



Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA)

Newsletter July 2026



NOTE FROM THE CHAIR (15/07/2026)

1. BBRA GENERAL

Our monthly BBRA meeting took place on 08 July. Please be advised that the Minutes of the Meetings held since January 2026 are available on the website of the BBRA.

Betty's Bay is one of the villages that attracts tourists frequently, not only to pay a visit to the penguins and the Harold Porter Gardens, but also the area in general. What is heart-warming is that an email was received from one of the tourists living in Switzerland: "*I collect some patch and would like to ask is it posibel to get one frome Bettys bay with the Pinguins*" (sic). We believe that this might be an opportunity to "splash" Betty's Bay worldwide and it was decided that the BBRA will investigate the possibility of having a "Sew-on Betty's Bay Patch Logo". Watch this space!

A new group called OVAC (Overstrand Accountability Collective) invited the BBRA to be part of this broader Ratepayer's Association Group, trying to represent the Communities (Gansbaai to Rooi Els) at large. The BBRA EXCO, however, has declined this invite because we believe we have a very good relationship with the Overstrand Municipality (OM) and do not want to lose this.

The proposed development of Erf 4030 Betty's Bay as "Crassula Lifestyle Gardens and Botanical Walk", adjacent to Crassula Hall, is now at such a stage where a proposed Site Development Plan has been submitted to OM: Property Management. The proposed development is based on the signed Lease Agreement.

Cape Nature is investigating the possible fencing in of the Penguin Area. Several meetings did take place in this regard, and several meetings will still follow. The BBRA is closely monitoring this.

The possibility of erecting a "Wall of Remembrance" at Crassula Hall is still under investigation. The possibility will be discussed with the Directorate: Property Management of the OM, as Crassula Hall is municipal property.

2. BBRA Membership:

The number of residents joining the BBRA as members still grows. The current total is 293 members. The BBRA is in the process of canvassing members on all available social media platforms. Some Estate Agencies have also joined the process.

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.

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

Amund Beneke
Chairman

INPUT: TOWN PLANNING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT 15 JULY 2026

The OLM and the Service Provider/Consultant are sorting out the "Status Quo Report". Once sorted, the said report will be made available to the public for comment / input.

Roads:

There is no gravel available. The new financial year started on 1 July 2026. Gravel has been ordered but not yet delivered. For this reason the gravel roads of Betty's Bay are not being scraped/fixed.

Tar is available. Brenton and his team fix the potholes that they are aware of in Betty's Bay. Please remember that the Municipality must be made aware of potholes via the Collab App. These will be addressed within the capacity of the Municipality / given working conditions (weather).

Storm Water:

Brenton and his team are 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 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: Community Security Report

Reporting Period: 01 June 2026 – 30 June 2026

During the month of June 2026, a total of 30 incidents were logged. The data shows a notable concentration of regulatory infractions regarding the "Movement of and control over individuals," alongside ongoing trends in financial/electronic fraud and sporadic property-related crimes.

Incident Breakdown by Category

1. Movement of and Control over Individuals (17 incidents)

This category accounted for most logged incidents this month, primarily concentrated along major transport routes and specific residential zones.

Clarence Drive: A major focussed operation took place on 25 June (7 incidents involving the employment of undocumented persons) and 30 June (4 incidents involving failure to keep records).

Porter Drive: 4 incidents were recorded between 17 June and 22 June, involving the employment and placement of undocumented persons.

Lakeside Drive: 1 incident logged on 30 June for failing to keep records.

2. Fraud & Scams (5 incidents)

Financial and electronic crimes remain a persistent threat to residents.

Electronic Transactions: 4 incidents occurred across Mountain Road (10 June), Amarylis Crescent (22 June), and Albertyn Road (30 June).

Forged Documents: 1 incident was recorded on Disa Road on 26 June.

Note: An additional internet-related harassment case was logged in Disa Circle on 03 June.

3. Property and Vehicle Security (4 incidents)

Residential Burglaries: 3 incidents were reported this month:

18 June: Agapanthus Road (Stony Point) – Window opened by force.

19 June: Pine Road (Rondevlei) – Window removed.

26 June: Disa Road (Central) – Forced entry.

Theft out of Motor Vehicle: 1 incident on 20 June at Main Beach (Central) involving a forced entry/damaged lock.

4. Substance-Related and Public Nuisance (3 incidents)

Drug Possession: 2 simultaneous incidents were logged on 19 June at Disa Circle involving the possession of Tik and Mandrax powder.

Drinking in Public: 1 incident logged on 21 June at Dina's Corner (Mooiuitsig).

5. Violent Crime (1 incident)

Common Assault: 1 incident occurred on 11 June on Agapanthus Road (Stony Point), where an individual was struck/beaten with a fist.

Key Takeaways and Community Safety Recommendations

Tenant Vetting and Property Management: Given the high number of regulatory infractions regarding undocumented individuals and record-keeping, property owners are strongly urged to exercise heightened vigilance when securing new tenants or hiring domestic/contract staff. Do not rely solely on appearances or verbal assurances. It is essential to thoroughly verify rental and employment histories by speaking directly to at least two previous references or home-owners.

Vehicle Security: The incident at Main Beach serves as a reminder to ensure no valuables are left visible inside parked vehicles, even when enjoying local coastal areas.

Digital Vigilance: With fraud and internet harassment continuing to pop up, please remain cautious when sharing personal information or conducting electronic transactions online.

Support Our Patrollers: Our dedicated volunteer patrollers are active day and night to keep Betty's Bay safe. Please acknowledge them with a wave or a thank you when you see them driving by in your area!

Stay safe, stay vigilant, and look out for your neighbours.

Wayne Jackson and the TEAM

In addition, Wayne provided the following:

FRAUD

Banking clients in South Africa are increasingly targeted by sophisticated scams, in which criminals no longer primarily attempt to hack banking systems but instead manipulate people into transferring their money themselves. With internet banking, instant payments, and the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI), this fraud is becoming increasingly difficult to detect.

