



Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA)

Newsletter August 2025



From the Chairman's desk:

BE POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE

To our amazing Betty's Bay community, your generosity this month has made a tangible difference in supporting our three essential services. Whether through financial contributions or volunteer efforts, your involvement is what keeps our community strong. Thank you for standing 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.

Only if the shoe fits.

In line with our experiences we have endured this past month, I thought it relevant to make a few quotes.

"Progress often ruffles feathers, especially among those who resist change. If sour grapes are all some have left, let them ferment in their bitterness. The BBRA stands by its decisions and moves forward."

"Truth has a way of rising, no matter how deep the lies are buried. Those who sow deceit will reap the consequences, and when the shoe fits, they'll have no choice but to wear it."

"The BBRA serves the community with purpose and vision, qualities not everyone possesses. Membership isn't for the divisive, the self-serving, or those who mistake complaints for contribution. We seek those who build, not those who undermine."

"To those with the courage to speak truth when silence would be easier – we see you, we thank you, and we honour your integrity. Whistleblowers are the conscience of our community, shining light where shadows linger. Your bravery makes us better."

"To everyone who stands with us, believes in our mission, and contributes to our cause, your support is the foundation of everything we do. Whether through action, trust, or encouragement, you bring value to our work and inspire us to keep moving forward. Thank you for being the heart of our community."

Clarification on BBRA Membership

The Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association (BBRA) exists to serve the interests of all residents, guided by a philosophy of inclusivity and community service. While participation in municipal services through the payment of rates and taxes is important, it does not automatically grant membership or voting rights in the BBRA. Membership is open to all residents, and can be held in two forms:

Active Members: pay an annual fee and have full voting rights at our AGM.

Passive Members: do not pay a fee but are still part of the BBRA community and enjoy many of the same benefits, except voting rights. This option ensures that no one is excluded for financial reasons.

If you are not registered with us as either an active or passive member, you are not part of the Association. In that case, it would not be correct to refer to the BBRA as "our" or "your" association, as you have no formal rights, responsibilities, or involvement in its affairs.

We encourage all members to engage constructively and positively, supporting our initiatives and respecting the volunteers who dedicate their time, skills, and resources to serving Betty's Bay. Our volunteers are not paid staff, they give freely of their time to benefit the whole community, so it is important that our interactions remain respectful and collaborative.

From time to time, misinformation may circulate about the BBRA's role or activities. Accurate information is always available directly from the BBRA through our official channels. If you are unsure of your membership status, or wish to join, please contact us so we can update our records.

I hope this explanation reaches everyone not currently on the BBRA membership database and helps clarify our membership criteria, while addressing any misunderstandings or misplaced expectations.

The BBRA reserves the right to accept or decline any request for membership or participation in the BBRA, at its sole discretion. While we welcome community engagement, all applications will be assessed based on alignment with our values, objectives, and the best interests of the Betty's Bay community. The BBRA's decisions regarding membership are final and not subject to debate.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support in maintaining a constructive and unified association.

Crassula Hall

I appreciate your continued engagement and support. I would like to request assistance with the following ongoing responsibilities, for which I do not possess the necessary expertise:

1. Maintenance and repair tasks related to the hall's facilities, including plumbing fixtures, doors, hinges, locks, and managing any necessary contractual work.
2. Technical oversight and routine maintenance of our 5kW diesel generator.

If anyone is able to volunteer their time and expertise in these areas on a regular basis, it would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to reach out if you are interested or require further details.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

A Community-Driven Initiative

Join Us in Shaping the Future of Betty's Bay's Ablution Facilities

We have a unique opportunity to take pride in our community's facilities and to work together to uplift and maintain them for years to come. Through a proposed co-management agreement with the municipality, we aim to take responsibility for all of Betty's Bay's ablution facilities, ensuring they reflect the same care and beauty as the rest of our beloved town.

This is a long-term project that will require planning, collaboration, and dedication. But with your support, we can:

1. Restore and maintain existing ablution facilities to a standard we can all be proud of.
2. Support the new Silversands parking ablution.
3. Reclaim and revitalize the buried ablution facility at Jock's Bay.

Why This Matters: Our public facilities are a reflection of our community's spirit. By taking ownership, we ensure they remain clean, functional, and welcoming for residents and visitors alike.

How You Can Help: If you're passionate about conservation, community improvement, or simply rolling up your sleeves to make a difference, we need you! Contact our Conservation Portfolio Principal to express your interest, share ideas, or volunteer your skills.

This initiative is only possible with your involvement. Let's work together to leave a lasting legacy for Betty's Bay.

Together, we can do more.

Wayne Jackson
Chairman

BETTY'S BAY EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (BEST)

Five callouts were attended to in July 2025. One motor bike accident (MBA), three medical cases and most regrettably one Death upon Arrival. Our sincerest condolences to the family and friends. The MBA occurred at low speed with no or minor injuries. The three medical cases were transferred to hospital by ambulance.

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

Any donation to BEST will be most welcome as we have ongoing expenses and may also require a new patient vital signs monitor (R75 000) - 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

Editor's note: My apologies to BEST. I inadvertently put the May report into last month's newsletter. The following is the report that should have appeared:

Six callouts were attended to in June 2025. One motor bike accident, one fall injury and four medical cases. Of these, three required hospitalisation, one declined further assistance and the ambulance.

A big thank you for the generous donation of a second hand GE Dinamap patient monitor with accessories. Should our existing Philips monitor fail we have functional backup monitors we can use until sufficient funds are received for the purchase of a new monitor

BETTY'S BAY FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

With training season in full swing, the team have starting with monthly theory training and assessments on the 5th Edition of Fire Fighting Essentials, which each Reservist is required to complete alongside the municipal crew.

In July, the team successfully completed the theory and practical assessments for Tactical Ventilation. Now in August, they will complete a section on Loss Control: Overhaul, Property Conservation and Scene Preservation.

