



Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA)

Newsletter November 2025



TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BETTY'S BAY RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN AGM OF THE BETTY'S BAY RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2025 AT 18:00 IN THE CRASSULA HALL, BETTY'S BAY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

- Wayne Jackson Chairman and Secretary, Direction, Membership, Neighbourhood Watch and Sea Watch
- Amund Beneke Vice Chairman, Town Planning and Property Development
- Hannelie Coetzee Treasurer
- Jorika Rabie Betty's Bay Volunteer Fire and Rescue
- Rob Boyd Betty's Bay Emergency Support Team (BEST) and BB Hackers
- Elsa Stofberg Conservation of leased land
- Abigail Davids Community Development
- Shameez Joubert Markets
- Claudele Jackson Crassula Hall
- Mea Viljoen Young parents
- Jade Alves Sports and Recreation
- Ilona Frege Drama and Theatre Arts
- Wendy Lucas Media and Web page

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

- Tersia Starke Media and Web page
- Marelize Smith Speed reduction in Betty's Bay

OVERSIGHT

- Andre Kotze Representative for Rondevlei
- Calan Bennet Representative for Central

AGENDA

Reading of the announcement by the Vice Chairman

1. Welcome
2. Apologies and signing of the various registers (Member's Register includes a vote space)
3. Confirmation of Previous AGM Minutes
4. Matters arising
5. Statement by the Chairman and election of the Committee for 2026 by vote
6. Chairman's Annual Report
7. Treasurer's Annual Report
8. Appointment of Honorary Financial Controller
9. Annual subscription fees
10. Membership and the way forward
11. Announcement on the proposed changes to the BBRA Constitution
12. Close

NOTES

- The AGM Meeting will only address the agenda items listed above and additional items received in time following this Notice.
- Members may place an item on the agenda, if submitted in writing via email at least 7 days prior to the AGM.
- Although this is an AGM for the active members of the BBRA, non-members are more than welcome to also attend.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CURRENT APPROVED BBRA CONSTITUTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE FORTHCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

1. **Purpose of this Notice:** This Notice serves to formally advise all members that a set of proposed amendments to the BBRA Constitution has been submitted for consideration. In accordance with Clause 15(b) of the current Constitution, this notice and the full details of the proposed amendments will be distributed to all members prior to the AGM.
2. **Background:** The Executive Committee has reviewed the current Constitution with the aim of modernising procedures, improving operational efficiency and clarifying governance rules to better serve the Association. The proposed changes are designed to streamline meetings, update financial controls to reflect modern banking and strengthen the Committee's ability to manage membership effectively.
3. **Distribution of Proposed Amendments:** A comprehensive document detailing the precise wording of all proposed amendments will be sent to all members via email and published on the official BBRA website on Wednesday, 19 November 2025.
4. **Voting at the AGM:** The proposed amendments will be presented as a single motion to adopt the new set of changes. As per the Constitution, a two-thirds majority of members present and voting is required for the motion to pass.
 - VOTE FOR: (Yes, to accept ALL proposed amendments)
 - VOTE AGAINST: (No, to reject ALL proposed amendments)
5. **Next Steps:** Members are strongly encouraged to review the proposed amendments carefully upon receipt on 19 November 2025. The amendments will be formally proposed, seconded and discussed at the AGM.
6. Your participation in this important process is valued as we work together to shape the future governance of our Association.

The BBRA Executive Committee

Looking forward to your participation.

Wayne Jackson
082 928 1260

News from the various portfolio heads follows:

BETTY'S BAY EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (BEST)

October 2025 was a quiet month. The four call-outs were medical cases. The patients were transported by ambulance to hospital. Sadly, one of the patients passed away in hospital a week later. Our sincerest condolences to the family and friends.

An important reminder to all: please have your medical aid information, a list of your current medication and medical history at hand as this greatly assists with patient assessments and handover to the ambulance services. We urge people to prominently display both the erf number and street number on their property so that they can easily be found, particularly at night.

Any donation to BEST will be most welcome as we have ongoing expenses and may also require a new patient vital signs monitor (R75 000). Fortunately, we have a number of spare patient monitors which have kindly been donated.

The bank account details for donations is:

ABSA, Betty's Bay Ratepayers account 4066616439, Branch 632005, with BEST as the reference to ensure that your donation is used solely for our purpose.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed. Without your support we would not be able to provide this service.

The Emergency Number for BEST is 066 165 6061. Please save this number on your phone or have it readily available.

Rob Boyd

BETTY'S BAY FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

With the last official month of training season coming to a close, the team has completed their last chapter of the 5th Edition of Fire Fighting Essentials for the season, and will now begin to gear up for the upcoming Fire Season.

FIRE & RESCUE: We are grateful to have had another quiet month, with no major incidents to report.

Stay Informed

The Fire Danger Index or Rating predicts the fire behaviour should a fire start and how dangerous it would be attempting to extinguish the fire. The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions. On Orange and Red days, NO FIRES should be lit.