South Africa is potentially a bigger target than many other countries because high unemployment, organised crime, vast inequality, and a rapidly growing digital banking system create a favourable environment for fraudsters. In addition, many people are not sufficiently aware of the latest online fraud methods, while criminals use modern technology to make calls, emails, and WhatsApp messages look increasingly credible.

Fraudsters often create a sense of panic or urgency and convince victims to approve payments themselves or disclose personal banking details. Because the transaction is authorised by the client, it is often more difficult to recover the funds.

The best protection remains vigilance. Do not act under pressure, always verify any request for money or banking details, and contact your bank directly if you have any doubts. In the fight against financial fraud, informed and cautious banking clients are the first and most important line of defence. Here is an extensive list of common fraud methods used by criminals in South Africa:

1. Phishing (email fraud): You receive an email that looks like it comes from your bank, SARS (South African Revenue Service), a courier company, or a well-known business. It asks you to click on a link and fill in your banking details or password.
2. Smishing (SMS fraud): An SMS claims there is a problem with your bank account or a package and asks you to click on a link.
3. Vishing (telephone fraud): Fraudsters call and pretend to be from your bank, SAPS (South African Police Service), or a government institution. They try to persuade you to give OTP codes, PINs, or passwords.
4. WhatsApp fraud: A message comes from someone pretending to be a family member, friend, or employer, urgently asking for money or personal information.
5. Bank app fraud: Victims are persuaded to download an application for "remote assistance." The fraudster takes control of the device and lets the victim approve transactions themselves.
6. SIM swap fraud: Criminals gain control of your cell phone number to receive OTPs and gain access to your bank account.
7. Card fraud: Your bank card is cloned, or the PIN is shoulder-surfed (watched) at an ATM or point of sale.
8. Fake investments: High returns are promised through "investments" in crypto, forex, or other schemes that ultimately turn out to be scams.
9. Romance fraud: A person builds a relationship online over months and later asks for money for an "emergency."
10. Online marketplace fraud: Sellers or buyers on platforms like Facebook Marketplace or other classified websites send fake proofs of payment or ask for upfront payments.
11. Email interception (Business Email Compromise – BEC): Criminals gain access to a business's email account, monitor communications, and wait for an invoice or payment. They then change the banking details on the invoice or send new banking details from the hijacked email address. The payment ends up in the fraudster's account.
12. Fake invoices: Even without accessing email, invoices are falsified with new banking details and sent to clients.
13. Executive manager fraud (CEO fraud): An employee receives an email that looks like it comes from the manager with an urgent instruction to transfer money.
14. QR code fraud: A fake QR code replaces the real one, so that payments go to the fraudster.
15. Fake courier or delivery notices: You receive a message that a package is waiting, but you must first pay a ...

Wayne Jackson

CONSERVATION, CARE & PROJECTS

Do you know your birdlife & waterways in Betty's Bay?

Waterway Spotlight

We are encouraging our local community to take the time out and share your story, photos and experience of one of our special Malkopsvlei/Bass Lake, Grootvlei or Rondevlei history and ALL bird & wildlife sightings.

Bird of the Month: JULY -

Please share your photo of a unique special local bird species with photographs, identification tips and interesting facts.

I am sure the children who are at home for the school holidays can assist:

Bird & wildlife checklists – What did you see recently?

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Waterways and Bird Hides of Kogelberg Nature Reserve: *Where Water and Wildlife Meet – Discovering the Living Heart of Kogelberg*

The waterways of the Kogelberg Nature Reserve form the lifeblood of one of South Africa's most biodiverse landscapes. Crystal-clear mountain streams, rivers, wetlands, estuaries and coastal lagoons support an extraordinary variety of plants and animals while supplying clean water to surrounding communities. These aquatic ecosystems are essential for maintaining the health of the Cape Floristic Region, a UNESCO-recognised biodiversity hotspot. Many of the rivers and wetlands within the Kogelberg Biosphere also contribute to important estuarine systems, including the internationally significant Bot River Estuary, a vital habitat for waterbirds and marine life.

Educational Value of the Waterways

The waterways provide an ideal outdoor classroom where visitors and local communities can learn about:

- Freshwater conservation and water security.
- Wetland ecosystems and their role in filtering water.
- Indigenous fynbos adapted to riverbanks and mountain catchments.
- The importance of healthy rivers for biodiversity.
- Climate resilience and responsible water management.

Interpretive walks can encourage visitors to observe river ecology, identify indigenous plants, and understand how invasive alien vegetation threatens water resources.

Bird Hides as Environmental Education Centres

One of the best birdwatching opportunities within the greater Kogelberg area is the **Rooisand Ramble Bird Hide**, located at Rooisand Nature Reserve near the Bot River Estuary. Accessible via a boardwalk, the hide overlooks wetlands that attract a remarkable diversity of resident and migratory birds, making it an excellent location for environmental education, photography and bird identification. CapeNature specifically highlights the Rooisand boardwalk and bird hide as a key birdwatching attraction.

Won't it be great if we can do something similar here on our own front stoep like Grootvlei, Rondevlei or even Malkopsvlei?

Educational activities at bird hides may include:

- Guided bird identification sessions.
- Citizen science bird counts.
- Photography workshops.
- School environmental education programmes.
- Wetland ecology demonstrations.
- Seasonal migration observations.

Bird species visitors may encounter

Depending on the season, visitors may observe:

African Fish Eagle
African Spoonbill
Greater Flamingo
Cape Teal
Malachite Kingfisher
Pied Kingfisher
African Darter
Grey Heron
Yellow-billed Duck
Cape Sugarbird (in surrounding fynbos)
Orange-breasted Sunbird
Victorin's Warbler along mountain streams and riparian vegetation.



Image of African Spoonbill: Free download from pixabay - Ed

Key Conservation Message

Healthy waterways create healthy ecosystems. By protecting rivers, wetlands and estuaries, we safeguard drinking water, preserve biodiversity and ensure future generations can continue enjoying the spectacular natural heritage of the Kogelberg. Bird hides serve not only as observation points but also as gateways to environmental awareness, inspiring visitors to appreciate and conserve this remarkable landscape.

