a friend, outline the situation and asked him to phone the mayor. He calls back, saying he has been assured that everything is under control. "Phone him again" I say "and tell him that things are completely out of control. We have to get helicopters in."

The mayor is contacted again - we beg for helicopters.

"Everything is under control".

People start phoning the Cape Times, begging Tony Weaver to use his contacts to get in the choppers. He phones me, saying he has been told the choppers are on their way. We wait and wait. . . they never come.

15:15 The fire is 1.5 km from Rooi Els and moving at terrifying speed. I start to run the couple of kilometres home, but it gains on me. I am lucky to be picked up by a 'rescue kombi'. By the time I get home, there is not much time left to draw the curtains back from the windows, move the carpets and furniture into the middle of the rooms, close all the windows and doors, grab our dog, documents and some clothes - and evacuate.

CONTINUED...

THE ROOI ELS FIRE

16:00 We gather at the CBD waiting for the flames to come over the crest of the hill.

16:10 Someone notices smoke moving towards the river and we go to the bridge to take a look. Lorna Lindsay is there, her eyes fixed on a tower of flames at the very top of the hill. Then, the river-house catches alight. The Van Niekerk's, who are renting it, watch it burn to the ground. The flames move towards the sea, and up into Klein Rooi Els. Thick smoke hangs over the whole village, blotting out the sun.

17:00 The mayor and his wife arrive on the Rooi Els bridge.

17:30 We are allowed back to our homes. Two are gone, three badly damaged.

POSTSCRIPT: THE FLARE-UPS GO ON ALL NIGHT. AS THE FIRE MOVES INTO THE CORE ZONE OF THE BIOSPHERE, THE KOGELBERG IS OUTLINED AGAINST AN ORANGE GLOW. THE FIRE FIGHTERS STAY IN OUR AREA THE WHOLE NIGHT. I WONDER IF THEY KNOW WHAT A COMFORT THEY ARE TO US. WE SALUTE THEM FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO HELP.

Lorna's house does not burn. Though the fynbos around it is burnt to the sand, a ragged scarf of lawn diverts the flames.

The fire rages in the core zone of the KBR for two more days. Then, soft rain gently extinguishes the flames and settles the ash around our homes.

JENNY STARK



16:45 FIRE IN ROOI ELS



THE HOUSE ON KLEIN-HANGKLIP HAS GONE

VISIT THE ROOI ELS ECO-CENTRE

TO SEE AN EXHIBITION ON THE FIRE.

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN PHOTO-DOCUMENTING THE FYNBOS REGENERATION OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS.

BUY A CD WITH ALL THE PHOTOGRAPHS EXHIBITED, INCLUDING THOSE DONATED BY VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS.

[ALL PROCEEDS TO THE ECO-CENTRE]

KAN JY DALK HELP?

DIRK EN MICHELLE VAN NIEKERK
WAT DIE HOUSHUIS LANGS DIE
RIVIER VAN DIE BALDWINS
GEHUUR HET, HET OMTRENT
ALLES IN DIE BRAND VERLOOR.
HIER IS INLIGTING VIR
ROOIELSERS WAT WIL UITHELP

082-562-9298 (DIRK)
072-989-9337 (MICHELLE)
BANK: NEDBANK
TAK: KLEINMOND
KODE: 131-505

NAAM: DC VAN NIEKERK
NO: 231-500-8395

ACTION FOLLOWING THE ROOI ELS FIRE

Two aspects of the recent fire are worthy of comment: firstly, the cause of the fire and secondly, the management of the fire fighting crews that attended the fire.

The recent fire that destroyed two homes in Rooi Els, seriously damaged others and threatened to spread from Klein Rooi Els into the western areas of the village was allegedly caused by an Eskom line fault in the vicinity of the Pringle Bay turn off from the R44. Because of possible pending legal action, Eskom officials cannot comment upon the allegation.

Eskom officials have, however, attended a meeting to discuss the reliability of the power reticulation system called by the Rooi Els and Betty's Bay ratepayers' associations and attended by representatives of Dannel, KOBIO and the Biosphere Reserve Action Group. At the meeting, Eskom confirmed that various line and pole faults in the Kleinmond-Hangklip area have in the past caused fires. Following the recent fire, Eskom has commenced a two pronged approach to the problem.

One of Eskom's engineers, who is a specialist in coastal reticulation system design, has been commissioned to do a detailed design study of the local system. His design recommendations will be available for discussion with the local ratepayers' associations within three to four months.

The time required to implement the recommendations will depend on the cost involved. It could take up to a year to get expenditure approval if the recommendation requires a major rebuild of the reticulation system. If the recommendation is for modifications that can be borne by maintenance budgets, the remedies will be implemented on a shorter timescale.

The suggestion that all power lines be put underground for both aesthetic and reliability reasons was ruled out. The reason given is that the cost will not be sanctioned by the Eskom Board, which has, for example, to consider the extension of power supply to regions that still have no power supply.

While the design investigation is proceeding, the failure and fault statistics are going to be investigated to see if the maintenance routine can be modified to significantly reduce the risk of failures and of causing fires. New technology is being investigated that may help identify "hot spots" on pole connections and it is probable that the line inspection frequency will be increased from twice to four times a year.

A meeting will be held with Eskom in March 2006 to allow them to present the result of their design review and their plans to improve maintenance effectiveness. In the meantime, Eskom has asked that anyone noticing anything that might suggest that there is a line or pole fault developing (e.g. sparks or lines clashing in the wind) to contact their emergency call centre and to leave contact details so that the line technicians can follow up and effect repairs.

The November Ward Committee meeting discussed at length the alleged poor management of the fire fighting crews who responded to the fire. Expert input was given by a retired Cape Town fire official who witnessed the way the fire was tackled. No conclusions could be reached because the Overstrand Municipal fire officials were not present to respond to observations made. The Overstrand Municipality's policy for fire fighting relies upon volunteers from within its service department to respond to fires. It would appear that these volunteers lack training, protective clothing and are ill equipped to deal with fires. The Ward Committee representatives will endeavour to engage with the authorities to resolve the argument. This is made difficult, however, because the Ward Committee is already in recess. Only once the new Council is elected will new Ward Committee members be elected ... so no official meetings are likely before late March 2006!

One thing stands out in all of this ... the fire fighters themselves placed their lives on the line to protect our village and are to be thanked and congratulated for their valiant efforts.

ROB FRYER

KENNISGEWING VAN ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING

33STE AJV VAN DIE ROOIELS BELASTINGBETALERSVERENING

DATUM: WOENSDAG 28 DESEMBER 2005

TYD 16:30 VIR 17:00

REGISTRASIE EN BETALING VAN LIDMAATSKAPGELDE VANAF 16:30
PLEK: ERF 65 BATHERSWEG (WONING VAN IAN EN ROSEMARY LEWIS.)

BRING ASB EIE STOEL SAAM!

SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Overstrand Municipal Spatial Development Framework (SDF) has recently been released for public comment. The original date by which comments had to be submitted was 21 November (for the English) and 21 December (for the Afrikaans) according to the published advertisements. After representations from the Overstrand Conservation Foundation and KOBIO, the Municipality has now announced that the deadline (presumably for all language groups) is the 27th January 2006.

This is a vitally important document for all of us and we must ensure that we all understand and, as far as humanly possible, that we all agree with its contents. The document contains policy that will determine how our town and its environment will be managed for the next five years. It sets, for example, the urban edge outside of which no urban development will be permitted. It also makes statements about the character of our village.

The sections of the SDF that are relevant to Rooi Els will be posted up in the Eco Centre for all to view and there will be a short presentation of the SDF at the RERA AGM.

ROOI ELS ROADS MANDATE NEEDED

You will all remember the abortive attempt to get the view of all Rooi Els property owners about recommendations that came out of a meeting attended by representatives of all Rooi Els organisations, large and small. A whole year has passed and nothing very much has come out of this attempt to resolve the thorny roads policy issue.

RERA needs a mandate to take to the Municipality and will present some options at the AGM for the community to decide upon. Come along to the AGM and participate in the mandating process!

SMALL SUCCESSES

Have you noticed that the old poachers' lair and hobo's overnight doss house has gone without a trace? After a lot of pressure from RERA and good work by our Municipal Area Manager, Cecile Jonkheid, the unsightly ruin on erf 324 has been demolished and all rubble and rubbish that used to litter the sight is gone for good!



TWO NEW CONSERVANCIES!

We have two new infant Conservancies to congratulate. On 1 October 2005, the Bettys Bay Conservancy was inaugurated. The meeting was chaired by pilot Chairman, Mike Stakemire, and a steering committee was elected. The proposed constitution was tabled and it was proposed that all haste be made to have this conservancy registered with Cape Nature as soon as possible.

On 17 December 2005, the Pringle Bay Conservancy will meet to table their constitution and choose a steering committee. Nicolette Louw has been guiding the pilot committee towards successful registration of their conservancy.

Of small beginnings comes much. We wish them every success and delight in the knowledge that the concept of village conservancies is spreading throughout our district.

NOTICE OF CONSERVANCY AGM

7TH JANUARY 2006 AT 5 P.M.

