



Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA)

Newsletter April 2026



NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

- 1. BBRA Membership:** On a positive note: the number of residents joining the BBRA as members is growing slowly but surely. This is good news. Being a member, the following advantages need to be noted:
 - Inclusion in the Betty's Bay Neighbourhood Watch (BBNW), Betty's Bay Emergency Support Team (BEST) and Betty's Bay Fire and Rescue Volunteers;
 - Effective community representation at the Overstrand Municipality (OM), Community Policing Forum, DFFE, Cape Nature, SAPS, Ward 10 committee, the Stony Point Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC) et al;
 - Monthly BBRA Newsletter, active Facebook pages, Instagram and BBRA website; and
 - Access to relevant community WhatsApp groups for safety and updates.

- 2. BBRA focus points for 2026:**

A Ward 10 Committee site visit was undertaken on 27 March 2026. During this site visit, the following transpired, amongst others:

Cllr Els's report:

- Toilets, specifically OH9 and OH10 in Overhills. These have been repaired;
- Many complaints have been sent relating to the state of Dawidskraal;
- Officials from OM Environment Dept have indicated that the current format of boardwalks required excessive maintenance and new solutions have to be sought;
- Officials from OM Environment need to be engaged regarding signage. OM officials present confirmed that teams had completed road signs in Kleinmond; they were currently busy with road signs in Pringle Bay whereafter those in Betty's Bay would be done.

Feedback relating to the resealing of roads program:

- Work was currently being done in Sunny Seas by the contractor, Actophambili Roads;
- Due to an unavailable ETA on the primary grader, a digger loader was substituted. The operational grader was showing excessive wear and was near the end of its service life;
- One solution is to use the Small Works Tender. A new tender is being procured;
- Cllr Els informed on areas where resealing/dust control was needed.
- However, the current diesel shortage has a negative impact on the delivery of gravel etc.
- SANS 10090 requires that all emergency vehicles be subjected to regular, documented maintenance carried out by competent people.

Recommendations:

- That the remaining broken toilet pots be removed from the OH9 and OH10 sites in Overhills, Kleinmond;
- That the monthly Service Reports provide an accurate reflection of actual conditions on the ground;
- That an audit be done to determine the legality of road signs.

As a standing note and apart from the normal work undertaken by the different Portfolios within the BBRA, we still concentrate on the following:

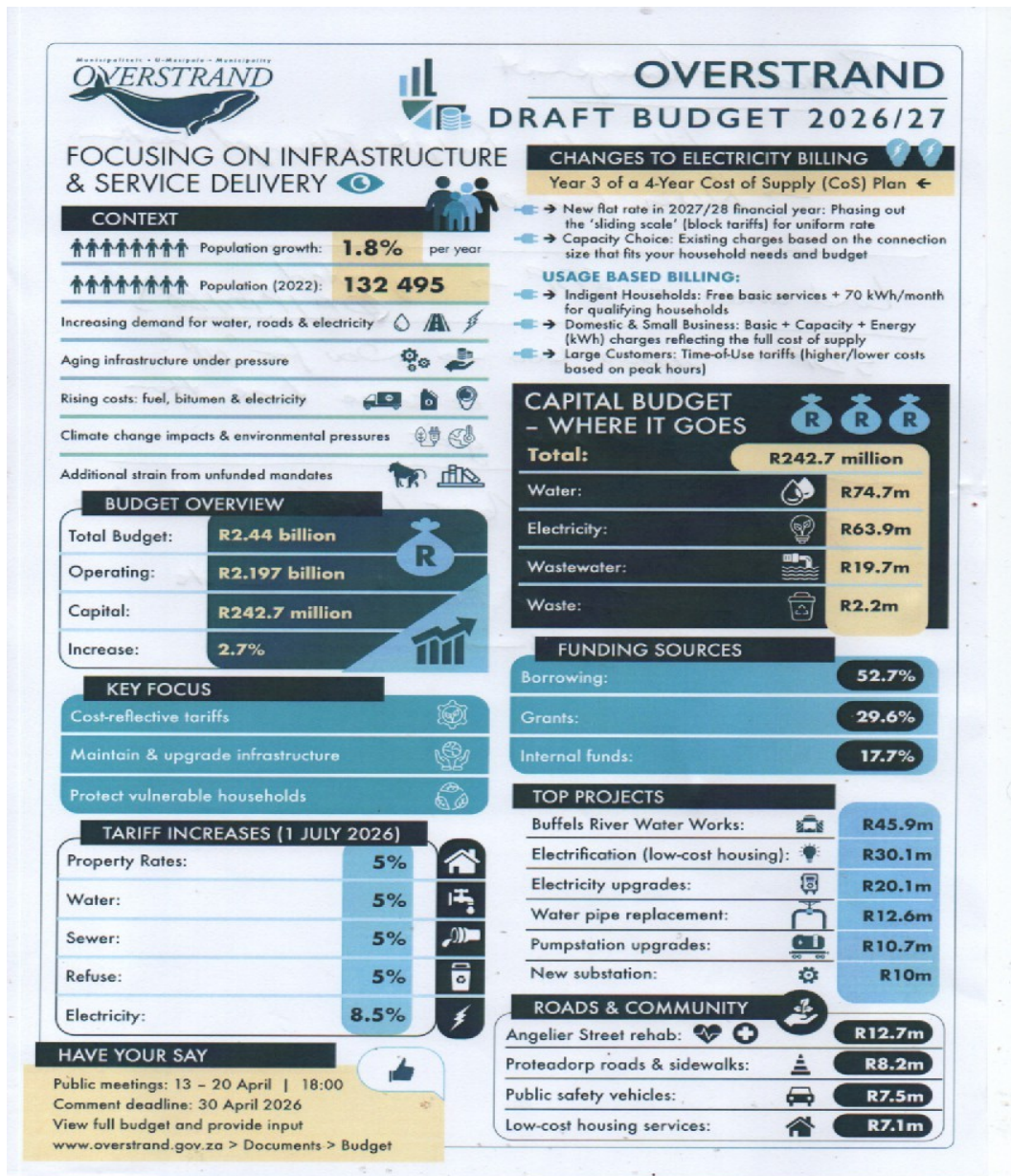
- Financial transparency regarding the BBRA finances
- Day-to-day operations under the different portfolios within the BBRA
- Assisting the Overstrand Local Municipality with the update / amendment of the current Spatial Development Framework (SDF) for the Overstrand / Precinct Plan for Betty's Bay
- The development of Erf 4030 Betty's Bay as a "user friendly area for all the residents of Betty's Bay".
- The renovation of the parking areas at Main Beach and Silversands
- The renovation of the ablution blocks at Main Beach and Silversands
- The renovation of the parking area at the development at Coffee on Clarence to alleviate traffic problems in the broader area.

