Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA)
Newsletter August 2026

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR (17/08/2026)

1. GENERAL

1.1 Home Safety

As Betty's Bay residents, we are all aware of the unfortunate recent home invasion incident. The home-owner was assaulted, restrained and confined to the bathroom. The intruders stole jewellery, electronic devices, cash and the family vehicle. Thankfully the victim had community support and is not in harm's way.

Apparently at the time of the incident, external beams triggered an alarm, prompting an immediate response from our security company. Upon arrival, the beams and alarm had been deactivated, and after a thorough inspection, no suspicious activity was found. The home-owner subsequently re-armed the alarm and security beams. During the period when the beams and alarm were deactivated, the perpetrators blocked one of the outside beams through which they gained access by removing a window.

Supporting the request of the Neighbourhood Watch, we:

- also urge everyone to ensure that security personnel check all outside beams during arming procedures and before their departure. These security measures are vital, especially given that power outages and other disruptions are ongoing challenges. Vigilance and proactive communication among residents are essential in maintaining our safety; and
- to enhance security, the use of panic buttons, alarm systems and surveillance cameras is strongly recommended.

We would specifically like to thank Wayne and his Neighbourhood Watch team for their assistance in keeping Betty's Bay safe from intruders. Your efforts are widely appreciated..

1.2 What an incredible community spirit!

We all know about the beached baby "humpback whale" on Silversands Beach, which was later identified as an adult Risso's dolphin. Risso's are rare dolphins along our coastline, sometimes associating with the common dolphins but usually they are further offshore around the continental shelf.

Thanks to residents like Pete Oxford, Ruan Van Zyl, Ria Kotze, volunteer Fire Fighters and others, the dolphin was carried to the water and four or five folks stayed with it keeping it upright. It was obviously fairly weak and disorientated. Finally it was kicking hard enough that it was released and it swam out to deeper water, closer to shore, parallel to the beach and back out. It did not return to shore in that time and Pete and the team left it. It probably has a 50/50 chance of survival. Currently no news is good news!

Thank you to everyone who came out and assisted. Left alone it certainly would have died.

2. R44 (Clarence Drive)

Please note the Notice published on the Sunny Seas Neighbourhood What'sApp Group. This is good news and let's hold thumbs!

3. BBRA GENERAL

Please be advised that the Minutes of the Meetings held since January 2026 are available on the website of the BBRA.

Our monthly BBRA meeting took place on 12 August. Some highlights in short:

- There is great progress with the "Sew-on Betty's Bay Patch Logo". Watch this space!

- The proposed development of Erf 4030 Betty's Bay as "Crassula Lifestyle Gardens and Botanical Walk", adjacent to Crassula Hall, is progressing well. The proposed Site Development Plan, which is in line with the signed lease agreement, is now circulated within the Overstrand Municipality (OM) for comment/input.
- As you know, Cape Nature is investigating the possible fencing in of the penguin area. Several meetings took place in this regard, the last on 31 July 2026. Everybody present was given the opportunity to comment on the issue no later than 14 August 2026 at sp@capenature.co.za. The BBRA will closely monitoring this.
- The possibility of erecting a billboard on Erf 2648 Betty's Bay: it was decided at the BBRA that the current Departure Application with the Overstrand Municipality will be objected to.

4. **BBRA Membership**:

Standing Note: BBRA members (and all future members) should take note of the new BBRA Application Form (attached). The new Form needs to be signed by all Members (even if you are paid-up for 2025/26) as the issue pertaining to the POPI Act is addressed.

Being a Member, the following advantages need to be noted:

- Inclusion in the Betty's Bay Neighbourhood Watch (BBNW WATCH), Betty's Bay Emergency Support Team (BEST) and Betty's Bay Fire and Rescue Volunteers;
- Effective community representation at the Overstrand Municipality, Community Policing Forum, DFFE, Cape Nature, SAPS, Ward 10 committee, the Stony Point Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC) etc.;
- Access to the monthly BBRA Newsletter, active Facebook pages, Instagrams, and BBRA website; and
- Access to relevant community WhatsApp groups for safety and updates.

Therefore, please join the BBRA as a member.

5. **BBRA Portfolios**: Please note the different portfolios under the BBRA and that any relevant day-to-day issue can be forwarded to our email address bettysbayratepayers@gmail.com

Amund Beneke
Chairman

TOWN PLANNING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

Spatial Development Framework for OLM:

- The status remains that the Overstrand Local Municipality (OLM) and the service provider/consultant are still busy sorting out the "Status Quo Report".

Roads:

- R370 000 has been allocated to the Kleinmond/Hangklip Area to fix potholes in tarred roads. The appointed contractor will do this.
- There are apparently no vehicles (i.e. grader) available to do the scraping of gravel roads in Betty's Bay. A contractor will be appointed to undertake this.
- R1 000 000 has been allocated for gravel. Gravel has been ordered but not delivered yet. For this reason the gravel roads in Betty's Bay are not being scraped/fixed currently. Once gravel is available, the to-be-appointed contractor will commence with the work.
- Please remember that the Municipality must be made aware of potholes via the Collab App. It will be addressed within the capacity of the Municipality, given working conditions (weather).

Storm Water:

The Kleinmond team is currently attending to the cleaning of storm water drainage systems in Betty's Bay.

It is important that the Municipality be made aware of storm water problems via the Collab App. These will be addressed within the capacity of the Municipality / given working conditions (weather).

- **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

Fire Extinguishers: A Small Investment That Could Save Your Home

Living in Betty's Bay means being surrounded by incredible natural beauty, but it also means living with the reality of fire. During the warmer months, when the vegetation is dry and the south-easter is blowing, it doesn't take much for a small fire to become a serious threat.

