



Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA) Newsletter October 2025



From the Chairman's desk:

Our Community, Strengthened by You

A heartfelt thank you to the residents of Betty's Bay. Your incredible generosity and active involvement this past month have been the driving force behind our three essential services. It is this collective spirit that builds a more resilient community for everyone.

We are so proud to stand alongside you. Together, we are building the future Betty's Bay deserves, one act of service and caring voice at a time.

Rooted in purpose. Rising in unity.

KNOW YOUR BBRA

Executive Committee

1.	Wayne Jackson	Chairman	Stony Point
		Membership and direction	
2.	Amund Beneke.	Vice Chairman	Sunny Seas
		Town Planning and Property Development	
3.	Hannelie Coetzee	Treasurer	Stony Point
4.	Vacant	Secretary	

Essential Services

5.	Rob Boyd.	BEST	Central
6.	Jorika Rabie.	Fire and Rescue	Stony Point
7.	Wayne Jackson	Sea Watch, Neighbourhood Watch	Stony Point

Community Services

8.	Elsa Stofberg	Conservation	Stony Point
9.	Abigail Davids.	Community development	Central
10.	Shameez Joubert	Markets	Rondevlei
11.	Claudele Jackson	Crassula Hall	Stony Point
12.	Marelize Smith	Speed reduction in BB	Stony Point
13.	Mea Viljoen	Young Parents	Stony Point
14.	Jade Alves	Sports and Recreation	Pringle Bay
15.	Ilona Veldsman	Drama and Theatre Arts	Stony Point

Communications

16.	Wendy Lucas	Website custodian	Silversands
17.	Tersia Starke	Website assistant	Bass Lake

Oversight

18.	Andre Kotze	Rondevlei Rep	Rondevlei
19.	Calan Bennett	Central Rep	Central

Please visit our website to engage with the appropriate portfolio leaders regarding areas of your interest. We welcome your suggestions for improvements to enhance our processes, foster progress, and promote a positive work environment.

SECRETARY: We are looking for a caring, organised volunteer to serve as secretary of the Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association. Our current secretary will be moving away at the end of October, and the new volunteer must be ready to begin in November.

Role Overview: The Secretary is a key leadership position responsible for helping to keep the BBRA running smoothly, ensuring accurate records, clear communication with members and stakeholders, and supporting effective, lawful governance.

Key Responsibilities:

Record keeping of meetings, decisions, motions, and correspondence.

Prepare and distribute agendas and minutes in a timely, professional manner.

Handle incoming and outgoing correspondence with the municipality.

SPEED HUMPS

From the Overstrand Municipality's perspective

a. Process & Policy: Traffic calming measures such as speed bumps fall under the Overstrand Traffic Services and Roads Department. Requests are assessed against

- i. Documented history of speeding or accidents in the location.
- ii. Presence of vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists, children, wildlife).
- iii. Environmental and engineering feasibility (drainage, gradient, emergency vehicle access).

b. Evidence Requirement: The Municipality will require supporting data, speed monitoring results, accident/incident reports, and possibly environmental impact notes.

c. Approval Path:

- i. Submission via the Ward Councillor to Overstrand's Traffic Services.
- ii. Site inspection and traffic study by municipal engineer
- iii. Recommendation to the relevant municipal committee for budget allocation or approval for privately funded installation (if offered).

d. Wildlife Consideration: While municipal policy focuses on human safety, the presence of a recognised ecological corridor can strengthen the case, especially if supported by CapeNature or environmental NGOs.

From the BBRA's point of view

a. Community Safety Mandate: The BBRA supports interventions that protect residents, visitors, and wildlife. Porter Drive has been repeatedly flagged for excessive speeding, and the proximity to Crassula Road makes it a high-risk zone for both pedestrians and animals.

b. Evidence Gathering. The BBRA can through the help of the community:

- i. Collate photographic and video evidence of speeding and wildlife casualties.
- ii. Gather resident testimonies and incident logs.
- iii. Engage the community to assist with speed monitoring and reporting.

c. Advocacy Strategy: The chairman of the BBRA will submit a formal, evidence-backed request to the Ward Councillor at a Ward 10 committee meeting and cc Overstrand Traffic Services.