FIRE & RESCUE: We are grateful to have had a quiet month, with only one major incident involving an injured sandboarder who needed assistance getting down from the sand dunes. Due to the injuries involved, the patient was eventually rescued by a helicopter.

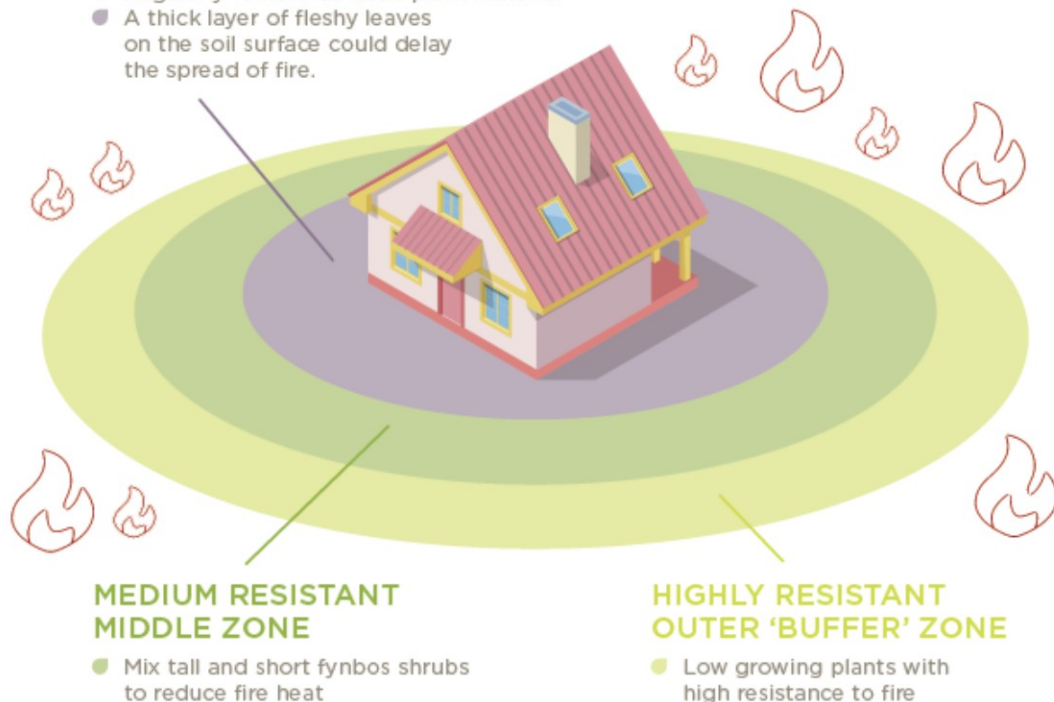
Following on from last month's Newsletter ...

STEP 4: MAINTAIN A FIREWISE GARDEN

A well-maintained garden will reduce a fire's intensity and help slow down its progress. SANBI recommends that new gardens are laid out in three Fire Wise zones. Established gardens or natural fynbos gardens should work towards achieving these Fire Wise zones every single year.

FIRE WISE/CLEAR ZONE

- No large shrubs
- No climbers or trellises on the walls
- Use low growing plants and ground-covers scattered with gravel or lawn
- Fynbos should be trimmed to 20cm high
- Regularly remove all dead plant material
- A thick layer of fleshy leaves on the soil surface could delay the spread of fire.



Fire wise/Clear Zone

RECOMMENDED PLANT TYPES

GROUNDCOVERS	SMALL SHRUBS	SUCCULENT LEAVES
<i>Gazania pectinate</i> <i>Gazania krebsiana</i> – Red Gazania <i>Arctotis angustifolia</i> – Sandveld <i>Artotis stoechadifolia</i> – Silver <i>Helichrysum retortum</i> <i>Cliffortia ferruginea</i> – Glastee <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> – Sour Fig <i>Carpobrotus acinaciformis</i> – Sour Fig <i>Lampranthus furvus</i> – Vygie <i>Lampranthus bicolor</i> – Vygie	<i>Agathosma ciliaris</i> <i>Coleonema album</i> <i>Phyllice ericoides</i> <i>Gnidia squarrosa</i> <i>Stilbe ericoides</i> <i>Ericas</i>	<i>Cotyledon orbiculate</i> – Pig's Ear <i>Crassula coccinea</i> – Red Crassula <i>Crassula fascicularis</i> – Klipblom

Medium Resistant Middle Zone

RECOMMENDED PLANT TYPES	
SPROUTERS	RESISTANT TREES
<i>Leucadendron salignum</i> <i>Protea cynaroides</i> – King protea <i>Mimetus cucullatus</i> – Rooi stompie <i>Rhus lucida</i> – Blinkblaar Taaibos <i>Pelargonium cucullatum</i> – Wild Malva <i>Maytenus oleoides</i> – Klipkershout <i>Brachylaena discolor</i> – Kusvaalbos <i>Olea europea subsp Africana</i> – Wild Olive <i>Chondropetalum tectorum</i> – Dekriet	<i>Brabejum stellaifolium</i> – Wild Olive <i>Cunobia capensis</i> – Rooiels <i>Ilex mitis</i> – African Holly <i>Halleria lucida</i> – Tree Fuschia <i>Canthium mundianum</i> – Rock Alder

Highly Resistant Outer ‘Buffer’ Zone

RECOMMENDED PLANT TYPES		
GROUNDCOVERS	BULBS	GOOD HEDGE TREES
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> – Sour Fig <i>Carpobrotus acinaciformis</i> – Sour Fig <i>Lampranthus furvus</i> – Vygie <i>Lampranthus bicolor</i> – Vygie	<i>Haemanthus coccineus</i> – April Fool <i>Brunsvigia orientalis</i> – Kings Candelabra	<i>Rhus crenata</i> – Dune Crowberry <i>Rhus glauca</i> – Blou Koeniebos <i>Thus lucida</i> – Blinkblaar Taaibos <i>Tarchonanthus camphoratus</i> – Campher Bush <i>Chrysanthemoides monolifera</i> – Bietou

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 organizations 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, keep warm and stay **Fire Wise!**

Jorika Rabie

CONSERVATION, CARE & PROJECTS

Community Upkeep and facelift of Public toilets in Betty's Bay:

In Betty's Bay, the upkeep of public toilets is a shared effort between the municipality and the local community. While basic cleaning is handled by the authorities, the facilities at David's Kraal, Main Beach, Malkopsvlei and Jock's Bay are in urgent need of extra care, especially with the busy summer season approaching.