LOW

Fire Danger Index 0 - 20 Flame Lengths (m) 0 - 1

[Fire Control Guide regarding fire danger rating application](#)

Low fire hazard. Controlled burning operations can normally be executed with a reasonable degree of safety

MODERATE

Fire Danger Index 21 - 45 Flame Lengths (m) 1 - 1.2

[Fire Control Guide regarding fire danger rating application](#)

Although controlled burning operations can be done without creating a fire hazard, care must be taken when burning on exposed, dry slopes. Keep a constant watch for unexpected wind speed and direction changes. reasonable degree of safety

DANGEROUS

Fire Danger Index 45 - 60 Flame Lengths (m) 1.2 - 1.8

[Fire Control Guide regarding fire danger rating application](#)

Controlled burning is not recommended when the FDI exceeds 45. Aircraft should be called in at the early stages of a fire. reasonable degree of safety

VERY DANGEROUS

Fire Danger Index 61 - 75 Flame Lengths (m) 1.8 - 2.4

[Fire Control Guide regarding fire danger rating application](#)

NO CONTROLLED BURNING OF ANY NATURE should take place. Careful note should be taken of any sign of smoke anywhere - especially on the up-wind side of any plantation. Any fire that occurs should be attacked with the maximum force at hand, including all available aircraft at the time. reasonable degree of safety

EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

Fire Danger Index 76 - 100 Flame Lengths (m) 2.4 +

[Fire Control Guide regarding fire danger rating application](#)

ABSOLUTELY NO BURNING. All personnel and equipment should be removed from field. Fire teams, labour and equipment are to be placed on full stand-by. At the first sign of smoke, every possible measure should be taken in order to bring fire under control in the shortest possible time. All available aircraft are to be called without delay. reasonable degree of safety

ARE YOU FIREWISE? Follow this link to download the Fire Wise Booklet which is full of great tips and important information <https://bettysbayratepayers.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/WCG-Wild-Fire-Ready-Booklet-13082020-.pdf>

Report fire and emergencies immediately. Always phone – no WhatsApp messages AND no WhatsApp calls.

YOUR IMPORTANT NUMBERS – load them into your phone NOW!

028 312 2400 ALL Fire & Emergency – yes, you can use this number to report a fire, an accident, or ANY emergency.

028 313 8980 Fire reporting

072 616 8418 Betty's Bay Fire Volunteers – **NO WhatsApp (calls or messages) ONLY standard calls**

SUPPORT THE VOLUNTEERS: If you would like to join our team or support us in any way, please contact Jorika on 072 616 8418.

FOLLOW US on FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064379211431>

Should you wish to contribute funds or donations towards a fire & rescue emergency response vehicle you can deposit into the following bank account:

Bank details:

- Name: Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association
- Bank: ABSA
- Bank: Hermanus
- Account: 4066 616 439
- Reference: **FIRE +Your surname**

N.B Please clearly mark the reference FIRE as BBRA are custodians for several organizations in Betty's Bay and they need to allocate the funds accordingly.

Thank you for your ongoing support and donations. Until our next update, keep warm and stay **Fire Wise!**

Jorika Rabie

That is all from the committee. News from other organisations doing good work in our community follows:



HANGKLIP COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE

HCCC provides welfare services to the Hangklip community i.e. residents of Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els. During the month of October we distributed 51 food parcels and cooked 549 scrumptious, nutritious meals.

Our semiweekly Pilates and Line-dancing classes, weekly Bridge afternoons and monthly Friendship Circle meetings have continued as usual, the Bridge meetings now taking place at our HCC Centre, while the Pilates continue at the Crassula Hall in Betty's Bay.

Following on from our HAIL (Home Assisted Independent Living) home carers' courses in October 2022 and March 2023, we have set up carers' support groups in each of Sunny Seas, Jock's Bay, Central Betty's Bay and Silversands.

A further home carers' training course was presented during May in Pringle Bay.

If anyone would like to know more about our activities and the work that we do, please contact our chairman, Colin Cook, at myrna.colin@gmail.com.

If anyone would like to volunteer to assist with any of our activities, or if anyone needs assistance from HCCC, please contact our manager, Marion Green at manager@hccc.co.za.

David Fritz



BBC4thSATURDAY: 25 OCTOBER: MOUNTAINS OF WASTE - SEPARATION AT SOURCE: S@S



Thanks to Barbara Jenman for all the preparation and items she brought to demonstrate how we can “separate at source” in order to decrease the amount of waste that our households send to the “mountains of waste” at landfill sites.



Not all the types of plastic bags that we put in our clear recycling bags are useful to the Hermanus Recovery Facility for gaining income. The unsuitable plastics end up in the landfill e.g. plastic bags with sticky labels on that do not come off easily, cellophane-type plastic bags and chip packets.

Perhaps the shops that sell “self-select” fruit and veg and provide clear plastic bags that they stick price labels on, could review the method they use to price the bags? Alternatively, some shops do sell reusable mesh bags for customers to place their selection in so that they avoid using single-use plastic bags.

There are many simple ideas for using boxes, bags or other containers to separate your recyclables such as glass, tin, plastic and paper from the rest of your household waste, as well as separating your food waste.

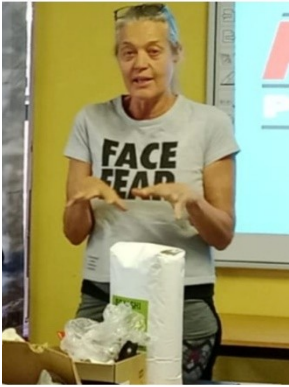
Composting, using systems like vermiculture or Bokashi are methods you can use to separate and process your organic food waste.



Transforming Plastic Waste into Concrete Building Solution: There is a company in Blackheath in Cape Town that uses plastics: **The Centre for Regenerative Design & Collaboration Materials South Africa (CRDC MATERIALS SA)**. Their mission is “to create appreciating value from the world’s plastic waste”.