- Strongly supporting all legal engagements / actions regarding the curbing of speeding on Clarence Drive.

IDP Budget Review Process 2026/2027:

At a combined Ward 9 and Ward 10 Meeting held on 14 April 2026 in the Kleinmond Hall, the Draft Budget for 2026/2027, linked to the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for Overstrand, was discussed, focussing on the Broader Kleinmond to Rooi Els area. Below is a summary of it:

- Important to note is that comment/input can be tendered until 30 April 2026. The full Draft Budget can be view at www.overstrand.gov.za Go to "Documents" and then to "Budget". Please make use of this opportunity to say your say.



3. BBRA Portfolios:

Please note the different Portfolios under the BBRA and that any relevant day-to-day issue can be forwarded to the BBRA's email address bettysbayratepayers@gmail.com

Amund Benecke
 Chairman

TOWN PLANNING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

Spatial Development Framework (SDF) for OM:

- Overstrand Municipality (OM) indicated on 14 April 2026 that the service provider/consultant is still busy with the Status Quo Report. Once sorted, the said report will be made available to the public for comment / input. The deadline for the Status Quo Report is November 2026
- The deadline for the amended SDF is next year, when the revised Integrated Development Plan (IDP) will also be approved.

Roads:

The contractor appointed to deal with the roads infrastructure in Betty's Bay completed the scraping/rolling of the dirt roads in the eastern area (broader Sunny Seas Area) of Betty's Bay.

- They are currently busy in the western area, whereafter they will proceed to the central area.
- Potholes: the OM must be made aware of potholes. They will be addressed within the capacity of the Municipality / given working conditions (weather).
- There is enough stock (gravel and tar) for the current financial year, ending June 2026. New stock will be order for the new financial year, beginning July 2026.

Storm Water:

- The Kleinmond team finished as far as possible the cleaning of the storm water drainage system.
- It is important to note that the Municipality must be made aware of storm water problems. These will be addressed within the capacity of the Municipality/given working conditions (weather).

Water pipes:

- Broken water pipes are fixed as and when reported.

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

BETTY'S BAY FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

While it has been an extremely busy and challenging fire season for the Overstrand region, we are pleased that Betty's Bay has remained safe. As we slowly enter the winter months our teams will start their winter training season. Each month the team completes a fitness assessment, along with other invaluable practical training - often together with the Municipal teams and the Pringle Bay Volunteers.

Weekly standby duties will continue as normal, throughout the training season.

FIRE & RESCUE: Things have remained safe and calm over the past month, with no major incidents to report on.

Are you familiar with the types of fire extinguishers and their uses?

There are five different fire extinguishers, which are:

- **Water, water mist or water spray** fire extinguishers
- **Foam** fire extinguishers
- **Dry Powder** – standard or specialist fire extinguishers
- **Carbon Dioxide** ('CO2') fire extinguishers
- **Wet Chemical** fire extinguishers

The different classes of fire extinguisher rating are listed below together with the some of the most suitable types of fire extinguisher for use on each class of fire:

Class A - Suitable for paper, wood & textiles.

Type of fire extinguisher - Water, Foam, Dry Powder, Wet Chemical

Class B - Suitable for flammable liquids.

Type of fire extinguisher - Foam, Dry Powder, Carbon Dioxide (CO2)

Class C - Suitable for flammable gasses.

Type of fire extinguisher - Dry Powder

Class F - Suitable for cooking oil and fat.

Type of fire extinguisher - Wet Chemical

Electrical Risk - Suitable for electrical equipment.

Type of fire extinguisher - Dry Powder, Carbon Dioxide (CO2)

Fire extinguisher types chart

This chart visualises the fire extinguisher types used in the UK and the types of fire for which they are suitable, as well as their colour codes.

Symbols found on fire extinguishers & what they mean		 Water	 Foam spray	 ABC powder	 Carbon dioxide	 Wet chemical
Wood, paper & textiles		✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Flammable liquids		✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Flammable gases		✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Electrical contact		✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cooking oils & fats		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓

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.

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 organisations in Betty's Bay and they need to allocate the funds accordingly.

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064379211431>

Thank you for your ongoing support and donations.

