



Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA)

Newsletter June 2026



NOTE FROM CHAIR (17/06/2026)

1. MAJOR STORM HITS BETTY'S BAY (AGAIN)

As everybody is aware, the storm on 12 May 2026 created huge havoc. Then Sunny Seas got "hit again" Thursday (11 June 2026) resulting in another power outage for an extended period, with the public holiday on 16 June 2026 not helping matters at all.

One thing that I have (again) to say is that I am amazed by the residents in Betty's Bay, and in this case Sunny Seas in particular. Yes, a lot of valid complaints, but the humour that came to the fore exceeds this by far. I must say that any Alcoholics Anonymous Institution will worry about us as a group! 😊 And again, the manner in which we help neighbours in need is amazing: "I have a hot shower waiting for you", "I will bring you some hot food", "Come and charge your phone at my house", etc. etc. etc. This makes living in Betty's Bay worthwhile.

Once again, a BIG thanks to our Councillor Theresa Els who reported issues frequently, put pressure on the service providers regularly and gave feedback on the status quo frequently. You remain a STAR!

Also, a BIG thanks to ESKOM for attending to the electricity issue under difficult circumstances.

2. BBRA MEMBERSHIP:

The number of residents joining the BBRA as members still grows. This is good news.

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), 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) et al;
- 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 MEETING: JUNE 2026

Our monthly BBRA meeting took place on 10 June. Apart from the normal agenda points, the following exciting news emerged:

- 3.1 We now have a dedicated member in the Committee who will investigate the Light and Noise Bylaws of the Overstrand Municipality. You will be kept posted as this progresses. This issue will be driven by Marelize Smith.
- 3.2 We are investigating the possibility of erecting a Wall of Remembrance at Crassula Hall. The possibility will be discussed with the Directorate: Property Management of the Overstrand Municipality, as Crassula Hall is municipal property. This issue will be driven by Wayne Jackson.
- 3.3 The proposed development of Erf 4030 Betty's Bay as "Crassula Lifestyle Gardens and Botanical Walk", adjacent to Crassula Hall, is progressing well. Discussions with the Directorate: Property Management of the Overstrand Municipality, to ensure that the proposed development is in line with the Lease Agreement, will now follow.

4. 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 bettybayratepayers@gmail.com .

Amund Beneke
Chairman

INPUT: TOWN PLANNING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

21 MAY 2026

Spatial Development Framework for Overstrand Local Municipality (OLM):

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

Roads:

- Brenton and his team are busy fixing the potholes that they are aware of in Betty's Bay.
- The gravel and tar are almost depleted. The new financial year will commence on 1 July 2026. New orders will then be placed.
- The Grader is in for repairs. It should be available by the end of June/beginning of July 2026.
- Potholes: please remember that the Municipality must be made aware of potholes via the Collab App. They will be addressed within the capacity of the Municipality / given working conditions (weather).

Storm Water:

- The Digger is currently used to clean the storm water drainage system.
- The Excavator is in for repairs. It should be available by the end of June/beginning of July 2026, whereafter it will be used to clean the storm water drainage system.
- The Municipality must 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 EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (BEST)

In May nine call-outs were received: one fall injury and eight medical cases. All required hospitalisation. Six were transported by ER24, two by Metro ambulance and one by a family member.

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

Any donation to BEST will be most welcome as we have ongoing expenses and need to replace some of our older items, including providing a new medic flight suit and jacket to Kiegan Bailey, our new member: 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

PORTFOLIO FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

May 26

1. Burglaries & Housebreakings

Residential security remains under pressure, with forced entries heavily concentrated in Stony Point and Silversands. Notably, removing the window continues to be the primary method used by perpetrators to gain access.

