



Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA)

Newsletter July 2025



From the Chairman's desk:

BE POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE

Dear Betty's Bay Residents

Thank you for your valuable contributions and ongoing support over the past month. It has been a busy period for all of us. We appreciate your financial contributions and donations towards our three essential services.

Additionally, I would like to formally inform you that I intend to step down from my position as Chairman at the end of the year. However, I remain available to serve for an additional year if the committee considers it beneficial.

KNOW YOUR BBRA COMMITTEE

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	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

1. Road Safety: Community Collaboration in Action

This winter, Betty's Bay residents have rallied to flag high-risk zones along Clarence Drive and Disa Circle. Thanks to community-led mapping, we've submitted formal recommendations to Overstrand for improved signage, visibility upgrades, and traffic calming measures. Every reflector and speed bump makes a difference, and your voice continues to drive change.

2. Sewage Infrastructure: A Pivotal Shift for Overhills

After months of advocacy, municipal engineers have acknowledged the urgency of formalising Overhills. While temporary towns buy time, they're no substitute for lasting infrastructure. Our task is to keep the pressure on, and ensure implementation is prioritized in upcoming budget cycles. There is also an anticipated new Ward for our area which will be finalised next year some time.

3. Eradicating Aliens, Restoring Ecosystems

Alien vegetation removal has taken a bold step forward this month, especially across the Kogelberg Biosphere overlay. Volunteers have cleared over 1.5 hectares, paving the way for indigenous regrowth. We urge property owners to keep momentum going. Together, we're reviving Betty's Bay's unique ecological identity.

4. Verge Maintenance & Ditch Clearing: Practical Progress

Recent rains revealed just how vital verge and ditch management truly is. Strategic clearing has prevented runoff damage near Mooiuitsig and Porter Drive. Let's thank the residents who gave up weekends and let's explore rotating neighbourhood crews for long-term upkeep.

5. Marine Stewardship: A Community-Driven Proposal

Our position paper on abalone poaching and unemployment has sparked interest well beyond Ward 10. By advocating for decentralized marine management and co-managed fishing zones, we're building a model rooted in accountability and local oversight.

6. Crassula Hall: Renewed Lease, Expanded Purpose

Crassula Hall's lease renewal ensures community access for the next decade. With new kitchen renovations underway later in the year, the space will serve not only as a hub for meetings, but also for youth workshops, disaster relief coordination, and festive gatherings. This is your hall, help shape its future.

7. Off-Grid Energy: 2030 Vision Takes Shape

Discussions with local contractors are underway to assess partial off-grid energy solutions for key public sites and households. The goal? By 2030, increase resilience to load-shedding and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Updates to follow, but your insights are welcome now.

8. WhatsApp Positivity Campaign: Changing the Tone

Too often, neighbourhood WhatsApp groups spiral into frustration. This month, we've seen a shift, photos from verge cleanups, thoughtful queries, and even jokes about line-trimming. A gentle nudge from several admins is helping reshape group dynamics. Keep sharing kindness, and it'll stick.

9. Crime Update: Betty's Bay's Ongoing Struggle for Safety

Betty's Bay continues to face persistent criminal activity by a very few, with recent incidents reflecting a troubling pattern of opportunistic and organized theft. While overall crime rates remain relatively low, the impact on residents is significant, emotionally and financially.

Key Observations:

Most crimes occur under cover of darkness, often targeting homes with predictable routines or inadequate security.

Criminals are reportedly gathering information from domestic workers and gardeners, using this to plan their movements.

Items are often hidden in nearby bushland before being picked up and sold outside the Overstrand region, making recovery difficult.

Community Response:

The Betty's Bay Neighbourhood Watch (BBNW) has intensified foot patrols and expanded its camera network, now boasting 101 strategically placed cameras made up of private and Watch cameras. We are working on appropriate interphase units to streamline feeds. Once this is up and running we will make a request for monitors.

Residents are urged to install panic buttons, motion-sensitive lighting, and independent camera systems to bolster home security.

The Watch has identified several “triggers” - barking dogs, silent frogs, and activated spotlights - that help detect suspicious activity.