Elsa Stofberg

Share your photographs and observation with Elsa via bettybayratepayers@gmail.com

BETTY'S BAY EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (BEST)

June 2026 was a quiet month with only two call outs. Both were medical cases which required hospitalisation. The patients were transported by Metro Ambulance and ER24 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 easily be found, particularly at night.

Any donation to BEST will be most welcome as we have ongoing expenses and need to replace some of our older items. The new medic flight suit has been received and is at the embroiderer for BEST branding. The Apollo jacket was received, branded and issued to Kiegan Bailey, our new member. 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

DRAMA AND THEATRE ARTS

As a strategic BBRA project, this portfolio is a heritage initiative to promote diverse community cultural offerings. We wish to establish a register of the cultural offerings currently available in Betty's Bay. Please contact me on email at bettysbayratepayers@gmail.com, or on my cell phone **083 427 3706** – by call, SMS, or WhatsApp – to inform me of any directly or indirectly drama or theatre related offerings. We wish to know about you in order to be of assistance to you and to our community.

Personally, I offer weekly *physical theatre* classes which are going from strength to strength. The classes are every Thursday from 15H00 -16H30 at Crassula Hall.

I offer Drama and improvisation classes the second Wednesday of every month at Crassula Hall. The next class will be on Wednesday, 12 August 2026 from 11H00-12H30. The following one will be on Wednesday, 9 September 2026. Working towards performances would be lovely, but mainly I wish to create a space for individuals to explore creative ways to use one's voice and body, and to express thoughts and ideas; and I plan to include enhancing skills in reading, storytelling (especially to children), and public speaking skills.

Ilona Frege

And now for news from other local organisations and 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 June our kitchen distributed 58 food parcels and prepared 590 scrumptious meals.

Our semiweekly pilates classes, weekly bridge afternoons and monthly friendship circle meetings continued during June 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 21 August and 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 748 on 4 July 2026

Twenty-eight volunteers met on a chilly morning at the parking area on the western side of Malkopvlei (Bass Lake) to clear the public open space bounded by Edward Avenue, Green, Bass and Anglers roads. The goal was to complete the removal of, primarily, rooikrans from this area following the excellent work done by the Hangklip Hardcore Hackers (HHH) on Wednesday, 10 June 2026. Of historical interest, in the late 1950's, this land was part of a nine-hole golf course surrounding Bass Lake. It was never completed and abandoned in 1960.

Two first time hackers, Vanessa Pitlo and Angus Mackintosh were welcomed. Daniela Pobuda from the HHH was welcomed to her first Betty's Bay hack and a very welcome was extended to returning seasoned hackers, Karin and Louw Toerien and Tim Attwell. Last but by no means least, from hacking royalty, Brian Silberbauer joined us, continuing the proud family tradition of hacking dating back to the 1960's.

The hackers dispersed to locate the remaining rooikrans trees. The hack involved chainsaw work, dragging the branches through the fynbos and stacking them neatly on the verge for easy removal by the municipality. OM arrived at the mid morning break to remove the heaped branches from the 10 June 2026 hack. The break was perfectly timed with the completion of the removal of the last rooikrans tree.



A big thank you to Dave Mourant for providing all that is needed for the monthly tea and coffee requirements and to Lee Boyd for making all the egg mayo and grated cheese and cucumber sarmies in Mary Whitelaw's absence.

After the break, the battle continued with cutting, dragging and stacking of the seemingly endless waterberry trees (waterbessies) growing in the northern wetland of Bass Lake in the vicinity of Mimetes Road. The hack came to a rather abrupt end a half hour early when angry bees started stinging hackers close to the road verge after the swarm had been disturbed. Ken Meiring came off worst with numerous stings to his head, back and arms. Fortunately, Dave Mourant was unscathed. Dave carries an epipen in his pocket following his bee attack at a HH Hack several years ago when he was stung four hundred times and was rescued by courageous hackers who were also severely stung. A huge thank you to Jonathan Beattie who provided antihistamine tablets to those who needed.



The early aftermath was enjoyed by all. Hackers were strongly encouraged to become members of the Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) for R200 per annum as it provides the funding for the hack and many other environmental activities in the Hangklip area.

Tim Attwell gave a thorough explanation for the branch name change and confirmed that it remains an external branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa.

Many thanks to our neighbours for their ongoing, invaluable support: Christine Coupar from Kleinmond who came despite planned protest action, Anne Woods, Daniela Pobuda, Karin & Louw Toerien, Ken Meiring and Chris Geldenhuys from Pringle Bay and Megs Tweedie from Rooiels.

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

Rob Boyd

Convener Betty's Bay Hack Group



BBC 4th SATURDAY: 27 JUNE

WINTER BIRDING: Presented by Keith Hamilton

Thanks to Keith Hamilton for his fascinating talk on winter birding, presented with his beautiful bird photographs. Contrary to what you may think, Keith pointed out that winter is a good time for birding as the fynbos is in flower and the proteas, ericas and aloes attract nectar and insect feeders, the weather can be better, there is good light for photography, you can sleep in and there are fewer snakes around.

He gave us a breakdown of the 'who is in town in winter' of the 287 bird species in the Kogelberg. The 'resident' birds top the chart at 167 of these 287 species, with Palearctic migrants, Intra-African migrants, vagrants (those who have 'lost their way' and don't usually come here), visitors and pelagic visitors making up the other species. Vagrants include birds such as the Grey Wagtail and the African Crake.

His stunning photographs featured owls, a variety of sunbirds, the rock thrush, coastal birds and many others.