*“Founded by the Centre for Regenerative Design & Collaboration (CRDC) and CRDC MATERIALS, the mission of CRDC MATERIALS South Africa (CRDC MATERIALS SA) is to create appreciating value & impact from un-recyclable, mismanaged plastic waste by converting it into a lightweight Eco-Aggregate called **RESIN8™**.”*

Have a look at their website to see what they do with unrecyclable plastics: <https://www.crdc-sa.com/>



Thanks too to Liezel Smith for demonstrating the **Bokashi method to deal with the organic waste** from our kitchens. It is a simple means of separating our food waste at source so that it does not go into our weekly black bag of waste that goes to the landfill.

Unsure of what to do with the final contents of your Bokashi bin? Liezel also offers a service whereby she fetches your full Bokashi bin and transports it to Mthimkhulu in Kleinmond. Here they use it for making compost, which they sell to generate funds. After they clean your Bokashi bin, Liezel returns it to you, and it is ready for you to use it again.

There are many simple ways to “separate at source”.

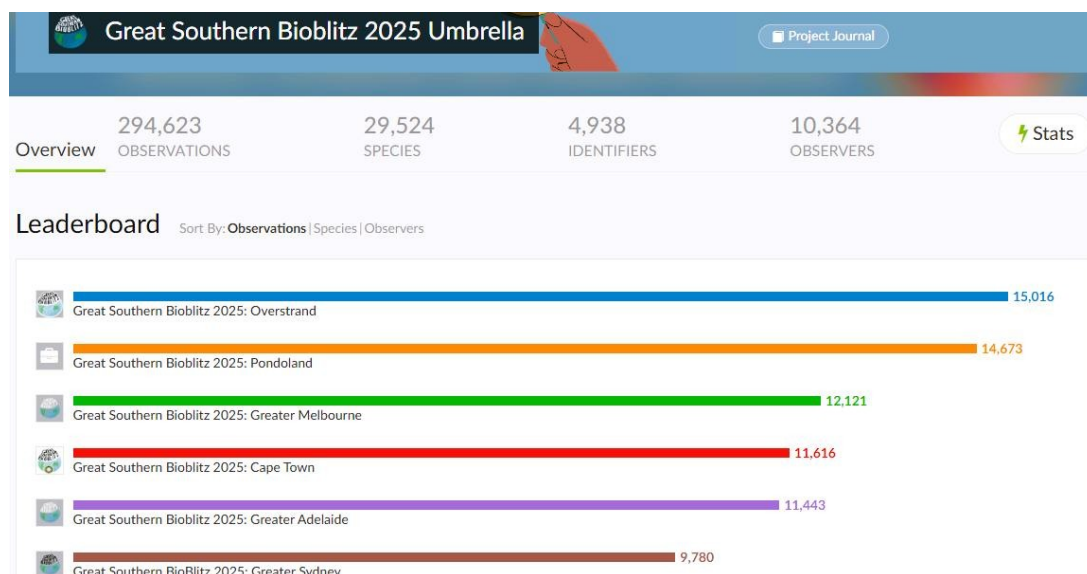
Start small and let this be a daily way of dealing with your household waste and doing your daily “one small act for biodiversity”.

Carol Clark

GREAT SOUTHERN BIOBLITZ: 24 – 27 OCTOBER - OVERSTRAND COMES FIRST AGAIN!



The final results for the Great Southern BioBlitz (GSB) 2025 show an impressive collective effort, with **the Overstrand region once again recording the most observations** in the Southern Hemisphere (15 016)!



Globally, the GSB 2025, which ran from October 24-27, gathered a massive amount of data on the iNaturalist platform:

- Over 294 000 observations were made.
- Nearly 30 000 species were documented.

- Over 10 000 observers
- almost 5 000 identifiers contributed

Overstrand also achieved **second place for the number of species** recorded (2 045).

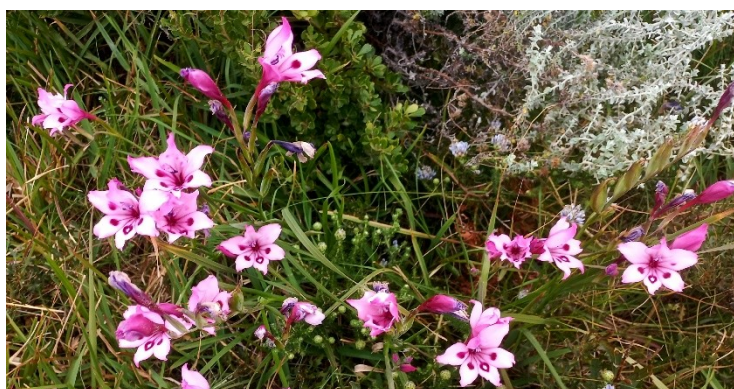


Several South African regions also had outstanding results in the overall GSB 2025.

We are all very proud of the results – especially the amazing contribution by Adele Scheepers. Adele is one of the Overstrand Bioblitz facilitators, a member of Kogelberg CREW and a BBC member. She achieved first place in the Overstrand for Observations (2 150) as well as for Species (679) over the four days! Great results, Adele! Thank you!

Most Observations	Most Species	Most Observed Species
adele84 2,150 suzette35 1,742 tonyrebelo 1,492 dereksilberblatt 647 lillywat 616 magrietb 608	adele84 679 suzette35 580 dereksilberblatt 344 sandyi 281 magrietb 270 lillywat 233	Pelargonium cucullatum 127 Leucadendron xanthoconus 112 Mimetes cucullatus 109 Leucadendron gandogerii 94 Protea cynaroides 87 Leucadendron microcephalum 87

Special mention must also be made of Jenny Parsons, also an Overstrand Bioblitz facilitator and CREW member, who achieved 4th place in the global results for number of Identifications made (5 034). Well done, Jenny!