02 May (14:15): Housebreaking (Broke in) – Dina's Corner, Mooiuitsig

14 May (15:24): Burglary (Broke window) – Diastella Road, Stony Point

18 May (17:27): Burglary (Removed window) – Disa Road, Stony Point

19 May (14:30): Burglary (Removed window) – Goucom Road, Silversands

20 May (20:10): Housebreaking (Removed window) – Diastella Road, Stony Point

28 May (21:00): Burglary (Removed window) – Aulax Road, Stony Point

29 May (00:30): Burglary (Removed window) – Senecio Road, Silversands

2. Malicious Damage to Property & Assault

07 May (10:00): Assault GBH (Strike/hit/beat with wooden pole) – Lipkin Street, Jock's Bay

07 May (12:36): Malicious Damage to Property (Damages) – Lakeside Drive, Rondevlei

08 May (07:10): Malicious Damage to Property (Cut with panga) – Clarence Drive, Sunny Seas

20 May (15:15): Malicious Damage to Property (Stone/brick) – Clarence Drive, Sunny Seas

3. Vehicle Crime & General Theft

07 May (11:45): Theft out of Motor Vehicle (Open vehicle by force) – Wallers Way, Stony Point

11 May (10:00): General Theft (Take with hands) – Heath Road, Rondevlei

22 May (21:00): Theft of a Motor Vehicle (Take) – Agapanthus Road, Stony Point

4. Public Nuisance

01 May (02:30): Drunk and Disorderly – Dina's Corner, Mooiuitsig

Important Community Security Notice: Tenant Vetting

We urge all property owners, particularly those managing long-term or short-term rentals, to exercise heightened vigilance when considering new tenants. Do not rely solely on appearances or verbal assurances. It is essential to actively protect your property and our broader community by thoroughly verifying rental histories. Always speak directly with at least two previous home-owners they have rented from before finalising any agreements. Proper vetting is our best defence against opportunistic crime syndicates operating within residential properties.

Watch Security Recommendations

Secure Windows: Given the high frequency of "removed windows" this month, please inspect your burglar bars and window fixtures. Ensure older wooden or aluminium frames cannot be easily unclipped or pried open from the outside.

Lock Vehicles: Do not leave valuables inside vehicles, even when parked in your driveway or at popular local spots like Stony Point.

Report Suspicious Activity: If you notice any individuals scouting properties or loitering near vacant homes, please alert the BBNW and local security structures immediately.

Stay safe, stay vigilant.

Wayne Jackson and the Team

PORTFOLIO: YOUNG PARENTS AND CHILDREN'S RECREATIONAL SPACE

Making Space for the Youngest Members of Our Community

In recent months there has been discussion in Betty's Bay about whether a modest children's play area with simple climbing structures is necessary. Some residents have expressed concerns that children make up only a small portion of the local population, while others have questioned environmental impact and whether play areas are even needed or appropriate in a quiet coastal town.

These concerns are understandable. Conversations about shared public space are often passionate because people care deeply about the character of their community.

Children in Betty's Bay

According to the 2011 Census, Betty's Bay has approximately 1,380 permanent residents, including about 147 children under the age of 15 - roughly 10 -11% of the population. While this percentage is lower than the national average, it still represents a meaningful number of young residents and dozens of families raising children here. These figures are now more than a decade old. Given Betty's Bay's continued growth alongside the Overstrand Municipality (which expanded from around 80,000 residents in 2011 to 132,495 in 2022), the number of local children under 15 is likely now closer to 180 – 220.

Importantly, these numbers reflect permanent residents only. They do not account for the many visiting grandchildren and holiday families who spend time in the village throughout the year, particularly during school holidays.

A modest play area featuring jungle gyms, obstacle elements and outdoor gym-like structures - designed for children and pre-teens up to age 14, not just toddlers - could therefore be used regularly by an estimated 100 or more young people from the local community and visiting families alike.

As communities grow and change, the infrastructure that supports them often needs to evolve as well.

Why Climbing and Movement Matter

Playgrounds are not simply recreational amenities. This is not about boredom or keeping busy - our beaches and greenbelts offer wonderful opportunities for exploration and play. Just as adults in Betty's Bay enjoy a variety of activities to choose from, including walking trails, community classes at Crassula Hall, pickleball, jukskei and quiet reflection by the sea, a playground offers another type of stimulation: structured yet free climbing and movement that develops specific physical and mental skills in ways that natural landscapes alone may not always provide.