Until our next update, enjoy the sunshine and stay **Fire Wise!**

Jorika Rabie

BETTY'S BAY EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (BEST)

In March 2026, seven callouts were received - one motor vehicle accident (MVA) and six medical cases. The MVA involved a single vehicle with two patients, one with back pain who was transported by Metro ambulance to the Hermanus Provincial Hospital. The medical cases were assessed: three required hospitalisation and were transported by ambulance, one was attended to by a doctor at home, one was treated on site and then taken home by a family friend. It is with great sadness that one of our patients died despite our efforts. Our sincerest condolences to the family and friends.

Our sincere thanks to all who have made donations to BEST over the years and to those who have supported and fundraised on our behalf. Thanks to your generosity we have purchased a new BeneVision N1 Mindray patient monitor for R63 939.39. Our thanks to ER24 who assisted with the selection and purchase. Our thanks to the Pringle Bay Medics for the loan of the Philips SureSigns VM4 which we have used for the last three years.

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 need to replace some of our older items - 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 a sustainable service.

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

Rob Boyd

News from other organisations doing good work in Betty's Bay follows:



HANGKLIP COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE (HCCC)

HCCC provides welfare services to the Hangklip community, i.e. residents of Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els. During the calendar month of March our kitchen distributed 51 food parcels and prepared 583 scrumptious meals.

Our semiweekly Pilates classes, weekly Bridge afternoons and monthly Friendship Circle meetings continued during February as usual.

Following on from our HAIL (Home Assisted Independent Living) home carers' courses in October 2022, March 2023 and May 2025, we have set up carers' support groups in each of Sunny Seas, Jock's Bay, Central Betty's Bay and Silversands.

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 Marion Green at manager@hccc.co.za.

David and Yolanda Fritz



BC4thSATURDAY: 28 MARCH UPDATE ON STONY POINT

Thanks to Faroeshka Rodger, the Conservation Manager (On-site) for the Kogelberg Nature Reserve Complex, for updating us on aspects of their work at Stony Point. She previously worked for SANParks at Boulders Beach, so she has many years of experience at an African Penguin colony.

She explained some of the ongoing work they do at Stony Point such as quack counts, moult counts and checking on the condition of the penguins during their moult. Birds that are in distress or in arrested moult are transported to SANCCOB for rehabilitation. They also rescue eggs and chicks when needed and send these SANCCOB for rearing. In a land colony, predation on land is an issue that affects the penguins in addition to predators at sea. One of the happy and rewarding experiences at the colony is a penguin release - when SANCCOB brings rehabilitated birds to the colony to set them free again.



Compliance monitoring and enforcement with other organisations, biodiversity status, education and awareness of students, and staff training are some of the other important activities.

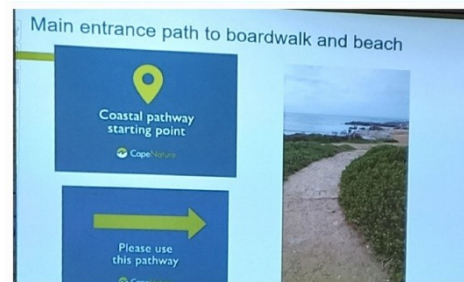
Two new Field Rangers are due to be employed in the Kogelberg Nature Reserve Complex. One ranger will work in the Kogelberg Reserve and the other at Stony Point.

This year there are plans for some exciting infrastructure and tourism changes:

- 1 A new boardwalk and education material
The planned construction will have a phased approach with minimal noise and disturbance to the penguins in this sensitive colony. Work will only take place at appropriate times during the penguin's lifecycle. The boardwalk is due for completion in 2027.
- 2 Repairs to the main gate.
Currently the exit gate remains open after hours and lots of tourist and private vehicles enter the reserve when there are no staff present. Their behaviour often disturbs the penguins. Consultation will take place with stakeholders such as Heritage Western Cape and On the Edge Restaurant.
- 3 Visitor Access and Flow
After years of lower visitor's numbers due to Covid, boardwalk repairs and problems with the sewage tanks at Stony Point, visitor numbers have increased. Currently the only pay point is at the boardwalk, and if visitors do not walk beyond that kiosk, they do not pay to visit the colony. This is a loss of income for CapeNature.



There are plans to improve the flow of visitors and to move the pay point. There will be a trial period with temporary measures to monitor the success of the proposed plan.



There will also be some new signage in the colony.

We hope that these changes will help to improve the visitor experience at Stony Point, so that they leave with a clear understanding of the critically endangered status of the African Penguin. It will also help to manage visitor access and flow and reduce the stress on the penguins. This is vital to help reduce the pressure on the birds at this crucial time in the survival of this species.

Carol Clark



OYSTERCATCHER BREEDING SEASON: FINAL UPDATE



Our Oystercatchers have finished breeding for the season and we would like to share some interesting statistics.



We monitored the stretch of coastline from Main Beach, including Malkopsvlei (Bass River) outflow, Dawidskraal and the Bird sanctuary to the Disa River outflow below Harold Porter. Our results were as follows:

- We had 11 breeding pairs, with 22 attempts to breed (7 pairs had second attempts, and 4 pairs had a third attempt). We lost a total of 37 eggs and only 4 eggs hatched. We lost 2 chicks and only 2 chicks have survived.
- Our chick on Main beach has fledged (4 months old). One chick at Bass River is now close to 6 weeks' old and is ready to fledge.
- One chick at Bass River outflow disappeared after only a few days. The other chick on Main Beach area disappeared after four weeks.



From the above it is evident that we have had a poor season. Unfortunately, many eggs were washed away due our rough seas and high tides. We also have no evidence as to what predation may have taken place. Without camera traps it is difficult to assess whether the poor results are due to natural predation - by otters, mongoose, kelp gulls or ravens - or human disturbance. Unfortunately, breeding season coincides with the heavy human activity during the peak holiday season.