🧠 Top 10 Identifiers (Global)

A huge thank-you to the tireless identifiers who've helped refine and verify tens of thousands of records! 🙌

1. @alanhorstmann — 7,235 IDs
2. @bobagrub — 5,613 IDs
3. @peakaytea — 5,162 IDs
4. @jennyparsons — 5,034 IDs
5. @tonyrebelo — 3,586 IDs
6. @avocat — 2,969 IDs
7. @colin25 — 2,937 IDs
8. @dianastuder — 2,848 IDs
9. @daisylady — 2,793 IDs
10. @kyle_campbell1 — 2,764 IDs

♥ **Thank you to all observers and identifiers!** Every record contributes to our shared understanding of biodiversity across the Southern Hemisphere.

📷 Keep uploading and identifying — we're about to cross **300,000 observations** and **30,000 species!**

Each record helps scientists understand and protect biodiversity across the Southern Hemisphere. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, from those out in the field taking photos to the dedicated identifiers helping refine our data!

Sandy Immelman

OUR BBC T-SHIRTS

BBC “Every day do one small act for biodiversity” T-Shirts

Many people have asked about our BBC T-shirts. We are now ready to receive orders.

We need 40 or more orders to place a big order on 27 November, including full payment, in order to get the T-Shirts before the company closes for the year.

Place your orders, with your POP, as per the advert.

(Editor's note: By the time you are reading this the 27 November will have passed. Should you still wish to order a t-shirt, please email bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com and you may be able to place an order for next year.)



The advertisement is a dark blue rectangular graphic. At the top left is the Betty's Bay Conservancy logo. To its right, the text 'BBC T-SHIRTS' is in large white bold letters, followed by the slogan '“Every day do one small act for biodiversity”' in a slightly smaller white font. Below this, it says 'We are taking orders for our lovely T-shirts.' and 'If you would like one,'. A white box contains the text 'please order by 25 November'. Below this, there are three images of the t-shirts: a full-length view, a front view, and a back view. The front view shows the slogan and a small illustration of various animals. The back view shows the Betty's Bay Conservancy logo. To the right of the images, there is a white box with the following text: 'Cost: BBC paid-up members: R260 per shirt, Others R280 per shirt, Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL'. Below this, another white box says 'To place an order: Email bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com or WhatsApp 079 7530166'. At the bottom, a white box says 'Include your name, T-shirt size/s and your POP'. At the very bottom, a white box says 'Payment: Betty's Bay Conservancy, Nedbank: 1211 375 870, code 198765'.

Whether you buy one as a gift for someone or treat yourself to one, the T-Shirts help to support conservation in Betty's Bay and encourage people to take care of our biodiversity.

If you are wondering where our slogan came from:

At our first BBC AGM in 2022, Craig Foster recorded a video message for us to play at the AGM. We posted it on our FB page afterwards. We adapted this slogan from his encouragement that everyone can do something each day to help preserve biodiversity in this beautiful village, and that all the small things add up to make a big difference.

If you missed Craig's message on our FB page in 2022, here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1AWhjQWRRr/>

THANKS TO OUR PENGUIN-PALS FOR THEIR HELP

Our Penguin-Pals do more than drive "ambulance trips" to transport sick or injured penguins from Stony Point.

Recently these enthusiastic volunteers have helped at Stony Point in other ways:

- A bundling day to help bundle the piles of hacked rooikrans at the colony
- Supporting Stony Point staff who needed to remove some vulnerable penguin chicks from the colony and transport them to SANCCOB



Thanks to our Penguin-Pals who give of their time to support the African Penguin in so many different ways.

We are currently revising our "**Guidelines for Visitors to Stony Point**" in conjunction with CapeNature and SANCCOB. We hope these will help to educate visitors to behave in a manner that is least stressful for the penguins.

Currently, visitors try to get as close as possible for selfies and even try to touch the penguins. They climb over the fences and dogs are seen walking off-lead with their owners. All these types of actions increase the stress on the penguins

SPEEDING IN BETTY'S BAY

Clarence Drive: 13 minutes for 13 kms - *A small shift for wildlife and humans to thrive together*

I was recently elected to the Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association committee with "speed reduction" as my portfolio.

My first aim is to reduce the Clarence Drive speed limit to 60 km/h throughout our village. My goal is **safety and tranquillity for all humans and all of our wildlife**. My angle and motivation will include focusing on environmental principles, and not only residential density and accident counts.



"13 km = 13 min" The intention is a friendly campaign – to encourage all to relax and enjoy our surroundings – **for only 13 minutes of their time, which is exactly how long it will take to pass through Betty's Bay travelling at 60km/h**. The perception is that driving slower will take loads of extra time – the fact is that driving through our entire village at 60km/h takes only 5 minutes longer than at 100km/h. Currently we have 100(!), 80 and 60 km/h zones – confusing, unnecessary, noisy and unsafe.

Every 10 km/h reduction makes a significant difference in stopping distance and traffic noise.

It is early days for me in this process. I have gathered loads of information and have lots more to learn and I welcome the BBC members' input and support.

Marelize Smith

Porter Drive needs urgent traffic calming

Porter Drive runs through a recognised biosphere, home to diverse and vulnerable wildlife. It is vital that we foster a culture of responsible driving. This is not just for safety, but also to honour the ecological sensitivity of our surroundings. I am sure you will all agree that as Betty's Bay continues to develop so our roads get busier. This brings noise, which disturbs the peace and, more to the point, puts our fauna under threat. Recently a grey mongoose was run over on Porter Drive and just left unceremoniously to die on the side of the road. In addition, a group of francolins were mowed down.