BBC 4th Saturday

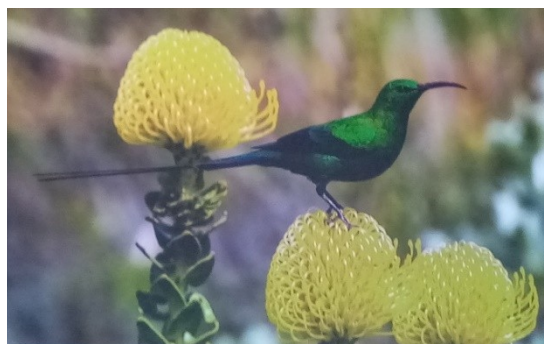
WINTER BIRDING IN BETTY'S BAY

What birds to look for, good birding sites to visit and pelagic birding from land.

Presenters: Keith Hamilton
Date: 27 June
Venue: Stony Point EcoVenue
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
All Welcome
Please RSVP to:-
bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com
or WhatsApp 079 7530166

No charge; donations to support the BBC are welcomed

BETTY'S BAY CONSERVANCY



Malachite Sunbird



Southern Double-collared Sunbird

He also showed us good places in Betty's Bay to view birds, and good spots to view some of the pelagic birds from land.

These photos of his slides obviously don't do justice to his pictures – so treat yourself to a copy of his book **'Birds of the Kogelberg'** which is available at the BotSoc bookshop in the Harold Porter Garden.

Carol Clark



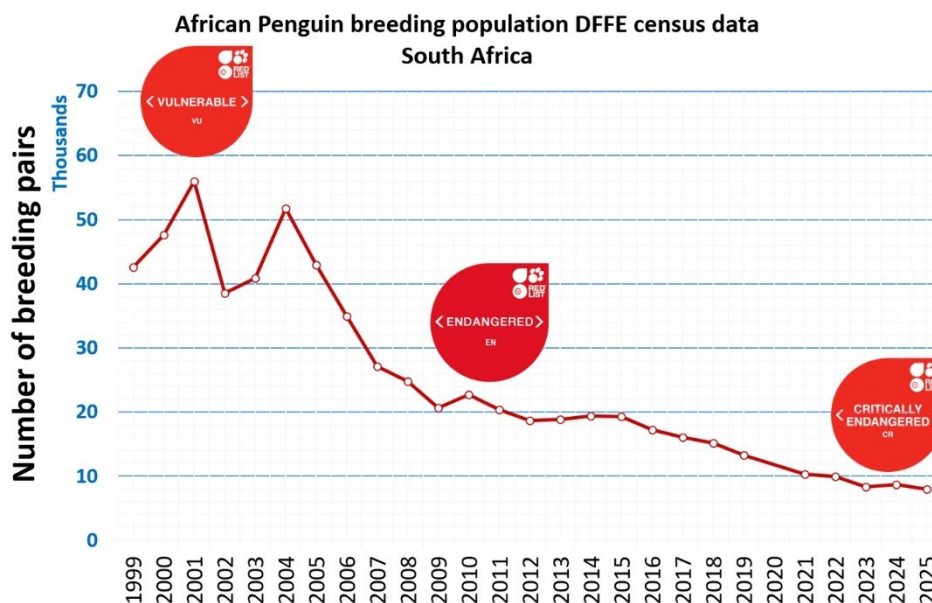
STONY POINT NATURE RESERVE

Caracal predation and the fence

I missed the 9 June Community Engagement due to illness, but on 9 July I heard a shortened form of the SANCCOB and CapeNature presentations at the Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC) for Stony Point Nature Reserve and MPA.

Here are some of the points and my thoughts:

- **The drastic decline in the number of breeding pairs of the African Penguin**



Lisa Nupen of SANCCOB presented this graph. It shows the steady decline in the number of breeding pairs since 1999, and the corresponding change in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>.

The African Penguin dropped to Vulnerable in 2002, Endangered in 2010 and to Critically Endangered in 2024. The next level of listing is Extinct in the Wild (EW) i.e. meaning it only lives in captivity, and then Extinct (EX) when there are no living individuals left.

- **The organisations working to protect the penguins**

SANCCOB, supported by organisations such as BirdLife South Africa, CapeNature and many dedicated volunteers, is working tirelessly to support the African Penguin. They incubate eggs that need to be rescued

from colonies, hand-rear chicks, rescue sick or injured juveniles and adults, give veterinary care and perform surgeries to save birds, and release penguins that are able to return to the wild. They also collect data, conduct research, prepare for disasters, support SANCCOB Sea Rangers at colonies, source funding, educate the public, train volunteers, network with other organisations, and more.

Alongside BirdLife SA, they fought for fishing closures around penguin colonies to improve food availability. They understand the specific marine and land threats to the African Penguin at the different colonies. Their Seabird Rangers, CapeNature staff and the SANCCOB centre see the grim consequences of all the injuries and predator kills. SANCCOB remains committed to securing a future for the African Penguin.

- **The stats for the land predation at Stony Point**

These show a marked increase in caracal predation in 2025 and 2026. In 2026, up to 8 July, caracals have killed about 60 adult penguins. A lot of this is surplus killing i.e. the caracal doesn't just kill what it wants to eat, it kills and leaves the carcasses.

- **For a critically endangered species, each bird is vital**

The death of one adult means the loss of a breeding pair and the loss of their current eggs or chicks for this breeding season, as a solo adult can't raise the eggs or chicks alone. Beyond that, it also means this 'pair' isn't able to breed in future years and, therefore, the loss of their potential eggs and chicks in all future seasons. It is also the loss of all their eggs and chicks as future breeding adults and all their potential offspring. Together, these are far-reaching consequences for a species with possible extinction in the wild, hanging over their heads in less than ten years.



Sixty dead adults in the last six months is a devastating loss for the Stony Point population. If this predation carries on, the population at Stony Point faces an even more serious crisis.

- **Land-based colonies like at Stony Point and Boulders face both marine and terrestrial threats**

Penguins used to live on islands and burrow in guano for their nests. They aren't adapted to land predators, and do not have much defence against them, so they are very vulnerable.

At sea, these predators include seals and sharks that prey on the penguins, fishing stress with low food availability, oil spills, increased marine traffic and noise pollution, and marine pollution.