Results from the other stretches of our coastline are equally poor.

- In Jocks Bay area: only 1 egg hatched but the chick did not survive.
- From Main beach to Stony Point: 4 eggs hatched but only 1 chick has survived and fledged.

From 66 eggs laid in total in the areas under discussion, we only have 3 surviving chicks!



Even though the African Oystercatcher (*Haematopus moquini*) holds a Least Concern status on the IUCN list, findings suggest that the species needs to be monitored as a potential concern in our region. They remain at risk from human activity, coastal development and climate change.

Finally, thank you to our monitors Colin and Myrna Cook, Wendy and Mark Lucas and Sue and Neil Brown for your efforts and concern in trying to protect and save our Oystercatchers. A special thank you to Carin Malan for her interest and concern and to Birdlife Overstrand for supplying our warning signs.

To all those who have adhered to the signs and kept your dogs leashed, especially when approaching the nesting areas, a huge thank you.

Lenore and Duncan Watermeyer

Thanks from the BBC to all the Oystercatcher monitors. We know you spend long hours on the beach to keep track of each pair, their eggs and chicks. These statistics are not a reflection of a lack of care and monitoring on your behalf, nor of the dedication of parents in caring for their eggs and chicks. Van As and Jacque Jordaan depicted this dedication so well in their movie of the Oystercatcher.

SEEING OUR TOWN THE WAY TRAVELLERS DO

In the midst of local tensions, a simple visit with travellers offered a reminder of what's worth protecting.

When a German couple, Tom and Andrea Bauernfeind, recently overnighted with us in Betty's Bay, I was reminded how easy it is to take for granted the beauty of the place we call home. Tom had been an intern at a school where I taught twenty years ago; he is now a vice-principal in Dortmund, and they have travelled widely. When he wrote to say they were keen to see Betty's Bay, we invited them to stay and I set about planning a whistle-stop tour of our favourite spots. They arrived to a champagne-bright day, the kind of weather that fills locals with pride — warm, windless, and golden.

First stop was the Harold Porter Garden. We wandered up to Disa Kloof Falls along the Dawidskraal River, the mountains rising around us, the gardens lush and generous, the sea flashing through the trees. Fresh from a trip to Costa Rica, they kept comparing the falls to that unspoilt biosphere, which made me see our own landscape with fresh eyes.

From the Garden, they set off along Rod's Trail, sunhats and water in hand, while I doubled back, first picking up a few plants from the Harold Porter nursery for our Stony Point garden and then fetching the dog. I met them on the far side an hour and a half later, both glowing. Rod's Trail really does offer a perfect sense of the town's layout — mountains, fynbos, sea, all in one sweep.



Next was a swim at Bass Lake. Floating there, looking up at the Kogelberg, you feel as though you've slipped into a pocket of paradise. Back home for lunch, from the upstairs balcony we spotted a grysbok browsing in the wetland-property bordering Crassula, a turtle dove calling in the heat telling us to 'work harder', and hundreds of swallows gathering on the old telephone wires, practising their aerial manoeuvres before the long journey north.

A short stroll took our friends to the penguins, which left them utterly enthralled. Dinner was at Waaygat where they were delighted by the sophisticated ambience, the fine dining, and the easy banter with the owners.

The next morning, they swam at Main Beach, lingered over tea and cake, and then it was time for goodbyes. Andrea's genuinely emotionally-charged parting words stayed with me: "Thank you — we will always have this special experience in our hearts."

Betty's Bay, you beauty. Thank you for showing up so magnificently.

And here's the thing: in the midst of the current conservation-versus-development tensions, and all the politics that swirl around them, it's worth pausing to see this place through the eyes of well-travelled visitors who fall in love with it instantly. Their wonder reminded me — and perhaps reminds all of us — that we are extraordinarily lucky to live here. Sometimes we just need to step back and look again.

Patrick Boltler

THE OVERSTRAND ECO INDABA

The Overstrand ECO INDABA was a collaborative event uniting public and private conservation organisations, local communities, advocacy groups, and educational entities to ensure environmental stewardship of the Kogelberg Biosphere and its environs.

On 28 March 2026, 45 representatives from about 24 different environmental entities met at The Book Club in Pringle Bay to move from fragmentation toward a unified, powerful voice for our region.



OVERSTRAND ECO INDABA
A United Voice for the Natural Environment



The event was a resounding success, marked by several key achievements:



- **Unity Over Fragmentation:** We successfully launched a conservation alliance that bridges the gap between the various NGOs from Pearly Beach to Rooi Els, ensuring environmental advocacy is no longer diluted in local and provincial decision-making.
- **Expert Inspiration:** Prof. Mark Swilling, the keynote speaker from the University of Stellenbosch, was inspiring. His insights into sustainability transitions set the perfect tone for our collective mission.
- **Strategic Mapping:** We completed a comprehensive mapping exercise, creating a physical "conservation action overlay" of the Overstrand to identify and coordinate our geographical and thematic strengths.
- **Governance and Growth:** The group reached a consensus on the tenets of a constitution and appointed an interim steering committee. We are now on a clear path toward our first AGM within the next three months.

The event helped establish a **significant repository of skills and expertise** that will now hold authorities accountable and advocate for the safeguarding of our unique ecosystems and UNESCO

Biosphere Reserve. By supporting this Indaba, you have directly contributed to the protection of the Overstrand's "sense of place" and the natural environment that sustains our local tourism economy.

