Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA)
Newsletter September 2025



From the Chairman's desk:
Dear Betty's Bay residents
Your kindness and commitment this past month have truly strengthened the backbone of our community. Thanks to your donations and hands-on support, our three vital services continue to thrive. It's your spirit of giving and participation that fuels our collective resilience. We're deeply grateful to walk this path with you.

Rooted in purpose. Rising in unity. This month, we honour the quiet strength of Betty's Bay, where every act of service, every voice raised in care, builds the future we deserve. Thank you for walking this path with us.

KNOW YOUR BBRA

Executive Committee			
1.	Wayne Jackson	Chairman & Membership	Stony Point
2.	Amund Beneke.	Vice Chair & Engineering	Sunny Seas
3.	Hannelie Coetzee	Treasurer	Stony Point
4.	Julia Frylinck.	Secretary	Stony Point
Essential Services			
5.	Rob Boyd.	BEST	Central
6.	Jorika Rabie.	Fire and Rescue	Stony Point
7.	Wayne Jackson	Sea Watch; Neighbourhood Watch	Stony Point
8.	Elsa Stofberg	Conservation	Stony Point
Community Services			
9.	Abigail Davids.	Community Development	Central
10.	Shameez Joubert	Markets	Rondevlei
11.	Claudele Jackson	Crassula Hall	Stony Point
Communications			
12.	Wendy Lucas	Website custodian	Silversands
13.	Tersia Starke	Website assistant	Bass Lake
Oversight			
14.	Andre Kotze	Rondevlei Rep	Rondevlei
15.	Calan Bennett	Central Rep	Central

Please visit our website to engage with the appropriate portfolio leaders regarding areas of your interest. We welcome your suggestions for improvements to enhance our processes, foster progress and promote a positive work environment.

There are two big talking points on the go - the Overhills development plan and the proposed e-voting system. I will unpack the current plan as presented and give my thoughts on the e-voting system.

THE PROPOSED OVERHILLS LOW-COST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN KLEINMOND

Background

GNEC is facilitating the Basic Assessment process for listed activities triggered under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA).

Listing Notice 1; Activity: 12, 19, 24 & 27
Listing Notice 3; Activity: 4, 12 & 14

The proposed development site is located on the urban edge of Kleinmond.
The development area is currently partially occupied by an informal settlement, an electrical substation, a waste transfer station and a sports field.
Current zoning- Public Open Space & Special Use Zoning.



Proposed Development Site

77 Single Residential Units (0.61ha)
7 Less Formal Development Zones (4.48 ha)
Public Open Space (0.30 ha)
Electrical Powerline (0.44 ha)
Sports Field (2.19 ha)
Detention pond (0.38 ha)
Electric Substation (0.53 ha)
TRA (0.83 ha)
Taxi rank (0.09 ha)



First Public Participation Period (PPP) (16 May 2025-3 July 2025):

Executive Summary Documents were hand delivered – within 100 meter radius from subject property boundary.
Notification letters were sent via electronic mail to potentially affected state departments, NGO's and commenting authorities.
Four sets of site notices were fixed along the boundary of the site.
Advertisement was published in the Hermanus Times as well as the Overstrand Herald newspaper.
BAR and associated documents were made available on GNEC's Website.
All comments/ registrations received from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) were captured on a stakeholder database.

Studies/Assessments undertaken

Botanical Impact Assessment – Paul Emms
Freshwater Impact Assessment - FEN
Traffic Impact Assessment – Douw Lourens
Geotechnical Investigation – GAWC

Freshwater impact assessment

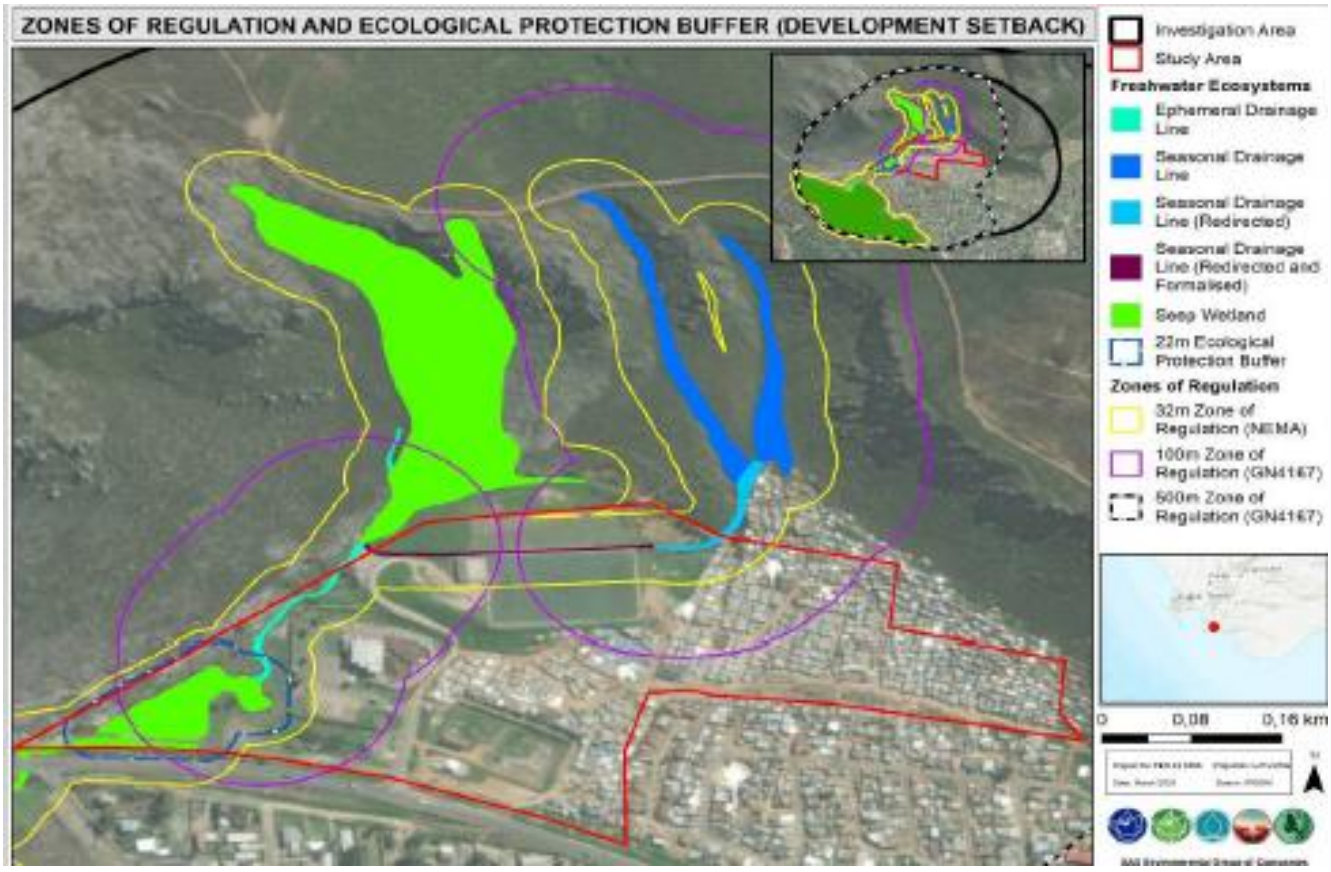
The freshwater study for the proposed Overhills housing development looked at the streams and wetlands on the site to see how they might be affected. Two main water features were identified.