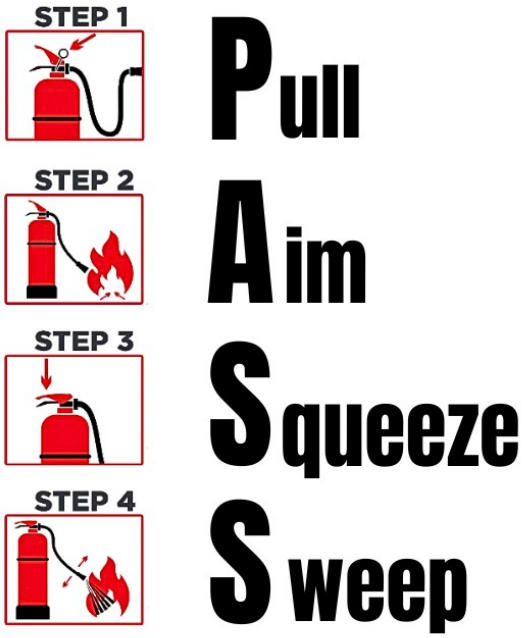
While a portable fire extinguisher won't stop a runaway veld fire, it can make all the difference in those first few moments when a small fire starts inside or around your home. A quick response can often prevent a minor incident from turning into a major emergency.

Many household fires begin with something simple. An electrical fault, an unattended pot on the stove, a braai that flares up unexpectedly, or an overloaded plug can all ignite before you know it. Having a fire extinguisher close at hand gives you a chance to deal with the fire safely while it is still small.

For most homes, a 2.5 kg or 4.5 kg Dry Chemical Powder (DCP) extinguisher is a good all-round choice. It can be used on ordinary combustible materials such as wood and paper, as well as electrical fires, flammable liquids and gas fires. Many home-owners choose to keep one in the kitchen, another in the garage or workshop, and, if the house is larger, one near the main exit.

It's also worth keeping a fire blanket in the kitchen. If a pan of oil catches alight, a fire blanket is often the safest way to smother the flames. Never throw water onto a cooking oil fire, as this can cause the flames to spread violently.

Knowing how to use a fire extinguisher is just as important as owning one. Remember the word PASS: Pull the safety pin, Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire, Squeeze the handle and Sweep the nozzle from side to side. Most importantly, always keep an exit behind you. If the fire grows or you feel unsafe at any point, leave immediately.



Like any piece of safety equipment, a fire extinguisher needs regular attention. Check that the pressure gauge is in the green zone, make sure the safety pin is still in place and have the extinguisher serviced every year by a qualified technician. An extinguisher hidden behind boxes in the garage or one that has lost pressure won't be much help in an emergency.

It's also important to recognise when a fire is beyond what you can safely tackle. If the fire is spreading quickly, producing heavy smoke or blocking your escape route, don't try to fight it. Get everyone out, close doors behind you if you can, and call for help. Property can be replaced. People cannot.

In a community like Betty's Bay, where we all live so close to the natural environment and to one another, being prepared benefits everyone. A serviced fire extinguisher may seem like a small investment, but it could save your home, protect your neighbours and give emergency crews the time they need to respond.

As we head into another fire season, take a few minutes to check that your extinguisher is where it should be and that everyone in your household knows how to use it. It's a simple step that could make all the difference.

A Quick Update from the Team

Behind the scenes, we have also been making sure that we are ready when needed. Fire hydrants in the area have been checked to make sure everything is in working order and that they are accessible when required.

Our fitness training is also underway again, along with regular general training sessions. Keeping fit, practising our skills and staying familiar with our equipment are all part of making sure the team is prepared to respond when the call comes in.

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

BETTY'S BAY EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (BEST)

In July 2026 there were seven call outs: four medical and three injuries - two ankle and one knee. All required hospitalisation. Three patients were transported by ER24, two by Metro Ambulance and one by the husband and friend respectively.

An important reminder to all, please have your medical aid information, a list of your current medication and what it is for and your 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 quickly 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. The new medic flight suit has been received and is still at the embroiderer for BEST branding.

Donations are to be made to 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

BIOSPHERE STEWARDSHIP

It has been a busy month with good progress made on several fronts including our village waste management station and illuminated advertising signs. I will report further when matters are concluded.

By the time this newsletter reaches you the BBRA Wildlife Road Signs Sponsors Request initiative would have been launched. The municipality has agreed to install the signs on municipal roads if we, the residents, provide them. This project was initiated because of the simple fact that there are simply no signs available that depict our local wildlife and through the desire to create awareness for residents and visitors alike throughout our village. The final designs are done and a quote accepted for the making of the signs.

Marelize Smith

082 683 3228

And now for news from other local organisations and community groups:

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 month of July our kitchen distributed 53 food parcels and prepared 649 scrumptious meals.

Our semiweekly pilates classes, weekly bridge afternoons and monthly friendship circle meetings continued during July 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.

A series of informative and practical health talks by Dr Jacques Jordaan, aimed at helping residents better understand common cardiovascular medical conditions and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment thereof and monitoring and long-term care, will be presented on 18 September at HCC Centre.

Proceedings will begin at 12h00 with soup and bread, followed by the talk and an opportunity for questions and discussion.
Cost.....: R50 per person
Bookings: Ella Loots 076 284 4313.

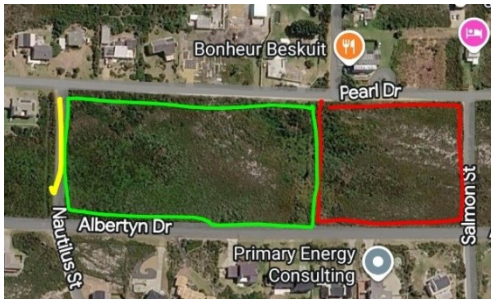
If anyone would like to know more about our activities and the work that we do, please contact our secretary, Jannie van der Walt, at Jh.vanderwalt@gmail.com.