65 BATHERS ROAD (GO TOWARDS THE BEACH
FROM THE FIRST CIRCLE)

SPECIAL THANKS TO IAN AND ROSEMARY
LEWIS FOR USE OF THEIR HOME!

ALL WELCOME

The Rooi Els Conservancy is open to all Rooi Els residents, plottolders and weekenders. It is dedicated to ensuring that nature is nurtured and welcomes everyone to come and learn about what is happening and how you can contribute to sustainability and co-existence. Observers and new members are welcome. The Conservancy membership will be electing representatives to take over the baton in 2006.

BEWAREA AJV

7 JANUARIE 2006 OM 5 N.M.

BATHERSWEG 65 (NET VERBY DIE EERSTE SIRKEL
OP PAD NA STRAND)

DANKIE AAN IAN & ROSEMARY LEWIS VIR DIE
GEBRUIK VAN HUL HUIS!

ALMAL IS WELKOM

WORKING TOWARDS A SAFER COMMUNITY IT CONCERNS US ALL

IT'S A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT. A FIGURE MOVES STEALTHILY FROM THE SHADOWS AS CLOUDS GATHER TO OBSCURE A DULL MOON. A CRACK NOT QUITE PIERCES THE NIGHT AS THE FRONT DOOR LOCK GIVES WAY UNDER THE STRAIN OF HUNDRED POUNDS OF PRESSURE APPLIED BY A TYRE IRON. IN A NEIGHBOURING HOUSE A SLEEPING MAN STIRS, TURNS, AND SWALLOWS A FEW TIMES TO LUBRICATE A DRY MOUTH AND RESONATING VOICE BOX. THE ONLY WITNESSES... THE FYNBOS SHAKING, DISAPPROVINGLY, IN THE WIND...

A scene from a crime novel? No, this is a probable scene from a crime spree that hit Rooi Els over the past eighteen months! Out of the 250 houses in Rooi Els 25% were burgled and a few more than once. The burglars seemed to favour houses that were not fitted with radio alarm systems. Burglar bars, trellidoors and even aluminium shutters were no deterrents. They took interest in outboard motors, electrical and electronic equipment and in a few instances almost entire house contents.

MANY OF THE BURGLARIES SEEMINGLY HAPPENED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, AND IN A NUMBER OF CASES THE OPERATIVES HAD A MERRY OLD TIME ENJOYING A "HAPPY MEAL" AFTER A LIGHT DAY/NIGHT'S WORK. IT ALL SEEMED TO BE AS EASY AND CONVENIENT AS DRIVE-THROUGH AT MACDONALD'S.

Evidence seemed to indicate that a gang or number of unrelated gangs were operating in the area, including Pringle and Betty's Bay. In Rooi Els with a number of cases the modus operandi was to stake out a house, hit it when convenient (or even hit a few houses at the same time), and stash the loot in the fynbos for later collection when the heat is off. So, if you ever come across a stereo, microwave or a pram laying in the fynbos, don't think the neighbors are keeping an untidy yard, alert the authorities!

Currently about 150 Rooi Els houses are fitted with monitored radio alarm systems by either ASK Coastal Security responding from Pringle Bay, or Blue Energy responding from Betty's Bay. Safe also has a few contracts. Fortunately there were no robberies, assaults or hi-jacking's, but as gangs get more brazen we fear that these violent type crimes are imminent. As it is clear that monitored radio alarm systems are a deterrent to criminals we strongly urge Rooi Els homeowners whose homes are not currently monitored to consider doing so. This will not only secure your property, but will ensure a safer and more secure community.



Security companies, police, emergency services and delivery services all have trouble locating addresses because of the lack of erf numbers on properties. We suggest a uniform numbering system that is perhaps A4 or A5 in size, adorned with a statement of intent like "Rooi Els Community Watch" and an erf number. These plates should then be staked into the ground at property entrances where they are easy to detect at night in the headlights of a vehicle. Comment on this suggestion will be appreciated.

There have been a decline in incidents the last couple of months, but there were two cases where houses were broken into at night while being occupied. This could have been very serious for the occupants, but fortunately the perpetrators were scared away by panic alarms. In order to combat crime in our village effectively it is important that the community is well organized and informed. It is, however, very difficult to get statistics from the police because of policy and even the security companies are loathe to provide information as it can reflect on their ability to effectively deter criminals from breaking into properties they monitor. I have started mapping the properties in Rooi Els that are monitored by radio alarms of the various security companies as well as most burglary incidents since July 2004. My sources were local residents and I am not too sure how accurate and complete their information is. Thus I am appealing for information from the community regarding any past and future incidents. The idea is to establish a centralized database and mapping of criminal activity in the village that will allow us to formulate a suitable response.

I can be contacted on 082 773 1994 or e-mailed at goliath@iafrica.com

DAWID VAN DER MERWE
SAFETY AND SECURITY PORTFOLIO

MUNISIPALE VERWIKKELINGE IN OVERSTRAND CECILE VERTEL...

Overstrand Munisipaliteit het sopas sy (haar) vyfde verjaardag gevier. Voorwaar 'n kleuter wat al op stewige bene kan rondhardloop.

Met die einde van die jaar 2005 wat vinnig naderkom, wonder ek nou die dag oor 'n koppie koffie ('n amptenaar is darem af en toe op 'n ruskans geregtig) hoe ek eerlik sal antwoord op die vraag hoe dit nou regtig voel om 'n werknemer van Overstrand Munisipaliteit te wees. Vir my voel dit goed, dis voorwaar 'n voorreg. Terugskouend is daar vele suksesse op ons kerfstok.

Overstrand Munisipaliteit het by verskeie geleenthede waar afgevaardigdes van ander munisipaliteite in die Wes-Kaap ook teenwoordig was, voorleggings gedoen oor hoe Overstrand sy wykskomitees gevestig het en om die kommunikasiestelsel tussen die wykskomitees en die raad toe te lig. Verrigtinge by 'n konferensie vroeër hierdie jaar deur ongeveer 1500 afgevaardigdes van oral in die Wes-Kaap, het 'n hoogtepunt bereik toe 'n gesamentlike verklaring deur alle afgevaardigdes uitgereik is waarin hulle hulself weer eens verbind het tot die bou van 'n regeringstelsel wat deelname aanmoedig en gebruik en op die gemeenskap se roepstem reageer.

Ons glo dat die Overstrand wykskomiteestelsel, wat ook die model in die Wes-Kaap geword het, nou deur sy 'tandekry'-fase is en met verdere verfyning nog groter uitbouing van demokrasie teweeg sal bring. Afgevaardigdes van elkeen van die wyke in Overstrand het tydens die jongste OMAF vergadering op 29 November 2005 die geleentheid gekry om die werking van die stelsel oor die afgelope twee jaar krities in oënskou te neem en insette te lewer vir die moontlike verbetering van die stelsel.

Service rendering is our focus and officials were present when, to promote communities' involvement in local government matters, a series of Council imbizos were conducted during February. People were informed on and consulted about the progress that has been made with programmes such as housing, local economic development and the writing off of arrears. The placement of personnel has been finalized. This resulted in job security for officials, and all attention and energy can now be devoted to service delivery.

Overstrand also gave recognition to residents for outstanding performance. The competition for the Mayor's Environment Award was organised for the second time. A contestant from the Hangklip-Kleinmond area, the Betty's Bay Hack Group, was one of the finalists. Another resident from our area who did us proud, is Mrs Avril Nunn who was awarded Woman of the Year by the Overstrand Gender Committee at the Mayoress' Annual Breakfast on Saturday, 6 August 2005. Avril deserved the award for her outstanding commitment and her absolute determination to serve the community.

Die versterking van gedesentraliseerde bestuur is ook aan die orde van die dag. Areabestuurders en Operasionele Bestuurders beskik nou oor die nodige magte om toe te sien dat dienslewering plaasvind. Die persepsie dat besluite net by die hoofkantoor in Hermanus geneem word, is nie korrek nie en moet afgebreek word. Areabestuurders in elkeen van die vier administratiewe gebiede van die munisipaliteit is vir alle aspekte van dienslewering in hul onderskeie gebiede verantwoordelik.

Kritiek en klagtes? Ja, daarvan het ek ook my kwota ontvang, maar ek glo die meerderheid daarvan was tot die opbouing van die munisipaliteit en sy inwoners. Kritiek en ook klagtes is dikwels die publiek se manier om die rigting aan te dui wat hulle wil hê dat ons moet inslaan. Wees verseker, ek slaan ag daarop.

Die jaar 2005 was vir my 'n spesiale jaar. Ek en my kollegas wens ons inwoners en besoekers 'n aangename en vreugdevolle rustydperk saam met hul geliefdes toe en vertrou dat een en almal gedurende hierdie tyd die vreugde van die Kersgety sal ervaar.

CECILE JONKHEID
OVERSTRAND MUNISIPALITEIT



CECILE JONKHEID IS DIE
AREABESTUURDER VIR
KLEINMOND, BETTYSBAAI,
PRINGLEBAAI EN ROOIELS

OUR EVER-CLEVERER BABOONS

LOVE THEM OR HATE THEM, THE BABOONS REMAIN PART OF LIFE IN ROOI ELS. AS THEY GROW CLEVERER, IT BECOMES MORE OF A CHALLENGE TO FIND WAYS OF KEEPING THEM OUT OF OUR PERSONAL SPACE SO THAT WE CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE. AND CLEVERER THEY HAVE DEFINITELY BECOME!