To this end, speeding cannot be tolerated and so I appealed to Wayne Jackson, chairperson of the BBRA, who was supportive. He referred me to Marelize Smith. Wayne also suggested that I send an email to Denovan van Rhodie, from Overstrand Municipality, with a range of suggestions, such as more speed bumps, 4-way stops, optical speed reduction techniques, painted road markings, portable speed display units: "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here" signs, mobilising a community speed watch, etc.

Mr van Rhodie responded positively to my mail saying that he intended to secure funding to appoint a professional traffic engineer or specialist. Their role would be to assess the proposals and recommend viable, compliant solutions that align with all relevant legislation.

This is a promising start – but **we cannot afford to wait passively**. Every resident, every visitor, every driver must be part of the solution. **We must speak up**, slow down, and demand change – not just for our safety, but also for the survival of our wildlife.

Patrick Bolttler

(Ditto for all our roads in Betty's Bay!!! Ed.)

THE LAUNCH OF THE BETTY'S BAY BOOK: 20 DECEMBER

Exciting news: The Betty's Bay book went to the printers on Monday 17 November!

This is the stunning back/front cover:



The launch of this 640-page limited edition coffee table book is on 20 December at 4:00pm in the Nivenia Hall in the Harold Porter Garden.

About 400 of the 800 copies have already been pre-ordered. The pre-Launch and Launch Day price is R500. Post launch the price will increase.

Note: The R500 price was set based on a quote for the book when it was estimated to be about 450 pages. With so many contributors, it has since grown to 640 pages, but the price was kept the same as initially advertised. So this is a very low price for a book this thick with stunning colour photos.

Please contact Skip if you or your company would like to support this remarkable project by making a donation towards the extra cost of producing this bigger, more comprehensive book. Skip: 082 411 3414 or skipkrig@mweb.co.za



ABALONE: COULD A RECLASSIFICATION OF DRIED ABALONE HELP TO REDUCE ILLEGAL TRADE?

Abalone are marine gastropod molluscs or, in simpler terms, large, flat marine snails of the genus *Haliotis*. The name perlemoen, as it is known in South Africa, comes from old Dutch 'paarlemoer' meaning 'mother of pearl' in reference to the inside of the abalone shell.

A case for our South African perlemoen (in its dry form) to be reclassified to CITES Appendix 11 at the current COP 30 meeting in Brazil

CITES is the acronym for The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Our perlemoen (*Haliotis midae*) is endemic to South Africa. Its wild population has been severely affected by illegal fishing, driven by well-connected organized crime syndicates. The illegal trade, at 2000-3000 tons/year, is over 50-60 times that of the Total Allowable Catch with an estimated 96 million perlemoen poached in the past ten years. The perlemoen is now categorised as an Endangered species, with a very high risk of extinction in the wild. In the Betty's Bay Marine Protected Area (MPA) of UNESCO's Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, it is estimated that the population is 1% of its former levels.

Currently commercial abalone farms and ranches successfully produce over 3000 tons of perlemoen per annum. These stocks are exported live, frozen or canned.



The illegally poached perlemoen are exported in a dried form and it is for this that a CITES Appendix 11 reclassification is being sought. Almost all (90%) of the exported perlemoen goes to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, with 98% of the dried perlemoen being air-freighted there.

The significance of achieving a re-classification for dried perlemoen to CITES 11 is that trade in the product will be subject to permits and documentation, which specify product source. As the Hong Kong authorities strongly enforce these regulations, it is hoped that the re-classification will help to reduce the illegal trade of this threatened species.

The case for re-classification to CITES Appendix 11 of perlemoen in its dried form has been strongly supported by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, Dr Dion George.

Tony Bush and Pete Oxford

BBC: Subsequent to the writing of this article, Dr Dion George was removed from his position as Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in November 2025. He was replaced by Willem Aucamp. There are concerns and questions about this action due to Aucamp's connections and views on aspects of wildlife hunting and trade. Daily Maverick has covered this story with interesting and informative articles.

CAPE LEOPARD TRUST (CLT): FUNDRAISER: FEEDBACK

"RUNNING FOR LEOPARDS": Running 42km to raise R48 000 for CLT projects

1 October: APPRECIATION POST ~

A big shout-out today to everyone who supported our **#RunningForLeopards** campaign. Two of our **Cape Leopard Trust** team members were ready to take on the Sanlam **Cape Town Marathon**, and through your generous donations they raised almost R30k for leopards! Every rand comes directly to the CLT to be used for our research, conservation and education initiatives.

Despite the event being cancelled, Naas van Jaarsveld still ran a 21km on the day, and Matt Arendse was fully committed – he ran his first full marathon solo!

"The true South African spirit really shone bright yesterday. There were so many runners out and about, and the gees on the promenade was inspiring. Sucks that we couldn't run the official route, but that didn't stop everyone from coming together and running in their own way. That's what the running community is all about, and what makes South Africa such a special place to call home."

Matthew Arendse, CLT Research & Conservation Field Officer

BBC: Matthew and Naas raised R28 430 for Cape Leopard Trust projects! Well done, guys, and especially for still running the fundraiser marathon “solo”, when the official race was cancelled. That’s perseverance, commitment and integrity!



Photo credit: CLT FB page

ERF 4032 CRASSULA WAY



If you look on Property24, Erf 4032 (site of the previously advertised Retirement Village) is now on the market for R10 Million. In 2021, it sold for under R2 Million.

If you know any person or organisation who has the interest and financial capacity to purchase this large erf for conservation purposes, please let me know on bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com or 079 7530166.