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

David Fritz

HACKING - The Battle for Betty's Bay: Report on Hack No 749 on 1 August 2026

Thirty-one volunteers met on a crisp morning in Nautilus Street, Sunny Seas (yellow), to hack in the municipal land zoned for community facilities bordered by Pearl Drive and Albertyn Drive. The purpose was twofold, to remove numerous spider gums and the less prevalent rooikrans, NZ Xmas trees, bottle brush and banksias and to clear an extensive patch of Australian tea bushes spanning the border of the municipal land (green) and private property (red) along Albertyn Drive.







Sam Marais and Helmien van den Berg from Sunny Seas were welcomed to their first ever hack. They loved the experience and thanked everyone for their kindness and guidance. We hope this will be their first of many. Carole Roberts was welcomed back after an enforced break of a couple of years. It is lovely to have her back in action. It was due to Carole and Rosemary Fowkes's powers of persuasion and Dave Mourant's absolute refusal to return to the 'bee' hack at Bass Lake that we ended up in Sunny Seas. Sue Mc Connell mentioned that she has two bee keeper suits, so we shall return to complete the waterberry tree invasion.

The group went their separate ways with loppers, poppers and chainsaws. It was quickly discovered that the most effective way to tackle the tea bushes in the mud and shallow water was with chainsaws as the poppers simply sank into the mire. A well-deserved coffee / tea break was had back at Nautilus Street at 10am. A big thank you as always to Dave Mourant for supplying all that was needed and also for helping Anne with her delicious egg mayo with olive oil and tomato and onion sarmies. Rudi du Plessis came to introduce himself and was clearly impressed by what he saw. He became an instant hacker, working the second half with us and adding his name to both the Betty's and Hardcore Hackers Hacking groups. Welcome Rudi!







After the break, the battle continued, mainly with the removal of the tea bushes but also with cutting down the remaining alien trees. Credit must go to all the tireless draggers who ensured that everything was carried to the verges of Nautilus Street, Pearl Drive and Albertyn Drive, and to the stackers for making all the piles, five in total. The tea bush pile seemed to stretch on forever. The hackers were exceptional, undeterred by mud, storm water channel crossings, flowing water and dense fynbos; it was simply unbelievable what was achieved.





The aftermath was clearly enjoyed by all as people chatted for over an hour whilst sharing cold ones before eventually departing.

Many thanks to our neighbours for their ongoing, invaluable support: Christine Coupar from Kleinmond, Anne Woods, Ken Meiring and Chris Geldenhuys from Pringle Bay and Megs Tweedie from Rooi Els.

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

Rob Boyd
Convener Betty's Bay Hack Group

A new lease on life for Brodie's Link

Many residents of the Hangklip villages will be familiar with the name 'Brodie's Link'. Some understand it to be the hiking trail that leads up to the summit of Hangklip mountain; the name has also been ascribed to a footpath linking Pringle Bay with Silversands in Betty's Bay. However, it is none of these.

Brodie's Link is a block of land consisting of five adjoining farm portions, with a combined area of 1068 hectares, that were purchased to create an extraordinarily valuable ecological corridor. It encompasses the Hangklip mountain massif in the west, the catchment through which the Hangklip Valley stream flows, and the Blesberg mountain and surrounds in the east, where it adjoins an area of Municipal Nature Reserve adjacent to Silversands.

Its origin dates to 1998 when the Brodie family purchased the first of the block's five farms, 'Koppie Alleen'. The alternative to this conservation-oriented gesture would almost certainly have been urban development. The other properties were acquired over an extended period, ending in 2010. Funding for much of this was provided by Simon Marais, someone who loved the Western Cape's fynbos-clad mountains. Brodie's Link is now held in trust by WWF, with CapeNature appointed as the management agency.

Almost unnoticed, since its establishment as a conservation area, Brodie's Link has become heavily infested by invasive alien vegetation. The area's natural biodiversity became crowded out by dense thickets of Australian acacias (mostly *A. cyclops*, rooikrans) and, amongst other impacts, its capacity to sustain the functioning of the Hangklip Valley stream and associated wetlands was reduced because of the greater water uptake by the invasive thicket compared to fynbos.

The wildfire of January 2024 created an opportunity to tackle the ecological restoration of Brodie's Link. Most of the acacia thicket was killed by the fire, which was also hot enough to incinerate a proportion of the standing woody biomass. Anticipating the widespread germination of soil-stored acacia seed, the local hacking community put in a huge effort to hand-pull literally hundreds of thousands of rooikrans seedlings, creating space for long-absent fynbos species to regain a foothold in the cleared areas. However, it was soon realised that the rate of re-growth of the invasive species exceeded the capacity of the hackers to stay ahead of the process of re-invasion.

And then, something remarkable happened. The *Sugarbird Project* (https://sugarbird.org.za), a nonprofit organisation focused on the eradication of invasive alien vegetation from Western Cape fynbos ecosystems, offered to assist. A fully funded team of *Sugarbird* staff was deployed in July 2026 to systematically clear Brodie's Link of invasive alien vegetation. This followed on from the team's sterling work clearing the Buffels Dam catchment of Hakea, the Rooiels-Pringle Bay valley wetlands of Bottlebrush, and the coastal plan beneath Old Porter Drive, near Rooiels, of Spidergum, Pines and other problem species. Applying best-practice techniques, the trained team is well equipped and subject to expert supervision, including from within the Hangklip community. Not only does their work entail initial clearing operations, but annual follow-up operations are scheduled for as long as it takes to restore the environment to a level of routine management. To extract some value from the cleared biomass, small-scale harvesting of firewood from some of the dead rooikrans trees is also carried out. This aims to improve access to the area to assist future clearing operations and to reduce fire risk through the removal of dry, superfluous fuel.

Hikers visiting the Hangklip Valley may encounter the team working high on the slopes of Hangklip. In months to come, they will move to other areas of Brodie's Link. The staff will almost certainly welcome a friendly greeting and word of encouragement.

Coming to the rescue, in a time of dire need, was the Marais family once again. Without their financial support for the current initiative, through the Sugarbird Project, the ecological restoration of Brodie's Link would not be possible. As a community, we are extremely grateful for this support.