Research increasingly recognises opportunities for adventurous or "risky" play as an important part of childhood development. Climbing structures such as jungle gyms, balance beams and climbing frames help develop motor strength and coordination, balance and spatial awareness, confidence and resilience, and risk-assessment skills. Even simple elements such as swings stimulate the vestibular system, supporting balance, coordination and concentration.

More Than a Playground

Beyond the benefits to children themselves, playgrounds often serve an important social role as part of a town's social infrastructure. A small playground can become a natural meeting point. Parents talk while children play. Grandparents bring visiting grandchildren. Residents pause on a bench and greet neighbours passing by - simple interactions that strengthen social connection between different age groups.

Addressing Concerns

Concerns about noise, visual impact and environmental sensitivity deserve thoughtful consideration. Fortunately, playground design has evolved significantly. Low-impact, environmentally sensitive, nature-based play spaces that use timber, rope and natural elements rather than large commercial structures blend into their surroundings and minimise visual intrusion. With thoughtful design and placement, such spaces can complement the natural environment rather than compete with it. Concerns about funding and upkeep that have been raised in recent discussions are also being addressed directly: this will be a fully community-driven initiative, funded through local donations and fund-raising efforts, with ongoing maintenance and upkeep relying on volunteers from the Betty's Bay community.

A Place for Every Generation

One concern raised in recent discussions is that children represent a minority of the population. Yet communities have never designed public space solely according to the largest demographic group. Walking paths, sports facilities and community halls all serve different residents in different ways. Providing a small play space for children simply reflects the same principle of inclusion.

Children may not be in the majority in Betty's Bay, but they remain an important part of the community. They are local residents, visiting grandchildren, and members of families who spend time in the village throughout the year. Like other groups within the community, they benefit from public spaces designed with their needs in mind.

A modest and environmentally sensitive play area would not fundamentally change the character of Betty's Bay. Rather, it would provide one additional community amenity, alongside the many facilities and natural spaces already enjoyed by residents and visitors.

The question for the community is not simply whether there are enough children to justify a playground, but whether there is value in ensuring that Betty's Bay includes places where residents and visitors of all generations feel welcome.

Mea Viljoen

CONSERVATION, CARE & PROJECTS

ERF 4030: Crassula Lifestyle Gardens & Botanical Walk

Current discussions with the directorate: Property Management of the Overstrand Municipality is progressing well, ensuring that we stay in line with the Lease agreement to achieve the proposed plan for development.

Botanical Gardens, Walkways, and Natural Play Spaces: Short Overview

Botanical gardens are curated landscapes dedicated to the collection, conservation, study, and display of plants. They support environmental education, scientific research, biodiversity conservation, recreation, and tourism. Botanical

gardens often feature native and exotic plant collections, themed gardens, greenhouses, and educational exhibits that encourage visitors to connect with nature.

Walkways are an essential component of botanical gardens, providing safe and accessible routes through diverse landscapes and plant collections. These paths may include paved trails, gravel routes, boardwalks, elevated canopy walks, or accessible pathways suitable for wheelchairs and strollers. Well-designed walkways enhance the visitor experience by providing safe access, scenic viewpoints, educational signage, and opportunities for relaxation and observation while protecting sensitive habitats.

A natural play space for children and toddlers can further enrich the garden experience by creating an environment where young visitors engage directly with nature through play. Unlike conventional playgrounds, natural play areas incorporate elements such as logs, boulders, sand, water features, grassy mounds, sensory planting, and nature trails. These spaces encourage physical activity, creativity, social interaction, and environmental awareness while providing a safe and stimulating setting for children of different ages.

Together, botanical gardens, walkways, and natural play spaces create inclusive destinations that promote learning, recreation, wellness, and a deeper appreciation of the natural environment for visitors of all ages.

Elsa Stofberg

CRASSULA COMMUNITY HALL

Something for everyone! Book your spot today.

Our community is buzzing with activity and we'd love you to join us. Whether you're looking to improve your wellbeing, meet new friends, learn a new skill or simply have some fun, we have a wonderful range of activities on offer:

Tai Chi, Pilates, Chair Pilates, Line Dancing, Friday Dance Socials, Physical Theatre, Drama classes, First Aid Course for Dogs, monthly Community Markets...