We will highlight the dual safety imperative, human and environmental, in line with Overstrand's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) commitments to road safety and environmental stewardship.

Offer to co-fund or crowd-fund the installation if municipal budget constraints are cited, in line with municipal provisions for privately funded traffic calming. This money will come from a dedicated fund raiser by the community area requesting the hump.

d. Public Support: Mobilise residents to submit individual written endorsements to increase the weight of the request.

- i. Recommended systematic actions.
- ii. Documented speeding problem.
- iii. Wildlife mortality data.
- iv. Alignment with municipal safety and environmental objectives.
- v. Engage Ward Councillor to table the request at the next municipal safety and infrastructure meeting through the BBRA.
- vi. Collect supporting evidence over 2 to 3 months or as long as it takes to strengthen the case.
- vii. Explore co-funding options if municipal timelines and funding are inadequate.

e. I will support this request. Our portfolio holder for Town Planning and Property Development will need to follow due process otherwise we will be wasting our time.

3. **Littering on Porter Drive**

a. This is not on. It is impossible to ignore the fresh litter like bottles, packets, and refuse clearly tossed from passing vehicles. This is more than an eyesore; it's an insult to our shared environment, a hazard to wildlife, and a stain on the pride we take in Betty's Bay.

b. Remember not everyone that use this road have the same pride or care that we do, let's try and understand this:

i. The Municipality can clear litter, but it cannot be everywhere, every day.

ii. Enforcement against littering is possible, but catching offenders in the act is rare.

iii. The only way to stop this is for us, as a community, to make it socially unacceptable and practically difficult for littering to continue.

iv. We need Smart, Community-Driven Solutions. Adopt-a-Spot Programme

- Households, streets, or interest groups "adopt" a stretch of road or verge, committing to keep it clean and cut.
- One can coordinate a simple map and recognition system, celebrating those who keep their section spotless.
- Rapid Response Clean-Up WhatsApp Group
- A small volunteer pool that can respond quickly when new littering is spotted, preventing it from becoming embedded in the fynbos.
- Photos of before/after shared to inspire others.
- Visible Anti-Litter Signage
- BBRA-branded signs along Porter Drive and other hotspots: short, hard-hitting messages linking littering to harm of wildlife and community pride.
- Include Overstrand's fine amount for littering to remind offenders there's a legal cost.
- Neighbourhood Watch camera synergy
- Where cameras already monitor for safety, extend their use to identify habitual littering vehicles.
- Regular Community Clean-Up Days
- Combine with social events, coffee, boerewors rolls, to make participation rewarding.
- Youth Engagement: Children often influence adult behaviour more effectively than fines.

c. Closing Call: Porter Drive is one of the gateways to our Silversands, Rondevlei, Stony Point and Central.

d. Every bottle, packet, or wrapper tossed from a car says, "we don't care." That is not who we are. Let's prove it, together, by making littering a thing of the past in Betty's Bay.

Response from OM Kleinmond on the back of a formal request

4. **Speeding and Request for Speedbumps**

We acknowledge the concerns raised regarding vehicle speeds along Porter Drive and Delport Street, particularly near the intersections with Crystal Road and Lakeside Drive. Please note the following:

a. Porter Drive may be classified as an arterial/collector road, given its connectivity to a trunk road on both the western and eastern ends. In accordance with road design guidelines, the installation of speed humps on arterial/collector roads is not recommended, as they can hinder traffic flow and negatively impact the response times of emergency services.