The BBC was one of the organisations that contributed funding towards the event. *Text adapted from an email from a thank you email from the Eco-Indaba team.*

Introducing Pete Oxford

Pete Oxford is a familiar figure in Betty's Bay, often seen on his e-bike heading to conservation missions, guarding moulting elephant seals, or speaking passionately at community meetings. A resident for more than a decade, he is deeply woven into the fabric of the village and serves as an executive member of the Betty's Bay Conservancy, championing local environmental causes while connecting them to global issues. With a BSc (Hons) in Zoology/Marine Zoology, Pete has lived and worked in four UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and co-authored 15 conservation-focused books, with forewords by King Charles III, Prince Philip, presidents of Guyana and Ecuador, and luminaries such as E.O. Wilson, Trudie Styler, and Sting. His photography and writing have appeared in National Geographic, BBC Wildlife, Time, Smithsonian, The Economist, and many others. He has been featured ten times in the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Awards and was named among the world's 40 most influential nature photographers by Outdoor Photography. Pete's career has taken him to every continent, including 15 expeditions to Antarctica. He was the first to professionally photograph species such as the Iberian lynx and black jaguar. A Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and Founder Fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers, he now works with his wife, Renee Bish, on global and local conservation projects, bringing to *The Overstrand Herald* a rare breadth of experience and perspective.



likely a better chance of survival than inevitably washing up on the beach.

The edge of the shell at the ends is curved, it is a highly evolved specialist. Those curved edges fit exactly to the roundness of the kelp stipe.

Pete Oxford

The Kelp Limpet

When I first came to Betty's Bay I was intrigued by the long, large and flattish limpets strewn all over the beach. I had never seen anything like them before and in fact it was because of them that I started getting 'really into' limpets in general. It turns out that our shoreline has the highest limpet diversity in the world! I have now found over 20 species of limpets and limpet allies (false limpets and slipper limpets etc.) in a roughly 500 meter stretch of beach!

Limpets are gastropod molluscs, related to slugs, snails and nudibranchs. This limpet, the kelp limpet (*Cymbula compressa*), is totally dependent on the kelp forest, is endemic to our region and lives entirely on the stipes (stalks) of the giant kelp or sea bamboo (*Ecklonia maxima*). It does not eat the kelp but mostly the mats of bryozoans that grow on the stipes. If a storm comes through and the limpet detects that the kelp has been uprooted from its anchorage then the limpet quickly releases and sinks down to the bottom. Here of course it becomes highly vulnerable to predatory fish. Although probably not too many survive this strategy there is

Quick facts about the Kelp Limpet

- **Habitat:** They are endemic to Southern Africa and live exclusively on the stipes (stalks) of sea bamboo (kelp), specifically *Ecklonia maxima*.
- **Diet & Behavior:** Kelp limpets feed on the kelp they live on. Their shells are specifically shaped (concave) to fit the cylindrical stems of the kelp.
- **Afrikaans Name:** The term *perdevoetjie* (literally "little horse foot") refers to the strong, thick, often horseshoe-shaped shell of many South African limpet species.
- **Role:** They are part of the complex ecosystem of the Great African Seaforest.

Feedback from the Petition Team:

ATTENTION BETTY'S BAY RESIDENTS!



PETITION TO THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

End the lawless speeding on the R44 through Betty's Bay

- 70km/h restriction other than 60km/h at the "HUB"
- Mini roundabout at Disa Circle to slow traffic in the CBD
- 2 speed humps at the "HUB" and removal of some parking bays to provide safe crossing by pedestrians
- Removal of parking bays in Sunny Seas at Seaview Link turnoff to widen road for safe overtaking
- Dual-lane cameras at E and W entrances to Betty's Bay
- Regular OM Traffic Department presence in Betty's Bay
- Reflective "Wildlife Crossing" signage between Rooi Els and Betty's Bay

The R44 highway has tragically transformed into a racetrack, endangering lives, destroying wildlife and undermining the safety and character of our community. The Kogelberg Biosphere's status is dependent on active environmental protection.

INFORMATION: 079 230 8257 / 083 222 1109

FIRST UPDATE !

We are happy to report that we petitioned the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP) on 27 March 2026. The petition met the required WCPP legal and administrative criterion and has progressed to the preliminary investigation stage. We will keep you updated on further progress.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Carol Clark

HACKING - The Battle for Betty's Bay: Report on Hack No 745 on 4 April 2026

Twenty-five volunteers met on an overcast and cool day at the St Francis of Assisi Anglican Chapel to remove aliens from the verges of Porter Drive. This was an amazing turnout considering that the hack took place over the Easter long weekend. It was great to have our Capetonian visitors, Sandy and Chris Todd, together with Krystal Tolley, visiting from Gauteng, back at the hack.

Hackers car-pooled at the chapel and then worked their way along Porter Drive continuing from where we had left off at the end of the March hack. A well established rooikranz forest on the bend of Porter Drive near Hermas Road occupied most of our time up to the mid morning break.



The break was taken at 10am in the Chapel courtyard. A big thank you to Tim Attwell for once again arranging the venue and multi-tasking on the day between the hackers needs and Easter preparations for Sunday.

Thanks, as always, to Dave Mourant for providing all that is needed each month for a good cup of tea or coffee as well as the "blue" herbicide. Our thanks to Betsey Joubert and Anne Mourant for their customary and delicious egg & mayo and tomato & onion sarmies. These were supplemented with marshmallow Easter eggs kindly donated by our Easter bunny, Jonathan.