It was during December 2003 that the Biosphere Reserve Action Group [BRAG] was first called to a home where a baboon had gained access by lifting a sliding door off its tracks. Slowly but surely, the troop learnt how successful this technique was. By the end of 2004 it had become their *modus operandi*. When home owners installed guards to prevent the doors coming off the tracks, the baboons quickly learnt to bend aluminium door frames enough to squeeze through. It was a technique that worked with open, securely latched windows as well. In the process, expensive panes of glass were often broken. Tempers flared and frustration levels rose, but it is to the credit of all Rooi Elers, that they did not follow the route taken by Pringle Bay. **There were NO reported shootings in Rooi Els.** However, by September 2005, many felt at the end of their tether. So, BRAG organized a well-attended meeting at the home of Nick and Hannah Augustides, who had had 2 serious baboon break-ins the previous week.

It was a multi-purpose meeting:

- To share up-to-date information about the RE troop
- To encourage a spirit of community and co-operation in dealing with baboon-human conflict, mindful of the fact the Rooi Els is not only part of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, but also a registered Conservancy.
- To ensure that strategies directed at baboon management adhere to Conservancy principles, balancing the rights of owners with those of wild animals.
- To introduce Dave Seymour from the Municipality's Dept. of Environment and Conservation, who has been given the responsibility of dealing with baboon issues.
- To hear about specific problems with baboons in RE, especially new ways of accessing homes, and to explore appropriate ways of keeping baboons out of our homes.



KEEPING BABOONS OUT

A vote was taken on every proposal from the floor and it was decided that the following actions should be taken:

1. A joint motivation from RERA, RE Conservancy and BRAG be sent to Cecile Jonkheid (Hangklip Area Manger) urging that the Municipality access the money already allocated by Central Government for baboon management in the Overstrand, and that a Monitor Programme be urgently implemented. Rooi Els should not be overlooked in this programme. (*This letter is included in The Breeze for your information*).
2. The joint motivation would also include a request that the Municipality attend to the issue of baboon-proof waste management in Rooi Els, the erection of appropriate signage NOT to feed baboons, at the CBD, and allow the relocation of individual problem animals provided the process outlined by Cape Nature is adhered to.
3. The joint motivation will also ask the Municipality to have specific bylaws promulgated that take into account the human-baboon conflict issues in our area, so that action can be taken against people who persist in feeding baboons.
4. In the meantime, people who feed baboons can be reported to Dave Seymour who will take up the matter with them. Photographic evidence is encouraged. Dave Seymour's contact number is: 072-959-3970. His email is: daveseym2000@yahoo.co.uk

A STUDY ON OUR BABOONS

Evelyn Guyett, a 3rd year student from London, spent 3 months from June to September, studying our baboons in the field. This was a continuation of the Overstrand CIVIs [Conservation by International Volunteer's Initiatives] project, started by Craig Spencer in 2003. She gave a talk at Nick and Hannah's house, the day before she flew home. Here are some of her findings -

There are currently 6 troops in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve: Betty's Bay troop=13; Pringle Bay=20 (down from 34 in March 2004. Several shootings have been reported). Hangklip=24; Kleinmond=15-20; Hermanus=20; Rooi Els=27. The RE troop is down from 35 in March 2004. There have been no reported shootings, but accidents on the R44 and natural causes have accounted for the deaths of several babies and juveniles.

During 2004, field workers noted that the RE troop would separate into 2 groups for foraging, but would recombine each evening at one of 4 identified sleeping sites. There were occasional fights between males, one on the verandah of Hennie Wilkens home, that left a broken metal table. As 2005 dawned, the fights became more regular and more serious. Residents reported loud and repeated fights on the slopes of Klein Hangklip, with babies and juveniles scattering, screaming when these started. This period did not end in the death or banishment of the loser, although some ugly wounds were inflicted. Instead, the **RE troop split in June 2005**. Although both groups remained in the larger RE territory, they began to avoid each other, foraging and sleeping apart. The new alpha male took over a troop of 17 and the "old" one has retained 10 loyal supporters, including several babies. There was no infanticide. So far, there have been enough resources to sustain both groups, although it will be interesting to see what effect the recent fire with its destruction of food resources has on this dynamic.

Evelyn made some interesting points:

- **The RE troop is not growing.** In fact it is smaller than 18 months ago, due to death from natural causes and high mortality on the R44.
- There are still owners in RE who are negligent about protecting their property from baboons and a few who persist in deliberate feeding.
- The baboons have become increasingly resourceful in gaining access to homes even to baboon-proofed ones. Since the CIVIs project began in 2003, they have learned to open horizontal door handles, take sliding doors off their tracks, scratch the putty out of windows, chew wooden frames to loosen window panes and bend aluminium window and door frames to gain access. They are now approaching people in the CBD with food and one young baboon has learnt to perch on top of the entrance to the Village Shop and grab packets off unsuspecting shoppers as they emerge.

The RE Survivor Game data, faithfully recorded for 4 years by Margaret Hensen, has shown that the number of days that baboons visit the village has increased remarkably [from just over 60% per month for 2002-2004, to over 90% for 2005].

This is probably due to their having discovered more successful ways to gain access to our homes. However, we continue to outwit them and are doing our best to keep their hits more or less constant they still score at least one hit on 60% of the days they are in the village, as they have been doing since the Survivor Game started in 2002.



BABIES IN A SHELL

ROOI ELS TROOP: HOW WE SPEND OUR TIME

29%	foraging in native vegetation
17%	foraging in gardens
17%	moving from one place to the next
12%	resting
10%	playing
10%	grooming
3%	eating human food from bins and homes
2%	mating, self-grooming and aggression
29%	foraging in native vegetation
17%	foraging in gardens
17%	moving from one place to the next
12%	resting
10%	playing
10%	grooming
3%	eating human food from bins and homes
2%	mating, self-grooming and aggression

JENNY STARK



BABOON ANTICS

Spare a moment to laugh at the antics of the baboon clowns that frequent our village. Their behaviour is so like our own, and that often makes it all the more hilarious.

Take, for example, the scene I was fortunate enough to witness when the R44 road lines were being repainted. I was approaching a distant line painting crew preparing a long straight section of road for the day's work. This involved a worker jogging along behind a bakkie that was carrying a load of traffic cones and placing these down the middle of the road as he ran along.

Fifty or so meters behind the worker was a baboon who ran along the line of cones, deliberately knocking them over as he went. Seeing this, the worker ran back toward the mischievous baboon shouting and waving his hat at the bemused animal. After righting the displaced cones and continuing his task, what do you think the baboon did? Of course, he took even more delight in knocking the next few in the row over with a repeat response from the agitated worker. I wish I could have stayed to watch the sport continue and wonder if the worker ever saw the funny side and who got tired of the game first!

Then there was the day that I was working at the computer upstairs while our famous African Grey, Roger, was minding his own business on his cage perch on the stoep below. Now Roger's cage is on a trolley, much like a supermarket trolley, and has a basket underneath intended to hold Roger's supply of seed and other goodies. When Roger began screeching I realised that a friendly baboon was wheeling his cage around the stoep in an attempt to shake some of Roger's seed out of the cage; not an unusual occurrence.

Being lazy by nature, instead of taking the usual stairway to get down to the stoep, I climbed out of the window onto the sunroom roof, walked to a position where I was above the baboon, who by now had his head and shoulders under the cage rummaging around in the trolley basket, and clapped my hands loudly.

Well, what would you do if you were in the position that the baboon was in when startled? You would probably stand up in fright, bang your head under the cage, hold the back of your head in pain and run off in fright ... that's exactly what the baboon did ... he never looked round or up to see who or what his assailant was and fled over the stoep wall still holding his head with one hand.

It may surprise you to know that Daddy baboon has definite ideas about how his youngsters should behave when visiting in the village! Two youngsters were playing harmlessly the game of roll-down-the-roof on our garage roof, enjoying the thrill of breaking their tumble by grabbing the gutter.

Daddy baboon sat surveying the neighbourhood on the far side of the roof, out of sight. Now all games become dull after being played a number of times and the two youngsters eventually stopped their rolling game and sat at the gutter wondering what else they could do. One gestured to the other "Why not bend the gutter back and forward so that it makes a nice cracking sound?" and the new, not so harmless, game started in earnest. Lynne, who had been watching them play, knew that the gutter would only stand a certain amount of this treatment, so shouted her disapproval at them. Daddy baboon immediately came over the rooftop, grabbed the offending pair and gave them a sound drubbing. After they had run off, squealing as they went, Daddy courteously jumped off the roof and sauntered past Lynne giving her a grunt and quizzical look that seemed to ask "satisfied?"



I'm not often sick but recently had to spend a couple of days in bed with bronchitis. The weather being quite warm, I had the sliding door open from the upstairs stoep into the bedroom. In case a baboon entered, the internal bedroom door was closed and locked. Some time later while lying (dying) dozing with my back to the door, I became aware of a certain presence ... rolling over slowly towards the sliding door I came face to face with a large baboon leaning toward me across the bed with his "hands" resting on the side of the bed. He just stood and looked me up and down, as if assessing my state of health and the adequacy of my resting place before turning quietly and ambling out the way he had come in.