A drainage line (small stream) along the western edge of the site. This stream has already been heavily changed by past activities like dumping and excavation, but it still plays an important role by carrying water through the area to wetlands further south.

A wetland in the south-western corner of the site. This wetland is in better condition and helps with controlling erosion, supporting biodiversity, and supplying water to the environment.
The study found that if the development goes ahead with the right safeguards, the risk to these water systems will be low. The safeguards include:

- Keeping a buffer zone (at least 22 metres) around the wetland where no building can take place.
- Not piping the small stream but rather rehabilitating it into a green, vegetated channel (called a bioswale) that can clean and slow down stormwater before it moves downstream.
- Setting aside open space to protect the wetland.
- Actively removing alien invasive plants and keeping them under control.
- Making sure stormwater systems use sustainable designs to prevent flooding, erosion, and pollution.
- Applying strict management during construction to avoid spills, erosion, and unnecessary damage.

In conclusion, the specialist says that the housing development can go ahead from a freshwater perspective, as long as the mitigation measures are strictly followed. The project even creates an opportunity to improve the current state of the drainage line and to better protect the wetland for the future.



Botanical impact assessment

The study area falls within Kogelberg Sandstone Fynbos, a Critically Endangered ecosystem, and contains patches of intact, sensitive natural vegetation
A vulnerable plant species, Serruria rubricaulis, was found on site, making the area especially important for conservation
The assessment warns that the proposed retention pond overlaps with sensitive habitat and would destroy this plant population unless it is relocated
Even with relocation, the project could still cause “edge effects” such as trampling, dumping, and fire risks to the remaining vegetation

The development is considered acceptable only if sensitive areas are avoided, the retention pond is moved and strict management is in place.

Traffic impact statement

The traffic study for the Overhills housing development shows that the project will have a moderate impact on traffic, but the road network will still function well with some safety improvements.
All intersections in the area currently work well, and they are expected to continue operating at good levels even after the Overhills project is completed.
The development will add some extra traffic during peak hours, but this will only slightly increase delays at intersections.
For safety reasons, a dedicated right-turn lane is recommended on Main Road at the intersections with Fynbos Street / IJ Singleton Street and with the Transfer Station access road.
The project will generate a significant number of pedestrian trips, so new surfaced sidewalks are recommended:

along Main Road to connect to the proposed taxi rank,
along the southern internal road through Overhills to link with GM Siyoni Street,
and along GM Siyoni Street, Nemesia Avenue (west) and Fynbos Street, to ensure safe and continuous pedestrian routes.

Parking will be provided in line with municipal requirements.

Technical documents

Civil & Electrical Services Report – Lyners Consulting Engineers
Stormwater Layout – Lyners
Stormwater Management Report – BNC Engineering
Town Planners – Urban Dynamics Western Cape

Statutory process

Submit land use application to OM: Sept / Oct 2025
Processing of application: October 2025
Public participation: Nov / Dec 2025
Responses & mitigation: Jan – Feb 2026
Planning decision: Aug 2026

Key issues identified

1. Infrastructure and Service Delivery
    - Overburdened Systems & lack of infrastructure upgrades.
2. Environmental and Ecological Impact
    - Threat on Biodiversity
    - Encroachment and Illegal Expansion
    - Noise, Litter, and Visual Impact
3. Public Participation and Transparency
4. Social Issues and Crime
    - Crime and Lawlessness, safety threats and concerns over control and enforcement
5. Lack of Employment and Economic Opportunities
    - Job Scarcity, High Unemployment Rates
    - Tourism at Risk
6. Housing Demand and Misuse
    - Misallocation of RDP Homes
    - Unregulated Shack Growth
    - Lack of Beneficiary Vetting
7. Procedural and Governance Concerns

Distrust in Municipality
9. Alternatives Suggested
Other Locations
Upgrade Existing
Build Where Jobs Are
10. Cultural and Property Concerns
Loss of Tranquillity
Property Devaluation
Long-standing Locals Overlooked
11. Proposed Development Layout Criticisms
Buffer Zones
Unrealistic Phasing

ELECTRONIC VOTING (E-VOTING) IN SOUTH AFRICA: ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST

1.Opening statements

a. Conclusion: Under the ANC's rule, with its history of looting and impunity, e-voting could become a tool for electoral fraud, not fairness. South Africa should fix its governance first before going digital.

b. E-voting can work in countries with strong institutions, transparency, and cybersecurity measures (like Estonia). However, in nations with weak governance, corruption, or poor infrastructure (like Venezuela or DRC), it can undermine democracy. South Africa must ensure independent oversight, verifiable backups, and public trust before implementing e-voting.

2. Arguments FOR Electronic Voting:

a. Increased accessibility where E-voting can make voting easier for remote or disabled voters, increasing participation.

b. Faster results as automated counting reduces delays in announcing election outcomes.

c. Reduced human error which eliminates manual counting mistakes that occur with paper ballots.

d. Cost efficiency and long-term savings on printing, transporting, and storing paper ballots.

e. Modernization, aligns with global digital trends, making elections more efficient and transparent if implemented correctly.

3. Arguments AGAINST Electronic Voting:

a. Cybersecurity risks and vulnerable to hacking, malware, or external interference, undermining election integrity.

b. Lack of verifiability, unlike paper ballots, digital votes may leave no physical audit trail, making recounts difficult.

c. Technical failures like power outages, software bugs, or hardware malfunctions could disrupt voting.

d. Digital divide. Disenfranchises or marginalised voters without access to technology or digital literacy.f
e. Potential for Fraud from insider threats or manipulation of software could alter results undetected.