Through public donations and volunteer support, the community aims to give these toilets a much-needed facelift, including fresh paint, improved lighting, eco-friendly fittings, and decorative touches to create a cleaner, more welcoming environment. Local businesses, residents, and visitors are encouraged to contribute funds, materials, or time to ensure these key facilities are well-maintained for both locals and the influx of holidaymakers.

This collaborative effort not only improves hygiene and comfort but also strengthens community pride and encourages respectful use of public amenities.

Call to Action:

If you would like to help, donations of paint, cleaning materials, labour or funds are warmly welcomed. Every contribution - big or small - makes a difference. Let's work together to make the public facilities of Betty's Bay something we can all be proud of this summer. Please get in touch with me on 072 240 0649 or with any of our committee members at BBRA.



Elsa Stofberg

1. GENERAL: Parking Areas / Sites to renovated:

2990

UNKNOWN

2994

2995

3002

3001

3000

3004

3003

3005

3006

5254

5255

2999

2715

CLARENCE DRIVE

PENGUIN STREET

Area to be cleared

Page's needed

232

- ## Main Beach/Parking Area



- ### Silver Sands:



- Awaiting Director Stephen Muller's go-ahead.

2. BUILDING CONTROL: Stats for Building Plans “submitted” and “approved” for the period May 2025 until July 2025 are as follow:

- Building Plans submitted: 42
- Building Plans approved: 35 (As-built plans, Alterations and additions, Add houses, Add garages, New houses)

3. VEHICLES

- The Digger is operational.
- The two 3 ton lorries used for storm water and tarring are still not operational. One lorry is operational.
- One tipper truck is operational. One tipper is in for refurbishment.
- The roller is not operational. However, a roller from Hermanus is being used in the meantime.
- The lorry used for watering gravel roads is operational.
- The grader is operational. However, the roads in Pringle Bay are the priority and Betty’s Bay will be dealt with thereafter.

4. GRAVEL:

Gravel is available. Approximately 2000m³ has been ordered, of which approximately 1000m³ has been dropped.

5. TAR:

Tar is available. Approximately 600 bags have been dropped. The Contractor has been appointed to deal with potholes in Betty’s Bay. The BBRA must submit a list of such potholes to Brenton and his team.

6. SPEED BUMPS

- The reconstruction of speed bumps has been dealt with.
- They remain a contentious issue: Speed bumps on gravel roads are most probably illegal as they cannot be clearly marked as required by law. Chevrons alone are inadequate as the bump itself must be painted/marked.

7. CUTTING OF VERGES

- The Parks Division is responsible for this and issues must be reported to them.
- The stormwater team in Betty’s Bay is also attending to this issue as far as possible and great progress has been made.

8. STORMWATER/POTHoles

As the Municipality becomes aware of problems, they are addressed within the capacity of the Municipality, given working conditions (weather).

9. 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



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

HANGKLIP COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE



Very important news: Please note that as from September 2025 HCCC will be conducting activities from a new address – the old Jacks Restaurant, adjacent to the Centre shops in Betty's Bay.

If you have queries, please contact our manager, Marion Green, on 074 505 1277.

HCCC provides welfare services to the Hangklip community, i.e. residents of Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els. During the month of July we distributed 51 food parcels and cooked 593 scrumptuous, nutritious meals.

Our semiweekly Pilates classes, weekly Line Dancing classes, weekly Bridge afternoons and monthly Friendship Circle meetings have continued as usual, the Bridge meetings currently taking place at the local Dutch Reformed Church on Tuesday afternoons.

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 secretary, George Green, at ggreen@sonicmail.co.za.

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

David and Yolanda Fritz

BETTY'S BAY CONSERVANCY



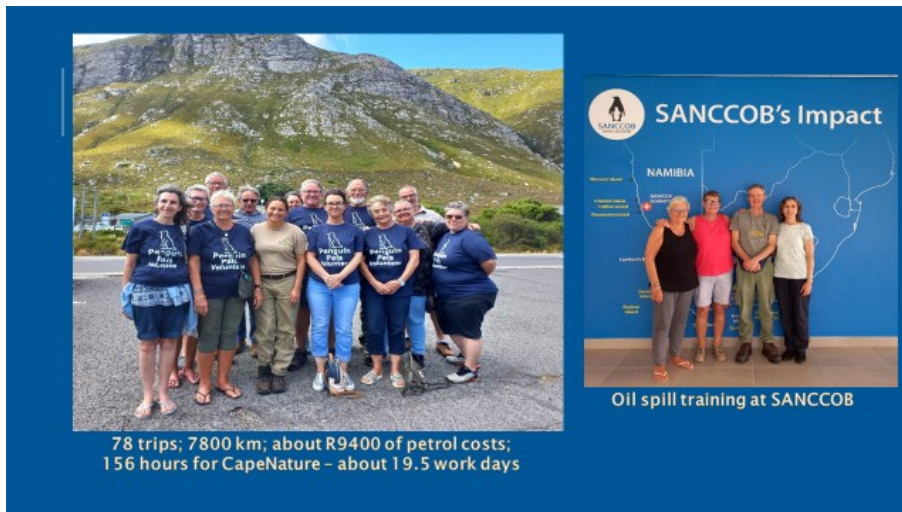
THE BETTY'S BAY CONSERVANCY AGM: 26 JULY 2025



The BBC hosted its fourth AGM on Saturday 26 July in the Stony Point Eco venue.

Thanks to all the BBC members who supported the meeting.

We provided feedback on the past year's projects, events and the conservation issues that we are working on. Members enjoyed chatting and networking during the teatime.