On land, the threats include mongooses, caracals, kelp gulls, humans, dogs, cars, the loss of breeding habitat, climatic events and others.

- **Human stress**

People are a stressor for penguins, especially with the insatiable drive of those who want "close-up selfies" to post on their social media accounts to boost their egos with lots of "likes"! The "cute" birds may not look stressed, but their internal stress responses rise. Remember, they used to live on islands without daily invasions of curious human visitors.

- **Access times and entrance fees**

Many people seem to view Stony Point as a freebie place to come and go as they like. People enter at all times in the mornings and evenings, due to faulty gates, when the reserve should be closed to visitors. Tour companies include Stony Point in the cost of their packages, but their clients can visit the reserve without paying entrance fees if they don't go on the boardwalk. The same goes for 'kombi tours' and private individuals.

SANParks and other CapeNature Reserves charge entrance fees. This is one way of raising revenue to cover conservation and other reserve costs. Because of the faulty gates and the current pay-point, Stony Point has lost revenue that would normally contribute to CapeNature's management of its reserves.

The plan is to fix the gates at Stony Point. These will close when the reserve closes at 4:30 p.m. in winter and a later time in summer. Most 'day' reserves are closed 'after hours' when the staff leave. The penguins should have time out from human interference by visitors.

- **Should there be a social venue open at night in the midst of a conservation area for a critically endangered species?**

I will leave that for you to consider.

- **Proposed change in visitor flow and a new pay-point**

The pay-point will be moved from its current site on the boardwalk. Its new site will be to the right of the restaurant – near the ramp from the small car park near the CapeNature office. Visitors will be directed via railings.

Visitors won't pay to visit the restaurant. They will only pay to go into the penguin area – on the left of the coastal area, or right, onto the boardwalk.

- **Wild Card**

Visitors and residents can use a Wild Card at the pay-point.



Wild Card Clusters	Cost of Categories		
	Individual	Couple	Family Any 2 adults and up to 5 kids under 18
24 CapeNature reserves in Western Cape.	R805	R1 315	R 1 575
If you visit Stony Point daily with this Wild Card, this equates to an equivalent daily charge of only:	R2,21	R3,60	R4,32

- **The Fence**

The growing use of fencing in the village is fragmenting what were once open corridors for wildlife. In recent years, so many new homeowners have fenced their properties, dividing the village's natural spaces into 'blocks' that inhibit wildlife movement. However, many homeowners have dogs and these pets need to be 'fenced in.'

Most reserves are fenced.

The installation of a predator-deterrent fence has been motivated by the increased and devastating caracal predation over the past 18 months. The fence is a black, 2.1 m Clearview structure with a 50 cm overhang at 45 degrees, and with a cement base dug underground to prevent predators from digging under the fence.

- **There are many concerns and questions:**

1. **Why has caracal predation increased?** What factors have changed? Are there more caracals in the area? How many caracals are doing the killing? Is there time to wait and do research to find this out – while losing so many breeding adults to predation?
2. **What is currently being done to stop the predation?** There are camera traps to monitor the caracal activity, baited traps to try to catch and then relocate the caracals and staff presence at night. Penguin-Pals patrols will also be implemented.
3. **What will happen to the penguins who are currently breeding outside the designated colony area when the fence is installed?**

The intention is to bring these birds back into the colony before it is fenced. Being 'naïve' about land predators, humans and cars, the penguins are at risk outside the colony area.

4. If they chose to nest outside the colony for a reason, will they try to go back to those sites?

This is a big concern of many residents. The fence does not have 'penguin gaps' for any penguin outside to get back into the colony (should they have made it out) before the gates open in the morning. Gaps like this would be an open invitation for caracals to get through.

5. Will this cause increased stress for penguins who may try to go back to 'their spot' outside?

There is currently no clear answer to this, and it will need to be monitored and responded to with adaptive management.

6. Will the construction disturb and stress the penguins?

To mitigate this, the initial phase has been planned for October - December at a time when the penguins' movement is less, as they are moulting. Construction workers will be educated and working hours per day will be limited to times when the penguins are less active on land.

I understand that the organisations are desperately working to protect the African Penguin at Stony Point - to try to give them a chance to recover their breeding success and save the population. Each colony has a slightly different group of factors that threaten the penguins. At Stony Point in the past 18 months, caracal predation has increased and become a major factor threatening the survival of the colony. The predator-deterrent fence is seen as a means of mitigating the predation of a critically endangered species in crisis.

If nothing is done – what will happen at Stony Point if predation of this number of adult penguins continues or increases during the next crucial nine years as the clock ticks towards their potential predicted extinction in the wild in 2035?

Positive observations since the fishing closures are that the penguins are in better physical condition – but the sad situation is the caracals are now killing “better-fed” penguins. Having won one battle, there is now another to fight in the survival of this crucial species.

- **How does this affect us as Betty's Bay residents in 2026?**

- ❖ Stony Point is a conservation area for a now critically endangered species.
- ❖ I think it's time to change our thinking and behaviour to match their crisis state. We need to help to support this colony and the organisations that manage and support it. That's an aim of the BBC Penguin-Pals, initiated in 2024.
- ❖ We need to embrace a role as custodians of our neighbours in crisis.

- **The vision of a Betty's Bay community project**

Supporting the organisation and the Stony Point colony could be a significant Betty's Bay community project. The village is full of people with an amazing variety of skills, as well as time availability.

If you would like to be involved in the BBC Penguin-Pals in some way, please email

bettybayconservancy@gmail.com or WhatsApp 079 753 0166.

The last Penguin: Credit to The Current Times and Jan Schaafsma

You might have read this on page nine of 'The Current Times' as a runner-up to their Long Short Story Competition.

RUNNER-UP

The Last Penguin by Jan Schaafsma

Frantically flying underwater, the penguin's twisting and turning flight path brought him no closer to his sardine quarry. Impeded by oily feathers and a foot tangled in fishing line, he could only watch his food's silvery flash receding fast.

Having made his way to shore, the starving bird wearily waddled to his nest. He nudged the two chicks there, but they neither moved nor chirped. All around him, silence reigned.