4. Scenario for invalid results and fraud risks: What Could Go Wrong?

a. Manipulation of software. If the e-voting system is compromised (e.g., via malware or insider tampering), votes could be altered without detection.

b. Lack of transparency. If the system is proprietary (owned by a private company), the public cannot verify its integrity.

c. Voter coercion. Remote e-voting (e.g., internet voting) allows voters to be pressured by others since voting is not done in a controlled environment.

5. How Easy Is Fraud?

a. Moderately difficult but possible. If proper safeguards (end-to-end encryption, paper backups, open-source software) are not in place, fraud could be committed by hackers, election officials, or foreign actors.

b. Example of fraud risk: In the 2019 Democratic Republic of Congo elections, e-voting machines were accused of pre-programming results, leading to widespread distrust and protests.

6. Examples of E-Voting Success and Failure.

a. Success: Estonia and why It worked:

i. Uses blockchain technology for secure online voting.

ii. Voters can verify their votes, and results are auditable.

iii. High trust in government and strong digital infrastructure.

7. Failure: Venezuela and why It failed:

a. Smartmatic (the e-voting provider) admitted that results were tampered with in the 2017 election.

b. Lack of transparency and audits led to widespread distrust and claims of dictatorship.

c. The system was controlled by the government, with no independent oversight.

8. Mitigating risks in South Africa's E-Voting implementation: South Africa faces unique challenges in adopting electronic voting, including cybersecurity threats, unequal digital access, political distrust, and logistical constraints. To ensure a credible and secure e- voting system, the following risk-mitigation strategies should be considered:

a. Ensuring cybersecurity and preventing hacking

i. Risks: Foreign interference, malware, insider tampering.

ii. Mitigation strategies: Use Open-Source Software to avoid proprietary systems; allow independent experts to audit the code.

iii. End-to-End encryption to secure data transmission to prevent interception.

iv. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and require biometrics or OTPs to verify voters.

v. Regular Penetration Testing. Hire ethical hackers to identify vulnerabilities before elections.

vi. Air-Gapped systems. Keep vote-counting machines offline to prevent remote hacking.

vii. Example: Brazil uses standalone e-voting machines with no internet connection, reducing hacking risks.

9. Maintaining a verifiable paper trail

a. Risks: No way to audit or recount digital votes if fraud is suspected.
Mitigation Strategies:

i. Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT). Print a paper receipt for voters to confirm their choice.

ii. Mandatory Manual Audits. Randomly check paper records against digital results.

iii. Hybrid system. Allow voters to choose between e-voting and paper ballots.

iv. Example: India uses EVMs with VVPAT, ensuring results can be cross-checked.

10. Preventing Voter Coercion & Fraud

a. Risks: Vote-buying, family/employer pressure, ballot stuffing.

b. Mitigation Strategies:

i. In-Person E-Voting Only (No Internet Voting). Remote voting increases coercion risks.

ii. Secure polling stations. Ensure voting booths are private and monitored.

iii. Real-time monitoring. Use CCTV (where feasible) to detect intimidation.

iv. Example: The Netherlands abandoned internet voting due to coercion risks.

11. Addressing the Digital Divide

a. Risks: Disenfranchising rural/poor voters with no tech access.

b. Mitigation Strategies:

i. Phased rollout to test e-voting in urban areas first, then expand.

ii. Offline E-Voting machines. Deploy secure devices to remote areas.

iii. Voter education. Train citizens on using e-voting before elections.

iv. Example: Namibia successfully introduced e-voting in 2014 but faced initial resistance from rural voters.

12. Ensuring Transparency & Public Trust

a. Risks: Distrust in results due to lack of oversight.

b. Mitigation Strategies:

i. Independent audits. Allow political parties, NGOs, and observers to verify systems.

ii. Live Results Tracking. Publish real-time data with cryptographic verification.

iii. Legal Framework. Pass laws mandating e-voting safeguards and penalties for tampering.

iv. Example: Switzerland allows public testing of its e-voting system before elections.

13. Preparing for Technical Failures

a. Risks: Power outages, software crashes, hardware malfunctions.

b. Mitigation Strategies:

i. Backup Paper Ballots if machines fail, switch to manual voting.

ii. Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). Ensure polling stations have backup power.

iii. Emergency Protocols. Train staff to handle system failures.

iv. Example: The Philippines had to revert to manual counting in 2010 due to e-voting machine failures.

14. Preventing Insider Threats and Corruption

a. Risks: IEC officials or contractors manipulating the system.

b. Mitigation Strategies:

i. Decentralized Control. No single entity should have full system access.

ii. Blockchain-Based Voting (Experimental) could provide tamper-proof records (but needs testing).

iii. Strict Accountability. Prosecute any officials caught interfering.

iv. Example: Kenya's 2017 election was nullified due to alleged insider tampering with the e-voting system.

15. Conclusion: Can E-Voting Work in South Africa? Yes, but only with strict safeguards:

a. Start with a pilot project (municipal by-elections first).

b. Mandate a paper trail for audits.

c. Ensure multi-stakeholder oversight (parties, civil society, IT experts).

d. Prioritize cybersecurity over speed or cost savings.

16. Without these measures, e-voting could erode trust in South Africa's elections, as seen in Venezuela and the DRC.

17. Should South Africa adopt E-Voting Now?

a. Assessing Risks Under ANC Governance & Systemic Corruption

b. Given South Africa's high levels of political corruption, weak institutional oversight, and declining public trust, introducing e-voting at this stage would be extremely risky.