Spaces are limited for some classes so we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment.

Feel free to contact Claudele on 082 5625 825 for more information to reserve your place.

Claudele Jackson

BIOSPHERE STEWARDSHIP

On behalf of the Ratepayers Association my job is to assist our members in all queries and concerns related to respecting and preserving our biosphere way of life.

Our request for reducing the speed to 60km/h on the 10.4 kilometres of Clarence Drive through our village was submitted to the Western Cape Government on 27 March 2026. We have received a reference number and our request has been escalated and pushed forward.

A few months ago we secured two permanent new wildlife signs on Porter Drive that were installed two days after requesting them from the municipality. We hope to have more local animal signage in future and continue to work on it.

We have recently responded to a request for suggestions to prevent the misuse of our local waste management station. We are very hopeful that the matter will be resolved soon – an excellent response from the municipality and great teamwork by the Ratepayers committee.

Lights: The issue of very bright lights disturbing neighbours and nocturnal wildlife is high on my agenda. A plan is forming...

Marelize Smith
082 683 3228

DRAMA AND THEATRE ARTS: See <https://bettysbayratepayers.co.za/2026/05/29/drama-and-theatre-arts-2/>

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 May our kitchen distributed 52 food parcels and prepared 497 scrumptious meals.

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

Fundraising initiative with benefits for all!

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 19 June, 17 July, 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 Marion Green at manager@hccc.co.za.

David Fritz



- **BBC4thSATURDAY: 25 MAY "BEE and TEA"**



It was World Bee Day on 20 May. The theme for World Bee Day is "Bee together for People and Planet – A partnership that sustains us all".

To celebrate this day at our BBC4thSATURDAY event on 25 May, we hosted Lourens and Dylan Kruger from the Cape Honey Bee Conservancy.

May was a tough month for many residents of Betty's Bay after the severe storm left damaged houses in its wake and no water and electricity in certain areas. We decided to make this "Bee and Tea" a light-hearted event. We added cheerful yellow flowers and serviettes to our colour scheme, invited people to wear their favourite, fun or gardening hat and had a 'bring and share' tea afterwards.

Louren and Dylan began their journey into beekeeping after a swarm of bees made a home in an owl box in their garden.



They founded the Cape Honey Bee Conservancy (CHBC) in 2018. The Cape Honeybee (*Apis mellifera capensis*) is only found in the Western Cape.



In 2022, after helping to remove a swarm from the gardens at Helderberg Hospice, the CHBC embraced the Hospice as their social responsibility. Every October they donate their bee removal income to them. They want to spread their support of Hospice, with a vision to help establish a Palliative Care Unit at Overstrand Hospice.

They want to develop relationships with farmers - built on trust, collaboration and a shared commitment to conservation. They also strive to educate communities about reducing pesticide use and choosing safer alternatives



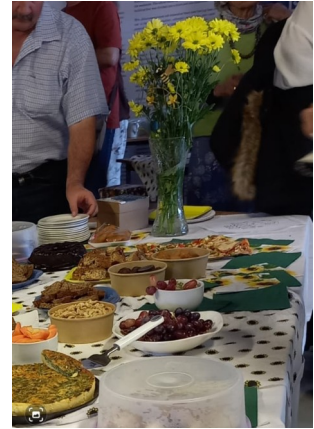
that protect pollinators.

"We are simply custodians of God's creation, privileged to serve as beekeepers. For us, this is not a hobby - it is a calling. Saving one bee at a time."

Then came the quiz:



Zena Gericke gave away four of her “Colours of an African Penguin” book as prizes. Lourens had two of their final bottles of CHB honey as prizes. I won one of the bottles and decided to put it up for auction to raise some funds for the Overstrand Palliative Care Ward. Pete Oxford accepted my call for a volunteer “Auctioneer” and helped to raise R260 rand for the bottle of honey.



And the tea It was lovely to see many people stay for tea, chatting to friends and visitors. Thanks to everyone who contributed towards the refreshments.