Congratulations to our BBC Penguin-Pals team of Drivers and First Responders who have now completed about 78 “penguin ambulance” trips. They help CapeNature to transport injured or sick penguins and cormorants to Somerset West to meet up with SANCCOB drivers, who then transport the birds to the Centre in Tableview.

To date, these volunteers have saved CapeNature staff about 156 hours on the road. This enables the Stony Point

staff to spend this time on important work in the colony.

The BBC Executive Committee, known as the Team, said goodbye to:

- Mike Henshall: He completed his M.Sc. during the year and found employment with CapeNature. Unfortunately, CapeNature saw Mike’s BBC Committee role as a “conflict of interest” and so he had to step down.
- Louise du Preez: She moved away from Betty’s Bay, hopefully temporarily, at the end of 2024.
- Harry Teifel: He stepped down due to extra work commitments after his appointment as Associate Prof at Stellenbosch University

The members voted to accept nominee Johan Steyn as a new Team member. Welcome to Johan! He will be assisting with some hiking activities to introduce people to our beautiful area and to inspire them to help protect it. He will also help to promote biosphere living.

The BBC Team decided to retain the annual membership fee of R120 for Betty’s Bay residents or property owners. It remains at R60 for Associate members – those who would like to join the BBC but who live elsewhere.



Thanks to the seven members who bought members’ BIOSPHERE LIVING boards and a “Plot purchased for the preservation of biodiversity” board. These boards will help to spread the awareness of the importance of “living lightly amongst nature” in the Kogelberg Biosphere and preserving the fauna and flora.

We encourage BBC members who do not yet have a member’s board, to join in and to buy one for your home. They cost only R100. You can email bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com if you would like one.

A Member’s Reflection on the Betty’s Bay Conservancy AGM 2025

On Saturday, 26 July, we attended our first Betty’s Bay Conservancy AGM - having recently relocated to Betty’s Bay and joined the BBC. It was a significant event. My cousin, visiting from Redelinghuys on the West Coast, is also involved in conservation efforts there, particularly around Verlorenvlei. Together, we were all completely blown away by the meeting. It felt as though we had found our tribe: a room full of people who genuinely care about nature and share a deep concern for the well-being of our biosphere and the protection of the flora and fauna that call it home.

What came through most clearly was the executive committee's unwavering dedication to the Conservancy's mission - promoting sustainable living, safeguarding biodiversity, encouraging responsible development and engaging residents in ecological stewardship. One example was the illegal decimation of Milkwood trees for development. While legislation prohibits this, enforcing the law and protecting these forests often requires costly legal action.

Carol Clark admirably chaired the meeting and our treasurer, Anthony Bush, outlined the financial realities of conservation work. We were particularly impressed by the creative fundraising initiatives, including the sale of BBC signs for members to display at their residences - visible affirmations of their commitment to biosphere living. It was also inspiring to learn of the purchase of some properties in Betty's Bay specifically to remain undeveloped, preserving their natural state for future generations.

The meeting truly embodied the ethos of empowering residents to become custodians of the land, ensuring that Betty's Bay remains a place of natural wonder. Carol shared the Conservancy's history, founded in 2005 with CapeNature's endorsement, and its journey through periods of dormancy before being reconstituted and relaunched in 2021.

After the formalities, it was great to connect with fellow members and hear about the incredible volunteer work - from transporting injured penguins and supplying plant material for nesting, to beach cleanups, Milkwood Forest protection, and the BBC'S close collaboration with CapeNature. The passion and commitment in the room were palpable.

We left the meeting inspired, grateful, and proud to be part of a community that truly honours the land it inhabits.

Patrick Boltler

BBC Team and Office bearers for 2025/6:



As per the BBC Constitution, the Executive Committee met to elect office bearers at their first meeting after the AGM. They are:

Chair: Carol Clark

Vice Chair: Ann Bradshaw

Secretary: Barbra Jenman

Treasurer: Tony Bush

Team members: Jan Briers, Galia Manicom, Herman Mynhardt, Pete Oxford and Johan Steyn



BBC supports MPA DAY

WHAT IS MPA DAY?

MPA Day, celebrated annually on **1 August**, is a global observance dedicated to raising awareness about Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and their crucial role in ocean conservation, sustainable development, and community well-being.

Launched in 2021 by a consortium of South African organizations, MPA Day was created to fill a gap among the world's many environmental observances – none of which focused specifically on MPAs. The date was chosen to commemorate the legal protection of 20 new or expanded MPAs in South Africa on 1 August 2019, a significant milestone in marine conservation.

Since its inception, MPA Day has grown into an international movement, endorsed by the United Nations Ocean Decade and supported by individuals, communities, institutions, and governments around the world.



**2025 THEME:
OCEAN
PROTECTION
NEEDS
HUMAN
CONNECTION**

**MARINE
PROTECTED
AREAS DAY**

*Celebrating
local actions for
global impact
1 August*



MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) DAY : CLEAN UP

On MPA day, Silversands west looked like the storm had swept it clean. Patrick Boltler and Barbara Jenman uncovered a pile of degraded pieces of plastic film and packaging tape, small coloured plastic pieces and sticks and glass, two cigarette lighters, two cigarette butts and a few bottles.

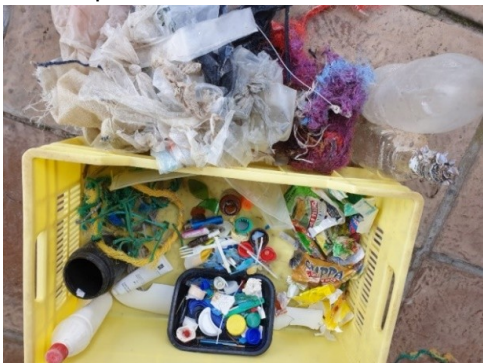
We took a breather to admire the dunes.