18. Here's why:

a. The ANC's Corruption Track Record Raises Red Flags

i. State Capture Legacy. The Zondo Commission exposed how the ANC manipulated state institutions (SARS, Eskom, NPA) for political gain.

ii. Local Government Failures. Many ANC-run municipalities (e.g.Tshwane, Johannesburg) suffer from fraudulent tenders, collapsed services, and IT system failures, raising concerns about e-voting security.

iii. No Consequences for Corruption despite scandals (e.g., Digital Vibes, PPE theft), ANC officials face little accountability. Could the IEC resist political pressure?

iv. Risk: If the ruling party controls e-voting software or infrastructure, they could manipulate results covertly, just as they've manipulated tenders and SOEs.

b. South Africa's Institutions Are Not Trusted to Safeguard E-Voting. IEC's Independence Under Threat? While the IEC has been relatively credible, increasing ANC interference in Chapter 9 institutions (e.g., SABC, NPA) suggests it could be next.

i. Failed E-Government Projects. South Africa's digital systems (Home Affairs, eFiling) are plagued by outages, hacking, and incompetence. E-voting would be a far bigger target.

ii. Lack of Cybersecurity Capacity. The government has no proven track record of securing critical digital infrastructure (e.g., Transnet cyberattack 2021).

iii. Risk: A hacked or manipulated e-voting system could lead to disputed elections, violent unrest, or a constitutional crisis.

c. Fraud Risks Are Higher in a Digitally Divided, Corrupt System

i. Digital Exclusion. Over 40% of South Africans lack internet access, and rural areas suffer from power cuts. E-voting could disenfranchise the poor.

ii. Voter Coercion. In a country with high unemployment and patronage politics, e-voting (especially remote/online) could enable vote-buying or intimidation.

iii. No Reliable Audit Trail. If the IEC rushes into e-voting without paper backups, fraud could go undetected.

iv. Example: In Kenya's 2017 election, the Supreme Court nullified results due to e-voting irregularities. South Africa could face worse chaos.

19. Countries with Corruption Failed at E-Voting. SA Could Too

a. Venezuela's ruling party rigged e-voting machines to declare fraudulent wins, destroying democracy.

b. DRC (2019). E-voting machines were accused of pre-programming results for Kabila's allies.

c. Russia: "Electronic voting" in Moscow helped Putin steal opposition votes in 2021.

d. South Africa's ANC has shown similar tendencies:

i. Cadre Deployment: Putting loyalists in key institutions.

ii. Weaponizing Procurement: Tender fraud in every sector.

iii. Silencing Whistleblowers: If e-voting fraud occurs, would the NPA investigate?

20. Is There Any Way SA Could Do E-Voting Safely?

a. Not yet. But if the following strict conditions were met, a limited pilot project could be tested:

i. Paper Trail Mandatory. Every e-vote must have a verifiable paper receipt.

ii. Open-Source Software. No secret algorithms; auditable by opposition parties & NGOs.

iii. Multi-Party Oversight. All major parties (including DA, EFF) must have IT experts monitoring the system.

iv. No Internet Voting. Only in-person e-voting machines (to prevent hacking/coercion).

v. Constitutional Safeguards. Laws criminalizing e-voting fraud, with harsh penalties.

v. But given ANC's dominance and corruption, even these may not be enough.

21. Final Verdict: South Africa Is NOT Ready for E-Voting. Current Risks Outweigh Benefits. Until corruption is curbed and institutions are truly independent, e-voting is a threat to democracy.

a. Better Alternatives:

i. Upgrade current paper system (faster counting, better logistics).

ii. Strengthen IEC's independence from ANC interference.

iii. Pilot e-voting in local by-elections first - only if safeguards are foolproof.

21. Questions for the E-Voting Roadshow Coordinator and the IEC in Ensuring Electoral Integrity: Will you ensure that...

a. Cybersecurity & Transparency

i. the entire e-voting software is open-source, allowing for independent audit by all political parties, civil society, and international experts?

ii. a mandatory, voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) is produced for every single vote cast, to allow for manual recounts and audits?

iii. the system is rigorously penetration-tested by independent, internationally recognized ethical hackers before every election and the results made public?

iv. all voting machines are air-gapped (never connected to the internet) to prevent remote hacking?

v. the tender process for acquiring any e-voting technology is fully transparent, free from political interference, and awarded to a company with no links to the governing party or history of state capture?

b. Accountability & Oversight

i. a multi-party oversight committee, including opposition parties and civil society, has 24/7 access to monitor all aspects of the system's code, logistics, and tabulation processes?

ii. a strong legal framework is enacted first that mandates severe criminal penalties for any official or contractor caught tampering with the system.

iii. the IEC's independence is legally fortified to prevent any political pressure from the governing party or any other entity?

iv. a full, simulated election is conducted and publicly demonstrated to prove the system's integrity before it is used in a real vote?

c. Inclusivity & Access

i. the digital divide is addressed by guaranteeing that offline e-voting machines and backup paper ballots are available in all areas with poor connectivity, power instability, or low digital literacy?

ii. a comprehensive, non-partisan voter education program is rolled out nationwide well in advance of any e-voting election?

iii. remote or internet voting is completely off the table to prevent voter coercion and ensure voting occurs in a secure, controlled environment?

d. Contingency and Trust

i. clear and tested emergency protocols are in place, including an immediate switch to paper ballots, in case of widespread technical failure or power outages?

ii. the public can access, under PAIA (Promotion of Access to Information Act), all contracts, testing reports, and audit findings related to the e-voting system?

iii. the system is piloted in small-scale municipal by-elections first, with results meticulously verified against the paper trail, before any national rollout is considered.

iv. the constitutional right to free and fair elections (Section 19) is prioritised above all cost-saving or speed benefits?

Wayne Jackson
Chairman
(Editor's note: Apologies for the formatting. I have been unable to change it.)

BETTY'S BAY EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (BEST)

Eight callouts were attended to in August 2025 - one sand-boarding accident and seven medical cases. The sand-boarding patient had multiple leg fractures and needed to be airlifted off the Blesberg and flown to hospital. Our thanks to ER24, Skymed and our Fire and Rescue Volunteers who were all involved with this rescue. Particular thanks go to Jaco Fourie and Thaakir Stegmann of ER24 Hermanus for their rapid and professional assistance.

Four of the seven medical cases required hospitalisation and were transported by Metro ambulance to Hermanus Provincial.

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.

A huge thank you to Shameez Joubert for raising just over R10 000 for BEST at the monthly Betty's Bay market and the very successful auction of a signed Blue Bulls rugby jersey. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

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) - 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. Fortunately, we have a number of spare patient monitors which have been kindly donated. 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

ENGINEERING SERVICES, TOWN-PLANNING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

1. Spatial Development Framework (SDF) for Overstrand

The Overstrand Local Municipality is currently in the process of revising the SDF for Overstrand. Once the Status Quo Report is available, it will be circulated for comment/input.

Parking Areas / Sites to renovate

The situation at "Coffee on Clarence and the Hub / Main Beach / Silver Sands" remains the same as a month ago:

We are awaiting Director Stephen Muller's go-ahead to proceed with all three the projects.

A Land Surveyor still needs to be appointed to "peg" the area at "Coffee on Clarence/The Hub".