Note: A detailed description of the history of Brodie's Link is published in the December 2023 edition of the *Pringle Post*.





Volunteer hackers'clearing post-fire Rooikrans regrowth





Sugarbird Project team members deployed in the Hangklip precinct

Mike Burns

HANGKLIP BOTANICAL SOCIETY (HBS)

Hello all BBRA members

Anyone who has chosen to live in Betty's Bay has seen and experienced the amazing natural environment in a place that we are privileged to call home. So, this is an opportunity to position the Hangklip Botanical Society and to explain why we as members believe it is important for home owners to know what the HBS does, thereby hopefully encouraging people to join.

Belonging to the HBS is a group of people who believe that we need to, indeed **must**, preserve the incredible fauna and flora diversity that we live within every day. The HBS offers many different activities and hosts many events that we know make a difference in keeping our beautiful Betty's Bay the way that it should be kept.

We would love to answer any flora related questions that you may have, but we would be so thrilled to have you join a truly amazing team of people who work daily to keep our Betty's Bay the way Nature intended. If you would like to know more, please reach out to Sue McConnell on 083 676 9557 or email her on sue.mcc@mweb.co.za and she would be delighted to assist.

Sue McConnell

Included amongst the activities of the HBS are monthly talks and walks, garden visits, book launches, hacking, assisting the staff of the Harold Porter Gardens (HPG) in keeping the beds weed free, saving the fynbos from being bulldozed flat before building takes place, protecting endangered fynbos species and more. The book and craft shop in the Gardens is run by the HBS and profits made there are ploughed back into conservation activities as well as in projects to assist maintenance in HPG – Ed



Last weekend I watched 'March of the Penguins' – a 2005 French documentary that portrays the incredible but harsh reality of the regal Emperor Penguin in Antarctica. To view a short trailer, you can use this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RSxrusVknE

Having featured the 'dad' Emperor Penguin in the May BBC newsletter for Father's Day, I think "mom" needs just as much credit for Women's Day.

After seeing the many threats they face individually and as a pair in order to breed successfully each season, it is a miracle that both parents and their chick survive. They all walk 110 km in convoy, for 20 days and nights, to get to their breeding area. After pairing and mating, they wait in this icy environment for more than two months until mom produces their egg. They have to transfer the egg very carefully to dad's feet and brood pouch – if it lands on the ice, their breeding journey ends abruptly in a frozen egg.



March Of The Penguins, a movie narrated by Morgan Freeman and directed by Luc Jacquet (trailer)

The exhausted females then leave the males and walk the 110 km back to the ocean over another 20 days and nights, to fish for food to replenish themselves and build stores for feeding their chick. The males remain huddled together to survive through a winter of blizzards, incubating the egg.



March Of The Penguins, a movie narrated by Morgan Freeman and directed by Luc Jacquet (trailer)

Finally, the females walk the long journey back to the males. Mom has to return in time, well fed, to take over feeding and raising the chick. If not, the chick dies. A now starving and exhausted dad leaves mom in charge to raise their chick and he walks the long journey back to go and feed.

If that isn't enough, once mom has raised the chick, she leaves to find food, leaving the chicks with some adults, at the mercy of predators, until they are ready to head for the sea. By this time, the short summer has melted the ice near the breeding ground, and the sea is now nearby.

It is a phenomenal and harsh breeding journey!
I thought, being so isolated, that at least they don't have stress from people!
I was wrong.

A few days later, and 21 years after the documentary was produced, I saw an article on Antarctic tourism, the impact it is having and the guides who are leaving this job due to what they are seeing there. '*I can't work in the farce of climate change cruise tourism anymore': why Antarctic guides quit their dream jobs* https://share.google/4EGE3GEQZpzd24XMw

I thought of our African Penguin neighbours and all the threats and people interference they have faced over the last century that decimated their once abundant populations. Currently the colony at Stony Point faces additional threats.

Stepping back from the penguin scenario, what threats does Betty's Bay face? Is the village at a tipping point of losing its wildlife, flora, habitat, wetland, biodiversity, peacefulness, dark starry nights and uniqueness to "developers", to become another cemented suburb that some, maybe those who benefit financially, regard as 'necessary or desired progress'?
Rooiels residents work proactively to maintain the character of their village and co-existence with wildlife.
Can Betty's Bay residents, in a 13 km long village of such diverse sections and people, achieve the same?



Carol Clark
BBC newsletter is compiled by Carol Clark and proofread by Patrick Bolttler.

BBC 4th SATURDAY:

Annual General Meeting

Thanks so much to those BBC members who attended our fifth AGM, or who sent their proxy votes. Together we reached the required quorum for the AGM.

We reported back on BBC activities, events, conservation issues and networking over the past year. The financial report was presented and we voted for the two new nominees to join the BBC ExCo.

Thanks to Galia Manicom, Johan Steyn and Herman Mynhardt for their dedicated service on the BBC team. We welcome Nina Todd and Patrick Bolttler to the team and look forward to the valuable contributions they bring with their enthusiasm, skills and experience.

This is the BBC team for the 2026/27 year.



Carol Clark

OUR NEW STOCK OF BBC T-SHIRTS HAS ARRIVED



STONY POINT NATURE RESERVE

A CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES – AFRICAN PENGUIN
Second community meeting hosted by CapeNature
31 July at Harold Porter National Garden

Lisa Nupen of SANCCOB and Faroeshka Rodgers of CapeNature presented information regarding the status of the African Penguin at Stony Point, the increase in predation by caracal and the planned predator-mitigation fence.

This second engagement session was well attended. After the presentations, residents were given about an hour to ask questions of a panel including Pierre de Villiers of CapeNature, Christine Hagen of BirdLife SA and Lisa Nupen. The community had varying opinions on the matter, some vehemently expressing their anger and frustration at CapeNature.