Ronnie van der Westhuizen worked on the R44 for about 800m from Porter Drive towards the Caltex garage. He collected a broken car windscreen, a fridge door, car parts, big plastic containers. He half-filled his Bantam bakkie with a mixture of plastic and glass bottles, takeaway packaging, bags of normal household refuse, broken glass

bottles, cigarette and chip packets. A big challenge! There are no photos as he was so busy doing a solo clean-up on Clarence Drive! He said that seeing the fynbos made it worth it.

Thanks, Ronnie! We hope you have some helpers next time!



Sandy and Grant Immelman did a circular beach/road clean up along from Stony Point. Their worst trash item was lots of fishing line! The biggest item was the green diving bag you see in the photo. The rest were empty bottles, a few sweet and chip packets.



Gemma and Jeremy Cronin worked on the eastern section of Silversands and found only two sucker sticks, one can, six bits of paper, one broken glass bottle and a plastic packet!

A big thank you from Barbara Jenman to those who help on MPA Day at short notice.

UPDATE on the BETTY'S BOOK

Work on the book is progressing well. Most of the articles and sections have been edited and proofread and the layout and design work of the book has begun.

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.

BBC4thSATURDAY: 23rd AUGUST

Johan Steyn will be presenting the work he has done on his erf to “conserve habitat, preserve biodiversity and embrace biosphere living”, and photographs of some of the wildlife visitors it has attracted. Come and be inspired with some of the basic things that you can do on your erf to make it “biosphere friendly”.

“GOOD NEWS” CONSERVATION STORIES : LAND PRESERVED FOR CONSERVATION

In the midst of all the news of ongoing habitat loss that leaves many species of animals under threat, it is so encouraging to read positive news about land secured for conservation. The following three are not in the Overstrand or the Kogelberg Biosphere, but they give examples of what is possible.

1. The Overberg Renosterveld Trust (ORT) together with World Land Trust and Mapula Trust bought another vital piece of endangered renosterveld between Bredarsdorp and Swellendam called Goereesoe. It is a breeding hotspot for Endangered Black Harriers. *Read about the project and this important land purchase:* <https://overbergrenosterveld.org.za/black-harrier/> and [Critical renosterveld site acquired by the ORT](#)

2. The new Wilderness Nature reserve

The Wilderness Nature Reserve, declared on 17 July 2025, is situated near Heidelberg. It spans over 643 hectares and has a significant role in protecting freshwater biodiversity, endangered species and ecological corridors: *Boost for freshwater biodiversity as Wilderness Nature Reserve declared* <https://share.google/Wb3M5U1alxg2jAUQf>

Landowners who are considering having their land formally protected can contact CapeNature's Antia Wheeler on awheeler@capenature.co.za and Kaylin Reid on kreid@capenature.co.za.

3. A Farm in the Cederberg

“Lokenburg in Nieuwoudtville officially became the first farm to register a Conservation Servitude with the Endangered Wildlife Trust. It's a 'legal promise' that part of the farm will forever be protected for conservation”.

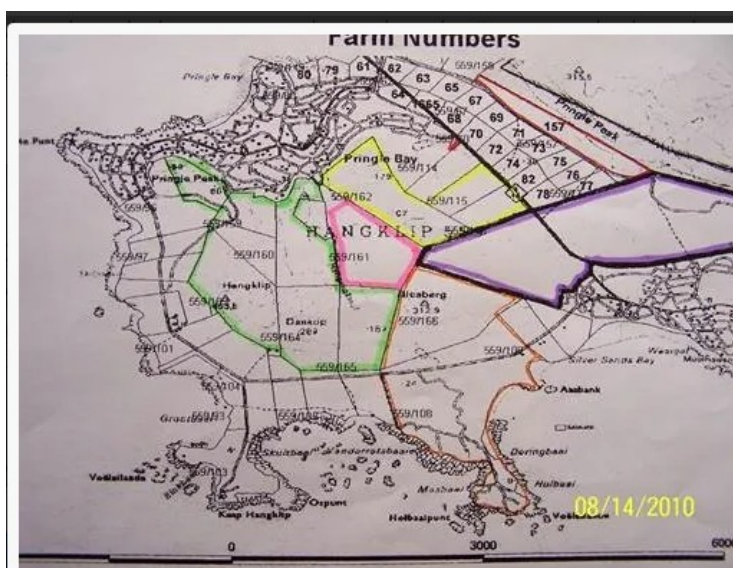
Northern Cape Farm Becomes Safe Space For World's Tiniest Tortoise
<https://share.google/g50ZYPK41Dy5bzPji>

In the Kogelberg Biosphere:

The Brodie Link Nature Reserve named after Bernard Brodie and established between 1998 and 2010, is an amazing example of the preservation of land for conservation.

Read Allan Heydorn's article: *The Hangklip Eco Corridor-The Untold Story:Kogelberg Botanical Society*
<https://share.google/0anC4TEjRIHod2ojR>

Map indicating various stages of the WWF-SA Hangklip Corridor Project



- Yellow: Brodie Link Reserve (acquired 1998-2001) (94 + 22 ha = 116 ha)
- Green: Mudge Property (acquired 2005-2006) (294 ha)
- Pink: Portion 161/Hangklip Farm 559 (acquired 2010) (69 ha)
- Orange: Seafarm Conservancy (259 ha)

- Purple: Municipal Conservation Area (± 330 ha)
- The total current functional area of the Hangklip Corridor: ± 1068 ha

Credit: Map and this information are from the above article on the Brodie Link



In 2024, a bequest by Mike Harrison of Rooiels also secured a critical conservation area in Rooiels: Far-sighted bequest secures critical conservation corridor in Rooiels | WWF South Africa
<https://share.google/YoNI8ykLkCCAPTZc2>

Each of these different land preservation stories had a vision, a plan and a first step – with passionate and dedicated people working together.

Betty's Bay has so much of value to preserve.

Let us work together to help secure eco corridors and critical conservation areas in Betty's Bay for conservation!

If you are interested in being involved in various aspects of such a project, please contact the BBC on bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com.