It has a wetland on it, is a big, green and safe habitat area for local wildlife and connects to other green open spaces in close proximity. Currently, it is zoned as a commercial property, but it would be wonderful to have this purchased and rezoned for conservation purposes.

There are a number of important conservation-worthy properties in Betty's Bay. The BBC, together with organisations like the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society, would like to work towards having these officially rezoned as conservation or nature reserve areas in order to protect them for the future.

Carol Clark

HACKING - The Battle for Betty's Bay: Report on Hack No 740 on 1 November 2025

Twenty eight volunteers the November monthly hack.. This was the sixth hack at Brodie Link to remove thousands of Rooikrans seedlings which have taken root since the January 2024 fire. Lifts were arranged from the R44 Cape Nature Field Ranger's gate for those who didn't want to risk taking their cars up the 700m long jeep track to the hacking site parking area which had dried out significantly in October.



Ashley and Jonathan Beattie were welcomed to their first Betty's Bay hack. We hope that this will be their first of many. Jonathan is a regular HH hacker and Ashley attended the HH hack at Honingklip on Heritage Day. We split into two groups, one tackled an area lower down and the other headed up the slope to the Port Jackson infestation on the western boundary demarcated by a deep and wide erosion gulley. Jan Joubert, with chainsaw, popper, lopper and poison tackled the aliens growing between the field ranger's house and the top parking area.

Progress was slowed as the Port Jackson were fairly large and some of the Rooikrans trees were coppicing from the burned stumps or growing very close to them.



The mid-morning break was taken back at the parking area at 10am. Thanks to Dave Mourant for providing all that was needed for a good cup of tea or coffee despite having to miss the hack. Thanks to Anne Mourant and Betsy Joubert for making the delicious egg mayo and tomato and onion sandwiches. They were devoured!

After the break, the two groups returned to their working areas. Despite fairly large areas of alien free fynbos there are isolated thickets of Rooikrans with some Australian Myrtle amongst them. It was agreed at the aftermath that we will return on 6 December 2025 to clear them.



A very big thank you for a most productive and enjoyable hack. Thanks to Christine Coupar for joining us all the way from Kleinmond, Anne Woods and Magda Mills from Pringle and Megs Tweedie and Mike Christelis from Rooi Els. Your support is always appreciated.

As ever, on behalf of the Betty's Bay Fynbos, thank you all for your efforts.

*Rob Boyd
Convener Betty's Bay Hack Group.*

SUPPORTERS OF THE KOGELEBERG BRANCH OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

On 7 November, Peter and Paddy Dall hosted a function to thank the volunteers who work in the bookshop and in the gardens for their efforts this past year. It was a great function. Once again, I am reminded how blessed we are to have such wonderful volunteers.

HACKS

The hackers continue to do incredible work removing aliens from our surrounds and convening additional ad

hoc hacks to help remove the three strands of the fence put up by Cape Nature on the border of the Kogelberg Reserve. Chris (Geldenhuys), Rob (Boyd) and Mike (Christelis), our grateful thanks for all the wonderful work that you and your teams of hackers do.

The Betty's Bay Hack takes place on the first Saturday of each month. Rob's report is presented above. Hack No 741 is scheduled for Saturday 6 December. Convenor: Rob 082 567 8858

Hangklip Hardcore Hackers (HHH) hack every Wednesday morning and most Monday mornings. Chris Geldenhuys reported that in the month of October the hardcore hackers were able to carry out seven hacks i.e.198-man days. The new initiative of the HHH, the clearance of the old Porter Drive between the Hangklipfontein and the old water reservoir, is making good progress. Plot 995/157 is a long narrow property that is a short hop into the core of the Biosphere, and it is bearing such positive results with the removal of the aliens, exposing extremely beautiful sources of *Mimetes Cucullatus* and *Leucospermum*.

Chris adds: "We started with the cleanup hack of the R44 between Rooiels and Pringle and then encountered the ever-present Bottlebrush in the valley. This is a serious threat for which we are seeking a viable solution. Secondly, we got stuck into the forest of *Acacia Longifolia* in the river just to the outside of Weavers Nest in the same valley. We have already done two hacks there and it is still not cleared. Hopefully we will get it cleared up before the new year." (*These areas were not the only areas worked in, but the only ones specifically mentioned in this report. Ed.*) Convenor: Chris 082 900 8299

Pringle Bay Hack No.216 (25 October 2025): Chris reported that this hack concentrated on the aliens along the banks of the Buffels River. The western bank of the Buffels River was 70% covered by Spider Gum, 15% by Black Wattle, 10% by Myrtle, 3% by Stink Bean and 2% by Pine. Good progress had been made with the removal of the aliens. He adds, "It is unbelievable to see the extent that the aliens have multiplied and expanded along the Buffels River since the previous hack in January 2025. It is more of a challenge to work on the riverbanks mainly due to the dense undergrowth. Unfortunately, it is what we have to do to address the alien explosion in this area. I undertake in the future to find a simpler way of getting closer to the spots where the aliens are growing."

The Rooiels Hack takes place on the second Saturday of every month, led by Mike Christelis. Mike reports as follows from the October hack: "The task of the day was to clear the road verge starting from the turnoff to the dam and working back towards Rooi Els. This was a continuation of the work being done by the Hangklip Hardcore Hackers. The focus of the hack was clearing mainly the larger Rooikrans trees as well as Pines, Myrtle, Hakea and Spider Gum. Towards the end of the hack a lot of attention was paid to the Bottlebrush infestation, a challenging task as some of it is in the wetlands and not easy to access. It is a massive challenge to clear this area of Bottlebrush. The growth over the years has been exponential and the Bottlebrush is taking over areas of previously pristine fynbos." The next Rooiels hack will be held on Saturday 13 December 2025. Convenor: Mike 082 467 2795.