The OLM Traffic Engineer needs to investigate the effect on the traffic flow regarding the possible closure of streets / possible transforming to one-way street(s) at the Main Beach.

2. **Vehicles:** Most of the vehicles are operational.

3. **Cutting of verges:** The Parks Division is responsible for this and any request for the cutting of verges on municipal land must be made to them. Cutting of verges on private land is the responsibility of the Landowner.

4. **Stormwater problems/Potholes:** As the Municipality becomes aware of problems, they are addressed within the capacity of the Municipality, given working conditions (weather).

5. **Standing note:** Residents must log issues on Collab themselves to get a reference number. When a situation arises over a weekend and is urgent, the Control Room must be notified - 028 313 8111

Amund Beneke

CONSERVATION, CARE & PROJECTS

What & Who is CITES CoP20 and what will the impact be on the community and environment because of the proposal on dried abalone?

I was privileged to attended a consultation meeting on the 29 August at the Arabella Hotel on the various proposals that will be listed at the CITES CoP20 conference. The dried abalone proposal was also under discussion and, given the significant developments in South Africa on this issue, there was quite a heated debate surrounding the matter with various parties present including the public.

The government has recently enacted new compulsory specifications for dried abalone, and the proposal for listing on CITES Appendix II is heading for a vote at CoP20 in Uzbekistan later this year.

Representing the BBRA (Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association) and SEAWATCH, we made it clear that we are in favour of the proposal.

CITES CoP20 refers to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It is a major international summit where member countries discuss and vote on proposals to regulate the trade of wild animal and plant species.

Who is involved?

The CITES parties: Representatives from the 185 countries that have signed and ratified the CITES convention. These member countries are legally bound by the decisions made at the conference.

The CITES Secretariat: The body that administers the convention, provides technical assistance and prepares for the meetings.

Specialized committees: These include permanent groups like the Animals Committee, Plants Committee, and Standing Committee that review issues and provide recommendations.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs): Organizations like TRAFFIC and the African Wildlife Foundation attend as observers and provide expert analysis, data, and advocacy.

Indigenous peoples and local communities: These communities are increasingly involved in the process, especially concerning issues related to sustainable use and livelihoods.

What happens at CoP20?

The CoP meets every two to three years to review the convention's implementation. The 20th meeting will be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from November 24 to December 5, 2025. The meeting is timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of CITES' entry into force.

During the two-week meeting, participants will:

Review progress on species conservation included in the CITES Appendices.

Consider and vote on proposals to amend the CITES appendices, which classify species based on their conservation status and trade restrictions.

Discuss key documents and reports from the secretariat and committees.

Adopt recommendations and resolutions to improve the effectiveness of the convention, including issues like enforcement, illegal trade, and sustainable use.

Address strategic matters related to international cooperation, wildlife crime enforcement, and technology.

A primary focus at CoP20 is expected to be on balancing conservation goals with the livelihoods of people who depend on wild species for their food and income.

The South African proposal to list dried abalone (Haliotis midae) on CITES Appendix II at CoP20 aims to combat rampant illegal trade, which has caused severe environmental and socio-economic damage. The proposal only targets dried abalone, the form most often trafficked by criminal syndicates, while excluding live, frozen, and canned products from the regulated aquaculture industry.

Environmental impacts

Preventing wild stock collapse: Wild abalone populations have plummeted by as much as 90% in some areas due to illegal poaching. A CITES Appendix II listing would provide international enforcement tools to disrupt illegal trade networks, thereby protecting wild populations from collapse and allowing them to recover.

Protecting marine ecosystems: The over-harvesting of abalone has knock-on effects that disrupt fragile marine ecosystems. A recovery of abalone stocks would help restore balance to the ecosystem.

Risk to wild genetics: Uncontrolled seeding of farmed abalone stock for "ranching" could pose a risk to the genetic integrity of wild populations, an issue that may need to be addressed as ranching projects grow.

Community impacts

Targeting illegal trade, not legal livelihoods: The proposal is crafted to strengthen the legitimate abalone industry, which primarily exports live, frozen, or canned products. It will not create new regulatory hurdles for these operations, safeguarding jobs and the integrity of legally produced goods.

Disrupting criminal networks: The illegal abalone trade is run by criminal syndicates involved with drugs, money laundering and gang violence, which causes severe social problems in coastal communities. By allowing importing countries to verify the legality of shipments, the CITES listing would choke off this illegal trade.

Addressing livelihood disparities: Some observers note that the growth of illegal harvesting is partly driven by economic desperation in coastal communities, where access to fishing quotas has been a long-standing point of contention. A CITES listing does not directly address these root causes, but the South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has emphasized its commitment to fostering sustainable industries and exploring abalone ranching as an alternative livelihood.

Impact on small-scale fishers: Critics express concern that the CITES listing alone may not be enough to counter the entrenched abalone mafia and could further marginalize traditional fishers who were pushed into illegal harvesting out of necessity. Some believe that an Appendix II listing would increase the value of illegally harvested abalone, further incentivising criminal organizations.

Elsa Stofberg

And now for news from other community groups and organisations doing good work in our area:

HANGKLIP COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE

Very important: we have moved! Since 1 September 2025 HCCC has been conducting our activities from our new address – the old Jacks, adjacent to the Centre shops in Betty's Bay.

HCCC provides welfare services to the Hangklip community i.e. residents of Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els. During the shorter month of August, owing to our move, we distributed 51 food parcels and cooked 501 scrumptuous, 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 and Line-dancing classes will 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.



As Spring is displaying her beautiful colours in an amazing array of plants and spring flowers, many Municipalities are embracing a "pause in mowing" or a no-mow season.

Through the proactive engagement of the Kleinmond Nature Conservation Society with the Overstrand Municipality (OM), the OM has agreed to a "pause in mowing" from August to November for selected areas in Kleinmond, Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay. A signboard will demarcate these areas. The BBC is sponsoring 30 of these signboards for the areas in Betty's Bay. If anyone would like to sponsor a sign for Betty's Bay at R162, please contact bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com.



There is another type of "flower" often seen on our roadsides, open spaces and beaches. It is widespread, comes in many varieties and colours but it is not pretty. Litter! Thanks to those who helped clean up Porter Drive in August.



PORTER DRIVE CLEANUP: 19 AUGUST

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the Porter Drive clean-up, held from 16:00 to 18:00. We had a fantastic turnout. About 20 residents rolled up their sleeves and helped clear a large amount of waste, from building rubble and car parts to plastic in all shapes and sizes, cigarette butts, tins, bottles, and even old voting signs.