CapeNature opened an email address for two weeks to allow residents to give their comments, concerns and ask questions. They said they would compile and respond to those emails and then schedule another community session. Many residents felt this was not sufficient time for the community to pose their concerns and questions.



The common denominator is that people are concerned about the status of the penguins. They want to see the penguins survive and recover from their critically endangered status with the potential of extinction in the wild looming on the horizon.

From that point, opinions diverge on how and what residents see as the solution, and on their personal views regarding the planned phased fence.

BBC SURVEY



Prior to the meeting on 31 July, and in response to residents saying there was no place to discuss the information they had heard at the first community engagement session on 9 June, the BBC published an informal survey. The open sections provided residents with space to submit their concerns and ideas.
This survey closed on Monday 10 August at 10pm.

Please note:

- The BBC is not building a structure or submitting a planning application. This was not a "required" Public Participations Process for a BBC building project.
- The BBC is not responsible for Public Participation for the planned fence – that is CapeNature's responsibility.
- It was not to obtain a "yes/no" vote regarding the fence.
- It was to gather residents' concerns and suggestions.
- Thank you to everyone who used the open sections of the survey for this purpose.
- We are compiling the responses into a constructive document.

Carol Clark

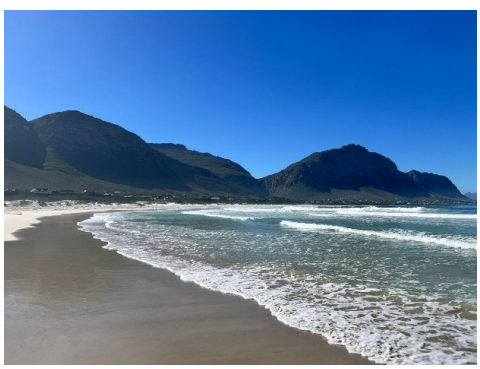
PERSPECTIVES ON BIOSPHERE LIVING

BETTY'S BAY – A COASTAL COMMUNITY AT A CROSSROADS

Betty's Bay has long been recognised as one of South Africa's ecological treasures. I was fortunate to serve on the editing team of ***Betty's Bay: Between Mountain and Sea***, a project that unfolded over ten months of dedicated work. The result was a 639-page coffee-table book created with one purpose in mind: to honour this stunning place in all its splendour.



The book was dedicated to the Betty's Bay community, past and present. It does not claim to be the final word, but rather an invitation to reflect, to engage, and to continue safeguarding the heritage of a landscape celebrated for its exceptional biodiversity and environmental significance within the Kogelberg Biosphere.



What emerged clearly through the project is that Betty's Bay is a place of great ecological importance. Its richness lies in the huge variety of flora and fauna: the African Penguin colony, the diverse fynbos species, wetlands, floodplains, vleilands, estuaries and rivers, marine ecosystems, dune systems, mountain slopes, night skies, the

Harold Porter National Botanical Garden, archaeological sites, and the Cape chacma baboon troops. More than 270 bird species, along with amphibians, reptiles and small mammals, call this place home.

Protecting these natural assets are long-standing organisations such as the Botanical Society and the Hackers - whose collaboration dates back to 1974 - as well as the Betty's Bay Conservancy, established in 2005. The Overstrand Municipality and the Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association also commit, in their mandates, to sustainable development, service delivery and **environmental conservation**.

The book also traces the history of Betty's Bay: the pioneering families who shaped the early settlement from the 1930s, the development of homes and local businesses and the growth of community initiatives such as the Pikkewyntjies Pre-School, the Parkrun, the Jukskei Club, the Hangklip Community Care Centre and the Wildlife Rescue and Training Centre.



Today, however, Betty's Bay stands at a crossroads. The pace of development has accelerated, placing increasing pressure on the environment. Many new residents arrive with a genuine desire to preserve the area's natural character, yet the cumulative impact of construction, particularly on wetlands and sensitive ecological zones, is becoming difficult to ignore. Large homes, extensive paving and infill in vulnerable areas can alter the landscape in ways that are not easily reversed.

This shift has consequences. Our baboon troops face growing challenges, the African Penguin colony remains under significant threat, and the fynbos, wetlands and associated fauna are increasingly vulnerable. These pressures highlight the need for thoughtful, responsible planning that balances community growth with ecological stewardship.



So, what is required? Quite simply, broad community commitment. Preserving Betty's Bay depends on collective effort - on residents, organisations and authorities **working together to ensure that development aligns with the long-term wellbeing of the biosphere**. When more voices champion conservation, the path forward becomes clearer: a future in which this beautiful landscape is protected, respected and sustained for generations to come.

By Patrick Bolttler

WETLANDS

Betty's Bay's Seasonal Wetlands

A simple pleasure on a quiet winter's evening in Betty's Bay's flat coastal plain is the sound of rain and numerous frog calls – if the wind isn't roaring! The cacophony of clicks from Clicking Stream frogs, *Strongylopus grayii*, compete with the tapping and groaning *kua-kua* calls of the Cape River frog, *Amieta fuscigula*, rising in volume with increasing competition. A keen listener will make out the low- pitched scratching *tshk-tshk* of the endangered Cape Microfrog, *Microbatrachella capensis,* and the creaking sound of the Cape Caco, *Cacosternum capense*.

Of course, these sounds are made by male frogs hoping to attract a female for nocturnal shenanigans, resulting, in due time, in scores of tadpoles.

But these sounds not only denote romantic froggy *affaires de coeur*, but also the health of the ecosystem from which they emanate. Frogs will only breed and flourish in fully functioning environments. Frogs don't know that, but we humans do. If we hear frogs calling in numbers, we can rest assured that in those particular locales, all is right with the world – for the time being.



The locale in question is Hangklip Sand Fynbos, a vegetation type that is characterised by seasonal wetlands, under water only in winter, where restios, mainly *Elegia tectorum*, predominate. As we pass into summer, these same wetlands host exquisite purple-pink flowered Sea Roses, *Orphium frutescens*, with their twisted yellow axils, which only release their pollen when their carpenter bee pollinators buzz close to them at a frequency which approximates to middle C on a piano.