Challenges:

Drugs, and poverty remain underlying contributors to crime, with limited employment opportunities exacerbating the issue.

The justice system’s limitations mean that criminals often escape prosecution unless caught red-handed.

Call to Action:

Stay connected with your local Watch group.

Report even minor incidents, they may be part of a larger pattern.

Support initiatives like the camera monitoring program and community patrols.

Betty’s Bay’s strength lies in its unity. With vigilance, technology and collaboration we can reclaim our peace and protect what matters most.

Wayne Jackson
Chairman

News from the various portfolio heads follows:

BETTY’S BAY EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (BEST)

Ten callouts were attended to in May 2025. One motor bike accident, one fall injury and eight medical cases. Of these, five required hospitalisation, two were referred to Overberg Emergency Care in Kleinmond and two consulted with their doctors the following morning.

A big thank you to Debi Best, Tracey Burger, Barbara Kennedy and Colleen Maré for the overwhelmingly successful second performance of “*Da Capo at Sunset Concert*” held on 11 May 2025 at Nivenia Hall at the Harold Porter Botanical Garden. R10 500 was raised towards a new patient monitor.

Another big thank you for the generous donation of second hand Contec 6500 patient monitors and blood pressure monitors. Should our existing Philips monitor fail we at least have functional backup monitors we can use in the interim until sufficient funds are received for the purchase of a new monitor.

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 are in need of a replacement 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. Many thanks to all those who have contributed. Without your support we would not be able to provide this service.

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

Rob Boyd

BETTY'S BAY FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

As winter sets in, the comforting glow of warming fires becomes a familiar sight, helping to keep us cozy at home during the colder months. Along with this, comes an added risk of house fires within our community.

The most common cause of house fires in winter is heating equipment. This includes furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves, and space heaters, with fireplace chimney's being a particularly significant contributor to heating-related fires. Improper use, lack of maintenance, or incorrect installation can lead to these fires.

We ask the community to please make sure that your fireplaces and chimneys are checked and maintained regularly, and that proper installation and certification is done with any new installation or repairs.

For the team, weekly standby duties and regular training will continue as normal, throughout the winter season.

FIRE & RESCUE: This past month the team has responded to several incidences, one involving a missing person, and another being a house fire where a chimney was involved. The fire was reported in the early hours of the morning, and the team were able to respond quickly, successfully extinguishing the fire and ventilating the house.

In addition to the above, the team has also responded to several flooding incidents, assisting with road condition assessments for the municipality and the collection, filling and distribution of sandbags to assist those in flooded areas.

Following on from last month's Newsletter - **STEP 2: ASSESSING YOUR PERSONAL FIRE RISK:**

Please assess your personal property fire risk by answering the following Yes/No questions:

1. Is your property situated on a slope or subject to strong South-Easter winds?

If YES, beware that fire naturally moves up a slope and is more intense higher up or in wind.

2. Is your property close to a large, open and natural area?

If YES, create a fire break on your property, next to the fire risk area. However, it won't stop the fire but provide fire fighters with better access.

3. Do you regularly remove all alien vegetation, dead wood and combustible material from your property?

If NO, then regularly remove all alien vegetation, dead wood and organic matter on your property.

4. Is your LP gas cylinders housed legally?

If NO, get advice from an LP gas stockist and revise your storage area accordingly.

5. Is your house wood-framed or thatched?

If YES, keep vegetation less than 20cm high around it.

6. Is your firewood and compost heap stored far away from your property?

If NO, create a 3m "clear zone" around your house. (See next page)

7. Is your hosepipe accessible and does it reach right around your house?

If NO, get an extra tap or hosepipe. A rainwater storage tank and pump would be ideal.

8. Do you have any external electrical wiring hanging above trees or bushes?

If YES, please remove or cover in metal conduit.

9. Are fire hydrants easily accessible for fire-fighters?

If NO, please advise your Fire Wise Committee or Fire Chief.

10. Can a fire engine easily access your property right around?

If NO, clear and open your driveway for more access.

11. Do you/your neighbours ever burn garden waste?

If YES, any burning is illegal (unless with a permit).

12. Are all wooden decks or fences treated with fire-retardant?

If NO, visit a hardware store or speak to a paint specialist about fire-retardant treatment.