Resigned, the last penguin closed his eyes and nodded off into eternal sleep.

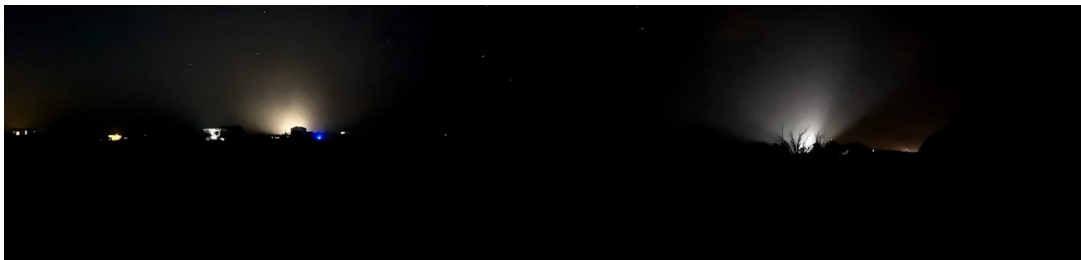
May it never come to this at Stony Point!

As a village, let us join our good attitudes, willing hands, skills and time to support our neighbours in crises.

Carol Clark

PERSPECTIVES ON BIOSPHERE LIVING

Lights at Night



Ode to the Starry-Night My Neighbour's ☹️☹️⚠️!! Light

Starry, starry wonderful starry night
Oh how beautiful, how bright
Wait, oh wait, oh dear wait
It's my neighbour's ☹️☹️⚠️!! light

That has blinded my night sight
How I wish upon star
That I could see so far
To see the night light shine
Instead, I have to whine:
It's my neighbour's ☹️☹️⚠️!! light
That makes the dark night white

Is that light a star from afar?
Is it a meteorite?
No, not even a car
It's my neighbour's ☹️☹️⚠️!! light

Blinding me in the night.

Lying on my bed dreaming of the moon
I can see the man! I can see the cow jump!
Alas, instead,
It's my neighbour's 🚧🚧🚧!! light
Protecting his shed from an imaginary goon

Awake, awake, Great Grandma yells
Frantically ringing on her bedside bells!
Danger is near! The bombers are here!
Fear not Gran!
It's my neighbour's 🚧🚧🚧!! light
Pretending to be a roving searchlight!

The ode is written in jest, but for many people, the “It's my neighbour's 🚧🚧🚧!! light” is real and very intrusive and inconsiderate.

Most houses with intrusive outside lights on the outside, have their lights shining directly onto other houses, into their windows, and into the roads. They are not directed lights that point down onto their own properties, but rather flat bulkhead lights that blast out light in every direction.

Some houses have lights so bright that they light up the walls of neighbours' houses 200m away. And destroy the enjoyment of the dark skies for neighbours.

Most of these bright-light users claim it is for security. This is pseudo security. These lights, and internal lights left on, are a magnet for the few thieves around. The lights show them that no one is home and create shadows for them to hide in. They also blind people if they look out of their windows.



If you have external lights, I invite you to go out at night or in the early morning. Have a look at the effect your lights have on your neighbours and drivers on the roads. Invite your neighbour to test your security - ask them to sneak up to your house and leave a post-it sticker on a window, door, anywhere, and see if you spot them!



If security is really a concern, then look into proper security for the area e.g. beams, security company response, 24-hour monitored cameras or even a guard standing outside.

Besides the inconsiderate effects on your neighbours, there are also environmental effects. Creatures of the night have eyes designed to function in the dark. To understand what you are doing to them, invite your neighbour over in the evening and while outside, get them to shine their bright LED light in your eyes the whole time.

Please check the light pollution that your home creates. Be considerate to neighbours and kind to the wildlife; turn those 🚫🌌💡 lights off that disturb them. Replace them with shielded lights, down lights, motion sensors. Look after your neighbour and they will look after you!
For more information about suitable lights, read the BBC light pollution leaflet: <https://bettysbayconservancy.co.za/biosphere-living-lighting/>

William Davids

Honouring the Biosphere: A Call for Responsible Baboon Management

In an article published in the *Argus* on 10 July, titled *Don't Fall for the Big 'Us-and-Them'*, Rudi Buys explores how polarising narratives are used to divide communities, particularly in political contexts. He warns of the destructive consequences when groups are encouraged to see one another as adversaries, often leading to hostility, fear, and even violence.

This pattern is sadly visible in Betty's Bay, where discussions around baboon management have become increasingly fraught. A small but vocal group has adopted an 'Us-and-Them' stance that frames the baboons — and those advocating for their protection — as obstacles rather than part of the natural heritage of this biosphere. The result is a climate of tension in which misinformation, personal attacks, and calls for harmful action against these animals have begun to overshadow constructive, evidence-based management.

The EMS Foundation has recently initiated High Court proceedings against both CapeNature and the Overstrand Municipality after efforts to resolve concerns about weapon-based baboon management through formal correspondence did not yield the assurances sought. In its letter of demand, the Foundation requested that no weapons be used in managing the Betty's Bay troop, emphasising that these animals form an important part of the Kogelberg Biosphere and should be protected in accordance with South Africa's constitutional values, environmental legislation and humane conservation principles.

On 9 June, the Overstrand Municipality confirmed that it was reviewing aspects of the current management approach — a step welcomed by the EMS Foundation. However, the suspension of weapon-based interventions has not yet been implemented during this review period.

According to senior researcher Megan Carr, this left the Foundation with no option but to seek relief through the courts. Importantly, Dr Dean O'Neill, the Overstrand Municipal Manager, has called for a comprehensive review, grounded in



biodiversity considerations, conservation science, public safety and animal welfare. The revised draft of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan (SBMP) is expected to be submitted to an independent panel of wildlife and conservation experts for specialist assessment by August.