Surrounding these seasonal wetlands are conebushes, in the Protea family, of the genus *Leucadendron*, which provide splashes of sunshine yellow to the landscape in winter. *Erica* species, notably *E. coccinea*, with their yellow but sometimes red 'hangertjie' flowers, Buchu species, *Rutaceae*, such as Confetti bush or Aasbos, *Coleonema album*, release a distinctive scent when brushed, add to the abundance of the environment. Orchids in the genus *Satyrium* appear in Spring, orange *S. coriifolium* and pink *S. carneum* and occasionally the endangered *S. hallackii*. Taller shrubs such as Fonteinbos, *Psoralea pinnata*, provide blue pea-flowers as the drier months of summer set in.

Those of us who live in these parts may have become over familiar with this landscape and take it for granted, seldom looking at it closely.



The flatness of the area provides prime real estate close to the sea for the erection of houses, bringing the need to alter the land, filling in hollows with rubble in order raise our houses above the underlying and seasonally overlying water. This replaces the existing plant and animal communities with gardens of our own design, interrupting the natural movement of water, plants and wildlife. Erven, which have been bought in anticipation of later building operations, are sometimes left to invasive alien plants such as Rooikrans, *Acacia cyclops*, Port Jackson Willow, *Acacia saligna*, Australian myrtle, *Leptospermum laevigatum* and Spider Gum, *Eucalyptus conferruminata,* among others.

Public open spaces, some zoned for conservation and others for public use, are precious remnants in our area, where the integrity of the ecosystems that make Hangklip Sand Fynbos what it is has to be used with the utmost care. The integrity and efficacy of these areas depend on their interconnectedness. The fragmentation of the ecosystem into isolated pockets inevitably diminishes their functionality and biodiversity.

One of the fathers of modern ecology, Aldo Leopold, wrote in his book 'A Sand County Almanac' (1949): "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see it as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect,"

Leopold's plea is made especially relevant in the latest report (4 August 2026) of the South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI's) National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA) dealing with Ecosystem Threat Status. Just as organisms are listed as Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered and Extinct, so are ecosystems, except that ecosystems aren't categorised as Extinct, but as 'Collapsed'.

In this report, Hangklip Sand Fynbos is 'Critically Endangered.' That's one step away from 'Collapsed,' when the frogs will be silent.

Tim Attwell

ERF 2648, 97 CLARENCE DRIVE, BETTYS BAY: APPLICATION FOR SIGNAGE DEPARTURE

The Overstrand Municipality has received and distributed an application from Outdoor Network for a departure for signage on Erf 2648:

MOTIVATION FOR A PROPOSED BILLBOARD WITHIN A HERITAGE OVERLAY ZONE ALONG A ROUTE OF REGIONAL SCENIC SIGNIFICANCE AND BYLAW DEPARTURE

The proposed Billboard site is included in Telkom's National Project to roll out Billboard structures as a source of revenue to the state-owned enterprise. They claim that this is a highly visible site, making it ideal for impactful communication.
The departures include:

- Section 1.8.2- Limitation to On-Site Business *"Signs on a property may only relate to the business operated thereon and the products processed, produced or sold thereon."*

Departure Application in terms of item 1.8.2 of the By-Law to advertise businesses not related to the property that the business operated on and the products processed, produced or sold thereon.

- Schedule A- Class 1 d-Medium Billboards 2. Schedule A – Class 1d "*Billboards will only be permitted on a temporary basis not exceeding six months, and shall only be utilised for the advertising of specific events of a civic, cultural, religious, social, sporting, welfare or fundraising-related nature; will have a maximum sign size of 12m², subject to approval of environmental impact assessments for signs exceeding 12m² in area; and may only be located in a position approved by the Municipality."*
-

Application in terms of Schedule A Class 1d of the By-Law to **erect an advertisement board on a permanent basis** and not only a temporary basis **as well as to increase the size of the billboard from 12m² to 18m²** by submitting an EIA motivation as required.





Any written comments must be submitted to the Municipality (16B Paterson Street, Hermanus / (f) 028 313 2822 / (e) bcadmin@overstrand.gov.za) **on or before 3 September 2026**, quoting your name, address and contact details, interest in the application and reasons for comment.

Carol Clark

WILDLIFE

ILLEGAL HUNTING OF WILDLIFE WITH DOGS
THE CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION WITH ABANDONED DOGS NOW HUNTING TO SURVIVE

The illegal hunting of wildlife with dogs in the mountainous area between the Kleinmond transfer station and Kasteelkop has been ongoing for several years. The neighbouring village of Betty's Bay has also experienced isolated incidents of dogs hunting in the mountains above Mooiutsig, High Level Road near the Harold Porter Garden and Sunny Seas.

However, the focus to address this escalating issue in the Kleinmond area came about when on 3 January 2026 a group of teenagers with dogs chased a baboon down the mountain and into the neighbouring Palmiet residential area. A private security company was alerted and succeeded in chasing the group of teenagers away. They abandoned the dogs who managed to escape and return to the informal settlement of Overhills. SAPS and municipal law enforcement officers were also alerted and arrived soon thereafter. Video footage of the teenagers and the dogs was handed over to law enforcement in order to assist in their investigation to identify the hunters and confiscate the dogs but this was not done. The Overstrand Herald has since published four articles on the issue to create awareness on this silent killer.

"We *will all wake up one morning and find everything gone - from the apex predator to the smallest creature in the food chain".*

CapeNature, Overstrand Law Enforcement and local Councillors were notified in order to address the issue of illegal hunting and the ecological threat it posed. Nothing was done. Small antelope, tortoises, porcupines, reptiles and baboons are targeted, ripped apart by the dogs whilst still alive and the hunters, armed with knopkieries, deal the final blow. The dogs used for hunting are victims too. They are kept in inhumane conditions, often starved before a hunt, and then forced to chase wildlife over rocky terrain and vegetation. They suffer broken bones, deep wounds, torn muscles and other serious injuries. Once they are no longer useful, many are simply abandoned without veterinary treatment and left to suffer.

