



Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA)



Newsletter September 2026

NOTE FROM CHAIR (17/09/2026)

1. GENERAL

It is unfortunate, but Betty's Bay is becoming more under pressure regarding development. Wherever one walks / drives, building sites are the normal trend. I see Betty's Bay currently as a "building site." 😊

One cannot stop development per se. Each landowner has the right to develop their stand, as we as current residents did. However, to keep the village character of Betty's Bay, residents have to be "awake" to ensure that what is built is in accordance with the zoning of the specific erf and adheres to the applicable development controls i.e. coverage, Floor Area Ratio, height, building lines and overlay zones for heritage and environment. And where not, such actions should be reported to the correct department at Overstrand Municipality (OM). The BBRA should also be made aware of such possible contraventions in order to assist.

The BBRA is frequently requested for input on Land-Use Applications submitted to OM. These Land-Use Applications differ in nature from re-zonings to subdivisions to consolidations to departures. Each application is scrutinised on its own merit and where necessary commented on: as an example: Erf 2648, 97 Clarence Drive, Betty's Bay where an application was submitted to erect a 6m x 3m billboard. The BBRA Committee strongly objected to this application. A copy of the Objection is available.

2. BBRA GENERAL

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

3. BBRA Membership:

Standing Note: BBRA Member (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) etc.;
- Monthly BBRA Newsletter, active Facebook page, Instagram and BBRA website; and
- Access to relevant community WhatsApp groups for safety and updates.

Therefore, please join the BBRA as a Member.

4. BBRA Portfolios:

5.

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

The following letter of objection to the proposed billboard on Clarence Drive was sent to ...

THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY

PO BOX 20

HERMANUS

7200

ATTENTION: Ms. L Lubbe (Building Inspector)(bcadmin@overstrand.gov.za)

Hallo Liezl

ERF 2648, 97 CLARENCE DRIVE, BETTYS BAY

You are referred to the **APPLICATION FOR SIGNAGE DEPARTURE**, submitted by Rushenka Dasrath For Provantage (Pty) LTD obo TELKOM SA LTD on Erf 2648 Betty's Bay (for ease of reference):

1. Application in terms of Item 1.8.2 of the By-Law to advertise businesses not related to the property that the business operated on and the products processed, produced or sold thereon; and
2. Application in terms of Schedule A Class 1d of the By-Law to erect an advertisement board on a permanent basis and not only a temporary basis as well as to increase the size of the billboard from 12m² to 18m² by submitting an EIA motivation as required.

The said Departure Application is submitted in terms of the "*Overstrand Municipality By-Law on Outdoor Advertising and Signage (2011)*". The proposed development involves the installation of a 3x6m double-sided static billboard on Erf 2648, Bettys Bay, Overstrand Municipality.

The Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA) is a legal Institution, acting on behalf of the members of the said Ratepayers Association. The BBRA Committee scrutinised the said Departure Application at their monthly meeting on 12 August 2026. It was decided at the said Meeting to object **strongly** to the said Application. If needed, a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting will be forwarded as proof.

Based on the Application received, the following Objection Points:

1 Notices

During the "*public participation process*" two sets of Notices were received by the BBRA:

- a. A Notice from Laura Brown (an Affected Party). The said Notice indicated the deadline for input/comment as 3 August 2026; and
- b. A Notice from Cl. T. Els (Ward 10). The said Notice indicated the deadline for input/comment as 3 September 2026.

We are of the opinion that the two sets create confusion as to the exact deadline date. The current "*public participation process*" is regarded as flawed and should be re-done to ensure full compliance with the By-law.

2 "Windy" Betty's Bay

The structure of the Billboard and its direction (in this case north-south) is questioned as the normal wind direction in Betty's Bay is from the west. In this position the proposed Billboard, therefore, will take huge strain, with possible damage not only to the Billboard, but also to the properties (buildings) in the area because of flying debris.

It is a known fact that wind force on billboards is a critical factor that can impact their structural integrity. When gusts sweep across urban landscapes, they can exert substantial pressure on advertising displays, particularly if they are not adequately designed or **positioned**.

The wind's force on a billboard is determined by several key factors, including **wind speed, direction,** and the **billboard's shape and orientation**. As wind flows around an object, it creates varying pressure zones. this can lead to significant forces acting on specific parts of the billboard depending on its positioning. For instance, a billboard facing directly into the prevailing wind will experience higher wind pressure.

Considering the directional forces, billboards subjected to strong crosswinds are often at risk of structural failure, as the lateral forces can cause flexing and, in extreme cases, collapse. To illustrate this point ... the 2017 incident in Florida, where numerous billboards were damaged during Hurricane Irma.

Betty's Bay is known for its wind patterns; more specifically, the gusts experienced. These gusts have a great negative effect on buildings (i.e. walls and roofs). As an example, during the recent big storm on 12 May 2026 approximately 70 houses in the Betty's Bay area were damaged, with newly built houses basically destroyed by the gusts (boundary walls and building walls, roofs, etc.). This is a normal trend in Betty's Bay when big storms are experienced with gusts averaging 150km/h to 170km/h and even higher. Historically, gusts of 197km/h have been experienced.

Understanding the dynamics of the climate in Betty's Bay, or more specifically, the wind pattern / wind force on this proposed Billboard is essential for maximising its safety and effectiveness.

The question therefore is: has such a climate study (focusing on wind speed and wind direction specifically) been done, and if so, why is it not included in the Application.

3 Manual of SAMDOAC

The Applicant makes reference to SAMDOAC, without elaborating on the Manual and its actual contents.

The guidelines as contained in the "*Revised S.A. Manual for Outdoor Advertising Control (SAMDOAC)*" and the inherent character of Betty's Bay within the confines of the Kogelberg Biosphere area are clear.

In terms of SAMDOAC guidelines, the establishment of outdoor advertisement is classified into 3 (three) categories, namely:

1. Urban areas of areas of maximum control.
2. Urban areas of areas of partial control.
3. Urban areas of areas of minimum control

Urban landscapes refer to human settlements with a population of more than 2500 people. The following urban elements are deemed sensitive to visual disturbance or in terms of traffic safety and should be defined as urban areas of maximum control:

1. Conservation

- a. "Natural" open space and urban conservation areas.
- b. Interface of nature and build fibre in the form of "natural" edges like bodies of water, rivers, ridges and other topographical features.

2. Recreation

- a. Open areas for passive recreation.

3. Scenic

- a. Scenic area.
- b. Characteristic views across built-up areas.
- c. Distinctive vistas down streets or avenues.

4. Architectural and Cultural

- a. Important tourist areas.
- b. Areas with a strong and unique local character or sense of place.

5. Residential

- a. High- and middle-income residential areas, mostly low density single.

6. Gateways

- a. Prominent entrances to or exist from urban areas or a specific part of an urban area, which creates a strong sense of arrival or departure by means of features of scenic topographical, historical or architectural significance.

7. Transport

- a. Visual zones along major roads.
- b. Accident prone areas.

Based on the above criteria for the classification of outdoor advertisement signs, it is proposed by SAMDOAC that only signs which convey an **essential message are permitted**. The said Application will not convey essential messages and the erection of the proposed Billboard, therefore, should not be established along Clarence Drive.

4 Advertising on Roads and Ribbon Act, No.21 of 1940

This Act specifies the conditions within which advertisement can take place along Public Roads. Clarence Drive is a “provincial road” and therefore regarded as a public road. The contents of this Act will not be analysed in detail. However, the following Sections need to be taken into consideration during the adjudication of the said Application:

1 Section 2: No person shall display an advertisement which is visible from a public road, unless it is displayed in accordance with the written permission of a controlling authority.

2 Section 9: No person shall erect or permit the erection of any structure or any other thing which is attached to the land on which it stands within ninety-five meters from the centre line of a building restriction road.

3 From the above, it is evident that the Applicant is not abiding by the regulations of this Act. The Applicant does not mention the provisions thereof in the Application. It is also questioned why an “*Act 21 of 1942 Application*” has not been submitted to the relevant Western Cape Authority.

5 Betty’s Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA) Committee Motivation

The Objection against the approval of the application is **further** motivated as follows:

5.1 Sense of Place

The Application disregards the Betty’s Bay “*sense of place*” as the astatically (*sic*), where the name of the business is displayed on the building, value of the natural features (mountainous area) and the relationship thereof with the low-density urban component is compromised.

5.2 R44 (Clarence Drive) Tourism Gateway

Clarence Drive serves as a gateway scenic route from Gordon’s Bay linking Rooi Els, Pringle Bay, Betty’s Bay, Kleinmond towards Hermanus, and further.