KOGELBERG GARDEN CIRCLE

Apart from enjoying monthly visits to gardens in the Kogelberg area, Galia Manicom and her Garden Circle and the Fighting for Fynbos team continue to do amazing work fervently rescuing plants before they are mowed down by the bulldozers clearing plots before building work commences. Convenor: Galia 082 963 3804.

CREW

The Kogelberg Crew Team is helping to conserve the fynbos in the Kogelberg Biosphere for future generations by searching for endangered or near endangered species and recording their numbers and locations. Crew volunteers are also still assisting with providing the "Bokkies" in the Kogelberg Wildlife Rescue Centre with food from the veld. To Adele Scheepers and the other Crew members, our heartfelt thanks for the most valuable work that you do.

THE FRIENDS OF HAROLD PORTER GARDENS

The Friends of Harold Porter Gardens, under the leadership of Jenny Pattinson and Viv von der Heyden, are helping the staff keep the beds of the Gardens weed-free and visually attractive. We urge our members to join Viv and Jenny from 8.30 – 11am on either a Tuesday or a Thursday, alternating weekly. Jenny (Tuesday team) 072 301 0357. Viv (Thursday team) 084 685 2641.

The Kogelberg Branch continues to support the staff in the Harold Porter Gardens and this month we have paid for the repairs to the main irrigation pump (+/- R20 000) and repairs to the ride-on mower (+/- R70 000).

The Gardens are exceptionally dry at present, and the pump has been out of action for more than three months. Hopefully the service provider appointed by the branch will have the pump up and running by Monday 17 November so that the staff can then fully irrigate the beds, especially those recently planted.

It came to our attention that the ride-on mower was not in working condition and that the Gardens were borrowing a ride-on mower from Kirstenbosch, but this was very much on an ad hoc basis and not likely to be available during the summer. In negotiation with management of the Harold Porter Gardens it was agreed to get Turfmaster to fully service the ride-on mower, replace bearings, put in new blades and give the ride-on mower a really good service. Estimated cost of this work is R70 000. Hopefully the mower will also be back in operation by 17 November 2025.

All of the above is made possible because of what the volunteers and Janet Nel achieve in our Craft and Book Shop and the support it receives from our community and visitors to the Gardens.

We know that this help (repairs to the pump and the ride-on mower) boosts the morale of the staff greatly.

See below the photos of the work being undertaken on the Zig Zag Path, using the poles and rods that we have donated to the gardens.



HAROLD PORTER BOOK AND CRAFT SHOP

The shop continues to perform well. We celebrated our fourth birthday at the beginning of November 2025. We started trading on 1 November 2021 and the following make interesting figures:

- 2022/23 Financial Year we increased turnover by 55%.
- 2023/24 Financial Year we increased turnover by 34%
- 2024/25 Financial Year we increased turnover by 22%
- 2025/26 Financial Year – the first seven months compared to the first seven months of the previous year; the turnover is 31% up.

It is more difficult to get double-digit increases as the annual turnover increases so the 31% increase in turnover to date is pleasing and we are hoping that we can keep this up. Plant sales now are giving us a huge boost.

We are busy stocking the shop with many interesting items especially geared to the Christmas market. Come and have a look at what is new in stock!

MONTHLY TALKS

The monthly talk took place on Saturday 15 November. We were honoured to welcome Jeannie Hayward of the Cape Leopard Trust who shared the story of leopards in the Cape, gave an overview of how these elusive creatures are studied, what is known about their ecology and behaviour and what is threatening their survival. The talk showcased several of the Cape Leopard Trust's projects and highlighted the three-pillar approach of research, conservation and education. The large and enthusiastic audience was riveted.

LAUNCH OF THE BETTY'S BAY BOOK – BETWEEN MOUNTAIN AND SEA

On Saturday 20 December 2025, Skip Krige (main author and editor) will launch the Betty's Bay book at 16h00 at the Nivenia Hall, Harold Porter National Gardens. This has been a truly huge undertaking.

Below is a copy of the index of the book.

Pre order your copy of the book (Cost R500.00) from:

Skip Krige at Email: skipkrig@mweb.co.za.

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Contents	
Inhoudsopgawe	
PRELUDE/VOORWOORD Editorial Team/Redaksionele Span	16
INTRODUCTION John Rourke and Peter Ellingby	18
1 Geographical Setting Skip Krige	24
2 Geology and Physical Features Joan Mase & Tim Almond	26
3 Historical Timeline of Betty's Bay Skip Krige	36
4 Archaeological Significance Wim Mouton	54
5 The Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve Suzanne Gillekens & Michelle Watson	60
6 The Hargibay Ecological Corridor Allan Heydon	64
7 The Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa Tim Almond	70
8 The Betty's Bay Conservancy Carol Clark	74
9 The Betty's Bay Marine Protected Area Pete Curren	78
10 Making a Home in Betty's Bay Raymond Smith	84
11 Betty's Bay Municipal Overview Wesley Gibbons	92
12 Ward 10 Rene Krige & Theresa Ellis	96
12.1 'n Munisipale oorsig van tyd tot tyd ontwikkel tussen 1964 en 2012 Rene Krige	104
13 Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association (BBRA) Wim van der Merwe	108
13.1 From the Chairperson of the BBRA Wim van der Merwe	109
13.2 The BBRA from 2004 to 2014 Dan Fick	113
14 BBRA's Newsletter Wim van der Merwe	120
15 The BUZZ Elaine Lawrence	124
16 Professional Advisory Group to the Kogelberg Biosphere Wim van der Merwe	128
17 Exploring Three Civil Society-led Initiatives at Betty's Bay Rene Krige	132
18 Overstrand Herald Suzanne Gillekens	138
19 Survivor par Excellence Rene Krige	142
20 Powering Families in Betty's Bay, 1920 to 1950 Skip Krige	146
20.1 Die Alberten en Lückhoff families van De Wesselaar	148
20.2 The Porter Family Wim van der Merwe	154
21.1 The Porter Family Roger Porter	156
21.2 The Clarence Family Notes from van der Merwe	158