Unfortunately, he didn't leave his contact details so I'm not able to recommend him for his courteous bedside manner to others who might need a visit under similar circumstances! I've had better looking care-givers in my time though, so perhaps it's just as well.

ROB FRYER

THE MAGIC OF KLEIN-HANGKLIP

A Sword of Damocles - or an Exalibur soaring heavenwards? Klein Hangklip murmurs messages from the sea a False Bay Prophet echoing the surf; reflecting the last purple rays of the sunset; sheltering our eagles. In the early hours it casts a long shadow over the character of Rooiels.

Our gaoler - or guardian angel?

Its moods may be fleeting, but Klein Hangklip is a constant reminder of the turbulent archaeological past. It welcomes the cautious with 'olde worlde' courtesy. It rejects those who challenge its supremacy. Those who choose their day and the traditional route up its eastern slope arrive safe - if a little out of breath! But woe-betide those who venture up the stern face guarding our shores. Some have been rescued from a chilly, and perilous night, clinging like flies to that cold, implacable facade. Others have fallen and been miraculously saved by the resilient fynbos. Has she claimed any lives? - I do not know!

Each New Year they come to worship the Creator's creation. Layered clothes, for easy stripping when the adrenaline pumps and the sweat stings the eyes - even in mid-summer it can be chilly at 5 a.m! Coffee and rusks; chilled 'fruit of the vine'; champagne - to each his own. But the companionship is complete and silence falls as we await the first glimpse of our New Year rising over the Betty's Bay hinterland.

A gradual warming as the sun's smile broadens. As one, almost reluctantly we turn to witness the Peninsula glow slow purple, blushing languidly from head to toe. There is silence - or is there? The sea-sound rushes up. The wind rustles down. Someone coughs self-consciously. A car labours up the cutting far below.

A Rooivalk shreds the air. The spell is broken, where are our Eagles? Have they, too, decided to sleep in or is it simply too early for their thermals?

And below, a somnolent Rooiels sprawls across her bed of coastal plain, recovering from a night of debauchery, missing out on this new day; this new year; this Promise of a fresh start to life!

GEOFF HARRIS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

33 RD AGM OF ROOI ELS RATEPAYERS'
ASSOCIATION

DATE: WEDNESDAY 28 DECEMBER 2005
TIME: 16:30 FOR 17:00

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF
SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM 16:30

VENUE: ERF 65 BATHERS ROAD (THE LEWIS'
HOME)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN
CHAIR!



JAN ULRICH - TRAINING IN ROOIELS!

I spotted Team Mobile going past our house on 6 Dec 2005. It is the second time they have trained through Rooi Els this month and we hope many more times to come. Unfortunately I couldn't get a photo of Jan Ulrich himself as he was in the middle of the group but he was the only one to respond to my shout with a "good morning".

What a great experience to see these world class cyclists shoot up the Rooi Els climb as if it was a little pimple- which in Tour d' France terms it no doubt is!! This photo shows Jill on the side of the road next to the bikes. Lovely to see them. Without Lance Armstrong in the 2006 Tour, Jan Ulrich will be the firm favourite to win.

Seeing that he trains at Rooi Els I really hope he does!

DICK LOCKLEY

THE ROOIELS HEALTH & HACKIT CLUB THE BEST WORKOUT IN TOWN!

Once again a good hacking year has been completed, though 'The Fire' will go down as the biggest hack of all. Ironically, the December hack was to have taken place in Klein Rooiels or Rooi Els East or Rooi Els Upper depending on your standpoint. From their commanding outlook up there, ace hackers Dick and Jill Lockley and Koos Smit would probably call it Upper Rooi Els, while for those of us who have hacked there many times and never seem to win, it is Klein Rooiels because we couldn't bear it to be any "groter". And only Rooi Els Boat Club navigators would think of it in terms of a compass point.

We were due to clear the big infestation of Rooikrans and Port Jackson just above the bridge and the river, probably a 2 or 3 Saturday's job so extensive was the growth, but nature did it for us, as I stood on the Clarens Drive bridge watching, in less than 15 minutes. To those who watched from the bridge area, as the arc of flame raced up from the river towards the houses, engulfed in impenetrable smoke, how the whole of Klein Rooiels didn't go up was a mystery, but that it didn't and that we got a free hack was a blessing to be grateful for. As a result we did not have a December hack - not because we are a bunch of opportunistic shortcut-takers, but because the municipality said that they would not clear after us because they were too busy after the fire. No further comment!



GERRY'S CHAINSAW
MAGIC AT WORK!

Shirley and Ian Richter have managed the organizing of the first Saturday in every month bar January, the traditional Hack calendar, when between 15 and 25 people regularly meet to hack. Ian writes an impressive (for a genuine soutie) tweetalige e-mail, reminding us of the upcoming event, Shirly organizes where we cut, eat and drink afterwards, Rob Fryer has an amazing vehicle that doubles as an equipment carrier, Philipp Wagner guards zealously the club chainsaw that he has on permanent loan but maintains himself, while occasionally Gerry Mentzel pitches up with a chainsaw that he wields like a fire extinguisher on a blaze and you better not get in his way either. He is a fine devastator of trees but he likes them big, so Shirley has to find him a diet of trees to his liking. He has taken over where the much respected and missed Chris Gilmour left off. As usual the women are the most active, busy and uncomplaining hackers, doing the thankless dragging out of cut branches, spraying of poison and pulling out of new little blighters. The Hack really only succeeds because of their diligence.

There are still owners who keep Rooikrans on their erven, while others like Willie Pienaar called the Hack Group in, gave us a fine tea and a beer or two and got the clearing job done for them. Actually the Hack's most embarrassing moment of hacking may have been when we had to stop a hack on Willie's plot many years ago, because some enthusiastic new hackers were hacking a lot of his lovely fynbos with the Rooikrans 50m away! We have a seemingly endless task on Porter Drive and hacked there a few times, but most of the village from Anemone Road back towards the holdings and Pringle is nearly clear, apart from erven whose owners want to keep their aliens. And we can now add much of Klein Rooiels to the nearly clear area.

A suggestion has been made that the history of the Hack group be recorded, so any of you who have stories or memories please contact Estelle Raymond. She will be asking some of the stalwarts like Jean Cowan, Marie Philip, Evette and Marius Weyers, Eldie Brink and Anuta Scholtz (in Taiwan) for background.

And if you would like your erf cleaned up in 2006, contact Shirley Richter.

DIARMUID BAIGRIE

SOME FACTS ON INVASIVE ALIENS

As a conservancy village, Rooi Els would prefer to encourage an environment that will help to promote the natural habitat. This helps the bird and animal life and the visual character of the village. We are situated in a natural wonderland. We are the floristic heart of the Cape Floral Region with the highest plant species richness and endemism. The diversity of our natural environments includes rare blackwater lakes, marshes, estuaries, rivers and the mountains bordering on a narrow coastal plain as well as our rich marine habitat. Did you know that Europe has only 23 species of *Ericas* (heathers) and in the south-western Cape there are 426 *Erica* species. We need to nurture our biological diversity and that means increasing the area of fynbos and reducing any threat to it.

Not all alien plants are invasive. For those who like to have their roses and other plants in their gardens our appeal is primarily against alien invaders, not the cultivars which do not spread. However you would be doing a favour to the wildlife, to the visual impact and to its character as a conservation village, if you could allow much of your garden to contain the natural fynbos. You would also be saving yourself a lot of frustration! Ask anyone who has seen the impact of our harsh conditions on beautiful alien flowers. The harsh winds, salty air and infertile soils make conventional gardening difficult.

Our area is rich in many flowers that can be grown to pick and would be very beautiful in our gardens. We could encourage nurseries to stock these bulbs, seeds and plants if we demand them. In addition to the well-known proteas, perlagoniums and the myriad species of daisies, there are so many other really beautiful flowers to choose from. You only have to look at the veld to see the stunning gladioli, the ericas, the orchids, the irises, and many, many more. We also have flowers with wonderful scents including *Podalyria calyptrata*, the bush sweet pea, which is as sweetly scented as the cultivated annuals.

Invasive alien plants are a significant national problem affecting almost 10 million hectares of the country and spreading rapidly. About 750 tree and 8000 other species have been introduced to South Africa from Australia, South and Central America, North America, Europe and Asia. They were introduced deliberately for their commercial or ornamental value, to stabilise sand dunes and as barrier and hedge plants and accidentally by the containers of ships and aircraft.

Not all these introduced plants have become invaders. Most are benign and many are useful. However alien plants which are particularly well adapted may become aggressive and invasive when they are introduced into a new country without their natural enemies (plant-feeding insects and other pathogens) to suppress them.

Invasive alien species have a significant negative impact on the environment. Next to direct habitat destruction, invading alien organisms are regarded as the biggest threat to biodiversity, and southern Africa could lose almost a quarter of its plant species from the fynbos region alone, due to invading alien plants.