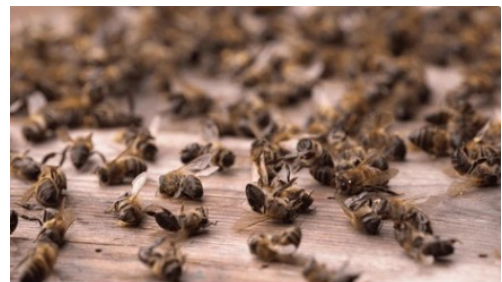
Carol Clark



• POISON!

Last month, Mike The Owl Box Man, showed us how dangerous it is to put poison out for rodents. Owls suffer from secondary poisoning after eating those rodents and other poisoned prey. He asked us to stop using poison and consider using humane animal traps.

At his talk, Lourens shared the story of a situation that resulted in the loss of 14 hives.



A farmer sprayed a cocktail of poisons on his land. When Lourens and Dylan next went to service their hives on this farm – they found devastation. The winds blew this poison in the direction of the Cape Honey Bee Conservancy hives. The bees were dead. The 14 hives had to be destroyed. This was tragic and a significant loss for CHBC.

In the Wild'nFree Infographic at the end of this newsletter, they also call on us to stop using poisons and pesticides.

Who sprays in our community? Home-owners? Municipality? Do they understand the ripple effects of poison?

If preventing the use of poison within our community is an issue that you are concerned about, please contact us on bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com. Perhaps we can work on an education campaign.

Carol Clark

• STONY POINT NATURE RESERVE



Thanks to those of you who completed the community engagement survey on the Stony Point Nature Reserve.

Some of you attended the Community Engagement Session on Tuesday 9 June in

Crassula Hall.

It was a facilitated session, with presentations by SANCCOB and CapeNature.



CapeNature announced their plan to introduce a predator-proof fence around the Stony Point colony. This invoked mixed opinions and many concerns from residents.

We plan to include information on this in next month's newsletter.

- **PERSPECTIVES ON BIOSPHERE LIVING**

In the last newsletter we included an infographic on Biosphere Living, and a question of “do we love the biosphere to death” with our actions?

Here is a “50/50” type question from a resident

Although this style of article is different to those we usually feature in our BBC newsletter, it is an interesting question. Have you noticed anything similar or do you have any “on the ground” ideas, observations or solutions to contribute? I have edited the question and AI answer to shorten it slightly.

Question:

I noticed that our Grysbokkies seem to have more ticks than usual, especially on their ears and face. Is it due to a decrease in certain plants that would normally act as a natural repellent or have the dynamics of the bush changed to such an extent that grysbok find it difficult to rub the ticks off? Alternatively, is there another reason?



AI response:

It is an excellent observation, and you have hit on some very specific environmental triggers. What you are seeing on the Cape Grysbok (*Raphicerus melanotis*) in the Kogelberg Biosphere, is actually a combination of the natural mechanics of how these small antelope move through the bush, combined with subtle, shifting dynamics in the fynbos ecosystem. The heavy tick burden on the ears and faces of the grysbokkies, and why it seems so much worse lately, is driven by a few key ecological factors:

1. The Anatomy of "Questing" and Foraging



The primary reason ticks concentrate so heavily on the ears and face of the grysbok comes down to how both the insect and the animal behave:

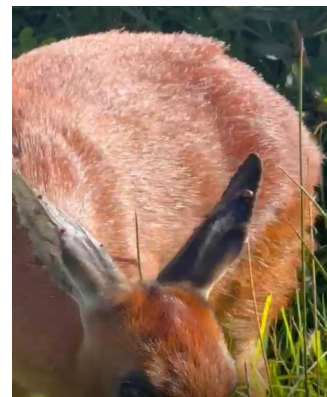
The "Questing" Height: Ticks climb to the tips of vegetation and wait with their front legs extended—a behaviour called questing. Because grysbok are small, low-slung antelope, their faces and large, sensitive ears are the very first point of contact as they push through the brush to forage.

Self-Grooming Limitations: Antelope use their teeth and hooves to groom themselves. While a grysbok can scratch its body or lick its flanks, it is incredibly difficult for them to effectively remove tiny larval or nymph ticks from the delicate skin around their eyes, muzzle, and inside the folds of their large ears.