Before the hackers got too settled and lethargic, we resumed from Hermas Road towards the Centre Shop, ending at the Klipspringer Road circle. The Porter Drive hack was successfully completed except for the aliens opposite the Ixia Road intersection due to the presence of bees from hives placed amongst the trees on the verge.

The aftermath at the chapel was enjoyed with cold ones shared amongst friends enjoying one another's company.

Thanks, as always to our hacking neighbours, who put in a special effort over the Easter long weekend to attend from Rooi Els and Pringle Bay – Megs Tweedie, Anne Woods, Ken Meiring and Chris Geldenhuys.

Ad hoc Hack, Thursday, 26 March 2026, 07:45 – 10:15: Viv von der Heyden, Rosemary Fowkes, Dave Mourant, Paul Whitelaw, Rob Boyd.

Sunny Seas, Corner of Sea View and the R44. Oyster Street verges from the R44 including Abalone Street. Luckhoff Road both verges between the R44 and Dolphin Drive. The work involved popping, lopping and chainsaws to remove New Zealand Christmas trees, Acacia elata, rooikranz and black wattle. Our thanks to Rosemary and John Fowkes for providing coffee, tea and crunchies at their home.

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

Rob Boyd

Convener Betty's Bay Hack Group

HANGKLIP BOTANICAL SOCIETY NPC

On Saturday 21 March 2026, the members of the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society overwhelmingly voted to close down the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa and voted in favour of the formation of the Hangklip Botanical Society NPC with the transfer of all the assets from Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa to Hangklip Botanical Society NPC.. There were only two abstentions.

As stated in the March 2026 Newsletter, the Hangklip Botanical Society NPC and the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa Committee that advises the Hangklip Botanical Society both strongly want to remain affiliated to National Botanical Society via the Hangklip Botanical Society. This has not been finalized yet, but everyone is aware of our desire and hopefully this will be a seamless transition.

The way that I see it is that you have a holding company, namely the Hangklip Botanical Society, and operating under the holding company is the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa. The reasons for forming a holding company have been clearly spelt out at the Special AGM.

Individuals need to become members of the Hangklip Botanical Society and through the Hangklip Botanical Society will be affiliated to National Botanical Society.

The branch continues to grow from strength to strength, and all facets of the branch are doing amazing work.

- **HAROLD PORTER NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDENS**

It is interesting to note in the 2025/26 Financial Year, the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa donated over R100 000 worth of machinery and implement repairs, materials such as poles, reinforcing steel etc. and even a new Weedeater which has meant that the staff have been better enabled to maintain and improve the gardens and to make sure the gardens are a pleasing experience to visit.

As per previous month, Chris Geldenhuys (Hardcore Hackers) and Rob Boyd (Betty's Bay Hack) have agreed to help us remove dead trees in the Harold Porter Gardens, especially Keurbooms on the western side.

There is a lot of work to be done but I believe our input has made a difference.

- **WEATHER**

What is of concern is that the weather forecasters at this stage are predicting greater than a 60% chance of a strong El Niño Weather Formation which forms when sea surface temperatures warm beyond a certain threshold in the equatorial latitudes of the Pacific Ocean.

Known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the shifting weather patterns with global consequences, it is expected to appear before the Southern Hemisphere spring. All predictions say that the whole of Southern Africa could have an abnormally dry summer next year. The predictions are also that the Western Cape winter will be warmer and drier than normal.

I do believe we have learnt a great number of lessons from the 2015-2017 drought, that we have learnt to work with water more prudently and that our water resources are better managed.

March 2026 rainfall was 48mm at the Harold Porter Gardens which was below the long-term average for March. In April to date we have recorded 30mm which is also very much on par with average. (Written on 13 April)

The months in which we expect cooler weather and a great deal of rainfall are between May and August. These will be interesting months to watch.

Betty's Bay Rainfall 2015 to 2025 Harold Porter National Garden

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Average
Jan	42	74	77	47	45	93	17	7	54	24	33	53	47
Feb	28	23	18	54	27	38	30	19	85	31	24	191	34
Mar	28	132	23	62	119	13	187	41	173	34	43	48	78
Apr	14	71	26	88	34	51	12	32	68	137	27	30*	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	7		61
Dec	18	32	10	21	61	39	125	89	34	26	29		46
Annual Total	845	937	800	991	936	1137	1477	783	1504	1165	913	322*	1058

***To Date**

• HAROLD PORTER BOOK AND CRAFT SHOP

The shop continues to perform well, with March sales 7% up on the previous March. As we keep on moving the bar higher and higher, it is going to be more difficult to keep on exceeding previous year's sales by double digit numbers, but we continue to try.

We started the new financial year (1 April 2026) with a bang and with a very successful Easter Plant Sale exceeding our wildest hopes, which meant that our turnover for the first twelve days of April was equal to the whole of April 2025. One must remember that 2025 also included Easter Plant sales so we are comparing like with like.

The Easter Plant Sale organized solely by the Kogelberg Branch has become a social highlight and it was wonderful to see the enjoyment of all who attended. I know the volunteers greatly enjoyed their two days of interaction during the plant sales. It is now something that has to be on the social calendar every year for the Hangklip region.

Book Launches:

- Saturday 21 March - *Lundy's Best Walks in the Cape Peninsula*
This was a success. We probably would have liked to have seen more sales but still it did well, the weekend itself being so action-packed.
- Saturday 11 April- Eugene Moll presented his book *Sappi Tree Spotting-Cape Coast to Kalahari*. This well attended and immensely enjoyed. Thanks to Eugene Moll.
- **Saturday 9 May at 10.30 for 11am: *The First Safari*** Author Ian Glenn will relate how, for a quarter of a century, a South African researcher searched for Levillant's Travel Notebooks and tried to solve the puzzles and mysteries of Levillant's life and times. This book is not only intended for would-be researchers but also for people interested in the bush or birding and who want to know why Levillant was our greatest naturalist.