The scenic importance of the road is characterised by undisrupted natural beauty (mountains and sea views) from Gordon’s Bay to the entrance of Kleinmond. It serves as an important tourism and connector road throughout the year, not only during seasonal times but throughout the year for travellers preferring this route above the N2. Notwithstanding some localised business activities along Clarence Drive (Betty’s Bay), where the name of the business is displayed on the building with no direct negative visual impact, there is **no** outdoor signage/Billboard along this section of road.

5.3 Visual Pollution

The Billboard will degrade the visual environment (blocking of view of mountain) and landscape aesthetics. It will disrupt the natural harmony and synergy of the area and disrupt the visitors' and residents' perception of public spaces.

5.4 Economic Benefit

There will be no economic benefit to the local economy. The only economic beneficiaries will be Telkom as the landowner, signage company and the advertiser.

5.5 Road Safety

Clarence Drive is used as a tourism, private, public and commercial corridor from Cape Town/Cape Town International Airport on the one end, and Hermanus on the other end with various types of transportation modes, which travel at different speeds. Clarence Drive (through Betty's Bay) has speed limits of between 100km/h and 80km/h, with a small section at "Coffee on Clarence" reduced to 60km/h.

The Applicant base the proposed location and size of the Billboard on the assumption of a speed of 40km/h speed. This argument of the Application is therefore irrelevant. The question is: why has a Traffic Impact Study not been done to support this?

Also to be noted is that a number of accidents (some fatal) have occurred at the intersection of Porter Drive and Clarence Drive over recent years, which has been brought under the attention of the Western Cape Provincial Government.

The proposed Billboard will only be 53,9m away from this intersection. Road users will definitely be distracted by the Billboard with the potential of more accidents from both sides.

5.6 Streetscapes

The natural environment and the low-density residential component functions in harmony as preference is given to the protection of indigenous "fynbos" vegetation.

The streetscapes along and within Betty's Bay, including Clarence Drive, are characterised by the natural vegetation (fynbos) along the road reserves which creates a "softened" streetscape view. It presents a characteristic of integration between residential and nature.

The establishment of the billboard will disrupt the current natural streetscape and natural vista along Clarence Drive.

5.7 Studies needed

The Applicant makes "*generic*" statements regarding "*traffic issues*" and "*visual issues*", "*heritage issues*" and "*ecological issues*", the latter three based on what they perhaps read in the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) for Overstrand Municipality. It is our opinion that their intention is to convince the reader of the Application that they have attended to the issues/addressed the issues at hand via the Application. However, the reality is that no substantiated proof is provided in the form of studies to confirm the necessity of the Billboard/confirming the location and direction of the Billboard in Clarence Drive as the best option.

The Applicant, for example, submits as part of their Application an "*ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT*". Such Report(s) can only be compiled by a qualified Environmental Practitioner/EAAP. There is no evidence that the Applicant is qualified as such.

The Applicant, furthermore, suggests under it own "*Recommendations*" that a "*local traffic count study*" must be done, but still submits an Application without this, requesting the Overstrand Municipality to approve a Departure Application based on "*unqualified information/views*".

For Overstrand Municipality to properly evaluate the said Application submitted for a Billboard on Clarence Drive, the following studies, signed off by a qualified entity in that specific field, should have been submitted:

- 1 A *Traffic Impact Study* to determine the effect of the Billboard on travellers on Clarence Drive;
- 2 A *Visual Impact Assessment*;
- 3 A "*Heritage Sensitive Assessment*;"
- 4 An *Ecological Sensitive Assessment*; and
- 5 A *Climate Study (focusing on wind speed and wind direction specifically)*.

It is, therefore, proposed that Overstrand Municipality should not approve this Application for Departure in terms of the "Overstrand Municipality By-Law on Outdoor Advertising and Signage (2011)" for a Billboard on Clarence Drive.

Please note that we hereby reserve our rights to elaborate on the afore-mentioned Objection Points, or any other points that might come to the fore.

Please acknowledge receipt of this Objection Letter.

If there are any queries, please communicate directly with the Writers on 072 184 9621 or bettysbayratepayers@gmail.com / amund@vodamail.co.za or André Kotzé (Deputy Chair) on 083 375 9448 or andre@emendo.co.za.

Thank you



Amund Beneke (Chair)

Date: 31 August 2026

Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association Committee

CC: André Kotzé (BBRA Deputy Chair)(andre@emendo.co.za)

BBRA (bettysbayratepayers@gmail.com)

Cl. Theresa Els (tels@overstrand.gov.za)

TOWN PLANNING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT 17 AUGUST 2026

Spatial Development Framework for OLM:

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

Roads:

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

Storm Water:

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

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

Standing Note:

Residents must log issues on Collab themselves to get a reference number. When a situation arises over a weekend and is urgent, the Control Room must be notified - 028 313 8111

Amund Beneke

BETTY'S BAY FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

OCTOBER: A MONTH FOR FIRE PREPARATION & PREVENTION

Betty's Bay, as a community, let's prepare before the fire season.

October is the perfect time to start preparing our homes and properties for the coming fire season.

Living in a fynbos fire biome, and with the warmer, drier and often windier months approaching, prevention becomes one of our most important tools. We may not be able to control the weather or prevent every fire, but we can reduce the risk around our homes and help make our community safer.

Our fire teams are working hard to prepare for the season ahead. But fire prevention starts with **each and every one of us.**

THIS OCTOBER, LET'S CLEAR THE WAY

Take some time to walk around your property and identify potential fire hazards.

 Clear dry vegetation and long grass around your home.

 Cut back overgrown trees and branches, particularly those close to buildings, roofs and power lines.

 Remove garden waste, dead vegetation, leaves and other combustible material.

 Keep vacant and undeveloped plots maintained and free of excessive vegetation and rubbish.

 Keep driveways and access routes clear so that emergency vehicles can reach your property quickly if needed.

 If your home borders fynbos or open land, take extra care and create a safer, cleared area around your property.

PREVENTION STARTS AT HOME

Betty's Bay is fortunate to be surrounded by beautiful fynbos and natural areas. These are part of what makes our community so special, but during hot, dry and windy conditions, vegetation can also become fuel for a rapidly spreading fire.

Please don't wait for the first fire to start preparing.

Use October to get your property ready. Talk to your neighbours, help where you can, and encourage others to do the same.

A little work now can make a big difference when the fire season arrives.

LET'S MAKE OCTOBER A MONTH OF PREPARATION & PREVENTION: Prepare. Clear. Maintain. Protect.

Together, we can help keep Betty's Bay safe, prepared and fire-ready.

OUR IMPORTANT NUMBERS – load them into your phone now!

028 312 2400 ALL Fire & Emergency – yes you can use this number to report a fire, an accident, or any emergency.

028 313 8980 Fire reporting

072 616 8418 Betty's Bay Fire Volunteers – **NO WhatsApp (calls or messages) ONLY standard calls**

SUPPORT THE VOLUNTEERS:

Should you wish to contribute funds or donations towards a fire & rescue emergency response vehicle you can deposit into the following bank account:

Bank details:

- Name: Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association
- Bank: ABSA
- Bank: Hermanus
- Account: 4066 616 439
- Reference: FIRE +Your surname

N.B Please **clearly** mark the reference **FIRE** as BBRA are custodians for several organisations in Betty's Bay and they need to allocate the funds accordingly.

FOLLOW US on FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064379211431>

Thank you for your ongoing support and donations.

Until our next update, keep warm and stay Fire Wise!

Jorika Rabie

BETTY'S BAY EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (BEST)

August 2026 was a very quiet month in Betty's Bay and also for the first responder teams in Pringle Bay and Rooi Els. BEST attended to three call-outs: two medical cases and a fall injury. The one medical case and the fall injury required hospitalisation. Both were transported by ER24. The other medical case was referred to One Health / OEC24 in Kleinmond.

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 be found quickly, 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 with BEST branding has been collected from the embroiderer and issued.

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

CONSERVATION, CARE & PROJECTS

HOW DO WE CO-EXIST IN THE BIOSPHERE?

Man vs. Nature — or Man *with* Nature? A message to the Betty's Bay community

There is something very special about living in Betty's Bay. We wake up surrounded by mountains, fynbos, wetlands, lakes and the ocean. We share our neighbourhood with an extraordinary variety of birds, animals, insects and plant life. What we sometimes regard as our "back garden" is, in fact, part of one of the most remarkable natural environments on Earth.

Betty's Bay lies within the Kogelberg Biosphere, an internationally recognised landscape where people and nature are intended to exist together. But this raises an important question:

How do we co-exist with nature without destroying the very environment that makes Betty's Bay so special?

Perhaps the question should not be: "Man versus Nature?"

Perhaps it should be: "How can we live as part of Nature?"