NATIONAL BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA NATIONAL COUNCIL

We had a very constructive and informative meeting with the Financial Manager of National Botanical Society, Nazeer Rawoot. I was able to explain to him the workings of the Kogelberg Branch, all that we do and how wonderful the volunteers are that support the branch.

It was interesting to note that our bookshop's turnover is very close to the same amount per annum as the Kirstenbosch Bookshop (and their customers do not have to pay an entrance fee to shop!).

He also assured us that our branch was in a much stronger and much healthier financial situation than any of the other branches within the National Botanical Society.

WEATHER

It continues to be very dry with only 28mm of rain recorded in October and only 3mm recorded in the first ten days of November.

Betty's Bay Rainfall 2015 to 2025

Harold Porter National Garden

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average
Jan	42	74	77	47	45	93	17	7	54	24	33	47
Feb	28	23	18	54	27	38	30	19	85	31	24	34
Mar	28	132	23	62	119	13	187	41	173	34	43	78
Apr	14	71	26	88	34	51	12	32	68	137	27	51
May	56	35	6	90	71	67	263	90	263	31	153	102
Jun	134	167	119	157	104	161	213	212	277	133	202	171
Jul	246	144	110	84	195	168	211	91	126	391	195	178
Aug	134	110	148	188	67	196	193	119	89	219	111	143
Sep	29	104	51	113	140	100	33	44	232	71	61	92
Oct	71	33	72	28	12	84	124	14	65	30	28	53
Nov	45	12	140	59	61	127	69	25	38	38		61
Dec	18	32	10	21	61	39	125	89	34	26		46
Annual Total	845	937	800	991	936	1137	1477	783	1504	1165	877	1058

As I look out of my office window at the mountain next to Harold Porter, I remind myself how fortunate we are to live in or to be able to visit this incredible floral kingdom that we have in the Kogelberg Biosphere. It is extremely dry at present. Please take extra precautions when it comes to open braai fires. The last thing that we need now is having another devastating wildfire.

Peter Dall

082 784 4326

Email: peter@pdconsult.co.za

Should you wish to join the Supporters of the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society contact Peter on 082 784 4326 or email him at peter@pdconsult.co.za. Should you wish to partake in any of the many projects and activities please contact the conveners directly.

GARDENING IN THE KOGELEBERG – SNIPPETS FOR AN AMATEUR FYNBOS GARDENER

from the Kogelberg Garden Circle

Because of the combination of acidic soils, north-western winds which bring winter rains and drying south-eastern winds, gardening here is very different from the rest of the country. Also, believe it or not, one side of town has very different growing conditions to the other side, so what grows near the mountain, does not grow near the sea; what grows in the wetlands, does not grow on dunes. Very frustrating! When deciding what to plant, start with what is already in the garden, and then observe the dominant vegetation in the area.

Some very general pointers, and wherever possible:

* Don't rush your garden layout. If you can, live through all the seasons before making final plans. The best time to plant is in the autumn months, in time for the winter rains. Generally, plants in loamy soils will need watering two to three times per week, those in sandy soils every second day, both for at least two years.

* When replacing existing vegetation, don't clear a huge area. The wind is in charge and loves a good vacuum, so try to only clear the area that you will be immediately working on.

* You CAN successfully move fynbos. If the plants are quite young, dig out as much of the surrounding soil as possible. Besides typical plant roots, fynbos has micro-rootlets snaking through the soil and whole populations of micro-organisms that hate to be disturbed, so avoid digging around the base of plants. As for leaves, leave them around plants - that's why they are called leaves!

* Plants coming from the protection of a nursery, need to get used to living here, so remember the concept of the "step-down facility" – use rocks and branches to form an enclosure against the wind, or plant them near existing ones. If the plant dies, leave it – you never know. As a rule - if it's going to grow short, plant it in front, if it's going to grow tall, plant it at the back!

* To fertilise, or not to fertilise?

Soil here is generally acidic, but, as most commercial fertilisers are alkali, they 'burn' the fine rootlets, so *don't use fertiliser*. *However*, organic fertilisers derived from fish or seaweed can be used. Mulching, on the other hand, is good. Use decayed organic matter like shredded pine bark or wood chips. But remember the wind? Lay some thickish branches over the mulch layer, for better retention. Happy gardening!



Protect young plants against the wind with rocks, sticks or logs

Learn to garden with wildlife – they don't speak Human and definitely do not understand 'keep out'! As a simple deterrent, embed upright sticks around new plants.



Galia Manicom 082 963 3804

This is the final newsletter for 2025 and all that remains is to wish you all a safe and happy festive season and a peaceful and prosperous 2026.

Warm regards
Vivienne von der Heyden
Editor

PS. If you have family and friends visiting, please remind them that dogs must be walked on leads in all public spaces and that any parcels they may leave behind them need to be picked up and disposed of in a dustbin. Our wildlife is precious to us, as is the beauty and cleanliness of our surroundings!