The weather played along beautifully and the energy was nothing short of uplifting. Huge thanks to Barbara Jenman for your generous support and providing the yellow bags and rubbish grabbers and to Wayne Jackson for kitting us out with luminous vests that kept us safe and visible.









Apologies for not capturing photos of everyone who joined in, we appreciated all the support.

Let us keep the momentum going. See you at the next one!

Patrick Bolttler

BBC4thSATURDAYon 23rd AUGUST : (RE)WILDING YOUR GARDEN



A big thanks and congratulations to Johan Steyn for his inspiring presentation on **(Re)wilding your garden.** Johan is our most recent BBC Team member, voted in at our 2025 BBC AGM in July.

He shared with us how he had purchased the erf in front of his house, and transformed it over the years into a safe natural environment in which wildlife can forage and shelter.

He removed the alien vegetation and gradually planted about 130 milkwood trees and other indigenous plants. The plants are natural food for the wildlife and he provides water sources on his property.

The photographs and video footage of the wildlife visitors and residents, during the day and at night, in this environment were beautiful and amazing.





A “camera” trap is a great way to see who comes to visit at night. The top picture shows Johan holding the camera he uses.



Although most people do not have a *“Plot purchased for the preservation of biodiversity”,* there are many simple acts that we can do in our gardens to “rewild” them if they are currently predominantly lawn or hardened paved surfaces.

Even if we can all transform some sections of our gardens, this all helps to regain areas for wildlife.

Do small sections at a time so it does not seem like an overwhelming task.

A few tips:

- Remove the alien invasive vegetation
- Plant indigenous vegetation
- Plant vegetation that provides a food source for buck porcupine, birds etc.
- Lawn provides no shelter for wildlife and very limited food
- Open up narrow pathways for the wildlife to move around the garden
- Provide water sources e.g. bowls of water
- Provide some shallow water sources with e.g. with stones in it for bees
- Build a pond
- Keep Cape galaxias fish in your pond – small freshwater fish
- Turn your outside lights off at night – use motions sensors if needed.
- Fences obstruct wildlife movement, especially animals like tortoises
- If you need to fence for pets, considers fencing only a portion of your erf
- Invest in a “camera trap” (see the picture) to be able to see your wildlife visitors

Johan’s videos and photographs from his camera were a reminder of how wildlife used to have the space to roam freely and safely here. Development has destroyed so much of the fynbos, limiting the wildlife to remaining spaces. Often these spaces are scattered “pockets”. We need safe wildlife corridors to connect these pockets.

Your garden can contribute to these safe spaces and wildlife corridors.

For “new builders”, please do not strip your plot barren! The guideline is that you just clear the footprint for your new home, and leave the rest of the fynbos on the erf.

Be inspired by Johan's initiative and see how you can transform or reclaim a portion of your garden into safe wildlife space.

BE INSPIRED!

Some people have already put that inspiration into action!



Leon and the 10 Milkwoods

"Ten healthy looking Milkwood trees from Walker Bay Nursery in Hermanus are now planted in our garden in Stony Point". *Patrick*



Did Johan's talk inspire you too? Please let us know if you have "rewilded your garden" in some way since then and we can feature it in a future BBC newsletter.

UPDATE on the BETTY'S BOOK

Don't miss out on this book – it contains so many fascinating articles about Betty's Bay.

If you would like to order a copy in advance of the proposed 20 December launch, please contact Skip Krige on **skipkrig@mweb.co.za and 082 411 3414**

You can also contact Skip if you or your company would like to support this remarkable project by making a donation towards the cost of producing the book.

CAPE LEOPARD TRUST (CLT): FUNDRAISER



Running for Leopards! 42k for 42k!

By: Running for Leopards

Matthew Arendse and Naas van Jaarsveld are both staff of CLT. They are training to run their first marathon, the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon on 19 October. They will be "Running for Leopards" to raise money for CLT.

Photo credit: from their fundraiser page

https://bit.ly/Runningforleopards2025
Read their story and consider suporting their run to help CLT in their amazing work with leopards.

They funds they raise will support projects for young people: :
https://capeleopard.org.za/news-media/news/story/the-clt-gents-trek-2024-climbing-mountains-building-leaders
https://capeleopard.org.za/news-media/news/story/girls-in-conservation-inspiring-young-women-for-a-greener-future





HACKING

The Battle for Betty's Bay: Report on Hack No 738 on 6 September 2025

This hack was attended by twenty hackers despite the Springbok vs All Black rugby match being televised live in the morning. This was the fourth hack at this site to remove thousands of rooikranz seedlings which have taken root since the fire in January 2024. Vehicle access into the Brodie Link Nature Reserve was once again arranged with Brenton Matinka, the Cape Nature Field Ranger who lives on the property. Lifts were arranged at the gate for those who didn't want to risk taking their cars up the 800m vehicle track to the parking site adjacent to the hacking site.

Armed with medium and large poppers supplemented with those from the Pringle and Hangklip hacking groups we split into two groups to the hacking site across a stream and continued where we had left off after the previous hack. One group tackled an area lower down and the other an area higher up the slope. Lots of hand pulling of the smaller seedlings and popping of the larger ones was required. Jan Joubert did sterling work with his chainsaw, felling the larger spider gums and myrtles between the municipal house and the R44 fence, cutting them low and painting them blue.







The mid-morning break was taken back at the parking site at 10am. Thank you to Dave Mourant for providing all that was needed for a good cup of tea or coffee and to Mary Whitelaw and Lee Boyd for making the delicious sandwiches.

The hack continued after the break and was ended at 11.20am giving the weary hackers ten minutes to walk back to the parking site with their poppers for the most welcomed aftermath. During the early part of the hack Grant Immelman was jokingly asked to make sure he counted all the seedlings he pulled. This he did and reached his target of one thousand. With four hacks completed, we estimate that over 100 000 rooikranz aliens have been pulled out.





A very big thank you for another very productive and enjoyable hack. Thanks to Chris Geldenhuys and Tommy Mills for joining us from Pringle Bay and for their continued support.

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

Rob Boyd

GARDENING IN THE KOGELBERG – SNIPPETS FOR AN AMATEUR FYNBOS GARDENER
from the Kogelberg Garden Circle

Gardening in the Overberg – the good and the bad and the truth

So, you want to plant trees. But which ones? Therein lies the rub, as Shakespeare said! The advice is so conflicting. What we do hear most often is, "Take out invasives. They're bad". But we rarely stop to explain what the word 'invasives' truly means. So, what's the big deal?