WE ARE VISITORS IN A MUCH OLDER LANDSCAPE

Long before roads, houses and gardens appeared, this landscape was already here. The mountains, wetlands, rivers and fynbos developed over thousands and, in some cases, millions of years.

The Cape Floristic Region is exceptionally rich in plant species, many of which occur nowhere else in the world. The fynbos surrounding us is not simply "bush". It is a living ecosystem. Every plant, insect, bird, reptile and animal has a role to play.

Even seemingly insignificant areas of natural vegetation between houses can provide food, shelter and corridors for wildlife.

When we remove indigenous vegetation, disturb wetlands, alter watercourses or introduce invasive species, the effects can extend far beyond the boundaries of an individual property.

PEOPLE ARE PART OF THE BIOSPHERE TOO

Co-existence does **not** mean that people cannot live here. Betty's Bay is a community. We have homes, businesses, roads, gardens, recreational facilities and infrastructure.

We need functioning communities.

We need safe roads, appropriate development, housing, services, recreational spaces and economic opportunities.

The challenge is finding the balance. Development should not necessarily be the enemy of conservation — but development needs to respect the environment in which it takes place.

Before changing something, perhaps we should ask: "Can we do this in a way that allows nature to remain part of the picture?"

OUR WATER IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our lakes, wetlands and waterways are among Betty's Bay's greatest natural assets. They are also extremely vulnerable. Stormwater, erosion, litter, garden chemicals, sewage problems, invasive vegetation and inappropriate development can all affect the health of our waterways.

A lake does not recognise property boundaries. What happens upstream can eventually affect everyone downstream.

Protecting our waterways cannot be left to one organisation, one committee or one government department. It is a community responsibility.

WILDLIFE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND OUR PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

For the animals living here, our fences and property lines are imaginary. A baboon crossing a road, a porcupine moving through a garden, a mongoose passing through a property or birds nesting in an urban garden are not necessarily “invaders”.

They are wildlife trying to survive in an environment that humans increasingly share with them.

Of course, there are times when wildlife can become a genuine nuisance or safety concern. Co-existence does not mean ignoring these problems. It means finding solutions that protect **both people and wildlife** wherever reasonably possible.

★ WHAT CAN I DO ON MY PROPERTY?

Every homeowner has an opportunity to contribute to the health of the Biosphere. You don't need a large property or a huge budget.

 **1. Protect existing indigenous vegetation:** Before clearing vegetation, consider whether it can be retained or incorporated into your garden or building design.

 **2. Plant indigenous:** Choose plants suited to our local environment. They generally require less water and provide valuable food and shelter for local wildlife.

 **3. Manage water responsibly:** Allow rainwater to infiltrate naturally where possible. Avoid unnecessary disturbance of drainage areas, wetlands and natural watercourses.

 **4. Encourage biodiversity:** Create spaces for birds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

 **5. Avoid invasive alien plants:** Invasive species can displace indigenous vegetation and alter natural ecosystems.

 **6. Secure waste:** Wild animals quickly learn where food is available. Secure refuse and never intentionally feed wildlife.

 **7. Be responsible with pets:** Domestic animals can have a significant impact on wildlife. Keep pets under appropriate control, particularly near natural areas.

 **8. Think before removing trees:** Trees can provide nesting sites, shade and habitat. Where possible, incorporate established vegetation into landscaping plans.

 **9. Reduce chemicals:** Pesticides, herbicides and excessive fertilisers can enter our soil and waterways.

 **10. Respect natural areas:** Stay on appropriate paths and avoid disturbing nesting, breeding or sensitive areas.

5 THINGS EVERY RESIDENT CAN DO FOR OUR LAKES & WETLANDS

Our lakes and wetlands are not simply scenic features. They form part of the natural infrastructure of Betty's Bay. They help manage water, provide habitat and support an extraordinary variety of life.

1. Keep litter out of storm water systems: What disappears down a drain does not necessarily disappear. Litter can ultimately find its way into our waterways and lakes.

2. Don't dump garden waste: Garden cuttings, soil and other material can alter natural drainage and introduce invasive plants.

3. Be careful with chemicals: Pesticides, herbicides, detergents, oils and fertilisers can enter waterways through run-off.

4. Respect wetland areas: Wetlands are sensitive ecosystems. Avoid filling, draining, building on or unnecessarily disturbing them.

5. Report problems: Pollution, blocked waterways, illegal dumping, erosion or other environmental problems should not simply be ignored.

See something? Say something. Early intervention can prevent a small environmental problem from becoming a major one.

DEVELOPMENT — CAN WE BUILD WITHOUT LOSING WHAT WE LOVE?

This is perhaps one of the most difficult conversations for any growing community. Betty's Bay will continue to evolve. People will build, renovate and improve their properties. Community facilities will be required. Infrastructure will need to be maintained and upgraded.

The question is not whether change will happen. The question is how we manage that change.

Before development takes place, we should consider:

What natural vegetation will be lost?

What will happen to storm water?

Will wetlands or drainage lines be affected?

Can existing mature vegetation be retained?

Can the building follow the natural contours of the land rather than dramatically reshaping it?

Can indigenous landscaping replace large areas of imported or water-intensive planting?

Can we reduce the visual and environmental impact of the development?

Good environmental planning is not necessarily about saying: "No." Sometimes it is about finding a better: "How?"

WHAT DOES RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT LOOK LIKE?

Perhaps we should begin thinking differently about development within a Biosphere. Responsible development could mean:

-  Retaining natural vegetation wherever possible
-  Working with natural rock formations rather than removing them unnecessarily
-  Following the natural contours of the land
-  Managing storm water naturally
-  Using indigenous landscaping
-  Maintaining wildlife movement corridors
-  Reducing waste and unnecessary disturbance
-  Using sustainable building principles
-  Creating appropriate pathways rather than clearing large areas

The goal should be to add value to the community without taking away the natural character that makes Betty's Bay unique.

OUR GARDENS CAN BECOME PART OF THE ECOSYSTEM

A garden does not have to be completely wild to support biodiversity. By incorporating indigenous plants, reducing invasive species, providing natural shelter and avoiding unnecessary pesticides and chemicals, our gardens can become small extensions of the natural environment.

Imagine if hundreds of properties throughout Betty's Bay each became small pockets of habitat. Together, they could create a remarkable network for birds, insects, pollinators and other wildlife.

Our individual gardens may be small — but collectively they can make a big difference.

♥ THE BETTY'S BAY COMMUNITY — WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?

Environmental responsibility becomes much more powerful when we work together. We can encourage:

 **Community Fynbos Protection:** Identify and protect important areas of remaining natural vegetation.

 **Lake & Wetland Stewardship:** Support regular monitoring, clean-up and education around our waterways.

 **Environmental Education:** Help residents and visitors understand the unique biodiversity of the Kogelberg.

 **Responsible Recreation:** Encourage walking, hiking and outdoor activities that respect sensitive natural areas.

 **Indigenous Gardening:** Share information about appropriate local plants and create more wildlife-friendly gardens.

 **Clean Community Initiatives:** Work together to address litter and illegal dumping.

 **Wildlife Awareness:** Educate residents about living safely and responsibly alongside wildlife.

 **Responsible Development:** Encourage meaningful environmental consideration before significant changes are made to our natural landscape.

🌍 THE BIOSPHERE BELONGS TO ALL OF US

The concept of a Biosphere is particularly relevant to Betty's Bay because it recognises that conservation and people do not have to exist in separate worlds. The goal is not to create a place where humans are excluded. Nor is it to allow unlimited development at the expense of nature. **It is about finding a sustainable relationship between the two.**

People need nature. And increasingly, we are recognising that: Nature needs responsible people.

🔍 A SIMPLE QUESTION BEFORE WE ACT

Perhaps we can introduce one simple principle into our everyday decisions:

STOP • THINK • CONSIDER • ACT

STOP: Before removing, clearing, building, dumping or changing.

THINK: What natural system could this affect?

CONSIDER: Is there a less damaging way to achieve what I want?

ACT: Choose the option that allows both people and nature to benefit.

It is a small philosophy — but if adopted by an entire community, it can have a significant impact.

🌅 WHAT KIND OF BETTY'S BAY DO WE WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND?

Perhaps the most important question is not what Betty's Bay looks like today. It is what Betty's Bay will look like 20, 50 or 100 years from now.

Will our children and grandchildren still be able to walk through indigenous fynbos?

Will our wetlands still hold water?

Will our lakes still support birdlife?

Will wildlife still move through the landscape?

Will the mountains and natural corridors remain intact?

Will future generations understand why this place was worth protecting?

These decisions are being made gradually — often through hundreds of small individual choices.

A wall here.

A tree removed there.

A wetland filled.

A garden transformed.

A piece of natural vegetation cleared.

A development approved.

A stream polluted.

But the opposite is also true.