Our shop manager, Janet Nel, took a week's leave in April for her daughter's wedding. It is wonderful how the volunteers eagerly stepped in to man the shop for the week that Janet was away.

• FRIENDS OF THE HAROLD PORTER GARDENS

We appeal to anyone who has a great love for the Harold Porter National Gardens in the Kogelberg Biosphere to assist Viv von der Heyden and Jenny Pattinson and their fellow gardeners with the gardening activities. The next gardening sessions are:

Tuesday 5 May at 8.30am with Jenny's team. Jenny can be contacted on **072 301 0357**

Thursday 14 May at 8.30am with Viv's team. Viv's number is **084 685 2641**.

If you would like to volunteer, all you need to do is pitch up at the Harold Porter Gardens at the designated times. We have the tools and protective clothing, we just desperately need your hands to help. Please do make contact with the team leaders first so that they can add you to their contacts. Weather conditions can sometimes make the decision to garden or not garden a bit problematic!

5. KOGELBERG GARDEN CIRCLE

The meeting on Friday 17 April was hosted by Andrea Kampmann, who moved to Betty's Bay two years ago from Gaborone, Botswana.

Their house was used as a holiday home for many years, and the garden was mainly left to its own devices, with many plants popping up at random. Like many properties in our area, the front garden is dryish, and the back garden is wettish. So it was very helpful to have the exchange of ideas and advice from gardeners who have experience in planting in the different micro-climates.

The practical demonstration on pruning by Ebraime Hull of HPG was also greatly appreciated. For more info about the Garden Circle contact Convenor: Galia Manicom 082 963 3804

• HACKS

○ Betty's Bay Hack No. 745

See Rob's report above. The next Hack is **Saturday 2 May. Convener: Rob Boyd 082 567 8858**

○ Hangklip Hardcore Hackers (HHH) (Hack no. 74): March 2026

Chris Geldenhuys reported re the Hardcore Hackers March activities as follows:

"There were 8 hack opportunities in March with 200 man days. The Sugarbird Hangklip work team has been successfully established with a leader appointed and duties commenced beginning of March. The 5-member team led by a designated leader undertook the water purification plant area as their first project, working five days a week with a high level of productivity. Mike Christelis serves as co-ordinator, monitoring productivity and acting as liaison between HHH and the Sugarbird Foundation. The team's contribution is greatly appreciated. Thank you for the great job you are doing, Mike!

The positive impact of the hacking community is becoming increasingly evident. While some residents, particularly those from smallholdings, were initially hesitant about the hacker's presence, many now recognize the benefits: the revival of fynbos, reduced fire risk, and improved property values. The recent Pine Hack exemplified the shift in attitude from a specific plot owner." **Convener: Chris Geldenhuys 082 900 8299.**

○ Pringle Bay Hack:

Chris Geldenhuys reported on the Pringle Bay Hack No. 220 held on 28 March.

37 hackers reported for duty to tackle alien vegetation in the areas of Pass Road and Bobby Road. Chris goes on to report:

"The efforts were directed towards eradicating alien plants.

- **Pass Road upper end:** Acacia Myrtle made up 70% of the targets, followed by Port Jackson - 15%, Spider Gums - 10% and Rooikranz - 5%.
- **Bobby Road:** Rooikranz dominated at 90%, with Acacia Myrtle - 5%, Port Jackson - 3%, and other species making up the remaining 2%.

Chris goes on to say that Saturday was marked by the goodwill, energy and teamwork displayed by all the hackers, both local and from neighbouring areas such as Betty's Bay and Rooi Els. Collective commitment is always encouraging and appreciated. It is also inspiring to see families getting involved in hacking activities, which fosters a positive atmosphere and strong teamwork.

It is important to remember that each part of our region requires a tailored approach. For example, working in the dunes is different; while we usually recommend removing plants with their roots, in the dunes the roots help stabilize the sand. Therefore, it is better to cut the plants low and paint the stumps blue – even the small ones – to maintain sand stability.

The next Pringle Bay hack will be on **Saturday 30 May**. The meeting point is always in front of the Hangklip Bottle Store, in Central Avenue, Pringle Bay, at 8.30am. **Convener: Chris Geldenhuys 082 900 8299**.

- **Rooiels Hack:**

The Rooiels Hack takes place on the second Saturday of every month, led by Mike Christelis, and they meet at the Rooi Els Village Shop at 8.30am.

Mike reported that 20 volunteers attended the April Rooi Els hack which took place on Porter Drive between Mont Aux Mer and the distillery, where there was a big outbreak of Spider Gums as well as Rooikrans, Myrtle and even the odd Pine. The output was amazing and the entire verge was cleared all the way until the distillery. Some of the trees were massive so the stacks of cuttings left behind were very impressive.

Well done to Mike and his team with the amazing work that they are doing in Rooi Els. The next hack will be Saturday **9 May**. **Convenor: Mike Christelis 082 467 2795**.

- **CREW**

The Kogelberg Crew Team continues to do wonderful work in searching for endangered or near endangered species, recording the numbers and locations, which all helps with conservation of the fynbos in the Kogelberg Biosphere.