A more sophisticated form of hunting, known as "taxi hunts", is organised by criminal syndicates, where groups of ten or twelve dogs are transported to farms and nature reserves for illegal hunts. Thousands of rands are usually wagered on the outcome of each hunt; money is wagered on the dog that will be first to kill its prey, and the species that will be killed first. The "winning" dog is allegedly sold for between R10,000.00 and R24,000.00 after the hunt.

In recent months, a family of otters was attacked by a pack of dogs on a coastal smallholding on the outskirts of Betty's Bay. Hunters tend to remain hidden, and one whistle will alert the dogs and they return with or without the hunt.

In early June, another article appeared in the Herald with footage of a pack of five dogs along the R44 near Kasteelkop and heading to the river, four of which were identified as being the pack accompanying the teenagers and seen hunting the baboon in Palmiet area in January. These dogs were now free ranging and appeared to have been abandoned. This could have been the trigger for events that followed. Since then, more free-range dogs have been seen, and KAWS has reported that they have identified approximately fifteen dogs on the mountain, hunting to survive. Another eight unidentified dogs were seen adjacent to the Palmiet residential area last week. Due to the sudden increase in free ranging dogs in the Kasteelkop area, the assumption is that many of them were hunting dogs, abandoned by foreign nationals who were forced to leave the country at the end of July 2026. These dogs are now hunting wildlife around the clock in order to survive - so called "feral" dogs. If KAWS cannot catch them, they will be destroyed. It is imperative that a

veterinarian be in attendance to humanely euthanise any dogs that are wounded as a result of action that is taken.

Nevertheless, there are still hunters in the area. Towards the end of June 2026, a pack of nine Beagles and Bloodhounds were seen along a hiking trail in the Kasteelkop area. They were accompanied by a hunter who remained hidden, but who communicated with the dogs. No free-ranging pedigree hunting dogs have been identified by KAWS on the mountain. The authorities need to do a sweep of the informal settlement, and at the same time close down the puppy factories.

Coastal Rewilding has been collaborating with CapeNature which has conducted two lessons on Biodiversity and Biodiversity crimes, as part of its outreach programme for 10-13 year-olds at Kleinmond Primary. Every child who is educated is a win for the environment.



28 | **BIOSFEER NUUS**

Jaghonde weer los

KLEINMOND — Hernude kommer oor onwettige hondjag in die Kleinmond-omgewing het ontstaan nadat verskeie inwoners oor die naweek 'n trop loslopende honde naby Palmietbrug en die Fairy Glen-piekniekplek opgemerk het.

Verskeie waarnemings is Saterdag gemaak, met honde wat na Palmietbrug beweeg en later weer na die dorp terugkeer. 'n Inwoner het vertel sy het vyf jaghonde op die pad tussen Kleinmond en Fairy Glen teëgekom.

Haar eerste bekommernis was vir wild soos otters en bokkies, maar sy was ook bekommerd dat die honde deur verkeer raakgery kon word. "Iets moet gedoen word — ook ter wille van die honde. Maar mens moet die jagters kry. As die honde gekonfiskeer word, vervang hulle dit net," het sy gesê.

Sy het geen hanteerders gesien nie, maar sommige van die honde herken van 'n voorval in Januarie toe 'n trop 'n bobbejaan in die Palmiet-woonbuurt ingejaag het.

Later Saterdag is berig dat drie mans met 'n trop honde na die Palmiet-dagkamp gestap en kort daarna teruggekeer het. Op Sondag is dieselfde honde weer sonder begeleiding opgemerk.

Die voorvalle volg op toenemende kommer oor onwettige hondjag in die Kogelberg-biosfeer. Die saak is reeds deur die Wykskomitee bespreek en sal na relevante rolspelers verwys word. Die naweek se voorvalle is ook onder die aandag van munisipale wetstoepassers gebring.

Fanie Krige

One of many articles in the Overstrand Herald over the last six months. It is thought that this pack was the first to be abandoned.

Dorrienne Maes

ATTENTION BETTY'S BAY RESIDENTS!



PETITION TO THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

SPEEDING ON THE R44

UPDATE ON THE R44 PETITION

UPDATE FOUR

We are happy to report that having petitioned the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP) on 27 March 2026, our petition was tabled in Parliament on 22 May 2026. It was approved by the Office of the Speaker, and referred to the relevant committee.

The Procedural Officer has notified us that we have been invited to brief the Standing Committee on Mobility, together with the relevant authorities, representatives of the Provincial Traffic Department, Caledon Provincial Traffic Services and the Overstrand Traffic Department.

The Petition Steering Committee has engaged with the Overstrand Chief Traffic Officer, and a strong enforcement presence was evident along the R44 on Sunday 16 August.

THANKS TO ALL THE SIGNATORIES WHO SUPPORTED THIS PETITION!

WILDLIFE SIGNS FOR BETTY'S BAY



Sponsor a sign for R1255 per sign. Deadline Friday 28 August.

An exciting moment has arrived as we are now able to add wildlife signs of our animals to the streets of our village. The municipality has agreed to plant them if we provide them.