Carol Clark

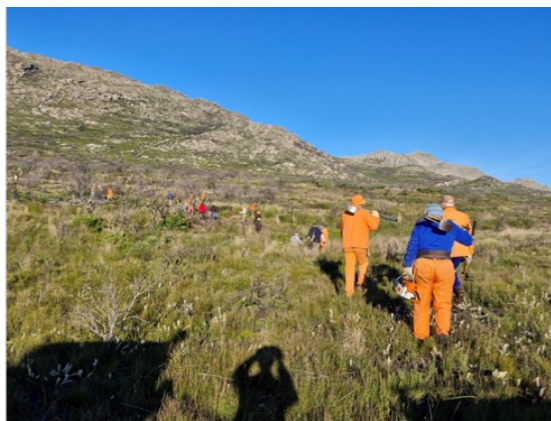
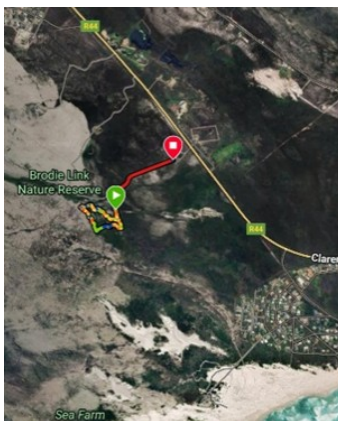
HACKING

The Battle for Betty's Bay: Report on Hack No 737 on 2 August 2025

This hack was well attended with thirty hackers gathering on a clear, windless and chilly morning on Brodie Link. This was the third hack at this site to remove rooikranz seedlings which have taken root since the fire which raged from Pringle Bay into the Sea Farm Private Nature Reserve 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.

We welcomed Johan (apologies- surname unknown) and Ruargh Potgieter to their first ever hack and hope that this will be their first of many. Louw and Karin Toerien, seasoned Hangklip Hardcore Hackers (HHH) and Pringle Bay hackers, were also welcomed to their first Betty's Bay hack. With some arm twisting we hope that they can be persuaded to return for more.





Armed with a full assortment of poppers provided from all the Hangklip hacking groups we took a short walk to the hacking site across a stream and began working our way westward up the slope in the direction of Hangklip. The mid-morning break was taken back at the parked vehicles in perfect, warm conditions.

Thank you to Dave Mournant for providing all that was needed for a good cup of tea or coffee and to Anne Mournant and Betsy Joubert for making the delicious sandwiches which were quickly devoured.

Unlike last month when rain interrupted play a half hour early without an aftermath, this time, the full hack was completed followed by a very enjoyable aftermath that included a mathematical calculation which determined that 27000 seedlings had been removed. Nobody accepted the offer to verify the figure by doing a physical count!!

A very big thank you to all for a most productive and enjoyable hack. Thanks to Chris Geldenhuys and Mike Christelis for bringing the extra poppers and a special word of thanks to those from the neighbouring villages of Pringle Bay, Rooiels and Kleinmond for their continued support.

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

Rob Boyd

A brief interlude for an article by Tony Norton!

Conocarpodendron

There is a Conocarpodendron bush at my grandmother Joan's old house, Bietou, shortened to B2, in Cliff Road, Betty's Bay. It's not the first thing you notice when you walk up to the front door. It sits tucked away in the corner of the front garden, shielding the house from the road. Many grandchildren across the years have hidden among its branches in exciting games of hide-and-seek. It provided shade for lazy afternoons of reading, for those who enjoyed sitting on the grass. I was surprised to learn that Joan, an avid gardener, did not plant this particular plant. According to my aunt, Jenny Smitheman, it self-seeded after the terrible Betty's Bay fire in the summer of 1970, where many houses were destroyed. It was growing there when B2 was built in 1977, although Jenny doesn't recall noticing how big it was then while she was tidying up the builders' rubble during the construction. That the bush was growing there before the house sort of makes it a very long-time family friend.



In Joan's journals, I was very interested to read how my brothers and I thoroughly enjoyed hiding among the branches or roots of the Conocarpodendron bush when we were young. It felt like our own secret hiding place, and I believe Joan even joined us at times to tell us stories. The lowest branches had grown high enough from the ground, allowing enough space for us to crawl underneath and sit beneath the branches. I visited it with my father very recently, and we were both astounded by the thickness of the main

trunk (approximately 40 cm), supporting a nearly 6 metre wide canopy of leaves and flowers. Beautiful flowers which Cape Sugarbirds, baboons, and bumble bees enjoy. Joan's poem mentions how the sugarbirds love the "nectar deep inside" the flowers the conocarpodendron produces. Clearly, the bush is not only a source of joy for us humans, but is still a vital source of food for the beautiful birds that we enjoy seeing here at Betty's Bay.

I had never before questioned where the Conocarpodendron had come from. I suppose I'd always thought it had been planted by Joan in her many enjoyable, relaxing gardening afternoons. The 1970 fire possibly caused smoke saturation in the seeds, which Joan believed enhanced germination. She used the same method for other Conocarpodendron seeds she planted. According to Jenny: "she got all the grandchildren to collect the dry heads, pull them apart and find the seeds, which she took to the [Harold Porter Botanical Gardens to be cultivated. They gave her seeds back after they had smoke-treated them." I remember such an occasion myself. Joan got my brothers and me to help remove the flowers from that bush and pile them onto the floor in the middle of the lounge at B2. We sat around her, grabbing the flower heads, breaking them open, picking the seeds out, and putting them into plastic buckets. It was great fun.



Tony's dad, Peter, next to the Conocarpodendron bush

The bush grew due to random chance after a devastating natural disaster. I appreciate all the very happy memories I have of that bush and what it meant to my grandmother, and I'm strangely glad I discovered she didn't plant it. The natural, spontaneous sprouting allows it to be a symbol to me of how Nature finds a way to bring renewal and growth, even when tragedy strikes - like that fire. In that growth, there's hope for the future. I hope you enjoyed reading about this Conocarpodendron as much as I enjoyed writing about it.