Other impacts include:

- reducing stream flow (particularly when replacing fynbos with tree species that use more water)
- reducing the ability of water supply schemes to deliver water to meet demands, especially in the dry periods
- increasing the fuel load that can burn leading to higher intensity and more regular fires
- this in turn leads to physical damage of the soil and erosion after fire,
- and reduction in the viability of indigenous seeds thereby favouring recruitment of more invasive alien plants and reducing species diversity,
- densely invaded areas are impenetrable, restricting access and making fires even more difficult to control

Landowners are under a legal obligation to control invading alien plants occurring on their properties. The current relevant laws identified at this stage are:

- The common law relating to neighbours and nuisance;
- Section 151(1) of the National Water Act 36 of 1998
- Section 28 of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998;
- Section 31A of the Environment Conservation Act, 73 of 1989;
- Municipal by-laws and the National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1989
- Regulations in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 43 of 1983.

KAY LERESCHE

IN MEMORIAM

DR LOUIS H DE VILLIERS

Rondom 1985 koop Louis en Johlene de Villiers die huis langs ons. 'n Selfdoener en nutsman van die eerste water. Hy begin om op sy unieke manier die huis in Villa Viljee te verander - 'n selfspot omdat hy geen erg aan vertoon, titels en snobisme het nie. En stadig het hy en Johlene deel geword van die asemhaling van Rooiels.

Met Louis se sterwe het 'n hele biblioteek van kennis tot niet gegaan. Sy belangstellings was wyd, en met sy ondersoekende gees was hy gedurig besig om verder te delf, hetsy in die wetenskap, geskiedenis, meganika, kulture, aandele, motors en motorfietse, finansies.... noem maar op, en Louis kon aanhaal en gesels en jy kon luister. Met sy skerp intellek, sjarme, prikkelende geselskap, fyn sin vir humor, waaghalsigheid, en 'n bietjie aweregtheid, was hy 'n buurman duisend.

Op 70 het Louis, na 'n vroeere hartaanval, nog saam met ons na Kleinmond en terug fiets getrap. Het ons elke dag saam gaan swem en die strate van Rooiels stofgetrap. Klein-Hangklip halfpad uitgeklim en saans het ons van die een huis tot die ander gebraai en tot laatnag gekuier. So was Louis deel van baie mense se bestaan op Rooiels.

Louis was die laaste paar jaar nie gesond nie, nie so mobiel soos vroeër nie, maar het dit hom nie gekeer om naweke en vakansies Rooiels toe te kom nie. 'n Paar weke gelede het ons Louis vir oulaas gegroet en het ons en hy geweet dit is die laaste groet. Daardie aand was ons so onder die indruk van 'n straling en wete van 'n nuwe avontuur wat hom alreeds omring het, van 'n krag wat uit hom gestoot het, van 'n fontein wat in hom opgespring het, en 'n alwetendheid wat alreeds in hom was. Die aand was jubelend met baie gelag, spitsvondighede en baie gepraat en toe die afskeid kom, het ons geweet hy proe al iets van die Ewige Lewe. Dankie Louis, dat jy die afskeid so maklik vir ons gemaak het. Dat ons 'n laaste heildronk kon klink. Dit is wat ware vriende vir mekaar doen.

"The mark of a great man is someone who gives more than he was given."

GERARD EN ANUTA SCHOLTZ



JOHLENE EN LOUIS DE VILLIERS

ALBERT JACOBUS STALS
07-02-1952 TOT 16-09-2005

Ons, wat saam met hom skool toe is, het hom geken as Apie wat later jare "Albie" geword het en dit was soos hy hier op Rooiels bekend was. Dit was met groot skok dat ons op 16 September 2005 verneem het van sy onverwagte heengaan. 'n Vriend en kameraad was nie meer nie.

Albie en Ria, wat hom reeds vooruit gegaan het, het Rooiels in die middel tagtigs "ontdek" waarna "Glipweg" gebou is. Van toe af was dit 'n "baken" van Rooiels waar vriende, kennisse en selfs vreemdes altyd welkom was. Hier was hy selde alleen aangesien hy so bemind was en altyd bereid was om te help waar hy kon.

Hy was op daardie stadium en tot by sy afsterwe baie betrokke by die Lions organisasie en was dan later ook Voorsitter vir 'n termyn.

Albie was lief vir die see en het sommer gou 'n boot bekom. Dit was dus nie snaaks dat hy deel was van die eerste groep Rooielsers wat hulle beywer het vir die daarstelling van die Rooiels Bootklub nie. Daar was reeds 'n valhek met unieke sleutels maar dit is deur die destydse Hangklip munisipaliteit beheer en bestuur. Die eerste vergadering tot hierdie doel is op 5 November 1994 gehou en Albie is tot die interim bestuur verkies. Met die tot standkoming van die Klub in September 1995 is hy tot die bestuur verkies en was al persoon van die eerste bestuurspan wat, tot met sy dood, ononderbroke lid was hiervan.

Hy was gereeld onder langs die see en het met almal gesels. Daar was altyd 'n storie of staaltjie te vertel. Die "slip" sal nie dieselfde wees sonder hom nie en ons mis hom reeds. Die wete dat ons jou nie weer hier sal sien nie maak beslis van Rooiels 'n armer plek

Ons verseker die seuns, Robert en Wilhelm, van ons opregte meegevoel met hul groot verlies.

PIET UYS - ROOIELS BOOTKLUB

GETTING TO KNOW THE NIGHT SKY

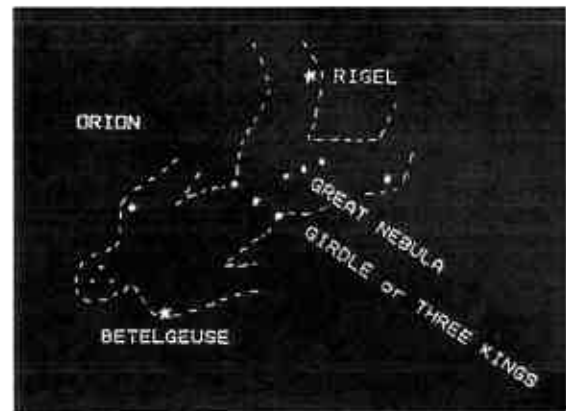
Rooi Els has excellent properties for exploring the night sky. Of course we can't compete with the vast spaces of Botswana without a single artificial light to be seen, or the crisp Drakensberg sky after a summer storm has cleared away the dust. But we still do get those clear summer nights when the Milky Way seems to fill all the spaces between the brighter stars and the full moon lights up the mountainsides.

WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT THERE ARE NO LARGE TOWNS OR CITIES NEARBY TO POLLUTE THE SKY, AND IF WE CAN JUST BE AWARE OF THE NEED TO KEEP OUR OWN HOME AND SECURITY LIGHTING POINTING DOWNWARDS, WE CAN PRESERVE THIS ASSET FOR THE FUTURE.

Even a very basic recognition of the major stars and constellations, and the progress of the visible planets across them, can add to the pleasure of being outside on those long, clear summer evenings. I also find it quite humbling to realise that our ancestors from many thousands of years ago, in all cultures around the world, saw these same sights and were able to unravel the complex movements, plot them and predict events such as alignments and eclipses, all without the aid of telescopes, accurate timekeeping or computers and without our present understanding of the Sun as the centre of the Solar System with Earth and the other planets rotating around it. At the same time, their imaginations have provided us with a rich folklore of beliefs, legends and tales.

There are a number of "landmarks" (skymarks?) in the sky that can be of great help in orientating oneself and finding other celestial features. For those of us in the southern hemisphere, there is probably no better place to start than with the **Southern Cross**. In the middle of summer, it is low on the southern horizon in the evening, and appears to move slowly in an anti-clockwise direction, about an imaginary point in the sky. This point is known as the **South Celestial Pole** and in fact all of the stars appear to rotate about it. A time exposure photograph of the sky at night will show a series of arcs all with the same centre of rotation.

The sight of these bright stars low on the horizon in the summer evenings gave rise to the Tswana legend that they are giraffes, visible above the trees. They call this constellation "Thutlwa", meaning "rising above the trees". The brightest object in this group, the Pointer furthest from the Cross itself, is actually a three-star group known as Alpha Centauri and is our closest neighbour outside the Solar System at 4.4 light years away.



Another very prominent constellation in our area at this time of the year is Orion. Most people are familiar with the three bright stars that make up the belt and the three fainter stars that form the sword. Orion can be seen rising in the east soon after dark and lies just to the south of the Ecliptic, the imaginary line along which the Sun, moon and visible planets move across the sky. Orion's belt is a very useful pointer to the positions of several other interesting features. To the north is Betelgeuse which represents Orion's head and to the south is Rigel.

In line with Orion's Belt to the southeast, forming a triangle with his head and foot, is **Sirius**, the brightest star in the sky. To the ancient Egyptians, Sirius was an important timekeeper. When it first became visible in the early morning just before sunrise, this was a sign that the annual flooding of the Nile was due to take place and that the fields must be prepared accordingly.