A fynbos patch protected.

An invasive plant removed.

A wetland restored.

A waterway cleaned.

An indigenous garden planted.

A child taught to appreciate nature.

Small positive decisions can also accumulate into something much bigger.

♥ OUR COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Let us challenge ourselves as residents of Betty's Bay: **This month, do ONE thing for Nature.**

🌱 Plant an indigenous species.

🗑️ Pick up litter.

💧 Check what enters your storm water system.

🌿 Remove an invasive plant.

🏠 Create a small wildlife-friendly area.

🚶 Take the time to learn about our local fynbos.

📖 Teach a child about the natural environment.

🚒 Report an environmental problem.

🏡 Look at your property and ask: "What can I protect rather than remove?"

Then encourage one neighbour to do the same.

One household can make a difference.

A whole community can change the future of a landscape.

🌱 MAN VS. NATURE?

Maybe we have been asking the wrong question.

It doesn't have to be: MAN vs. NATURE

It can be: MAN + NATURE

We are not outside nature looking in. We are part of it.

Living in a Biosphere gives us an extraordinary privilege — but also a responsibility.

We have the opportunity to demonstrate that a community can grow, prosper and enjoy modern living while respecting the natural systems that sustain it.

Let us not try to conquer the environment in which we live. Let us learn how to live within it.

Because the greatest legacy we can leave Betty's Bay is not simply the houses, roads and buildings we create.

It is the natural landscape we choose to protect while we are here.

🌊 🌱 BETTY'S BAY — OUR HOME WITHIN THE BIOSPHERE

Let us protect our lakes.

Let us respect our wetlands.

Let us preserve our fynbos.

Let us live responsibly alongside wildlife.

Let us build thoughtfully.

Let us educate our children.

Let us work together as neighbours.

And above all, let us remember that the natural beauty surrounding us is not merely something we **own or occupy. It is something we have been entrusted with.**

A FINAL THOUGHT FOR OUR COMMUNITY

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."

Let us make sure that when we return it, Betty's Bay is still the extraordinary place we were privileged to call home.

BETTY'S BAY: *A community within the Biosphere — living alongside nature, not against it.*

Elsa Stofberg

BIOSPHERE STEWARDSHIP

The wildlife awareness signs initiative was met with great enthusiasm and 44 beautiful signs were sponsored. Huge thanks to the sponsors and to Pete Oxford, resident wildlife expert, and Renee Bisch for ensuring that the animals look like OUR animals with the help of their very generous designer friend (who prefers anonymity), and to the Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group(BBBAG) and the Betty's Bay Conservancy (BBC) for helping to spread the news.

Subsequent to the receipt of Marelize's contribution the following news was received from her and added here...(Ed)

Dearest Sponsors of 44 beautiful wildlife awareness signs.

Our signs were approved by the Overstrand Municipality with the agreement that they will install them if we provide them, specifically with the condition that they be made according to road sign specs, and specifically that the OM approves the final animal designs. **THIS WAS ADHERED TO.** The process took about 4 months. Last night I received the devastating news that this permission has been withdrawn after a meeting between OM, the BBRA and Theresa Els. An alternative format was not offered - the sign with the ! on was offered with 'Wildlife' added below. OM would install them throughout the village - where they deemed appropriate.

All of the generous sponsors were contacted individually, and as expected and understandably, full refunds were requested by most.

This....



With underwriting ...WILDLIFE

as opposed to this ...

It would be interesting to hear comments from the residents of Betty's Bay! Ed.



The following issues were forwarded to the Ward 10 Committee for their next agenda and to take further up the channels at OM - the way it has to be done:

- Waste management: domestic and public spaces. Various issues in our village have been raised. A suggestion has been put forward from a resident for concrete/brick baboon proof bins in public municipal spaces and a request, to at own cost, build a prototype.
- Petrol station advertising lights (established - no permission requested for doing so). May that switch be flicked off very soon!
- Feedback requested on the establishment of the HCOZ - a Hangklip Villages Conservation Overlay Zone - that has been in the making for quite some time and would provide a legal vehicle to address disturbing residential lights.
- It would be amiss not to mention the extreme concern of a large portion of our residents around current baboon management strategies, and the postponement of the revision thereof.
- The penguin fence and CapeNature - another polarising and important issue in our village. Below is an article, kindly forwarded by the author to publish here, that appeared in the Overstrand Herald regarding the third public information session.

Penguin Fence Update

Following the Friday 28 August Penguin Fence information sharing session, hosted by CapeNature, I have put together an overview of what was discussed and, more importantly, what I believe emerged from the meeting. If I was reading the room correctly here are my thoughts:

CapeNature began the meeting by informing that the proposed Phase 2 and 3 of the fence construction had been abandoned.

We were left to discuss Phase1 which consists of a tall fence, along the existing fence line of Wallers Road, including the gates, following up Una Drive, incorporating the CapeNature offices and joining the current ClearVu fence. The proposed new ClearVu fence will be a total of 2.35 meters high, including the 50cm, 45 degree angled top, which will angle towards the road.

The current fence in that stretch is a one meter high, wooden and mesh fence, which, critically, is porous to penguin movement. CapeNature describes Phase 1 as an 'upgrade' and 'replacement' of the current fence to make that 'front' (road frontage) section predator proof. It was argued that the new fence was far more than a replacement or upgrade as its core function would change. Yes, it might largely deter the 1-3 possible caracals accessing the colony from that direction only (less likely so for mongoose, identified as the second biggest threat) while still leaving the rest of the colony exposed for a caracal to simply walk around. However the fence would also deliberately restrict access to breeding sites, chosen by the penguins themselves, to areas in and beyond Wallers Road, Una Drive and Rocky Ridge Road in particular, where a significant number of penguins have currently chosen to nest. These birds would be cut off from those breeding sites.

Caracals have been shown to have a non-sustainable, negative effect on the Stony Point penguin population, being identified as responsible for 70+ adult penguin deaths so far this year. CapeNature believes that more than 1 and up to 3 caracals are responsible, while mongooses (among others) are known to predate on eggs and chicks. This high rate of caracal predation has manifested largely over the past 18 months (although 220 adult birds were identified as having been predated by suspected caracal in 2015) with little direct mitigation to date.

It was generally agreed that there was a desperate need to finally fix the broken entrance gates, to restrict the high volume of after hours, unattended visitor presence causing unwarranted disturbance to penguin movement and well-being. The 'people barrier' was welcomed, but not at the cost of restricting penguin movement. It was also suggested that, in line with other CapeNature visitor sites, an on-line booking system be put in place.

The previously proposed use of Maremma guardian dogs was dismissed, after CapeNature consultation with an upcountry farmer who uses Anatolian sheepdogs to protect livestock, on the basis that the dogs would not bond with the penguins. This has been shown to not be the case, in Australia at least, where Maremma dogs fully 'bonded' with Little Penguins and act as their guardians against fox predation in an ongoing medium-to-long-term very successful project resulting in penguin numbers increasing.

Although other examples were raised of fencing having success against predation of ground-nesting birds, particularly in Hawaii, these were not directly comparable to our situation at Stony Point.

CapeNature proposes to undertake an Integrated Management Plan, including more ranger presence, volunteer night patrols, live-feed night vision cameras, caracal 'scaring' barriers, discussing outsourcing of professional caracal capture/relocation as well as, importantly, rehabilitation of the existing hard, dry, hot and barren core area of the human delineated colony. Actions which have been sorely missing to date. Part of the plan is to put in a fully functioning irrigation system to stimulate vegetation regrowth in the area, along with extra artificial penguin nest boxes. It is known that, despite availability of artificial boxes, penguins still prefer the microclimate stability of burrowing under dense vegetation. African penguins are hard-wired genetically as burrowing nesters (as are all four species of the Spheniscid group) and, until such time as the core area is fully revegetated it is only natural that they prefer nesting away from this 'moonscape' in more optimal sites. Coupled with scientific and observational evidence, if we reason that 'penguins know best what penguins need' then, for the sake of maximising their breeding success, it was motioned that they should be allowed to choose for themselves. So went the debate.

If the 1-3 'problem' caracals associating with the colony were to be professionally caught and relocated (perhaps with a GPS collar to monitor any return) then the professed threat of penguins being at risk of predation outside of the 'designated colony' becomes moot.

With a fully rehabilitated core area, which may take a few years, penguins will most likely tend to return as it is closer to shore, but not until then, if they have 'better' places to go.