CON-O-CAR-PO-DEN-DRON

by Joan Norton

What a lovely word!

"And how we love your flowers!"
Says the Long-tailed Sugarbird.

"They're yellow and they're spiky
And there's nectar deep inside.

And in your dark green bushes
Our babies' nests can hide."

Each bush is big and rounded
And almost like a tree.
At Betty's Bay they're growing
On the ridges by the sea.

If you've ever been to B2, you'll have seen them in front of the house.

Tony Norton

Many thanks for your delightful article, Tony!

At the monthly talk of the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society in July, the guest speaker was Emeritus Professor Brian van Wilgen of Stellenbosch University who is a core member of the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology. He kindly sent me a synopsis of his talk.

Managing alien plant invasion in the Kogelberg Biosphere

As we all probably know, alien plant invasions are a threat to the ecological integrity of the Kogelberg Biosphere's unique vegetation. There are at least 50 species of alien plants that have become established in the natural vegetation within the Kogelberg Biosphere. The most widespread of these (the "big five") are Australian wattles, gum trees, myrtle, hakeas, and pine trees from the northern hemisphere. Yet despite extensive past efforts to control them, there are no accurate, up-to-date maps showing where invasions are most severe, making strategic planning and resource allocation difficult. Some estimates indicate that 11% of the Biosphere is covered by high-density alien vegetation, with 15% and 14% with medium and low density respectively.

The Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve Company (KBRC), the non-profit coordinating body for the UNESCO Biosphere, is in the process of reviewing all of the available information on the distribution of invasive alien plants, as well as the efforts that are going into managing them. Currently, there are multiple initiatives to control alien plant invasions in the Kogelberg Biosphere, with little or no central planning or co-ordination between them. These include projects run by Cape Nature, municipalities, NGOs, private landowners and volunteer hack groups. There have also been no rigorous assessments of the effectiveness of these control efforts.

South African law places a legal obligation on landowners to manage listed invasive species under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEM:BA). However, enforcement is weak, and many landowners are either unaware of this obligation, or they ignore their responsibilities or lack the capacity to comply. Worse still, they often actively resist attempts to clear invasive trees off their land, or to remove them from their gardens.

Fortunately, the Kogelberg has a strong tradition of community involvement. Local volunteer hack groups in Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay, Rooiels and Kleinmond have been clearing alien vegetation for decades. The Hangklip Hardcore Hackers group, active since 1963, is among the oldest of its kind in the country. These hackers work every week to manually remove invasive plants from public and, with permission, private land. While modest in resources, their local knowledge, passion and persistence are vital. In many cases, they are the only actors undertaking follow-up clearing - a critical part of ensuring that past work is not undone.

Hackers have done a fantastic job over the past 6 decades, and many areas that by now would have been completely covered by alien plants have been cleared. In addition, the release of biological control agents (insects or pathogens from the country of origin of the plant species) has helped to significantly reduce the populations of some species. These include wattles (e.g. rooikrans and Port Jackson willows, and hakeas). Biological control is safe because the agents only attack the target plant, it costs almost nothing, and it is sustainable. Unfortunately, many of our most problematic species (gums, myrtles and pines) still do not have biological control.

Despite recent achievements, many challenges remain. Funding is inconsistent. Many landowners still vehemently refuse access to volunteers, despite the fact that they are legally obliged to take steps to remove

invasive alien plants. This leaves islands of uncleared plants that remain as a seed source to re-invade areas cleared by the hack groups. Follow-up work often falls through the cracks. And while Working for Water, a national government programme, once provided substantial support, its presence in the Kogelberg has declined drastically in recent years. As a result, we are all at risk of falling behind. Without a centralised plan, duplication and inefficiency remain a risk.

The KBRC's report has made a number of recommendations. A map should be developed showing the estimated cover of invasive alien plants in the Kogelberg Biosphere, and a management plan should be developed to prioritize interventions and to co-ordinate the activities of the various role players. A steering committee made up of representatives of the various role players should be established to monitor the implementation of the management plan. The KBRC is well placed to convene such a process, working with landowners, municipalities, scientists and community groups. A shared database and annual reporting could track progress. Community involvement must of course continue to be nurtured. The local hack groups are not only effective, but also build public awareness, ownership and social cohesion. Landowners must also be engaged - through education, assistance and, where necessary, enforcement of legal duties.

Homeowners and/or regular visitors to the Biosphere are encouraged to lend a hand by joining one of the hack groups. It is rewarding work and makes a real difference!



Alien pine trees invading a fynbos area, where they displace native species, use excessive amounts of water and provide additional fuel that makes wildfire more damaging and difficult to control.



The Hangklip Hardcore Hackers group removing alien pine trees from privately-owned land in the Kogelberg Biosphere.



A sign erected on the Brodie Link Reserve to recognize the past efforts of the late Edward Silberbauer in leading a volunteer hack group.

Brian van Wilgen

Many thanks, Brian, for your valued contribution.

SUPPORTERS OF THE KOGELBERG BRANCH OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

The Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa goes from strength to strength and our efforts in the field of Flora Conservation has just been recognized. We have received an award of R100 000 from the Roland and Leta Hill Trust to assist us with our work in the Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens (HPG) and in hacking alien vegetation in the Kogelberg. This very welcome award will be used to buy essential equipment for Friends of the Harold Porter Gardens and the four hack groups. This award is in recognition of all the hard work these volunteers put into conserving the flora in the Kogelberg Biosphere.

WEATHER

The winter so far has been a very average winter albeit a little bit colder than the long-term average. As a retired fruit farmer, we measure cold in what is known as Utah Units - that is very roughly the number of hours between 2°C and 10°C from mid-April to the end of August. Most apple varieties require approximately 1000 Utah Units to break rest naturally without any man-made intervention. We never have enough units in the Western Cape, but this winter has been the second coldest winter over the past ten years with 650 Utah Units recorded up until 10 August 2025. The hormone that makes the red or yellow colour in most plants is called Anthocyanin and plants need cold to trigger its manufacture. I think one can see it in Leucadendrons this year – in the tremendous colour that all the Leucadendrons have shown, especially the Leucadendron salignum which is bright yellow in the mountains of the Kogelberg Biosphere at present.