I am fortunate to see the Crew monthly report, and it is amazing what they do discover in the Kogelberg mountains. We cannot let on even what species are found because as soon as a really endangered plant and its location is noted, someone, somehow or other someone gets to steal it. So, not that we want to be secretive, but it is for the sake of preserving the fynbos that we are so cautious.

To Gerda Theron and her team, thank you very much. Keep up the good work. We are proud of what you do on behalf of the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society. **Contact: Gerda Theron Email: kogelbergcrew@gmail.com**

- **MONTHLY TALKS**

On Saturday 18 April our guest speaker was Corlie Hugo, CEO of the Kogelberg Biosphere and an expert in managing and preserving the exceptional Kogelberg Biosphere, one of the most remarkable natural landscapes in the world. She provided us with a deeper understanding of the challenges we face and how thoughtful stewardship can ensure conservation of our forests, rivers, wildlife and coastal plains.

- **KOGELBERG BRANCH MONTHLY WALK** took place on Saturday 18 April with Tim Atwell leading the group up from Fairy Glen to find Erica Pillansii. Fortunately the rain stayed away and the hike could be enjoyed.

- **CONCLUSION**

The branch amazes me with all that it achieves in its work to conserve the fynbos of the Kogelberg Biosphere. There are so many people working relentlessly in this greater conservation project - in the shop to make sure that we have funds to fund all the projects and create stimulus for the many volunteers, the hackers who do unbelievably good work, the Garden Circle that does a huge job of educating and getting people to appreciate the fynbos, the Fight For Fynbos and plant rescue, driven by Galia Manicom, the efforts of the Friends of the Harold Porter, in trying to maintain the gardens in as pristine a condition as possible and then all the other people that are never hesitant to put up their hands when asked to do something on behalf of the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa.

To all of you, thank you. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. We truly live in a beautiful part of the world, but I have come to realize that what makes this place so much more special than any other place in the

world are the people that make up the community. We have a truly wonderful, caring and supportive community.

To all of you, thanks, for your tremendous efforts.

Peter Dall

Treasurer: Hangklip Botanical Society

082 784 4326

Email: peter@pdconsult.co.za

SNIPPETS FOR AN AMATEUR GARDENER FROM

KOGELBERG GARDEN CIRCLE

**Botanical Society
of South Africa**



YOUR WETLAND GARDEN

Unlike rivers or streams, where flowing water is usually present, wetlands are generally waterlogged during the winter months, but can be almost dry in summer. Give-away signs of their presence include flat or slightly depressed areas, standing water, vegetation comprising grasses, reeds and restios, with an absence of trees. There are many wet plots in the Kogelberg. For example, more than 50% of plots in Betty's Bay are either bordering on, or are in, a wetland.

A few suggestions when building in a Wetland:

Before doing any planning, speak to your neighbours regarding their experiences with the winter rains, water flow etc. A land survey, showing ground elevation contours, is also required prior to Municipal plan submission, which will give a good indication as to the best position for the house and driveway. Municipal Building Regulations include a guideline to limit the footprint of the house so that the garden will include an undisturbed wildlife corridor for animals and plants.

Backfilling with imported gravel, to form a "soil raft" for the house foundations, will alter the natural drainage of a plot. Its positioning and resultant consequences, therefore, need careful consideration for both you *and* your neighbours. A good alternative would be to elevate the house above ground on wooden stilts or concrete columns. In addition, something that is frequently overlooked is the correct design and placement of the sewage conservancy tank. Many owners have discovered an unwelcome swimming pool where the septic tank should be!

Gardening in a Wetland

Make peace with the fact that you'll have a pond in part of your garden, one that does not rely on fancy pumps and expensive maintenance. If you keep road verges and storm water channels as natural as possible, and plant indigenous species that thrive in damp ground, your garden will be a natural haven for the local wildlife. It will absorb seasonal rainfall and, the biggest bonus – you will have a beautiful garden without too much effort!

Examples of plants that grow well in wetlands are the endemic grasses, restios and sedges, flowering plants like Arum lily, Agapanthus, some Erica species, and taller plants like Tree Fuchias (*Haleria lucida*), Fonteinbos (*Psorlea pinnata*), Cape silver oak (*Brachylaena neriifolia*), waterwitels (*Podylaria calypttrata*).

Lastly, and very sadly, proteas, pincushions, cone bushes and most trees hate "wet feet" and won't survive in waterlogged soils, but you could try them in big pots or raised beds. Happy gardening!

Galia Manicom 082 963 3804.

And finally, introducing newcomer to our area, Susan Holdsworth, whose knowledge and experience may be just what you might one day need, if you are a dog owner! Susan writes:



**EMERGENCY
FIRST AID
FOR YOUR PET**
Susan Holdsworth

In 2009, I founded FIRST AID FOR DOGS SA. It was during my 15 years of publishing 7 books and promoting and running seminars in the Western Cape that I saw the need for everyone involved with dogs - pet sitters, dog day carers, groomers, animal rescue workers, security personnel and of course pet owners - to have the knowledge to make a difference in a medical emergency... power at your fingertips when you need it most!

I hold two-hour very informative and fun first aid courses covering CPR, choking, injuries, illness, shock, snake bite and more in Rooi Els, Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay, Kleinmond and surrounding areas for all responsible pet owners.

If you would like more information please contact me via my cellphone or WhatsApp 078 2833 616 alternatively via email:

info@firstaidfordogs.org.za.

All content has been approved by senior Veterinary Specialists.

Susan Holdsworth

That is all for this month! If you have an interesting story to tell or an item of news that you would like to share, pertinent to our readers, please email me on vivvdh@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Warm regards
Vivienne von der Heyden
Editor*