13. Are your roof trusses exposed under your eaves?

If YES, box in exposed roof beams with non-flammable material.

14. Do you/your neighbours ever braai without a hosepipe at hand and ready to use?

If NO, always have a hosepipe ready, as fire risk is very high in summer.

15. If someone is running a fire risk, do you advise them how to be firewise?

If NO, please notify your Fire Wise Committee if they do not comply!

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 – 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

The Influence and Negative Impact of Reeds in a Lake Ecosystem:

Have you ever wondered if all the reeds in the lakes in Betty's Bay serve a purpose in our ecosystem?

Here is a brief overview of all the lakes in Betty's Bay and the important impact they have on the ecosystem of our town.

Key lakes in Betty's Bay

- Malkopsvlei (Bass Lake): Small, shallow lake with dark water; heavily affected by reed growth and nutrient pollution.
- Rondevlei & Grootwitvlei: Natural, scenic lakes important for birdlife; less impacted but still sensitive to reed encroachment and pollution.



Reeds in Grootwitvlei. Credit: Rob Boyd

Influence of reeds

- Provide habitat, water filtration, erosion control, and carbon sequestration.
- Help support biodiversity when in balance.

Negative Impacts of reeds

- Loss of open water: Reeds encroach into lakes, reducing space for swimming, boating, and aquatic life.
- Reduced biodiversity: Dense reed beds outcompete native species, harming sensitive fauna like the endangered Cape Platanna.
- Water quality issues: Excessive reeds thrive in nutrient-rich water from septic tank leaks and runoff, contributing to E. coli and algae blooms.
- Aesthetic & recreational decline: Dense reeds limit access and reduce visual appeal.
- Methane emissions: Decomposing reeds in stagnant zones release greenhouse gases.
- Costly management: Control methods require significant resources and planning.

Local conservation efforts

- Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA): Leads reed-clearing, awareness, and advocacy.
- Overstrand Municipality: Monitors water quality, enforces health advisories and protects buffer zones.
- CapeNature: Manages reed ecology within the Kogelberg Biosphere; protects endangered species.
- Friends of the Malkopsvlei Wetland: Community volunteers help restore natural balance through reed control and monitoring.
- Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO): Supports research, restoration and sustainable development.
- Environmental Education: Local schools and WESSA promote wetland conservation through student involvement.

Recommendations to maintain the correct percentage of reeds in the various lakes:

- Monitor reed growth and water quality.
- Upgrade stormwater and septic infrastructure.
- Protect undeveloped wetlands as natural filters.
- Promote public education and involve local stakeholders.
- Implement balanced reed management - reduce overgrowth without harming wildlife habitat.

Elsa Stofberg

The following articles are from other organisations and groups that do outstanding work in our community:

HANGKLIP COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE



Very important news: Please note that as from August 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 June we distributed 52 food parcels and cooked 591 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 now 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



"BBC4thSATURDAY" EVENT ON 28 JUNE : THE BETTY'S BAY BOOK

At our latest BB4thSaturday event, we hosted the Editorial Team of the upcoming book on Betty's Bay.



Since February Skip Krige, the initiator and co-ordinator of the book, has spent many hours personally chatting to potential contributors for the main sections.

Residents have also shared their stories on "Life in Betty's Bay". To date the editorial team that comprises Tim Attwell, Patrick Boltler, Carol Clark, Lisel Krige and Karon Scholefield, have received over 80 articles and many potential photographs for the book.

About 50 people came to hear about this proposed book that is currently "a work in

progress".

What began as a book on Lovers Walk in Silversands, has since grown to encompass the many varied facets of the unique village of Betty's Bay. Some of these include:

- The town's rich history and geography
- Its diverse fauna and flora
- Governance structures
- Nature reserves, the Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens, scenic walks, and must-see places of interest
- The historic whaling station and intriguing shipwrecks
- Stories of pioneering families since the 1920s and vibrant community life
- Voices from different residential areas
- Local highlights like the Stony Point penguin colony, the Marine Protected Area, the Art Route
- And much more

This will be a high quality coffee table book between 400 - 500 pages (it is growing!) and will cost R500. Currently the plan is to print 500 copies.