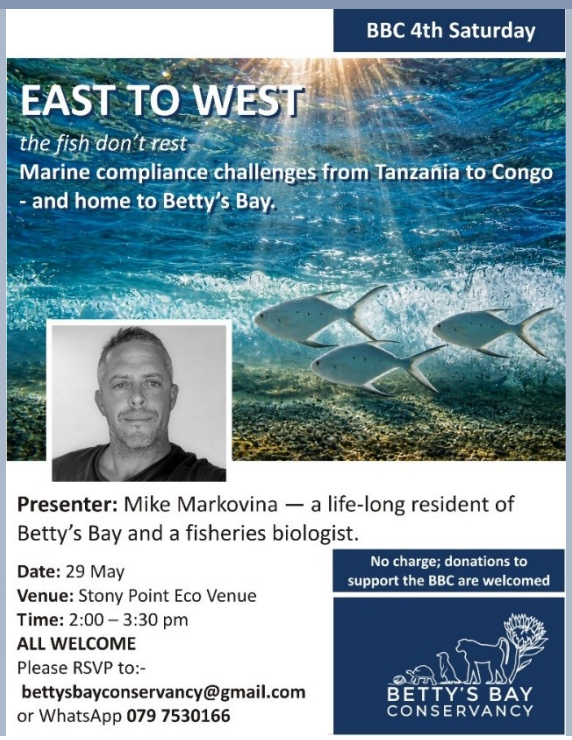
This is a BBRA initiative. Money should be paid into the BBRA account with reference "wildlife".

WhatsApp Marelize on 082 683 3228 with
1. Your name
2. Your choice of animal sign
3. Your preferred location

Please note that Clarence Drive is not a municipal road and therefore is excluded. Planting locations are subject to municipal approval and road safety laws.

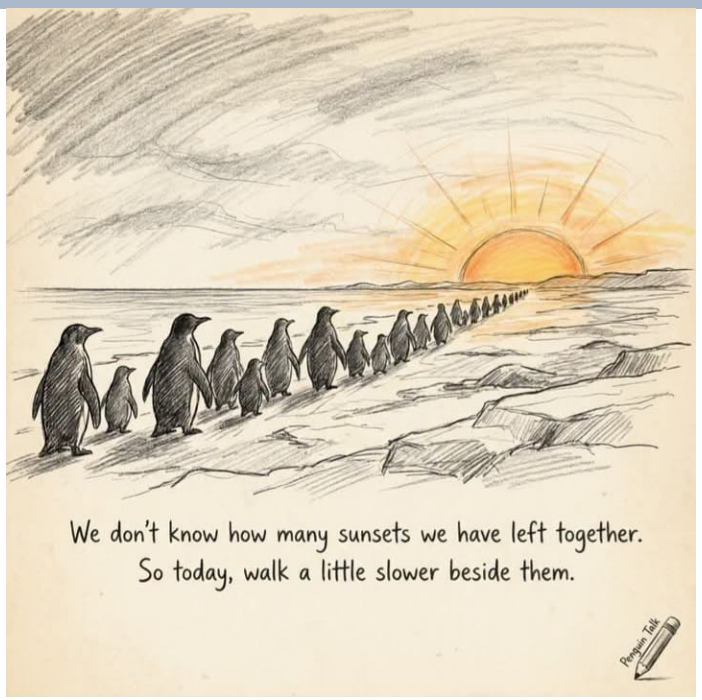
Marelize Smith

COMING EVENTS



A reminder: Our BBC4thSaturday is on the 5th Saturday this month

CLOSING THOUGHT



Carol Clark

Many thanks to you, Carol, and also to the members of your team, for always providing a most interesting and thought-provoking set of articles for our BBRA newsletter. Ed

Help Protect Betty's Bay's Hidden Treasure: Satyrium hallackii subsp. hallackii (Endangered)

We are incredibly fortunate to share our coastal home with a very special - and very rare - neighbour: the endangered terrestrial orchid, Satyrium hallackii subsp. hallackii. This delicate beauty is found in only a handful of coastal and lowland sites across the region, preferring the moist, marshy areas that make our landscape so unique.

Right now, this remarkable plant is in its growing cycle which means only the leaves are present. By November, these will develop into the stunning flowers that bloom through to January.





This is a heartfelt appeal to every resident: we need your eyes on the ground. Because these orchids often grow on road verges and in open areas, they are extremely vulnerable to being accidentally mowed down - whether by municipal teams or private garden services - before they have a chance to flower and set seed.

Here's how you can make a real difference:

1. Keep a lookout. Take a moment to scan your garden, pavement edges, and local verges for clusters of broad, green leaves pushing up from the soil.
2. Protect the plants. If you spot them, please mark the area clearly and ask any mowing or gardening crews to avoid them. Remember, these leaves must be left completely undisturbed - no parking on them, no trampling, and no allowing pets to damage their sensitive foliage.
3. Wait for the seeds. **Please hold off on any mowing or clearing in those spots until the plants have completely turned brown and gone to seed. This ensures next year's generation is secured.**

And most importantly - log your sighting! The best way to help scientists track and safeguard this species is by recording your find on iNaturalist, a free citizen science platform. By simply snapping a photo and uploading it, you provide invaluable data that helps us understand where these orchids are thriving and how we can better protect them.

Let's work together to ensure this rare orchid continues to grace Betty's Bay for generations to come. Thank you for being the eyes and guardians of our unique fynbos heritage.

For more information on this fascinating orchid, please refer to Jenny Parsons's comprehensive BBC article here: https://bettysbayconservancy.co.za/the-endangered-satyrium-hallackii-bolus-subsp-hallackii/

Note: Satyrium hallackii subsp hallackii are often confused with their far more prevalent cousins, Satyrium carneum, a larger orchid with equally beautiful pink flowers and tubers that prefer drier, sandy, or limestone-based elevated coastal fynbos rather than the wet, marshy, and brackish wetland soils of our endangered orchid.

Kogelberg CREW

And that is all for this month, folks. As you can see from the articles above, there are many issues that Betty's Bay as a Biosphere village is facing. There are also many dedicated folk who are doing their best to preserve what we have. Please forward our monthly newsletters to new residents and to neighbours and friends who are not yet members of the BBRA and encourage them to join our organisation in order to keep abreast of what is happening in our village. The greater the pool of conscious, conscientious and committed residents, the more we can achieve.

Warm regards
Vivienne von der Heyden
Editor
vivvdh@gmail.com