Penguins at Stony Point are under huge stress. Firstly, they are already returning to shore underweight (linked to low prey abundance caused by overfishing). Within the next month or two it is proposed to 'break ground' for the fence. This time-frame coincides with the most stressful period in a penguin's annual cycle, when they undergo a 'catastrophic' moult, shedding and regrowing all their feathers in a single moult. For an already underweight penguin, who may not have sufficient fat reserves for a successful moult, this is even more stressful than normal. Two external ecological factors are now also in play. Firstly, there is a massive sardine die-off, possibly due to Pilchard Herpesvirus, PHV. Sardines are the principal prey item of penguins. This will have an unknown effect on penguins but is widely presumed to be negative. Coupled with a massive El Niño event predicted, the core colony area will tend to bake and overheat making dense vegetation cover in other areas all the more necessary for breeding success. The remaining sardines are likely to move away from traditional areas, following their preferred cold water temperature gradient, forcing penguins to range further for less reward.

All of the above scenarios compound extreme stress for the colony. It was argued that no further impositions should be presented to them, such as restricting their chosen movements or allowing anthropogenic disturbance. And, as indicated in the national African Penguin Biodiversity Management Plan, expansion of a breeding colony, rather than a restriction, should be encouraged.

It was generally apparent that the audience found it very hard to understand/rationalise CapeNature's stance on the need for a predator proof section of fence while leaving large stretches (more than 100 meters) of the colony open and exposed to predator access. Why add to a penguins stress by restricting its choice of nesting site while the Phase 1 fence cannot be seen to be an effective barrier against caracal and mongooses anyway?

An elevated boardwalk was proposed along the existing coastal path, adjacent to where penguins currently gather on the shoreline before moving inland. This boardwalk idea would allow a free-flow of penguins underneath, from the ocean to nesting sites, without massive disturbance currently from

visitors, well-meaning or not. Penguins, like most species, will quickly acclimatise to the presence of people if they remain 'confined' to a restricted area.

We were told that funds for the fence come from a private, undisclosed, donor. It is typical within the philanthropic community that such donations are for infrastructure rather than extra staffing or wages. If that is the case, then perhaps CapeNature could explain nicely to the donor the mitigating circumstances of unforeseen ecological disasters, and, through 'no fault of their own' reasoning, that the best outcome and use of funds might be the boardwalk infrastructure over the fence (simultaneously implementing the Integrated Management Plan) then, I personally believe, the high tensions surrounding the issue will dissipate and the penguins might be better off.

In short, the prevailing mood of the audience seemed to be:

- Make the fence a people fence to prevent after hours penguin access (Note: This is largely the case anyway if only the gates were fixed). Such a fence need be only 1 meter or so and must be 'penguin porous'.
- Agree to an elevated wooden boardwalk to manage visitor access and allow unrestricted penguin movement between nesting areas and ocean. Visitor flow management and information sharing must be enacted.

Pete Oxford

Submitted by Marelize Smith

CRASSULA HALL

COMMUNITY NEWS & ACTIVITIES

There is lots happening in our community, with a wonderful variety of activities and events for everyone to enjoy!

- ✦ **Tai Chi**
- ✦ **Chair Pilates**
- ✦ **Line Dancing**
- ✦ **Friday Dance Socials**
- ✦ **Physical Theatre**
- ✦ **Drama Classes**
- ✦ **Community Markets**
- ✦ **Ballroom Dancing**

First Aid for Dogs

We have held our last First Aid for Dogs course for now, as the course facilitator has moved to Hermanus. We thank her for bringing this valuable course to our community.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our hall and the activities that bring our community together. Every contribution helps us keep our community space active and growing. ❤️

Claudele Jackson

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 bettybayratepayers@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 -17H00 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, 14 October 2026 from 11H00-12H30. 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

DRAMA AND THEATRE CLASSES



Classes for adults

Unleash your creativity through vocal and physical expression

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!!



Classes are:

A fun space to express thoughts and ideas
Creative exploration of voice and body
Engaging improvisation and text work



<i>When and where</i>	<i>Contact and booking</i>				
Every 2nd WEDNESDAY of the month 11:00 – 12:30 Crassula Community Hall, Crassula Road, Betty's Bay R 150 p/class <i>FIRST CLASS IS FREE!</i>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Email:</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">ilona@fregemoves.co.za</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Cell:</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">083 427 3706</td> </tr> </table> Not language specific! <i>Classes are warmly facilitated in English, Afrikaans, and/or German</i>	Email:	ilona@fregemoves.co.za	Cell:	083 427 3706
Email:	ilona@fregemoves.co.za				
Cell:	083 427 3706				

Presented by: Frege Moves (Ilona Frege)



ABOUT ILONA

Ilona is a Betty's Bay resident with over 40 years of experience as a choreographer, director, performer, and educator.

She has comprehensive experience in academia, professional productions, and local independent projects.

More about Frege Moves at www.fregemoves.co.za



And now for news from other organisations and community groups in Betty's Bay...



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 August our kitchen distributed 53 food parcels and prepared 526 scrumptuous meals.

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

Following on from our HAIL (Home Assisted Independent Living) home carers' courses in October 2022, March 2023 and May 2025, we have set up carers' support groups in each of Sunny Seas, Jock's Bay, Central Betty's Bay, and Silversands.

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 and Yolanda Fritz

HACKING - The Battle for Betty's Bay: Report on Hack No 750 on 5 September 2026

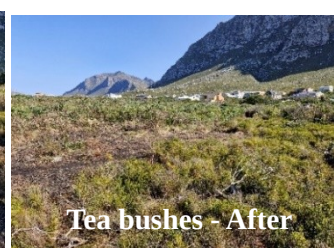
Twenty-six volunteers met on a clear, cool morning in Salmon Street, Sunny Seas braving a 50km/h + easterly wind. This was a continuation of the August hack on the municipal land zoned for community facilities, bordered by Pearl Drive and Albertyn Drive. The target was to remove the remaining Australian tea bushes (red) and a particularly bad area (yellow) riddled with New Zealand christmas trees (NZXT),



Tea bushes - Before



Tea bushes - During



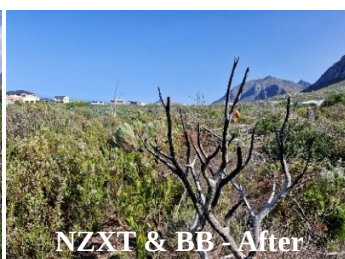
Tea bushes - After

Bottle brush (BB) and more tea bushes

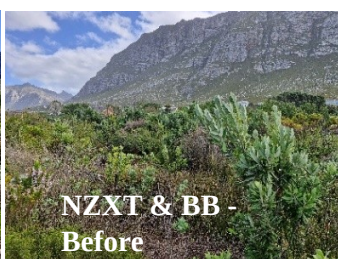
Richard Portmann was welcomed to his first Betty's Bay hack after having attended the Hardcore Hackers (HHH) Hack in the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden on 19 August. We hope he enjoyed the experience and will become a regular. Dave Mourant was notable by his absence following a bad fall down the stairs at home. Despite this, he and Anne provided all the blue and all that was needed for our tea and coffee break. It is because of commitment and dedication such as this that the Battle for Betty's Bay has reached its 750th milestone after sixty-three and a half years. It is with disbelief and sadness that we heard of Ken Meiring's cancer diagnosis earlier in the week. We wish he and Zelda strength and positivity for the road ahead. Dave and Ken will be sorely missed during their recovery at both the weekly and monthly hacks.



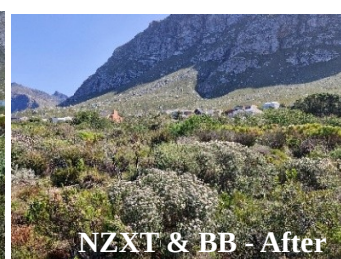
NZXT & BB Before



NZXT & BB - After



NZXT & BB - Before



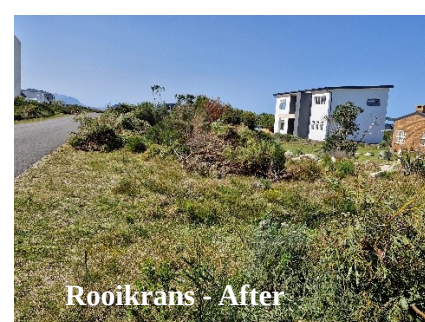
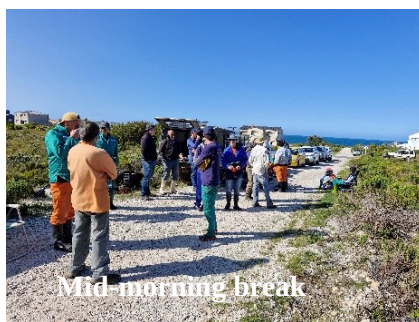
NZXT & BB - After

Armed with loppers, poppers, hand- and chainsaws and blue, the tea bushes near Albertyn Drive were quickly despatched. The infestation further in was a much tougher proposition, compounded by all the dead branches left by others. It took an age to expose the new growth embedded amongst all the dead material before they could be dealt with. Despite this, far more was accomplished than anticipated. It highlights how important it is to remove the cut material. Apart from reducing the fuel load for fires it makes access so much easier when doing follow up work. Compliments to the tireless draggers and stackers who make this happen. It is to everyone's credit how people identify what needs to be done,



find their role and contribute to a seamless and productive hack. Amazing to be a part of this wonderful group!