2. Shifting Bush Dynamics: Ageing Fynbos and Alien Encroachment

Overgrown Understory: Grysbok prefer relatively thick, "weedy" undergrowth or young fynbos where they can hide. However, if an area of fynbos goes too long without a fire cycle, it becomes tall, woody, and dense. This creates a continuous, enclosed canopy at exactly the height of a grysbok's head. Instead of lightly brushing past plants, they are constantly forcing their faces through dense, tangled twigs, functioning like a biological broom that sweeps up every questing tick.

Invasive Alien Vegetation: In areas where alien species like Rooikrans (*Acacia cyclops*) or Port Jackson (*Acacia saligna*) encroach, the microclimate changes. These aliens create a dense, shaded, and highly humid understory. Ticks are incredibly sensitive to desiccation (drying out); they thrive and survive much longer in humid, shaded microclimates than they do in open, sun-drenched pristine fynbos.



3. The "Natural Repellent" Hypothesis

There isn't a documented direct decline in a specific plant that acted as a blanket community shield for the grysbok. Many indigenous fynbos plants -most notably Buchu (*Agathosma* species), Wild Garlic (*Tulbaghia violacea*), and various aromatic *Pelargoniums* - contain strong essential oils that naturally deter insects and ticks. When fynbos is healthy and biodiverse, animals brushing past these plants inevitably get coated in minor traces of these aromatic oils. If localised clearing, urban fragmentation, or alien plant displacement reduces the density of these highly aromatic understorey species in the specific pathways the grysbok use, they lose that secondary, incidental layer of protection.

4. Climate and Weather: The Real Catalyst

The most likely reason you are noticing a sudden spike lately points toward regional weather patterns over the last couple of seasons:

Warmer Winters and Delayed Frosts: Ticks in South Africa are increasingly active year-round due to higher-than-average pre-winter and winter temperatures. If a winter is mild, the natural die-off or dormancy phase of the tick population doesn't happen.

Synchronised Spring Hatches: Mild, humid conditions lead to massive, synchronised explosions of tick larvae (often called "pepper ticks") in the spring and early summer. When thousands hatch at once, the sheer volume on the tips of the vegetation makes heavy infestation inevitable for any passing host.

Nature's Balance

While it looks alarming and uncomfortable, wild stable populations of Cape Grysbok have evolved alongside indigenous ticks (like the African Blue tick and various *Amblyomma* species) for millennia. Under normal conditions, healthy adult grysbok tolerate a surprisingly high tick load without suffering severe systemic illness, as their immune systems are well-adapted. However, if the habitat continues to fragment or become heavily overgrown with alien vegetation, the increased parasite pressure can become a stress factor.

Question and AI response submitted by Wayne Jackson

BBC: This answer mentions some of the factors that we observe in Betty's Bay that impact the habitat of the grysbok: localised clearing, urban development that fragments habitat, alien vegetation, and older fynbos that gets woody and dense.

This is another motivation NOT to strip plots of all vegetation prior to building. Clearing just the footprint of a home for building helps to maintain some wildlife habitat and corridor space. Fencing the entire boundary of your property also limits wildlife movement. If you have pets, please consider fencing just a portion of your property, and leave the rest as natural habitat for wildlife to traverse.

It is important to note any behavioural changes in a grysbok to try to determine if the tick load has become too heavy for it, or if the animal has become infected.

- **NATURE JOURNALING**

The fun of Nature Journaling - why we all need to do it.

So... why am I telling you about **Nature Journaling**?

Because somewhere along the way, we became permanently attached to our devices. Not *all* bad, of course—but in the process, we drifted away from nature. Life sped up. More to do, more places to be, more accounts to follow.



We've forgotten how to slow down. To stop. To actually *notice* things - like the smell of the air after rain or the tiny details hiding in plain sight. Nature journaling gently pulls us back into that connection, reminding us of the quiet magic that's been here all along (no Wi-Fi required).



The best part? **Nature journaling is for everyone.**

You don't need to be a writer, an artist, or a scientist. You just need curiosity. It's simply about documenting what you experience in nature and creating memories you can return to again and again.