THE ECLIPTIC

This is the imaginary path across the sky that is traced by the Sun, the moon and the visible planets, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Because these planets and our Earth all lie in essentially the same plane as they make their way around the Sun, they appear from anywhere on the Earth to move along the same path. The moon is also more or less on the same plane and therefore also moves along this line. From earliest human consciousness, our ancestors have been aware of this path that the "wanderers" as they referred to the planets seemed to follow. The ancient Greeks recognised the groups of stars that formed the backdrop to this line and gave them names. These are the twelve constellations that form the "Zodiac". Getting to recognise these constellations and know where to expect them at different times of the night and different times of the year is another practical step in celestial navigation.

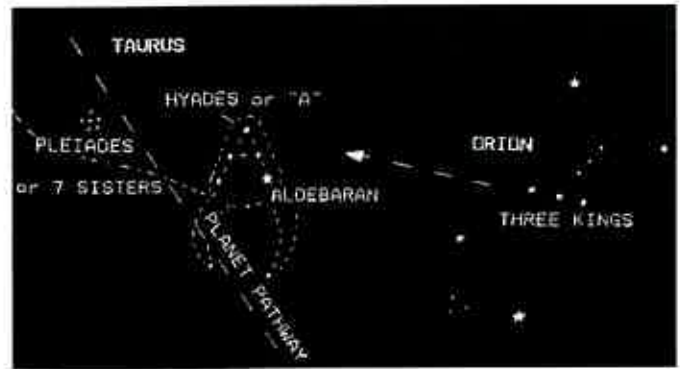
GETTING TO KNOW THE NIGHT SKY (CONT)

Orion also helps to locate some of the constellations of the Zodiac (See box). To the northwest of Orion's Belt, almost "opposite" the position of Sirius with respect to the Belt, is another bright star. This is Aldabaran, which forms one of the eyes of Taurus, the Bull. With a bit of imagination, you can see a large triangle, including Aldabaran and four other stars. The three closest stars in this triangle form Taurus's head and the two more distant stars are the points of his horn. To the northwest of Taurus's head there is a cluster of seven closely-spaced stars. This is Pleiades, also known as the Seven Sisters. It forms Taurus's shoulder.

There are many stories from different cultures incorporating these prominent stars and clusters that we know as Orion and Taurus. According to the Namaquas, the Pleiades were the daughters of the sky god. When their husband (Aldebaran) shot his arrow (Orion's sword) at three zebras (Orion's belt), it fell short. He dared not return home because he had killed no game, and he dared not retrieve his arrow because of the fierce lion (Betelgeuse) which sat watching the zebras. There he sits still, shivering in the cold night and suffering thirst and hunger. For the Tswana, the stars of Orion's sword were *'dintsa le Dikolobe'*, *three dogs chasing the three warthog piglets of Orion's belt*.

THIS IS ALSO A GOOD TIME OF THE YEAR TO OBSERVE OUR TWO CLOSEST PLANETARY NEIGHBOURS, VENUS AND MARS. VENUS IS IN ITS CLASSIC "EVENING STAR" POSITION, LOW ON THE WESTERN HORIZON, BECOMING CLEARLY VISIBLE SOON AFTER SUNSET. IN FACT, ON A CLEAR DAY, IF YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO LOOK, VENUS CAN BE SEEN AS A BRILLIANT WHITE SPOT EVEN IN FULL SUNLIGHT.

On December 4, three days after the December new moon, you would have been able to see the waxing crescent moon from about 10:00am in the eastern sky. If you search the sky close to the moon on its eastern side, you might be able to see Venus. There will be a similar opportunity on New Year's Day, but the moon and Venus will probably be too close to the sun for a good view. Venus will continue to move closer to the sun until it passes on 13 January. It will not pass in front of the sun from our view, but to the north. Venus passes in front of the sun twice every two hundred years or so. It happened on 8 June 2004 and was clearly visible from South Africa. It is due to happen again in June 2012, but this time you will have to be in the Pacific Ocean to see it.



Mars and Earth line up with the sun every two years and fifty days. This is when they are closest to each other, about 56 million kilometres apart. This alignment took place on 8 November this year. Because they both have slightly elliptical orbits, the exact distance varies each time. It so happened that on the previous occasion, in August 2003, Earth was at about its maximum distance from the sun, while Mars was almost at its minimum, making this the shortest distance that the two planets were apart in many thousands of years.

But the difference in distance between this and other times was very small and would not be discernable to the casual viewer. So all those e-mails that you probably received two years ago, and then again for this alignment, telling you that Mars was going to be "as bright as the full moon" overstated the case by a large margin. Nonetheless, Mars is an impressive sight in the night sky, rising just after sunset and visible to the west of Taurus and it definitely does look a bit red.

This is just the briefest introduction to some of the fascinating sights and insights of the night sky. There are many books suitable for the enthusiastic amateur stargazer and of course the Internet provides a rich resource these days. Some of the material for this article was taken from "Skywatching" by David H Levy' published by Leo Books. Two useful websites are: www.sao.ac.za/starlore/legends.html which provided insights into African astrology and folklore, while there is a very versatile and powerful shareware programme available at www.cybersky.com.

DUNCAN HILES

BIRD CHAT

'Tis the season to be jolly, sitting down on prickly holly, fill the cup, it's bottoms up, mistletoe and wine, real and artificial pine, roll out the barrels, endless tuneless carols! Stuff the turkey, goose and duck.... (perhaps I'd better forget the rest of that rhyme!) Somehow it seems an extremely inappropriate way to start a bird column by suggesting eating them, but for countless generations the feasting is all part of the fun and enjoyment of the festive spirit.

I would like via this column to give my personal thanks to everyone for their support and kindness towards us over the last few very trying and difficult months - it has been greatly appreciated by us both.



The long awaited arrival of Roberts VII is over, but before you rush out to buy your copy a couple of "warnings" may be helpful; it weighs in at a massive 6 kilos, is slightly larger than A4 and 80mm thick and will relieve your bank balance of some R800! It is a tome in the Victorian Bible sense and a field guide it most definitely is not, rather it is a scholarly work designed as the definitive reference book for birds in Southern Africa. It is being sold in all good bookshops. Birds Clubs are also selling it at reduced rates. Much of the work for the book has revolved around the classification of birds and as a direct consequence some familiar names have been changed to fit in with this new taxonomy.

Scientific names have not altered, it is the English ones that have been affected whilst the Afrikaans names have remained the same. What has changed is the order of the book and there is no longer a specific number attached to a bird. As a direct result of this it is currently useful to follow the Roberts 6 numbers and new lists have a column containing that number and a reference to a birds "old" name if appropriate e.g. Cape Robin is now called a Cape Robin-Chat (R.6-601) and Cape Francolin are now Cape Spurfowl (R.6-195). Both Dikkops are now called Thick-Knees while the Kelp Gull is now the Cape Gull. Some field guides have incorporated the "new" names with the old and have been updated, Sasol Birds Of Southern Africa (Third Edition) is a good example as well as an excellent field guide, if this were to be your only book it would be a good choice. That's enough technical for this year, lets get back to the festive theme of bright and colourful feathers!

The breast feathers of birds are often the most striking, take our Bokmakierie with his diagnostic broad black breast band. This member of the shrike family isn't the only one to have such an eye-catching breast, take the aptly named Gorgeous Bush Shrike which also has a broad black breast band and a bright red throat or the Crimson-Breasted Shrike in the sharply contrasting livery of a crimson breast and black upper parts; sadly one has to travel for a few hours to "twitch" these fine birds! Orange-breasted and Southern (Lesser) Double-collared Sunbirds are two of our own finest breasted birds while other small local avifauna that are also striking are the Cape Batis and the Bar-throated Apalis. Both the Cape and Sentinel Rock Thrushes together with our local very special Rockjumpers have stunning russet to deep rufous breast feathers. But few come close to the iridescent and spectacular little resident dynamo we know as the Malachite Kingfisher. Rooi Elsen have the privilege of seasonally being able to watch Paradise Flycatchers, the less desirable Klaas's Cuckoo, resident Verreaux's (formerly Black) Eagle, Black Oystercatchers, Ground Woodpeckers, Malachite Sunbirds, Cape Sugarbirds, etc. Sometimes our smallest birds have the loudest calls, eg the Karoo (Spotted) Prinia and others have liquid and harmonious songs like the Grassbird.

Peculiar events produce oddities in birding, take the all too recent fire has bizarrely bought in a "new" bird to Rooi Els we saw 4 Crowned Plovers on Lorna Lindsay's scorched erf, this is only the second record of this "common" bird in the Kogelberg Biosphere! Wind isn't exactly unknown in Rooi Els, but does us a favour by "blowing down" unusual birds to the area - only this week Chris Burlock phoned to tell us of a lone Blue Crane on the southern side of Rooi Els. The bird was in perfect health and had no other reason to be here thanks Chris, it was a great spot! A Black-shouldered Kite, once a regular here, was similarly battered into submission by the South-Easter. Please let us know about your sightings - we are currently assisting in the production of a list for the whole of the Biosphere, this now stands at a spectacular 234! These can be added to at anytime but please not after a liquid breakfast/lunch/high tea or supper...

However you are spending your festive period ENJOY it, as the old saying goes "Life's too short to drink bad wine", have fun!