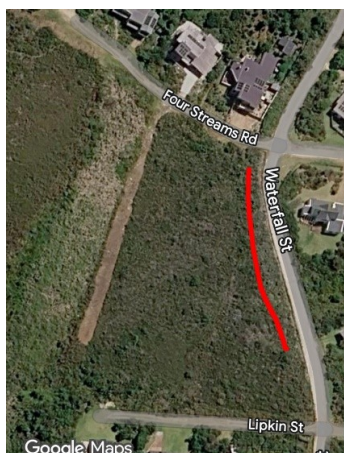
The mid morning break was taken back at Salmon Street. Thanks to Mary Whitelaw and Lee Boyd for making their customary egg mayo and grated cheese with cucumber sarmies to recharge the hackers for the final hour.



Jan Joubert and Paul Whitelaw continued to cut down the rooikrans trees growing on the verge of Albertyn Drive at the Salmon Street intersection whilst others returned to the open space.

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

Many thanks to our neighbours for their ongoing, invaluable support: Christine Coupar from Kleinmond; Anne Woods, Tommy Mills and Chris Geldenhuys from Pringle Bay; Megs Tweedie, Mike Christelis and Andreas Claassens from Rooi Els.



Adhoc hack - Tuesday, 25 August 2026, 08:30 – 10:45, Viv von der Heyden, Paul Whitelaw, Rob Boyd

This hack involved removing predominantly NZXT as well as myrtle and rooikrans from the OM Community Facilities property on the western side of Waterfall Road. Paul cut down rooikrans along High Level Road on his way home. Many thanks to Viv and Harry for the coffee and toast at their home afterwards.

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

Rob Boyd

Convener Betty's Bay Hack Group

PENGUIN TRAIL FUNDS VITAL COMMUNITY WORK IN HANGKLIP

The newly launched Penguin Trail has taken its first careful steps in the Kogelberg Biosphere, offering visitors a guided slack-packing experience through one of the world's richest floral regions. But its purpose reaches far beyond scenery: every booking directly supports the Hangklip Community Care Centre (HCCC), the Betty's Bay NPO providing food security and welfare assistance to vulnerable families.

The Centre distributes 50 food parcels per month – 600 annually – with 60% going to Mooiuitsig and the remainder to Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els. It also provides 500 subsidised cooked meals monthly, totalling 6 000 per year, with most recipients receiving subsidies of 50% or more. Spokesman Colin Cook says the trail has quickly become essential to sustaining these programmes.

If the three-day trail reaches full capacity – 12 trails per year, each with 12 hikers – the income will cover a significant portion of the Centre's annual budget. "We rely on a government DSD grant and local donations, and we are grateful for those. But generating our own income is far better. It's like having our own fishing rod rather than relying on others to give us fish," Cook says.

The three-day, 28-kilometre route combines coastal and mountain terrain. Hikers stay at Fijnbos Manor Guesthouse, and the experience is fully catered. Day one covers 13 kilometres from Cape Hangklip to Silversands Beach. Day two is a 10-kilometre mountain walk from Oudebosch to the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden. Day three is a five-kilometre coastal section from Jock's Bay to Stony Point.

The trail suits anyone with medium fitness and is led by certified guide Tyrone Allan, who trained locally through STEDT. Two trails are offered in both spring and autumn, with dates set according to tides. Weekly day hikes rotate between the designated routes and run through spring and summer, with a review planned for February.

Local volunteers play a key role. Pringle Bay resident Colleen Johnson, ER24 Hermanus base manager and head of the Pringle Bay volunteer first responders, coordinates emergency medical support. HCCC volunteers assist with logistics, catering and safety, and act as sweepers for larger groups.

Booking details for the three-day trail are available at penguintrail.co.za, while day-hike information is hosted at bklnk.co.za/penguin-trail. Organisers encourage residents to share the initiative and support the Centre by joining a day hike or the full experience.

Future expansion is already being explored. Several additional coastal and mountain routes in the area could be incorporated, allowing the trail to grow into a broader conservation-and-community offering.

See <https://penguintrail.co.za>

Many thanks to Fanie Krige and the Overstrand Herald for permission to reprint Fanie's article here.





BBC 4th SATURDAY

EAST TO WEST – the fish don't rest

BBC 4th Saturday

Mike Markovina has lived his whole life in Betty's Bay. He was introduced as an unsung hero within our community, one of us.

He is a brilliant marine scientist and was integral to the Betty's Bay (and beyond) Baited Underwater Remote Video (BRUV) studies that looked at biodiversity and biomass in the Marine Protected Area (MPA). These studies provide scientists with the critical baseline data they need for comparative studies. He is also a superb boat captain and a core member of the Kleinmond Branch of the NSRI, where he is a training officer.

It was a full house as Mike took us on a journey, telling a story of hard, dangerous, and real marine conservation — no fluff. One attendee remarked, "It's like being in a Jason Bourne movie." From previous conversations with Mike, I know we were only told the PG-13 version!

His journey began in Gabon in 2007, stationed where the pristine rainforest meets the ocean — a privileged location where forest elephants shared the same beach and chimps called from within the forest. He was tasked by the Wildlife Conservation Society to undertake joint fisheries patrols with the government to tackle the scourge of "Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated" (IUU) fishing in the Mayumba Marine National Park.

With that experience under his belt, he was called to Tanzania — initially to conduct Monitoring, Control and Surveillance missions and training, but that required a deep focus on blast fishing.

Dynamite fishing was the issue. Daily, up to 150 homemade 'dynamite' bombs were blasting the reef along the coastline. The effect was catastrophic, levelling the reef to two-dimensional rubble with no chance of recovery. The reef structure is the pillar of biomass and biodiversity; the bombing was entirely non-selective, killing everything, causing huge ecological destruction and socio-economic pain.



Together with his multi-disciplinary team, from the highest levels of government and law enforcement, they dived into the underworld to cut the head off the snake and drastically reduce the supply of



Presenter: Mike Markovina — a life-long resident of Betty's Bay and a fisheries biologist.

Date: 29 August

Venue: Stony Point Eco Venue

Time: 2:00 – 3:30 pm

ALL WELCOME

Please RSVP to:-

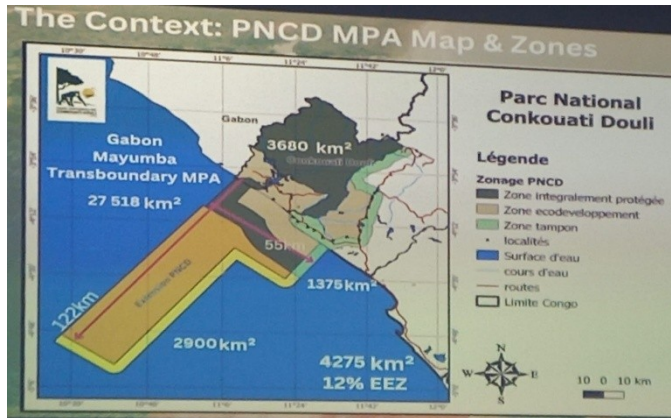
bettybayconservancy@gmail.com

or WhatsApp 079 7530166

No charge; donations to support the BBC are welcomed



explosives to the illegal fishing community. Their efforts are estimated to have led to a 90% decline in dynamite fishing! And to the establishment of the Multi-Agency Task Team (MATT) for fishing, fisheries, and wildlife crime in Tanzania. This was ratified by the government in 2015.



After those six years, he gathered a team to develop a marine anti-poaching force in a remote location in Congo. Scraping together basic hardware while intelligently applying the latest technology, a team was trained and, against all odds, became a major success story. The Congo's Konkouati-Douli National Park now has an effective marine protection unit!

Back home, Mike is currently co-developing similar technology for the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. The applications could have far-reaching effects on local conservation, both in the marine and terrestrial environments. The planned structure is to ensure that the community and public can be harnessed in an observational capacity through an application linking observation to real-time management decisions. The hope is to provide authorities with relevant information while providing oversight of official response.

Mike's talk spoke loudly to 'The Power of One' and building a story around the problem in order to identify solutions.

Pete Oxford

Photos: Carol Clark

STONY POINT NATURE RESERVE

THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED AFRICAN PENGUIN

Third community meeting hosted by CapeNature

On Friday, 28 August, CapeNature hosted a community meeting at the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden to discuss the proposed predator-deterrent fence and the immediate threats facing the critically endangered African Penguin colony at Stony Point.