Nature journaling is a personal relationship built through observation. It can happen anywhere - on a city sidewalk, at the beach, or deep in the forest. It's the practice of slowing down, stopping, listening, and really looking. As you record what you notice, you become the explorer, the scientist, and the lifelong student (sometimes all at once).

As John Muir Laws puts it beautifully:

"The goal of nature journaling is not to create a portfolio of pretty pictures, but to develop a tool to help you see, wonder, and remember your experiences."

All you need is a pen/pencil, a notebook and your curiosity.



Not sure where to start? Follow the **W's**:

Who?

Who do you see? A butterfly doing ballet among the flowers? A squirrel playing an intense game of hide-and-seek? Keep an eye out for nature's tiny celebrities.

What?

What do you smell, hear, or feel? Birds singing their greatest hits? Wind through the trees? The sun giving you a warm, cozy hug? Close your eyes and tune into the orchestra around you.

When?

When did it happen? How often? What season is nature showing off today?

Where?

Where is it happening—on the ground, in the trees, in the sky, or perched on a single leaf?

Why?

Why is it windy? Why are there only three baboons? Why is this plant thriving here and refusing to grow two steps over? (Nature loves a mystery.)

And, just like that, you're journaling—no notifications, no filters, just you and the world outside.

Ria Kotze

- **SPEEDING ON THE R44**

ATTENTION BETTY'S BAY RESIDENTS!



**PETITION TO THE WESTERN CAPE
PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**

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



UPDATE THREE!

Our petition was tabled in Parliament on the 22 May 2026.

We received notification from the Procedural Officer:

At the end of July, in consultation with the R44 Steering Committee, they will have the capacity to address the concerns and the proposed solutions of the residents of Betty's Bay. This is the final stage within the Petition Framework.

Credit to the Steering Committee for following the required legal process, and to all the signatories who supported this petition.

• AFTER THE OVERSTRAND ECO-INDABA ...

Drafting of the proposed Environmental Alliance Constitution

Subsequent to the Overstrand Eco Indaba held on 28 March 2026, the Interim Steering Committee ("Steercom") responsible for the drafting of a proposed Constitution for the Environmental Alliance kicked-off on 9 April.

They completed the drafting process on 21 May 2026, and followed this with proofreading and final formatting.

The focus throughout was to develop a "fit for purpose" constitution that:

- Clearly defines the purpose and governance framework of an Environmental Alliance;
- Is accessible and workable for members;
- Avoids unnecessary complexity or administrative burden; and
- Has a strong foundational framework while remaining flexible to support the future growth and evolution of an Environmental Alliance.

•

Key stakeholders were sent a short-list of preferred alliance names, and the preferred name will be voted in at the Alliance's inaugural meeting to be held 27 June 2026.

The inclusion of ancestral references in the alliance's name was investigated. Consultations were undertaken with academics as well as elders with direct ancestral lineage and cultural knowledge. The committee resolved not to pursue the use of ancestral references after careful thought was given to the risks of cultural misappropriation, unintended exclusion, and the potential for division between ancestral groupings. Instead, priority was given to a name that promotes broad, diverse, and inclusive membership.

Ann Bradshaw

Chair of Interim Steering Committee



OVERSTRAND ECO INDABA
A United Voice for the Natural Environment

WATCH OUT FOR OUR WINTER WILDLIFE!

Welcome to our furry guests

In Betty's Bay, we are very proud of our biodiversity, and you may encounter an abundance of wildlife during your walks.

Always keep yourself under control and on a leash, and remember to properly dispose of your waste.



#greatmemories #happydog #gooddog



ECO TIP THURSDAY

WILDLIFE AFTER THE RAIN & PREPARING FOR WINTER

Small changes, big difference for our Overberg wildlife ♥

Rainy days may feel gloomy to us, but for many Overberg creatures, it's a **busy** and **important** time of year!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NATURE?




FROGS
become more active after rain.




SNAILS & INSECTS
emerge in the damp weather.




SMALL MAMMALS
search for extra food and shelter.




BIRDS
fluff nests and find warmer roosting spots.




REPTILES
soak up rare sunshine between cold fronts.