Against this backdrop, the question that now faces Betty's Bay is not simply how baboons should be managed, but how we understand our role within a protected biosphere. The current debate has revealed a deeper tension between development pressures and the responsibility that comes with living in an ecologically sensitive area. For some, the presence of baboons is seen as an inconvenience; for others, it is a reminder of the natural heritage that defines this place. The challenge before us is to move beyond entrenched positions and consider what it truly means to share a landscape with wildlife that has inhabited it for generations.

The recent kind of rhetoric witnessed has no place in a community situated within a protected biosphere. Living in Betty's Bay is a privilege, and with that comes a responsibility to conserve and preserve the natural environment of which we are part. It is difficult to reconcile the idea of living in a biosphere with calls for the eradication of the very wildlife that defines it. Recently, a few members of our community used highly inflammatory language on social media, calling for harm to the local baboon troop. Such statements highlight how far the conversation



has drifted from evidence-based management and respectful coexistence, and how urgently we need to return to principles of stewardship and shared responsibility.

Living in a biosphere carries obligations that cannot be set aside when they become inconvenient. The baboons are not intruders; they are part of the ecology of this region, forming an integral part of its history long before any of us arrived. As the review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan proceeds, we have an opportunity to reset the conversation — to move away from polarisation and towards science, ethics and long-term conservation. The question before us is simple: do we honour the principles of the biosphere, or do we abandon them? Our answer will define the legacy we leave in Betty's Bay, for both the community and the wildlife that shares this landscape.

Patrick Boltler

Photos: Pete Oxford

We know how to mourn other humans – but what about ecological grief?

Megan Mayhew Bergman Fri 10 Jul 2026 12.00 BST

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jul/10/ecological-grief?CMP>

As so much of the world is changing and habitat, ecosystems, areas as we knew and loved, and species are transformed and lost – we may not know how to express and deal with the feeling we experience. It's like a grief that we keep silent.

Though this article is set in America, we know too well the local destruction of habitat and ecosystems in our area and in the Biosphere. Development destroys wetland habitat, indigenous vegetation, wildlife corridors, safe spaces and food sources. Fireflies and other wildlife are lost due to bright outdoor lights, wildlife is hit on our roads, poisons kill vegetation and creatures small and large. Our neighbours, the African Penguin, face potential extinction in less than ten years' time.

Here are a few quotes from Megan's article:

"Scientists who spend years studying endangered species inevitably form attachments to them. So do many of us, whether to an endangered tree, a stretch of crumbling coastline, or summer nights once filled with fireflies."

Yet our culture has almost no language or rituals for this kind of grief.

Just outside Manchester, Vermont, there's a heron rookery I've driven past for nearly two decades. Each year, the elegant great blue herons and their nests dotted the skeletal marsh trees. The birds stood guard over their young through sleet and torrential rain, their stoic devotion a marker of Vermont's tenuous spring.

Then, gradually, there were fewer herons. This spring, there was only one. I passed her on my way to dentist appointments and while driving my children to soccer games. The trees and marsh remain. But the once-visible community of herons does not.



This heron raises her young alone.

No one held a memorial service. There was no public acknowledgement that something beloved or integral to the landscape had diminished. Yet each time I pass the rookery, I feel an ache that does not seem entirely polite to share. It feels like a contradiction at the centre of modern life: we experience profound environmental loss and largely pretend nothing is happening.”

“As a culture, we know what to do when a person dies. We gather, tell stories and hold sacred space. We make room for sadness. But what do we do when a species disappears from a landscape? What do we do when a coastline changes beyond recognition, when a forest is felled for wood pellets and lumber, or when a rookery we love becomes an empty, ghostly landscape of broken trees and still water, with nothing but the sound of the highway to drown out the chorus of the frogs?”

“The word “grief” can feel excessive. Yet what else should we call the feeling that arises when a beloved place, species or ecosystem is altered before our eyes?”

“We know how to mourn grandparents, spouses, friends, and neighbours, but we do not know how to mourn disappearing species, damaged rivers, altered coastlines, democratic institutions, or the healthy futures we expected to inherit.”

“People do not simply need scientific information in an era of such rapid environmental degradation. They also need more formal places to share their feelings: monuments, ceremonies, obituaries, even legislation. Our current practices do not match the magnitude of our losses, and I believe we’ve underestimated how much environmental degradation will continue to affect us emotionally, physically and spiritually.”

In Betty’s Bay and the Biosphere, do we want to sit back and lose the ...

- wetlands to infill by tons of builders’ rubble when appropriate building methods avoid this,
- areas drained by pipes as the water is ‘inconvenient’ on erfs,
- biodiversity and habitat to bulldozed erfs,
- porous surfaces to concrete driveways and gardens,
- indigenous vegetation to grassed erfs (green deserts),
- dark skies to light pollution from houses,
- wildlife to roadkill, poisons, dogs and cats,
- wildlife corridors and movements to solid walls and fences all around erfs,
- African Penguins to threats such as predation, loss of their food sources, stress from uninformed visitors.



In 2026, this number has decreased more.

Carol Clark

WILDLIFE

In Honour of Our Bokkie: A Reminder for Responsible Dog Ownership in Betty's Bay

Living in Betty's Bay, one is blessed each day with wonderful sightings of our resident wildlife and birds, surrounded by gorgeous seascapes and mountains. On a morning walk through the Harold Porter Botanical Garden, you may come across our 23-strong baboon troop going about their business, youngsters chattering and clambering in the leafy trees, elders keeping watch. Their interactions are cuteness personified.

On walks, jogs, and bicycle rides, you are surely captivated by the sight of sunbirds in every colour of the rainbow, Cape sugarbirds, chats, turtle doves, prinias, spurfowl, guineafowl, oystercatchers and penguins — just a few of the birds that call this place home. Mongooses streak across the road, while tortoises and chameleons move at a slower pace. The chorus of frogs rises from every corner of Betty's Bay, accompanied by the melodious calls of more than 240 different bird species.

And then there are our resident grysbokkies — those graceful, shy antelope who often stand their ground just long enough for you to take in their beauty before they move delicately into the fynbos. It is impossible not to feel a sense of tenderness toward these gentle creatures.