Many people plant species that do not naturally occur in this area, colloquially referred to as **alien** species. But for an alien species to be classified as **invasive,** it needs to cause a) ecological damage, b) economic losses and c) human health issues.

In our Overstrand District, these three factors come together in a scary mix because of the constant threat of wildfires, which cause personal and national economic losses, damage to individual properties and human and animal losses.

Yes, the fynbos needs fire to survive, but every 12 to 15 years, **not** every few years like we have been experiencing. Generally, invasive species catch fire easily and also burn at significantly higher temperatures than the local fynbos.

This is especially true for species containing resin or oils, such as Port Jacksons (*Acacia saligna*), Rooikrans (*Acacia cyclops*), pine trees and Australian Myrtle (*Gaudium laevigatum).* These trees spread and grow rapidly, start producing seeds from as young as 2 to 3 years and form dense stands within a few years, completely displacing the local fynbos.

So how do we know what is **good** to plant and what is **bad**? And who do you ask?

In the next few articles, Kogelberg Garden Circle members will be sharing their hard-earned knowledge and experience about **alien** plants, **invasives**, fire-wise and water-wise gardening, protecting plants against wind, what questions to ask when buying plants, and to assure you that gardening in the Kogelberg is not more difficult, just different!

If you would like to join the Kogelberg Garden Circle, please contact Galia, 082 963 3804.



These could be
hiding under invasive plants!

Galia Manikom

SUPPORTERS OF THE KOGELBERG BRANCH OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

The Kogelberg Branch continues to grow from strength to strength and if one drives anywhere from the Palmiet River to Rooi Els, one will see the fruits of all our initiatives , be it hacking, plant rescues, working in the Harold Porter Gardens (HPG), operating the bookshop that keeps the wheels oiled and numerous other activities undertaken by all the wonderful volunteers that support the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa.

WEATHER

A very short report on the weather! The rain has dried up. Last time I recorded rain at our house was on 24 August 2025 and the last rainfall above 10mm was on 10 August so for more than a month, only 33mm of rain has been recorded. The grain farmers are very worried. The grain looked fantastic, but it needs just that extra 20mm to make sure that the grain is fully grown and that the ears of the wheat are as full as possible.

The fynbos now is very happy with this weather. The beautiful early spring days and the fact that their feet are not in water makes it even better for them and the fynbos in the veld now is truly amazing.

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		**92**
Oct	71	33	72	28	12	84	124	14	65	30		**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**	**788**	**1058**

Years above average. **2025 Readings are up to 12 September 2025**

(Editor's note: After receiving Peter's input, gale-force northwesterly winds eventually brought another much needed 20mm of rain overnight on 15 September. Hopefully that has made our grain farmers much happier!)

HAROLD PORTER BOOK AND CRAFT SHOP

On Saturday 4 October we will be launching our very own "Birds of the Kogelberg" book, photographed by Keith Hamilton. This will be an exciting day and one not to be missed.

On Saturday 25 October, we will be launching Alan Lee's book "Birds on the Brink". We have just stocked this amazing book in the shop

We urge everyone to take out SANBI Loyalty Membership and visit the Harold Porter Gardens on a regular basis. I truly believe the gardens are in the best condition that they have been in for a long time and that the Friends of the Harold Porter Gardens efforts in the gardens are truly producing results.

FRIENDS OF THE HAROLD PORTER GARDENS

Viv von der Heyden and Jenny Pattinson continue to do a great job and the numbers volunteering to work in the gardens are growing, albeit very slowly. We urge interested gardeners to join Viv and Jenny on either a Tuesday or a Thursday, alternating weekly from 08.30 to 11.30. It is amazing what a difference this volunteer group are making to the gardens, and it really does boost the morale of the SANBI Staff. Thanks to the Rowland and Leta Hill Trust the volunteers are now well equipped to tackle the maintenance in the gardens along with the well-motivated SANBI staff.

Using profits generated by the book shop, we have been able to help HPG by supplying them with IBA Rooting Hormone to carry on with the propagation of cuttings as well as supplying them with over 200 split poles and steel pegs so that they can repair the zigzag pathway. These are all positive contributions to improve HPG, funded by your support of the Bookshop and, of course, the Supporters of the Kogelberg Branch.

KOGELBERG GARDEN CIRCLE

This month the Garden Circle visited the Stanford Wildflower Show where the Chelsea Flower Exhibition was reinstated.

HACKS
Betty's Bay Hackers : Convenor: Rob Boyd 082 567 8858. See Rob's report above.

Hangklip Hardcore Hackers (HHH): Convenor: Chris Geldenhuys 082 900 8299**.**These hardcore hackers continue to do great work. In Chris's own words: "We can now say that we have successfully eradicated most of the pine seedlings along the bottom part of the Hangklip – Fontein valley between the Hangklip Fontein and the old Water Reservoir, except for the piece of pine forest that we have kept for the Christmas Tree project in December and the pines still standing in Maurice van der Walt's property. A big thank you to the group of exceptionally hardcore hackers who carried out 18 hacks on Mondays. We can also be very proud of the energetic effort made on the old Clarence plot in Rooi Els that was concluded over three Wednesday hacks. Thanks to Mike Christelis for setting up this hack and through that the HHH Group received a generous donation from the owner. From the Rowland and Leta Hill Trust, the hardcore hackers were able to buy two new chainsaws and eight medium poppers". The HHH hack every Wednesday morning and for the past several months have been eradicating pines on Monday mornings.

Pringle Bay Hack: Pringle Bay Hack No 214. On Saturday 30 August members of the Pringle Hack Group together with hackers from Betty's and Pringle Bay tackled aliens in the center of Pringle Bay while other members of the group tackled the Hangklip Valley where Rooikrans and other seedlings were removed.

The **Rooi Els Hack t**akes place on the second Saturday of every month, led by Mike Christelis 082 467 2795. They meet at the Rooi Els Village Shop at 8.30.

CREW
The Kogelberg Crew Team continues to do wonderful work in searching for endangered or near endangered species, recording the numbers and locations. It all helps the conservation of the fynbos in the Kogelberg Biosphere. To Adele Scheepers and the other Crewe Members, a heartfelt thanks for the most valuable work that you do.