The rainfall for the past 10 years up until the 11 August 2025 is set out on the table below:

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 up to 11th	559	675	444	625	626	647	975	499	1048	840	755	699

Total Aug	134	110	148	188	67	196	193	119	89	219		146
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		1058

Years Above Average

HAROLD PORTER BOOK AND CRAFT SHOP

Congratulations to Janet Nel who has just completed her first half year in the shop. I hope she has enjoyed it as much as we have enjoyed having her in the shop.

June and July are very depressing months in our shop with sales about 1/5th of what we turnover in December and January. I suppose the good news is that for the months of June and July we are 20% up on the previous year, which means as long as we keep on improving it will be okay.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter: by joining SANBI's Loyalty Programme, pensioners who sign up for...

Membership: Region 2 Gardens can have access to all botanical gardens in South Africa except Kirstenbosch.

Adults: R500/year

Pensioners: R375/year

Couples for R800/year.

We urge all residents to take out the loyalty programme and visit the gardens and visit the shop as often as possible.

FRIENDS OF THE HAROLD PORTER GARDENS

Viv von der Heyden and Jenni Pattinson continue to do a great job and the numbers volunteering to work in the Gardens are growing, albeit very slowly. We urge keen gardeners to join Viv and Jenni on either a Tuesday or a Thursday alternating weekly, from 08h30 to 11h30. It is amazing what a difference this volunteer group is making to the gardens, and it really does boost the morale of the SANBI Staff.

KOGELBERG GARDEN CIRCLE holds enjoyable outings monthly to various gardens in the Kogelberg, but this month enjoyed a session of weeding in the HPG together with members of the Friends of HPG. We hope that some of the members of the Garden Circle have been inspired to join the Friends!

The Kogelberg Garden Circle and Fighting for Fynbos do a great job in plant rescue. They are very active in rescuing plants from building sites where houses are to be erected. The biggest problem is that they learn about these building activities when it is almost too late. If they could be told a week in advance of the front-end loader arriving on the plot it would be most useful! Convenor: Galia Manicom 082 963 3804

HACKS

The **Betty's Bay Hack** takes place on the first Saturday morning of each month. Convenor: Rob Boyd 082 567 8858

Hangklip Hardcore Hackers: These hardcore hackers continue to do great work every Monday and Wednesday morning as the weather allows. Convenor: Chris Geldenhuys 082 900 8299

The **Pringle Bay Hack** takes place on the last Saturday morning of each month. Convenor: Chris Geldenhuys 082 900 8299

The **Rooi Els Hack** takes place on the second Saturday morning of every month, led by Mike Christelis: 082 467 2795

MONTHLY TALKS

On Saturday 16 August our guest speaker was Mark Dixon who gave a fascinating talk titled "Whispers though the Forest".

"Forests, including the Afro-temperate Forest, have a complex system of communication that regulates seed dispersal, pollination, pest management and nutrient dispersal. Integral to the holistic wellbeing of a forest is the complex mycelium network which plays a major function in the recycling of dead organic material and the distribution of resources throughout the forest." We all left the talk much the wiser and more in awe of the wonders of nature.

CREW

The Kogelberg CREW Team continues to do wonderful work in searching for endangered or near endangered species, recording the numbers and locations and in doing so furthering the conservation of the fynbos in the Kogelberg Biosphere. To Adele Scheepers and the other CREW members, a heartfelt thanks for the most valuable work that you do.

KLEINMOND NATURE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

We were very honoured to be asked to participate in the Kleinmond Nature Conservation's 50th birthday celebration and be part of The Fynbos Festival from 3 to 10 October.

We will be selling fynbos plants outside the Kleinmond Library and all the 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 Kleinmond Town Hall. We look forward to increased cooperation between the two associations, both having the same aim of conserving the fynbos of the Kogelberg Biosphere.

As spring approaches, the new life generated in the Kogelberg Biosphere is not only a joy to see but also gives one renewed energy to get out there and conserve our precious fynbos.

Peter Dall

082 784 4326

As you can see from the variety of activities undertaken by the members of the Supporters of the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society, there is no excuse to live in Betty's Bay and be bored! The membership donation is a mere R200 per year, for which you receive the benefit of being a member of an enlightened, friendly, active group of people, passionate about conserving the natural beauty of the Kogelberg, willing to learn new skills and to partake in a variety of extremely fulfilling activities! Go on, contact Peter! – Ed.

And finally ... another feel-good story!



KLEINMOND ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Our well-known Betty's Bay doggie, Jamie, celebrated his 11th birthday on the 9 August. Jamie's wish was to raise 1100 kg of food for Kleinmond Animal Welfare Society in lieu of birthday gifts. Well, Jamie outdid that! He raised a whopping total of 1 810 kg! This amount of food will keep our dogs and the underprivileged dogs in the community we serve fed for over six months!

Jamie, all your furry friends at KAWS send you wet kisses and wagging tails. Our tummies are going to be full for many months to come! 🐾🐾🐾

Our extra special thanks to Peter and Paddy Dall for arranging this fantastic event for KAWS, to Jackie Quail from Hill's Pet Nutrition, with the help of Dr Dave from Kleinmond Animal Clinic, for their huge donation of 804 kg of food, to all the kind and generous members of the community for their huge donation of 700 kg, and to Kristi and Jacques from Coffee On Clarence for their beautiful venue and delicious cupcakes, coffee and Pupcakes! 🍰🍰🍰

Karin de Beer



And that is all for this month, folks. Please forward our monthly newsletters to newcomers to town and encourage them to join the BBRA. Wishing you a happy start to Spring!

*Warm regards
Vivienne von der Heyden
Editor*

PS. If you wish to submit news of your group or organisation, or an article of interest to the residents of our village, please email me : vivvdh@gmail.com

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.*