YOU CAN HELP! ♥



WATER IS LIFE
Leave shallow fresh water out in a safe spot for birds, frogs, insects and small animals.



LEAVE NATURAL CORNERS
Keep leaf litter, logs, and untidy patches – they provide shelter and protection.



AVOID PESTICIDES & POISONS
These can harm wildlife directly or by reducing their food sources.



PROVIDE SHELTER
Logs, rock piles, indigenous plants and thick shrubs offer warmth and hiding places.



PLANT INDIGENOUS
Indigenous plants support local wildlife and more resilient ecosystems.

♥ Nature is quietly preparing for the colder months – and every wildlife-friendly garden helps. ♥

Observe. Respect. Protect. Together.

After the rain, Overberg wildlife comes alive. Let's keep it that way! ♥



#EcoTipThursday | #OverbergWildnFree | #WildlifeFriendlyGarden | #NatureLovers

HACKING - The Battle for Betty's Bay: Report on Hack No 747 on 6 June 2026

Twenty-four volunteers met on a clear, chilly winter's day at the parking area on the western side of Malkopvlei (Bass Lake) to continue with this, the third hack to remove Waterberry trees (Waterbessies) which have invaded the wetland on its northern side. Reneë Smit and Crispin Sonn were welcomed to their first hack and by all accounts they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We hope they'll become regulars.

The hackers walked 500m down Bass Road to continue where we left off in May. The hack involved primarily chainsaw work and the more demanding and energy sapping effort of dragging the branches through the fynbos and stacking them on the verge for easy removal by the municipality.



The break was taken at 10am back at the parking area under a warm winter sun. A big thank you to Dave Mourant for providing all that is needed for the monthly tea and coffee requirements and to Betsey Joubert and Anne Mourant for their customary, delicious egg mayo and tomato and onion sarmies to bolster waning energy levels. People were urged to become members of the newly formed Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) for R200 per annum if they had not already done so. Without this support structure and funding derived from the Harold Porter Book and Craft Shop, sustainable hacking activities would not be possible. Sue Mc Connell, who is driving the membership initiative, encouraged people to directly message her on WhatsApp.

After the break, the battle continued with cutting, dragging and stacking the seemingly endless Waterberry infestation. The draggers and stackers continued for an extra 15 – 20 minutes to ensure that all the cut branches ended up on the Bass Road verge.



The aftermath refreshments were enjoyed by all. The exceptional work ethic of this group is to be applauded.

Thanks to Brian McMillan and Chris Geldenhuys from Pringle Bay for their ongoing support. It is greatly appreciated.

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

Rob Boyd

Editor's note: In previous BBRA newsletters the newsletters of the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society were included. However, since the Kogelberg branch has now become an entity affiliated to the National Botanical Society with the name changed to the Hangklip Botanical Society, the decision has been made to only send the newsletter to paid-up members. We encourage all our Betty's Bay residents and regular visitors to become paid up members as our branch of the Botanical Society does so much to preserve the world-renowned fynbos biome in which we live and also to help keep the Harold Porter Gardens, one of Betty's Bay's most precious assets, in a fine state....

The Hangklip Botanical Society (NPC) through the income derived from the profits made by the BotSoc Craft and Book Shop in the Gardens, provides lubrication and tools for the hackers, tools and equipment for the volunteer gardeners in Harold Porter Gardens, helps to fund various items and repairs needed in the Gardens, provides opportunities for learning and companionship through its monthly talks, walks, garden visits and volunteer activities and safeguards our fynbos through the activities of its many volunteer groups. With a membership contribution of just R200 per annum you could enjoy the benefits it offers as well as have the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to the wellbeing of our beautiful environment. Contact Sue McConnell on 083 676 9557 or email her at sue.mcc@mweb.co.za.

Should you have an item of interest that you would like to share on this platform, please email me on vivvdh@gmail.com. And should you belong to a community organisation contributing to the well-being of our

residents, human and other, that does not feature in our newsletter, please drop me a line! The deadline for contributions is the 15th of each month.

Warm regards from the BBRA editorial team and the BBRA committee.

Vivienne von der Heyden
Editor