All being well, the date for the book launch will take place on 20 December 2025 at the Nivenia Hall in the Harold Porter Gardens.

Would you like to support this remarkable project? We invite individuals and companies to contribute by making a donation. Please contact Skip Krige:

 skipkrig@mweb.co.za
 082 411 3414

If you would like to order your copy in advance, you can contact Skip or use the order form below

So far, the orders are in for over 200 copies.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ON THE 5 JUNE: EVENT AT STONY POINT

“PENGUINS, PEOPLE and PARTNERSHIPS IN THE KOGELEBERG”



WWF and CapeNature hosted a very well run, informative and enjoyable “Penguins, people and partnerships” event at Stony Point on World Environment Day.

Tim Elliot: “Three fortunate BBC Penguin-Pals members, Carol, Kim and Tim, were invited to attend an event for invested and interested people at Stony Point Nature Reserve in Betty’s Bay. This event focussed on the future of this important African penguin colony situated in the Kogeleberg Biosphere.

Claire Mawisa, of Carte Blanche fame, enthusiastically facilitated the questions to the highly knowledgeable panel of experts. Attendees, including a multitude of journalists, then had the opportunity to ask the panel questions.

Despite the recent gains, such as the amendment of permits of the pelagic fishing industry to reflect new fishing exclusion zones around six key African Penguin breeding areas, the future of the African Penguin is deeply troubling. The numbers of penguins have dropped hugely. Unless appropriate interventions happen timeously, they will continue to do so, together with a multitude of other species that are dependent on the same food sources.

A great lunch produced by the always reliable kitchens of On The Edge, and a guided walk along the elevated walkway ended an interesting and thought provoking day.”

The specialist panel comprised:

- Craig Smith (South Africa Lead, WWF)
- Alistair McInnes (Seabird Conservation Programme Manager, Birdlife South Africa),
- Nicky Stander (Head of Conservation, SANCCOB),
- Alana Duffell-Canham (Landscape Conservation intelligence Manager, CapeNature)



The panel discussion covered aspects of the management, threats, research and rehabilitation of the African penguin. Follow the link to listen to this important session.

- [World Environment Day panel discussion: Penguins, people and partnerships - YouTube](#)

The panel provided insight into the new fishing closures. Research data obtained over the next six to 10 years will assess the impact of the closures on the penguins. Oil spills, ship to ship bunkering in the Algoa Bay area, noise pollution, increased shipping traffic, predation at sea and on land, climatic events as well as the competition with the pelagic fishing industry for sardines and anchovies are some of the factors impacting the African penguin. Of all the factors and threats to the existing colonies of penguins, their access to food is the biggest factor affecting their survival.

The staff of CapeNature escorted small groups of attendees along the boardwalk to highlight issues in the colony, share interesting stories and answer questions.



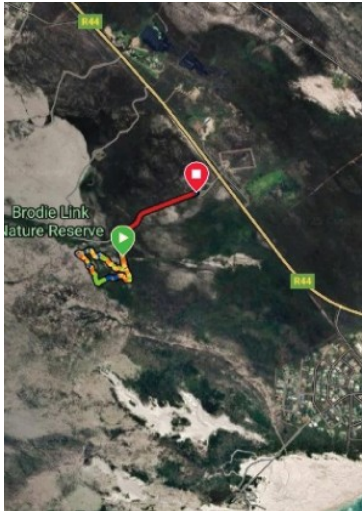
Some positive news is that the staff who work with the penguins report that both the adult penguins and chicks at Stony Point appear to have better body condition since the implementation of the fishing closures.

It is still early days and the research data for the next six to ten years will help to assess this accurately. These years are a vital time for the survival of this critically endangered species.

We hope the positive steps of the fishing closures have not come too late to save the African Penguin.

Carol Clark

HACKING



The Battle for Betty's Bay: Report on Hack No 736 – 5 July 2025

Eighteen volunteers braved the elements on a chilly morning following a week of soaking winter rain. This was a continuation of the Hangklip Hardcore Hackers (HHH) hack of 11 June 2025 to remove tens of thousands of knee-high rooikranz seedlings which have taken root since the fire in January 2024 which destroyed this rooikranz forest. Vehicle access into Brodie Link Nature Reserve was arranged with Brenton Matinka, the Cape Nature Field Ranger who lives on the property.