The meeting drew a large turnout, reflecting how deeply residents care about the penguins and the broader natural environment. Upon arrival, attendees noted a small display of hand-made signs expressing opposition to the fence, along with a petition for those who wished to sign. This illustrated the



strong feelings within the community, but once the strong feelings within the community, but once the meeting began, the atmosphere settled into a constructive and respectful discussion.

CapeNature opened with an important update: Phases 2 and 3 of the proposed fence have been paused, and only Phase 1 — an upgrade to the existing fence line — is currently planned. This announcement helped to ease concerns and allowed the meeting to proceed in a far more positive and orderly manner than previous engagements.

The session was well facilitated by Edith Henn. Pierre de Villiers, Farha Ally, Faroeshka Rodgers, Portia Chake, Cairestine Lottering and Anda Rweqana of CapeNature were present. Edith ensured that community members could ask questions and share their views in a structured way. The CapeNature team provided clear explanations and engaged openly with the audience. Their commitment to the penguins' protection and their willingness to address difficult questions were evident throughout.

A volunteer sign-up sheet circulated during the meeting, offering residents the opportunity to become part of the monitoring and education efforts at Stony Point. This practical step was welcomed, as it allows community members to contribute directly to the penguins' safety and to visitor awareness. BBC Penguin-Pals are also making constructive headway in assisting with the conservation of our penguins and have done so for many years.

Several useful insights emerged from the discussion. Our very own Pete Oxford contributed substantial knowledge on the effects of fencing penguins in. He has written a comprehensive review titled "*Penguin Fence Update*", published in the *Overstrand Herald* and shared on the BBC Facebook page on 4 September. A zoology student noted that international studies have shown predator-deterrent fencing to be effective for ground-nesting birds in many contexts, although the Stony Point situation differs from these models. Another key point clarified by CapeNature was that the recent predation appears to be the work of one or two individual caracals, rather than a larger group — a detail that helped correct a common misconception. Suggestions from the floor included tracking or tagging caracals, though CapeNature noted that such measures are prohibitively expensive and that conservation funding remains a significant challenge.

What came through strongly is that Betty's Bay residents care deeply about the penguins and the preservation of this unique colony. The BBC extends sincere thanks to the CapeNature team for their ongoing efforts, transparency, and dedication. Your work is vital, and we recognise the complexity of the challenges you face.

The Conservancy remains committed to supporting all organisations working to safeguard the African Penguin. We appreciate the continued collaboration and the shared determination to ensure the survival of this very special species.



Patrick Boltler

Photos: Carol Clark

TOUR GUIDE WORKSHOP

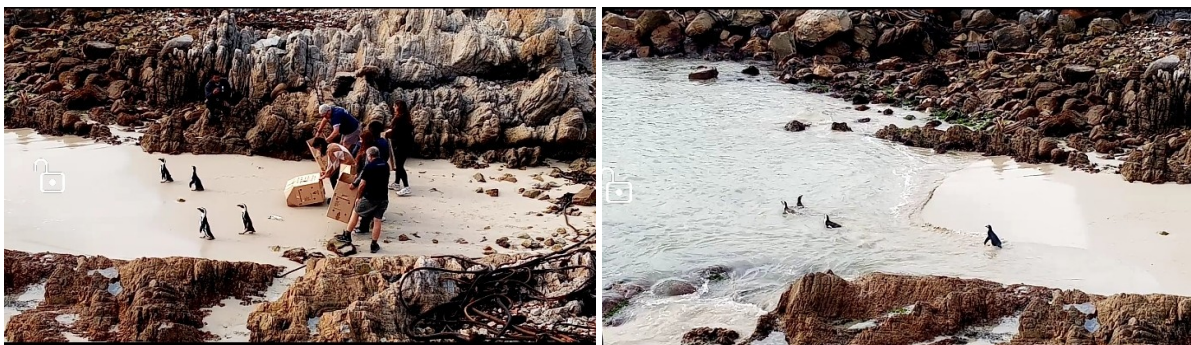
On 25 and 26 August, CapeNature hosted two workshops for Tour Guides in the Ecovenue at Stony Point. As BBC Penguin-Pals volunteers plan to help with visitor awareness at the colony, five of us

were able to join the workshops. Nina and Brian attended on Wednesday, and Liz, Jenni and I joined the Thursday group.



The programme included background information on Stony Point by Steve Gildenhuys (formerly of CapeNature), the status of the African Penguin by Michelle van der Merwe of SANCCOB and insight into the other animals found in the colony by Vathiswa of WWF. Natanya of CapeNature facilitated some fun role-plays and the rangers conducted a walk along the boardwalk. Participants enjoyed lunch at On the Edge restaurant.

The weather on Thursday, compared to a windy Wednesday, was favourable for a penguin release. This group of tour guides also had the privilege of watching the release of five penguins, recently rehabilitated at SANCCOB.



The tour guides gained more insight into the critically endangered status of the penguins, and how to educate their groups to visit the colony in a calm manner to reduce stress on the penguins.

Tourists have been observed doing many inappropriate things that stress and compromise the penguins: blocking their pathways to and from the sea and their nests, crowding the birds, standing too close, trying to take close selfies, walking into the vegetation, climbing over barriers, and looking into nests.

On Thursday, we discussed how guides could educate tour groups before they arrive. I suggested that guides could use the BBC sign with the QR code that links to the BBC Visitor Guidelines. This will be

included in the post-workshop information from CapeNature. We hope that guides will share this with their clients to inform them before they arrive about how to visit Stony Point in a manner that reduces stress on the penguins.

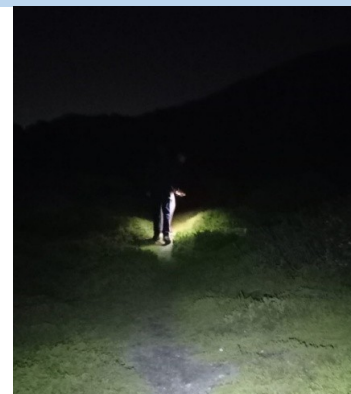
Carol Clark

Group photos: CapeNature

NIGHT PATROLS TO DETER CARACALS

A group of BBC Penguin-Pals volunteers is assisting CapeNature with night and early-morning patrols in specific areas around the colony. One of the aims of the patrols is to spread human scent in the area where caracals are known to predate to deter them from entering that area. Patrollers work in pairs for safety purposes, and under the direction of CapeNature staff. Patrollers take care not to disturb the penguins.

Camera traps are positioned in the area, along with a caracal trap. The staff review the camera footage for caracal activity and adjust the patrols as required.



NEW SIGNAGE IN THE COLONY

CapeNature has installed new signage in various places in the Stony Point colony. This sign is adapted from the Visitor Information leaflet that the BBC developed last year. The QR code links visitors to the leaflet on the BBC website.



The new signage will be used in conjunction with the proposed new visitor-flow arrangements.

PERSPECTIVES ON BIOSPHERE LIVING

PORTER DRIVE CLEAN-UP ON 11 AUGUST

On Tuesday, 11 August, community members braved a fierce gale to take part in the Porter Drive Clean-up between 16:00 and 18:00. Despite the challenging weather, around fifteen volunteers turned out, and approximately twenty-five bags of litter were collected. Much of it consisted of plastic cups, tins, and general waste likely discarded from passing vehicles. Several pieces of plastic sheeting and signage were also retrieved, possibly remnants from the severe storm of 12 May.

A few residents sensibly waited for the wind to ease before heading out the following day, and although we didn't manage to capture photos of them, their contribution is sincerely appreciated.

One thing about us Betty's Bay locals is that we love walking in our scenic neighbourhood. Rain or shine, the walkers are out, and it's really cool to see how many of them routinely pick up bits of litter along the way. Craig Foster's reminder to "*do one small act for biodiversity every day*" resonates strongly here; collecting rubbish on a walk is one of the simplest ways to live that out. The same applies to our beaches, where hooks, sinkers, condoms and fishing gut often wash up among the kelp. While we hope to see less of this in the future, our community's willingness to clean up makes a meaningful difference.



Wayne Jackson shared a message on the Stony Point Watch group thanking everyone involved, and we include it here to encourage future clean-ups:

I would like to sincerely thank the members of our community who dedicated their time this afternoon to assist with cleaning a section of Porter Drive. Your commitment exemplifies a strong sense of community responsibility and pride in maintaining our neighbourhood's appearance. Your efforts contribute to making Betty's Bay a cleaner and more welcoming place for everyone. Once again, thank you for your initiative, and I hope your actions inspire others to take similar steps in caring for our streets and surrounding areas.