KLEINMOND NATURE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION As stated in the previous month's newsletter, we are very honoured to be asked to participate in the Kleinmond Nature Conservation 50th Birthday Celebration and be part of the Fynbos Festival from 6 – 10 October.

We will be selling Fynbos Plants outside the Kleinmond Library and all profits generated from these sales will be accrued to the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society. We will also be manning an Information Table in the Library Boardroom, where we will be selling some of our books, including "Your Place in the Kogelberg".

MONTHLY TALKS
This month's talk, "**Our Whirlwind Romance with the Cape Honeybee**", was given by Lourens Kruger on Saturday 20 September.

"From a bee swarm moving into an owl box in our garden to a dream of establishing fifty Cape Honeybee Conservancies in the Western Cape, our journey has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Being part of Helderberg Hospice Open Gardens and saving 238 bee swarms, our story continues today as a story of hope for our endemic species, the Cape Honeybee."

Lourens gave us wonderful insight into what makes the Cape Honeybee so special.

CONCLUSION
Spring is definitely upon us, and one can just feel everyone's high spirits and the joy that spring brings. Every day I have to pinch myself that where we live is real and every day I give thanks for being able to live in such a wonderful floral kingdom. This floral kingdom must be conserved at all costs, and I am immensely proud of what our volunteers are doing in this respect.

Peter Dall
082 784 4326

Please contact Peter should you wish to join the Supporters of the Koggelberg Branch of the Botanical Society.

Burglar Bars Are Not The Only Baboon Deterrent

Recently, I was fascinated to hear that for many years, the house in Clode Street where I live was well known for its burglar bars. I never really noticed the bars much myself, until one day we began removing them. First, the cage around the front door, then the windows looking out onto the road, and most recently, the last few sets have gone. Only once I realised that I had been taking the bars for granted, did I start to wonder if there were other precautions to take to help residents coexist with the local baboons without bars on the windows to keep them out.



To answer this question, I had an engaging discussion with Renée Bish, a member of the Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group of volunteers, who hope to find ways to live without conflict in overlap with the baboons regularly visiting Betty's Bay. Methods she shared for preventing baboons from sneaking into a house included limiting how far a window can be opened and keeping doors locked. Baboons can open doors with a push-down handle, if unlocked. If one has a round door handle that needs one to turn their wrist to open, the baboons can't open it. If one needs to have doors open for air, then the new steel-mesh doors, added on the inside, or a locklatch are good options. This is a latch fastened with a key once in place, allowing a door to open up to seven centimetres, but the baboons can't undo the latch to open the door enough to get in. If a baboon does enter, Bish emphasised keeping calm is the most important thing one can do. By keeping calm, a person does not stress the animal, and they will leave more quickly and cause less damage as they leave.

Of course, just because one takes the precautions mentioned above, it doesn't mean that the baboons will never get into the house. Everyone can forget to close a door or window, especially the upstairs windows one doesn't see all the time. There was an occasion where our glass kettle was shattered after a baboon came into the house, because one of us had forgotten to lock the back door. Unfortunately, it has a horizontal push-down handle that could open. Another time, one window was left ajar for the cat. A juvenile entered and relieved us of some fruit. According to Bish, the baboons will watch one's pet going in and out, which can alert them to a possible access point. She explained that the smallest young baboons, which have the knowledge and initiative to climb in through the window to get food, can climb through one opened wider than seven centimetres. A restrictor can be installed to prevent a window from opening past this point. Similarly, gaps wider than seven centimetres between the ceiling and the top of a trellis security gate may also provide access.

Installing restrictors may not be the only window expense owners may need to pay for. According to local glass installation company BB Glass, older wooden window frames, which have not been maintained, are easier for the baboons to break or bite through and then enter the house. The suggested solution is, the

better the quality of the aluminium window frames used to replace the rotten frames, the less additional anti-baboon proofing you require. Some residents may decide to save money by creating their own handmade baboon-proof solutions. Bish applauds this and suggests, before implementing them, discussing with others who have already implemented their own solutions, to ensure they are effective.

I never thought having burglar bars on my window would impact me, but now, with baboon-proofing products on the windows and doors of my house, I'm really enjoying the views not obscured by grey metal bars. It is possible for people to coexist with the baboons and enjoy living in Betty's Bay *without* requiring burglar bars on the windows.

Tony Norton

KLEINMOND ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY (KAWS)

Over the past few months we have seen so many lost dogs running on the roads in Betty's Bay. This situation is not only dangerous for the animals but distressing for motorists who have almost run over them.

We are appealing to the community to ensure that your properties are secure for your pets. Not having a fence is not an excuse. Our by-laws clearly state that "no person may keep a dog on premises that are not fenced in such a manner that such dog is at all times confined to the premises". As an Animal Welfare, KAWS is obliged to report these cases to Law Enforcement and the dog will then be impounded with us for fourteen days. If the owner is not found within that time it then becomes one of our dogs and will be put up for adoption.

It is understandable if a dog gets out by accident. These things do happen. Reuniting an animal with its owner is quicker when the dog has a collar with a tag. Having your pet microchipped is also an inexpensive option.

KAWS along with Dr Labuschagne has been operating mobile clinics in the Mooiuitsig community over the last two weeks. We have been vaccinating puppies and giving annual vaccinations to adult dogs and cats, including rabies vaccinations. We have also medicated animals for parasite control and have booked in dogs and cats that need to be sterilised.





This week we will deliver kennels to the pet owners, as well as blankets and food which were donated by The Dogbox Project, an annual event held at the Whale Coast Mall. Each kennel has been beautifully painted by members of the public.





Karin de Beer

And that, folk, wraps it up for September. I look forward to receiving from you items of interest to our Betty's Bay community. Email me on vivvdh@gmail.com.

Warm regards

Vivienne von der Heyden

Editor

Kogelberg Garden Circle & Fight For Fynbos - Stop, before you chop!

Living here is like living in a Nature Reserve, surrounded as we are by the Cape's rich floral kingdom. However, with so many erven being completely cleared for housing, there is a huge need to try to rescue as much fynbos as possible. You can help to preserve the wonderful biodiversity and beauty of the Kogelberg by giving us advance notice, before clearing begins on empty erfs. ***Educate owners, builders, architects and landscapers that they don't need to clear the whole plot, they just have to clear the house- and driveway footprints.*** *So if you see any movement on an empty plot, contact us. Our fynbos fairies will arrive with spades and forks to save what precious plants they can! Ph Galia 082 963 3804.*