A warm welcome was extended to Magda and Tommy Mills on their first Betty's Bay hack. They needed no introduction to hacking as they volunteer with both the HHH and Pringle Bay hacking groups. I hope this is their first of many.

Armed with poppers of all sizes the group took a short walk to the hacking site across a stream and began working their way westward up the slope in the direction of Hangklip. The mid-morning break was taken back at the parked vehicles. Thank you to Dave for providing all that was needed for a good cup of tea or coffee and to Mary Whitelaw & Lee Boyd for making the very welcome sandwiches.



The weather which had been threatening all morning eventually stopped the hack a half hour early at 11am, when it was decided to rather head back to the warmth of our homes.

A very big thank you to all for making the effort to come. It would have been frustrating to miss a second Betty's Bay hack in a row due to bad weather. Despite the shortened hack, a conservative estimate of 10 000 - 20 000 seedlings were pulled out and heaped. A special word of thanks to those from the neighbouring villages of Pringle Bay, Rooi Els and Kleinmond for their ongoing support. It is greatly appreciated and never taken for granted.

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



Rob Boyd



Convener Betty's Bay Hack Group

SUPPORTERS OF THE KOGELBERG BRANCH OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

In the June Newsletter, I wrote that we needed rain. From 1 June to 10 July 2025, 319mm was recorded at our house. This rain is most welcome! On the mountain behind our house, the *Cordifolium* flowers are just starting to flower, and it looks as if there will be a huge number of blooms this year. The first *Leucospermum conocarpodendron* (Kreupelhout) flowers are starting to appear. The restios are in full splendor and there is always a new *Erica* to admire and photograph. We are truly blessed to live in the richest floral kingdom in the world.

See photos of *Erica Fascicularis* (Sticky Heath or Tall Erica) below pictured yesterday on the mountain.



Overnight on 2 July and in the morning of 3 July 49mm of rain was recorded in less than ten hours. This resulted in isolated flooding and unfortunately the BotSoc bookshop bore the brunt of it. The small river adjacent to Leopard's Kloof rarely ever flows very strongly but there was a reasonably strong flow that morning. The bridge near the electricity transformer was totally blocked with debris so that the water was not

able to flow along its normal course and it took its own route down the perimeter fence of the Gardens along Broadwith Road, through the office area of SANBI and then straight to the bookshop. We were alerted by the Garden staff that the bookshop was being flooded. Paddy Dall and Janet Nel, the shop manager, arrived at about the same time at the shop to find a river of water 10-15cm high running through it. Paddy put out a plea for help on the volunteer BotSoc WhatsApp group and more than twelve volunteers arrived with mops, buckets and towels to help with the diversion of the water and the mopping up. Once we were able to open up under the bridge at the transformer, the water flow quickly subsided and the big mopping up operation could begin.

The photos below show how the volunteers rolled up their trousers and went about mopping up the flood waters. By lunchtime, the job was 90% completed. Fortunately, because all the book stands and everything else is either on castors or little pedestals we suffered very little damage. Fourteen wrapping sheets and a few baskets were destroyed by the floods - less than R1000 worth of damage.



The volunteers were magnificent. The speed with which they responded and the way they mucked in gave one a lump in the throat. They were all amazing!

NATIONAL BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

On Saturday 19 July the Kogelberg Branch hosted the National BotSoc Pathfinder Convention which was a strategic planning session of the council and the chairmen and treasurers of the various branches. It was a combined in-person and virtual meeting. News of the outcome of the convention will follow.

HAROLD PORTER BOOK AND CRAFT SHOP

One forgets how quiet things are in Betty's Bay in June and July and this June and July have been no exception.

Janet gets very depressed when we have a day of nil sales, so much so that she has now resorted to buying a little something herself just so that we don't have a 'Nil day'! After a very good April and May, June was a real comedown and our sales were 2% below June of last year. But, we remain positive and with the support of the community we know that we will thrive again in the summer months. We continue to stock interesting new items.