Photos: Graeme McGregor



Wayne Jackson



That is why the news on 27 June struck so heartbreakingly. Wayne Jackson reported that a bokkie had been killed by dogs. The little antelope was found on the property next to Crassula Hall. Wayne made it clear that he was not taking the incident lightly, and we are grateful to him for sounding the alarm: dogs must be kept inside their owners' properties and must not roam off-leash at night.

In the days that followed, several videos surfaced showing dogs being walked off-leash. This prompted renewed awareness of the bylaw, which clearly states that dogs must be on a leash when being

walked. The bylaws were shared across WhatsApp groups, accompanied by appeals for residents to be part of the solution - to help build a considerate, wildlife-respecting community.

Since the incident, many residents have noticed a marked improvement: more dogs are being walked on-leash, and fewer are seen roaming freely. In this sense, our bokkie's death was not in vain. It has brought about greater awareness, greater responsibility, and a renewed commitment to protecting the wildlife that makes Betty's Bay the amazing place it is.

Patrick Boltler

SPEEDING ON THE R44

🚗 Twenty-five wild animals killed on the road in first five months in 2026. 🚗

Since the start of 2026, the Kogelberg Biosphere Wildlife Rescue and Training Centre has recorded 25 roadkill incidents in the Kogelberg Biosphere on roads including the R44 and R43.

These incidents include:

- 🦔 4 porcupines
- 🦊 3 grysboks
- 🦉 3 spotted eagle owls
- 🐾 3 caracals
- 🐢 2 tortoises

And several other species that call the biosphere home.

Since 2023, the number stands at 58 deaths, but this is not the full picture. These are only the stats collected by the Rescue Centre - many incidents are never reported, and some injured wildlife are never found.

As development, tourism and traffic increase across the biosphere, so does the risk to the wildlife.

Wildlife death on the roads is one of the less visible conservation challenges facing our biosphere – but one where every driver can help to make a difference to reduce these tragic deaths.



Rocketing roadkill records

We continue to record roadkill incidents on our biosphere roads. And the stats since the start of the year are very concerning: 25 animals killed between January and May. These are just the incidents we know about. It includes four porcupine, three grysbok, three caracal and three spotted eagle owls.

We continue to encourage drivers to slow down and take extra care, especially when driving at night.

Slow down, keep alert, and take extra care when driving at dawn and dusk.

Kogelberg Biosphere Wildlife Rescue and Training Centre

And more - another heartbreaking incident on 7 July

Yet another grysbokkie was knocked down and killed on Clarence Drive within the 100 km zone, just before the Disa Circle turnoff. The adult male bokkie had sustained a broken leg. Hopefully, he died on impact and was not injured and just left to suffer.

This is particularly sad as only a few days ago Wayne Jackson posted a beautiful picture of a bokkie, pleading to the public to drive carefully and to watch out for our wildlife.

According to Michele Watson from the Kogelberg Wildlife Rescue Centre, three bokkies have succumbed on the R44 and R43 within the last four weeks. These are only the deaths we know about!



This section of the road from Pringle Bay to Betty's Bay central shops is treacherous. There is an urgent need for speed reduction and signage to create awareness that traffic needs to "slow down" as there is "wildlife crossing." I am aware of the public outcry, which led to the Speed Reduction Petition initiated by the Steering Committee. This is currently following the legal process, but this process really needs to move faster.

We are constantly reminded that Clarence Drive is a provincial road. We expect the Overstrand Municipality to be more proactive and supportive of our endeavour to reduce the speed and to increase traffic calming through Betty's Bay. We live in a UNESCO-recognised biosphere area with unique flora and fauna. Surely, this must account for our conservation status, which needs better protection.

Lenore Watermeyer

AFTER THE OVERSTRAND ECO-INDABA ...

The inaugural meeting of the Overstrand Environmental Alliance: 27 June 2026

Ten of the 23 organisations that attended the Eco Indaba in March 2026 were represented at the inaugural meeting. Various reasons were given why more didn't attend, such as 'not enough time before the invite was sent out' and possible public march disruption on the day.

Six organisations present became full members of the Alliance, namely Coastal Rewilding, Betty's Bay Conservancy (BBC), Kogelberg Villages Environmental Trust (KVET), Rooiels Conservancy, Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group (BBBAG), and the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa.

Each of these will have representation on the *first council*, with two additional members and a coordinator elected at their first meeting. Their main work is to *organise the AGM in early September*.





Photo: Bernadette Crewe-Brown

The rest of the 23 organisations need to be contacted and invited to become members. The council members need to be *represented from across the region*, in order to fairly include the important concerns that might not affect e.g. the Kogelberg groups directly yet be of importance to everyone.

I liked the fact that the Alliance intends to be inclusive, and with a council of eight, plus a coordinator. The council will respect all concerns presented by the member organisations and by individuals, across the greater Overstrand region.

I enjoyed the vigorous discussion over the constitution contents, going over each clause, which was in language that was easy to understand.

Only '*suggestions of concerns*' were made, and it was emphasised that each concern raised would be thoroughly discussed and assessed by the full council. Rules as to whether a concern is strategically carried out depends on a 75% threshold on members. Some suggestions were poaching of resources, plastic pollution, baboon and penguin management, and nuclear issues.

How members conduct themselves to the public and authorities is important in order to present the correct facts and have an approach that is appealing rather than abrasive.

Overall, the knowledge base of people in that meeting was impressive with a multitude of skills present and insights into a host of wide topics that can meaningfully contribute to the betterment of the natural environment in the greater Overstrand region.

I wish the Alliance well in their interactions with each other and any government authority as well.

Barbara Jenman

Compiled by Carol Clark and proofread by Patrick Boltler



And that brings us to the end of this month's newsletter. Should you have any articles of interest to our community that you would like to share in our next newsletter, please send them on to me: vivvdh@gmail.com. And if your organisation/community group is not represented in our newsletters, please get in touch with me.

Warm regards

Vivienne von der Heyden

Editor