ALISON AYRE

LUCY (VERY NEARLY) IN THE SKY WITH DIAMONDS: A CASE HISTORY OF A NEAR FATAL SNAKE BITE

It's a beautiful October morning. The air is crisp, the sea indigo, and the blue birds of happiness are singing their praises from the stoep railing. Down below in the yard, Lucy our 40kg, two year old, Malamute is stretching and contemplating her next doga position, when movement alerts her senses. She jumps up and quickly follows her nose to a pile of stones next to the fence. The cornered puff adder recoils, sucks in air to inflate itself to twice its size and deflates slowly with a menacing hiss. Lucy is not deterred and pounces. The snake strikes instantly and sinks both fangs deep into her upper lip. Its venom delivery system injects 100 to 200 milligrams of cytotoxic protein into her lip tissue.

The pain of the bite snaps her out of attack mode as she realizes something is terribly wrong. A tingling sensation spreads quickly around her face and head followed by a severe burning pain in her lip and gums minutes later. An immediate and severe infection starts raging in the tissue around her head. The body reacts immediately by rushing blood to the affected area, causing severe swelling, inflammation and high fever. Breathing becomes hard through swollen air passages and she starts to run around panicking, not understanding.



DAWID & LUCY

It is in a severe state of panic that Maxwell finds her. Fortunately he quickly realizes that a snake bit Lucy, once being a victim of a puff adder bite himself. Bravely he looks for a snake, finds a puff adder still in the yard. He calls on our friends Gerry Mentzel, Bo Duvenhage and Estelle le Roux who all rush to the rescue. At that time half an hour or more must have transpired and Lucy's head is badly swollen, breathing becoming increasingly difficult, subcutaneous bruising forming in her mouth and lips, and she's going into shock. She has to be carried to and loaded onto the back of Gerry Mentzel's bakkie. Gerry then, without consideration of his own life, and complete disregard for the rules of the road and various traffic regulations, races to the vet in Kleinmond. Fortunately Dr. Dave keeps anti-venom. Lucy is also given doses of antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, morphine, and put on a drip. The immediate risk to her life is electrolytic shock, and organs failing because of the infection. That evening the Vet didn't want to wager an opinion on Lucy's chances. It was a waiting game!

The next morning I am up at dawn (which is unusual for me) and sit on the stoep quietly shedding a few tears in my coffee. The blue birds of happiness are nowhere to be seen and the chicken of depression is now staring me down from the stoep railing! I know that Lucy now needs as much help as she can get, medical, spiritual and meta physical. So I start making some calls, sending some e-mails and even do some "horse trading" with God. Within hours we have tremendous support from all over. Scores of Malamutes from all over the country are channeling positive energy towards Lucy, their owners adding prayers and good wishes. A number of Rooi Elser's and other friends of Lucy and acquaintances send their support, thoughts, prayers, and even crystals with healing properties. By that evening Lucy still has a huge swollen head but is stable, eating and drinking well, and has renal and bowl function, (on an award winning lawn a few blocks from the Animal clinic- sorry Oom). Things are starting to look a lot better and there is hope!

Saturday morning she is over the worst and ready to be treated at home. Now the next battle is necrosis of the tissue in and around the mouth and if that develops she would have major problems. Already the skin on her lips and above the eyes start to blister. After another week of high protein diet, medication, meditation, crystal healing, prayers and support from her friends she chases a field mouse with much enthusiasm and vitality into the fynbos on our morning walk, and I know... Lucy's back! Today the only reminders she has of her terrible ordeal are two small scars on her upper lip...

"NO MATTER HOW LITTLE MONEY AND HOW FEW POSSESSIONS YOU OWN,
HAVING A DOG MAKES YOU RICH" - LOUIS SABIN

LUCY AND THE PUFF ADDER (CONTINUED)

The Puff Adder gets its name from its habit of inflating its body and emitting a deep, low warning hiss to warn intruders to stay away. The Puff Adder is a very slow moving, lethargic snake that doesn't move around very much, however, it is capable of short bursts of speed when attempting to escape.

REGARDLESS OF ITS NORMAL SLUGGISHNESS, THE PUFF ADDER IS ONE OF THE FASTEST STRIKING SNAKES IN THE WORLD.

There is a picture in circulation taken in 1936 of a Puff Adder striking with only the last few cm of its body still on the ground. Quite a feat for such a heavy bodied snake.



Male Puff Adders usually become a little more active in the mating season, and begin crawling around checking things out, and after mating they usually settle back down once more. If they do not mate this roaming may persist for a month or two before they settle down. The males have a considerable sex drive and it has been observed in the wild that they engage in ritualized combat with Black Mambas - an entirely different species of snake. The Puff Adder gives birth to live young and holds the record for the largest number of offspring for any snake. (156 young) Litters of 20-40 neonates are, however, much more common.

Puff Adders are hearty feeders and adult snakes should lead a healthy live full of snake-vitality by feeding every three weeks. The Puff Adder has an enormous swallowing capacity and there are records of wild caught specimens containing prey which weighed more than the snake itself.

Most bites to humans occur because the Puff Adder is common to human habitation, it frequently basks on or near foot paths, and when approached it will remain motionless relying on its camouflage to avoid detection. It is primarily nocturnal so this is particularly true at night when it is most active, however, it is not uncommon to find Puff Adder basking during the day. It usually doesn't strike unless touched or stepped on, but if it is, it often strikes with great force and astonishing speed.



LUCY WITH SWOLLEN HEAD
MAKING A COMEBACK

Approximately 60% of snake bites in Africa are attributed to the Puff Adder, however, it only strikes in self defence and would rather escape or be left alone than bite a human. If it realizes it has been discovered it will assume a striking position with its head down, its nose pointing to the ground, inflates its body and emits a very deep hiss to warn intruders to stay away.

If approached too closely or further molested, it will not hesitate to strike. If its warnings are heeded it will begin to slowly back away hissing, and the finally turn and move off.

Puff Adders can strike from any position and in all directions with great speed and force, even from what will appear to be a resting position, therefore one must be very careful to stay out of its strike range at all times.

THE ONLY WARNING OF AN IMPENDING STRIKE MAY BE A SLIGHT MOVEMENT OF ITS EYE.

If it strikes and you are within its reach, you will have absolutely no time to react to avoid its bite. The incredible speed with which it strikes must be seen to be believed.....or rather not, just believe!

DAWID VAN DER MERWE

THE SAGA OF LITTLE CAT

Something sad happened last Thursday. As I do most days, I had woken as dawn's first glimmer tinted the room, slid quietly out of bed so as not to wake Mrs P and set off to do my early morning chores. I fed the cats. They are very vociferous and like their canine peers, aren't beyond the odd bit of savagery if I don't wake/get up quickly enough. Fat Boy eats separately from the other two because he has special food which he needs otherwise he pulls out all his fur. Not that we'd mind having a bald cat; it's the cleaning-up mounds of freshly plucked black fur which is a bugger.

Strangely, for a reason I can't recall, he got named Fat Boy the day he was born and has since become a self-fulfilling prophesy. He is greedy beyond any imagining and in addition to his own food, will eat whatever he can bully from the other cats and dogs if he is feeling extra peckish. Despite our best efforts at managing his waist-line, he is the size of a small aircraft carrier when he lays down. The vet says it is the special food.

Anyway, I head through to the garage to feed the other two mogs and manage a head-count of only one. Nothing unusual there, the missing cat lives in the loft over the garage and usually appears to show us what she has caught outside and managed to only part digest. Occasionally, she'll pitch up for her scheduled feeds. She's been like this for the nine years since she was born (in the same litter as Fat Boy) under Julian's bed. She is semi-feral and such an irregular personage in the family's life that she doesn't even have a real name; she's never been around for long enough for us to give her one. When it suits her, she answers to "Little Cat" and has a tiny voice, which is hard to call a miaow, rather a tiny mewling sound.

I didn't think anything more of Little Cat's no-show until the evening when again she didn't appear. Or Friday. Or Saturday, by which time we were beginning to think that she may have fallen victim to a snake. Losing a pet - even an otherwise semi-feral cat - is sad, especially if you don't know what happened to it. Fat Boy wasn't in the least bit concerned. Either he reckoned that I'd be stupid enough to keep putting extra food out JIC, or he knew something I didn't. As it turned out, he did.

On Tuesday, after trip to the shops, I pulled up outside and opened the garage, quickly checked to see if Little Cat had re-appeared (not) and was unloading logs, food and the bubbly I'd bought to pour into our overseas visitors when they arrive this weekend. At the same time I was listening for the arrival of the local baboon troop, which is becoming increasingly daring.

As I turned to get more logs from the car, I heard a noise from the back of the garage and thinking our simian invaders had once again let themselves in, shut the garage door and went to investigate.

What I did discover was some pathetic mewling coming from amongst the many stacked-up boxes and trunks at the back of the garage. Summoning the strength that comes from a mild panic, I started heaving boxes off the pile to find nothing, but more mewling. There was now only one place it could be coming from; amongst the thirty-odd plywood shutters that are used to protect the windows when we leave the house for extended periods. These are all more than 1.5m deep, stacked behind the boxes against the rear wall and heavy.



Fortunately, I didn't have to move too many to see the pathetic reflection from a cat's eyes staring up out of its dark little prison at me. At the third or fourth attempt, I managed to snag that useful neck scruff that all cats have and haul a very skinny Little Cat out into the light of day. She'd been there six days without food or water.