One of the very exciting upcoming ventures is the publication of Keith Hamilton's Book "Birds of the Kogelberg" which is with the printers at present. The book is being published by The Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of SA and is fully funded by us. We have gone out on a limb and printed 500 copies as

we believe this book will be a very good seller, especially amongst the bird clubs. The photography in the book is awesome.

Remember we are selling Proteas, Leucospermums, Leucodendrons, Mimetes, Buchu, Seruria and Erica plants on an ongoing basis. You are welcome to come and have a look at what we have on offer.

MONTHLY TALKS

On 21 June we had a fascinating talk about the Cape Dwarf Chameleon by Sheraine van Wyk of Whale Coast Conservation. Afterwards we all went out with our torches into the Botanical Gardens to look for chameleons, finding one.

GARDEN CIRCLE

This month two new gardens in Pringle Bay were visited. One of the gardens started off as a building site. How many of us can say "been there, done that!". Now, about twenty months later, after much planting, replanting, watering, nurturing and protecting against wind, the owners have a garden that is definitely not a building site anymore. Many of the plants there were successfully rescued from plots about to be excavated, prior to building.

The owners of the second garden made the leap from living in Johannesburg to living, and gardening, on a wind-swept, very wet sand dune. It didn't take them long to realise that there's nothing straightforward about fynbos gardening! Things like planting ten plants and having seven of them die, the wind in summer being completely different to wind in winter, having bone dry spots which suddenly turn into ponds ... you know, "minor details"!

With a lot of learning, and even more persistence, the two gardens are slowly being coaxed to reflect both the beauty and challenges of this landscape. As one of the owners said: "We're still very much a work in progress, but that's part of the joy, isn't it?"

Should you wish to join the Garden Circle contact Galia on 082 963 3804.

FRIENDS OF THE HAROLD PORTER GARDENS

The weather has played havoc with our gardening activities in the Gardens, but a few work sessions have been held this past month. Work done is definitely making a difference.

The gardening sessions are held alternately on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30 till 11.30. We desperately need more volunteers as the task is huge. Please come and join us. We learn much from Ebraime, it is great fun, good exercise and the camaraderie is wonderful. Contact Viv on 084 685 2641.

SUPPORTERS OF THE KOGELBERG BRANCH OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Thank you all for your tremendous support. Our financial contribution has helped greatly to fund the hacks, Harold Porter Gardening activities, as well as some educational material this past year.

HACKS

Hangklip Hardcore Hacks: The hardcore hackers continue to do great work every Wednesday morning and on Monday mornings, when the pine infestation is being targeted.

The hackers finalized the first phase of the Pampas Grass project on Hangklip Road towards Sea Farm on 24 June. It was no easy task. The flowers heads were first cut off and dumped into a big trench that had been dug and then the remainder of the plants were sawed down, cut and dragged to the trench where they were piled on top of the flower heads. The next phase of the pampas project is to let the new leaves grow out of the stumps to about 60cm before spraying them with herbicide until they have died off completely.

Should you wish to join the hackers contact Chris on 082 900 8299.

Chris is also the convenor of the monthly Pringle Bay Hack which takes place on the last Saturday of each month. Currently the group splits in two: one group working on eradicating aliens from the verges and the other group pulling out the thousands of Rooikrans seedlings growing in the Hangklip Valley in the area that was burnt in the fire in January last year.

The Rooi Els Hack takes place on the second Saturday of every month, led by Mike Christelis. Mike can be contacted on 082 467 2795.

See Rob Boyd's report above for news of the monthly Betty's Bay hack which takes place every first Saturday of the month.

CREW

The Kogelberg Crew Team continues to do wonderful work in searching for endangered or near-endangered species, recording the numbers and their locations. It all helps 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.

The committee of the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society is immensely proud of what the over 300 participants achieve in all the activities of the Branch, contributing to the conservation of the richest floral kingdom in the world, the Kogelberg Biosphere. We have an important duty to look after this treasure that nature has given us and to preserve it for many, many generations to come.

Peter Dall
082 784 4326

And that, folks, wraps up July. I would love to receive articles of local interest for our monthly newsletter. Betty's Bay abounds with people doing and knowing a multitude of things. Let us hear from you!

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