Thank you to Barbara Jenman for supplying the waste bags and bibs, to all community members who assisted on the day, and to those who actively clean up daily. We also extend our appreciation to the Overstrand Municipality and their staff for their ongoing support in waste collection. Your friendly service and willingness to go the extra mile do not go unnoticed.

Patrick Bolttler

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

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

After hearing from residents and local organisations on this application, it is clear they do not support a billboard of this size and level of intrusion on Clarence Drive. We await feedback from the Overstrand Municipality on these objections as part of the public participation process.



Carol Clark

WILDLIFE

UPDATE ON THE CAPTURE OF FREE-RANGE DOGS ON THE MOUNTAINS ADJACENT TO KLEINMOND AND PALMIET

On the mountains adjacent to Kleinmond and Palmiet, free-ranging dogs hunt wildlife to survive.

At the end of July 2026, when foreign nationals were required to leave the country, many of them had to abandon their dogs. Not all of these dogs had been used specifically for hunting purposes, but this situation exacerbated an existing problem — the uncontrolled hunting of wildlife with dogs by organised criminals for bushmeat, muti and gambling. These hunting dogs are also victims - they are starved before a hunt, kept in inhumane conditions, and are abandoned when they are injured or cannot hunt effectively.

The abandoned strays have now formed packs alongside the hunting dogs. KAWS was able to identify fifteen dogs on the neighbouring mountains. These dogs are starving and hunt simply to survive. Fortunately, the decision to employ a professional hunter to shoot the dogs was set aside and KAWS has been working with the Overstrand Environmental Department, Law Enforcement and CapeNature to capture the dogs. To date, seven dogs have been captured and handed over to KAWS to evaluate on an individual basis; currently, two are suitable for re-homing. The toll on these dogs has been enormous, and, for some, humane euthanasia may be the only option.

The illegal hunting of wildlife remains a serious concern. The authorities will continue to patrol the Kleinmond Nature Reserve and Kasteelkop at different times during the week and over weekends to deter illegal activities, respond to reported incidents and capture any remaining dogs. The public has

been asked to notify them of any illegal hunting, roaming dogs and, where possible, reports should include location, date, time and photographs or videos taken from a distance. These reports can be channelled via the Overstrand Municipality Citizen App, the Municipal Contact Centre on 028 313 8111 or Law Enforcement on 028 313 8996.

Addressing this problem will require community education, including responsible pet ownership and ensuring that animals are properly cared for. Initiatives such as these could also prevent youngsters from being lured into criminal activities by adults involved in wildlife hunting.



Dorienne Maes

SPEEDING ON THE R44

PRESENTATION TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MOBILITY

As part of the petition, the Steering Committee requested a site visit to Betty's Bay with the relevant authorities. As the petition progressed through the required steps, we did not anticipate an invitation to present the petition to the Standing Committee for Mobility of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and other stakeholders. It felt quite daunting!

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

URGENT CALL FOR SPEED RESTRICTIONS ON THE R44 THROUGH BETTY'S BAY

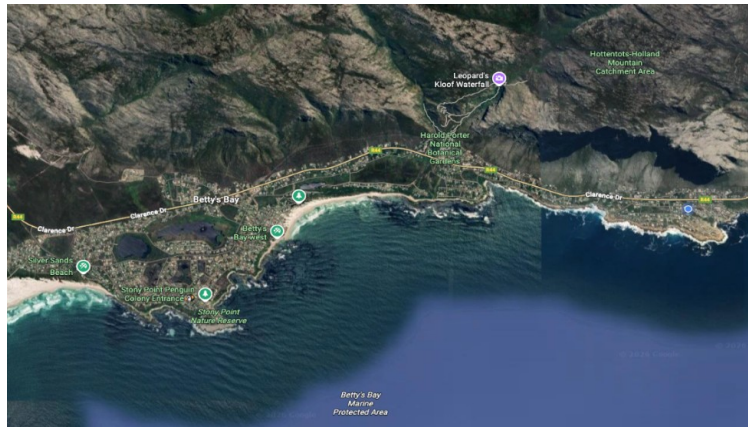
Addressing Lawless Speeding, Human Safety Hazards, and Wildlife Fatalities through Betty's Bay within the UNESCO declared Kogelberg Biosphere)

Each member of the Steering Committee focused on a particular site or issue on the R44 through Betty's Bay and sourced striking visual material to highlight the problem and the proposed solutions. These were compiled into a PowerPoint presentation. On the day of the meeting, each member presented their own section. To view the presentation on the BBC website:

<https://bettysbayconservancy.co.za/urgent-call-for-speed-restrictions-on-the-r44-through-bettys-bay/>

Carol Clark

UPDATE ON THE R44 PETITION



UPDATE FIVE

We are happy to report that, having petitioned the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP) on 27 March 2026, our petition successfully progressed to the final stage of the petition framework process. The Petition Steering Committee was invited to deliver a presentation on 25 August 2026 to brief the Standing Committee on Mobility and the relevant authorities. This was followed by inclusive discussions with the Departments of Mobility and Infrastructure and the Overstrand Municipality.

The discussions were generally amicable, with the Department of Mobility (DOM) and Overstrand Municipality (OM) clearly more attuned to the concerns of the residents of Betty's Bay than the Department of Infrastructure (DOI).

The DOM and DOI are to provide feedback to the Standing Committee on Mobility by the end of January 2027. The by-elections and the Opening of Parliament are to be considered, but the petition process was never going to be expeditious! All outstanding issues will be dealt with at a site meeting in Betty's Bay during February/March 2027. The Standing Committee is required to revert to the Speaker's Office in Parliament once the process is concluded.

However, a positive outcome of the briefing resulted in the mobilisation of Provincial Traffic Services at the request of the DOM. This would involve the use of manual cameras in the interim, to demonstrate a commitment by the DOM to take the concerns of the residents in Betty's Bay seriously, "failing which, in six months we shall all be back dealing with the same issues once again".



During this interim period, an evaluation and determination will be made as to the appropriate locations for stationary cameras to be positioned at a later stage. In the meantime, OM is to start the statutory application process for these stationary cameras.

Within days, Provincial Traffic Services were operational along the R44 through Betty's Bay, and fines were issued. OM traffic enforcement patrols were also observed in the area. If 230 erven and 37 intersections have direct access to the R44, this route should function as a "Class 2 Urban Arterial."

The Petition Steering Committee will challenge the authorities should they resist the following requests:

- 70km/h throughout Betty's Bay, excluding the 60km/h in the HUB area (Class 2 Urban Arterial).
- Mini roundabout at Disa Circle to slow down traffic in the CBD (Class 2 Urban Arterial).
- Two humps at the HUB to protect pedestrians crossing and vehicles accessing the R44 in the vicinity (Class 2 Urban Arterial).

The authorities agreed to discuss the following:

- Removal of parking bays to facilitate overtaking at the turnoff to Seaview Link to avoid collisions.
- Removal of parking bays to provide a clear view of oncoming traffic at the HUB.
- DOI "Wildlife Crossing" signage between Rooi Els and Betty's Bay.
- Location of stationary cameras (2) to be dependent on the outcome of the interim use of manual cameras.

Dorienne Maes

Photos: Carol Clark

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED WILDLIFE SIGNS FOR BETTY'S BAY



In the last BBC newsletter, we helped the BBRA promote awareness of the signs (above left) that residents could sponsor for Betty's Bay. Since then, we were made aware that these 12 signs are not in accordance with the National Road Traffic Act, National Road Traffic Regulations and SADC/SA Road Traffic Signs Manual prescribed for public roads. The Overstrand Municipality is apparently concerned that if there are accidents because of these other signs, they could be sued. Therefore, the OM Traffic Service has proposed another sign. This sign (above right) features an exclamation mark with "Wildlife" below it.

For those residents who enthusiastically sponsored specific signs for the village, the alternative official sign is disappointing. Sponsors can request a refund.

Even more disappointing for the BBC is that it was indirectly made aware that, due to concerns about accidents and being sued, the OM intends to remove the penguin crossing that was installed about two years ago. This is at a time when the penguins are fighting for survival as a critically endangered species. Numerous organisations are working together to support and protect them from multiple threats, including being hit by cars on the roads adjacent to Stony Point. The penguin-crossing increases awareness of this risk and encourages motorists to drive carefully near the colony. To remove it seems mean-spirited and counter-productive to the concerted efforts of other organisations to protect the penguins.

Carol Clark

Thank you to everyone who contributed articles for the BBC section.

Compiled by Carol Clark and proofread by Patrick Boltler.

And all that remains is for me to wish you all a very happy month of October and to request that you encourage neighbours and friends who are not members of the BBRA to sign up and join us!

Warm regards

Vivienne von der Heyden

Editor