Either she had been doing her usual nosy cat bit and fallen between the boxes and in amongst the shutters, or had caught something and had taken her prize somewhere she could digest it without her brother's help. Either way, a plate of food and some water soon restored some of her usual uninterested-in-you demeanour. Having snuck into the garage during my frantic rescue attempts, Fat Boy tried to corral the food and made it quite clear that he was quite unwilling to share this plunder with anyone, least of all his newly scrawny and clearly ravenous sister. I chased him away.

As I write this, Little Cat appears on my desk and mews at me - she's been sleeping on top of the nice warm and safe fridge since I found her. I think she knows she's living on borrowed time and this is her way of politely reminding me that it's been a while since I last fed her. Fat Boy is alternating between rubbing at my legs, clawing at the cushion on my chair and running to the top of the stairs in case I get up and go down to set out food for him. It is at least eight hours since he was last topped-up after all.

PAUL PERTON

AN EVENING OF POETRY WITH DORIAN

After many Afrikaans poetry evenings at Rooi Els with WOORDE IN DIE WIND, a poetry evening with Dorian Haarhoff is planned for 10 December. Dorian is a poet and presenter of creative writing workshops. He has a wonderful way of revealing the creation and unfolding of a poem, from the first idea to its final draft.

Recently Dorian was one of the three poets from South Africa (with Breyten Breytenbach and Antjie Krog) who were invited to attend a world-wide gathering of poets in Colombia where they wrote poetry in different historical places.

Dorian will share his poetry as well as his experiences in Colombia with us here in Rooi Els on the 10th of December. He is excellent at demonstrating how a poem is created.

Each person contributing R20 to the poet, as usual. Bring your own drinks and glasses. The evening will be at Hettie Claassens' home. Volunteers each bring a plate of snacks. Bring one of your own poems if you would like to read it.

EVETTE WEYERS
(TEL: 273 8483)

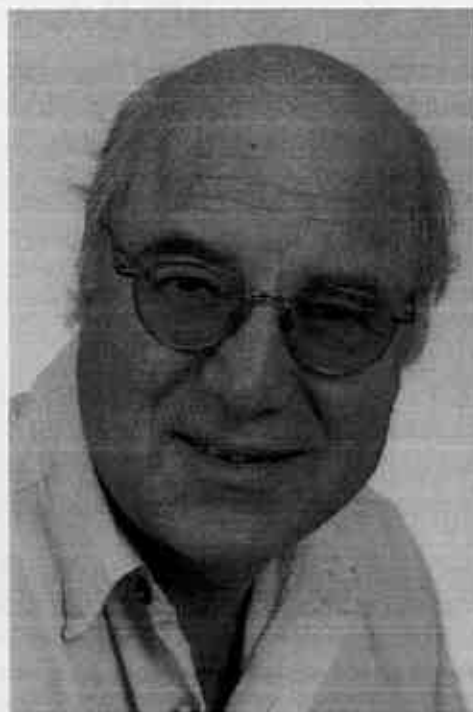
THE VALUE OF THE ARTS

The French Philosopher Jacques Derrida wrote that art has the role of unmasking, excavating and uncovering: "The poetic force of art remains untranslatable. It has a force stronger than meaning, perhaps even than that of truth."

The power of art is very evident in our society e.g. the poem "Winternag" changed the minds of the authorities so that they made Afrikaans an official language in stead of Dutch. Recently Saartjie Baartman came home on the back of a poem. South African politicians have tried since 1994 to get the French government to change their laws and to return the remains of Saartjie to South Africa, but in vain. Then a French senator read Diana Ferrus's poem on Saartjie Baartman on the internet. He was so touched that he said French laws had to be changed. The French senate invited Diana Ferrus to witness that change and Saartjie Baartman's remains came home with Diana.

In Rooi Els we celebrate poetry and literature and have had many evenings with poets and writers talking about their own work as part of the "Woorde in die Wind" series.

EVETTE WEYERS



DORIAN HAARHOFF

ADVENT

IN EARLY DECEMBER, SUNDAY
I CLIMB INSIDE A CAROL
COME LET US ADORE
AND FIND YOU THERE
CANDLELIT, AGLOW.
YOUR LUNGS AND LIMBS
TRUMPET AND ORGAN
HOLY NIGHT, STARFOLLOW
THROUGH RIB CAGE RAFTERS.
DESCANT TRILLS YOUR CELLS
BASS ASCENDS BELLY AND SPINE.
THE CHOIR SINGS YOUR BLOOD
SKINTINGLES YOUR BREASTS
YOUR HEART TOLLS A BIRTH BELL.
STABLEBARE, MARYJOSEPH, SHEPHERDS,
MAGI, HERALDANGELS, CATTLE LOWING
AND CHRISTCHILD ADVENT IN YOU.
BORN ONCE MORE, YOU INCARNATE
A LOVE LARGER THAN A CATHEDRAL.
THE DIVINE ARRIVES IN YOUR EYES.

DORIAN HAARHOFF
(THIS POEM IS PART OF A NEW COLLECTION
DRAWING WATER COMING OUT IN 2006)

WOORDE IN DIE WIND 'N AAND MET BREYTEN OP ROOIELS

Een laatwintersaand in Julie in die ruim huis en haard van Pierre en Louise du Toit het Rudi Venter, 'n lektor van UP ons op 'n verbeeldingstog geneem met sy woord en beeld vertoning oor Breyten Breytenbach as digter, skilder, dramaturg en publieke figuur. Breyten word beskou as een van die beste Suid Afrikaanse digters en is 'n internasionaal befaamde kunstenaar.

Aktuele beelmateriaal was gebruik, onder andere Hennie Serfontein se dokumenter oor Breyten en heelwat Kunskafee insetsels. In die program is Breyten meestal self aan die woord oor sy uitstallings, toneelstukke, getoonsette CD's of in gesprek met ander skrywer/digters. Die program sluit ook ander kunstenaars in wat Breyten se werk toonset en hulde bring aan hom. En wat 'n heerlike reeks gesprekke is dit nie, wat jou diep onder die indruk bring van Breyten se veelsydige kreatiewe talente en sy sosiale impak. Hy het, onder andere, die Gore Instituut vir Demokrasie in Afrika begin, sowel as die jaarlikse Poetry Africa samekomste in Durban. Op een tyd het hy met 'n groep digters deur Noord Afrika getoer - 'n karavaan van digters. Antjie Krog het daarvoor gedig in "Kleur kom nie Alleen nie".

Mense voel selde lou oor Breyten. Hy raak jou of glad nie of betower jou mateloos en jy word 'n vurige ondersteuner van hom. Ongeag waar ons elkeen die aand ingepas het, het ons almal meer geleer oor hierdie verstommende kreatiewe gees.

Rudie het die program in 2004 gemaak en gaan dit dalk op CD Rom beskikbaar stel.

EVETTE WEYERS

... 'N LAND WAAR DIE AARDE RIL EN SKOK
EN VUURSPUWENDE BERGE PAS KOUD GEWORD HET..

TAFELBERG DIE BOEG WAARTEEN OSEANE SKUIM
DAT DIE WIT SEILE SO VLADDER OOR DIE KRUIJN

...MAAR DIE BRANDERS IS BAIE HOËR HIER
EN DIE WILDERNIS EN WOESTYN VEEL NADER AAN DIE LYF
DAAR IS MIN VERFYNING
GEEN KONINGS WAT OOR BESKAWINGS TREUR..."

- BREYTEN BREYTEBACH (UIT VAN KAAP NA RIO)

ROOIELS BELASTINGBETALERSVERENIGING UITVOERENDE KOMITEE

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"ALL THE WATER BELOW ME CAME FROM ABOVE.
ALL THE CLOUDS LIVING IN THE MOUNTAINS
GAVE IT TO THE RIVERS
WHO GAVE IT TO THE SEA, WHICH WAS THEIR DYING.

AND SO I FLOAT ON CLOUD BECOME WATER,
CENTRAL SEA SURROUNDED BY WHITE MOUNTAINS,
AND THE WATER SALT, ONCE FRESH,
CLOUD FALL AND STREAM RUSH, TREE ROOT AND TIDE BANK
LEADING TO THE RIVER MOUTHS
AND THE MOUTHS OF THE RIVERS SING INTO THE SEA
THE STORIES BURIED IN THE MOUNTAINS
GIVE OUT INTO THE SEA
AND THE SEA REMEMBERS
AND SINGS BACK
FROM THE DEPTHS
WHERE NOTHING IS FORGOTTEN."

- DAVID WHYTE - WHERE MANY RIVERS MEET



PHOTO: JANDRA YEO

UNITED BY OUR PASSION FOR THE NATURAL SPLENDOUR OF ROO-EELS,
WE PLEDGE THAT HERE..
NATURE WILL BE NURTURED,
FLORA, FAUNA AND MARINE LIFE PROTECTED,
OUR EVERY IMPACT ON THE AREA LIMITED
OUR CUSTODIANSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT RESPECTED
OUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT STRENGTHENED
SO THAT OUR LIVES.. AND THOSE OF GENERATIONS TO COME..
WILL CONTINUE TO BE ENRICHED BY OUR CARE