- b. The existing speed humps were installed many years ago, under different standards and circumstances. While they remain in place, no additional humps are currently planned for Porter Drive due to its road classification and associated design criteria.
 - c. Requests for speed humps on asphalt roads are also subject to capital funding availability and must be considered within the municipality's broader budget and prioritisation framework.
 - d. Your request for additional traffic calming measures on Delport Road has been formally recorded and will be assessed in accordance with established traffic engineering principles. This evaluation will determine whether any speed control or reduction mechanisms can be implemented within the applicable legislative and financial frameworks. Kindly note that, at this stage, no assurance can be given regarding the implementation of such measures.
5. Potholes on Porter Drive: Please be advised that Works order No. 1676897 was logged on 3 October 2025 for pothole repairs in Betty's Bay. The area in question will be addressed under this works order. In line with our standard operating procedures, the maintenance team is allocated a period of 15 working days to attend to pothole repair on asphalt surfaced roads works order.
6. Overgrown sidewalks: Sidewalk and road reserve maintenance is currently handled by the Parks Department. Your concerns regarding overgrown vegetation, inadequate clearing, and encroaching branches have been noted. To ensure a coordinated response, we have included Zandile Bavuma from the Parks Department in this email. She will be able to provide further details regarding maintenance schedules and any planned interventions for Delport Street.

*Regards,
Denovan van Rhodie
Principal Technologist Civil Kleinmond*

Our response

Subject: Thank You for Your Detailed Feedback

Dear Denovan

- 1. On behalf of Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association, I would like to extend our sincere thanks for your thoughtful and comprehensive response to the concerns raised by our community.
- 2. We greatly appreciate the clarity you have provided regarding the classification of Porter Drive and the implications this has for traffic calming measures. While we understand the constraints around additional speed humps, it is reassuring to know that the request for Delport Street has been formally recorded and will be assessed within the appropriate frameworks. Your explanation helps us to communicate these realities more effectively to our members.
- 3. We are also grateful for the update on the pothole repairs and the confirmation that a works order has already been placed. This proactive step gives our residents confidence that the matter is receiving due attention.
- 4. Furthermore, we value your inclusion of the Parks Department in addressing the overgrown sidewalks. The coordinated approach you have facilitated is exactly the kind of collaboration that strengthens trust between the municipality and the community.
- 5. Please know that your willingness to engage with us in such a constructive and transparent manner is deeply appreciated. It not only addresses immediate concerns but also fosters a spirit of partnership that is vital for the long-term wellbeing of Betty's Bay.

*With gratitude and kind regards,
Wayne*

THE CANNABIS HOUSE IN JOCK'S BAY

BBRA OBJECTION: ERF 2988, 203 CLARENCE DRIVE, BETTY'S BAY: APPLICATION FOR REZONING, CONSENT USE AND DETERMINATION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY: WRAP PROJECT OFFICE ON BEHALF OF FPB GREEFF

1. Introduction: This memorandum provides an analysis of the application for Erf 2988, 203 Clarence Drive, Betty's Bay, concerning its legality under South African law and its compliance with the Overstrand Municipal by-laws, Land Use Scheme, and zone regulations.
2. The application seeks to:
 - a. Rezone the property from Single Residential (SR1) to Business Zone 3: Local Business (B3).
 - b. Grant Consent Use for a dwelling unit on the ground floor.
 - c. Grant Consent Use for a "place of assembly" for a private cannabis club.
 - d. Determine an administrative penalty for the unauthorized land use.
3. Analysis of the "Cannabis Club" under South African Law
 - a. The application's motivation heavily relies on the constitutional right to privacy for the personal use of cannabis. However, a critical distinction must be made between personal use and commercial or collective activities.
 - b. Constitutional Court Ruling (Prince Judgement): The 2018 ruling decriminalised the personal cultivation, possession, and use of cannabis by adults in a private space. It did not create a right to operate a commercial enterprise or a members-only club for the distribution of cannabis.
 - c. Current Legislative Gap: South Africa currently lacks a regulatory framework for the commercial sale, distribution, or "club" model of cannabis. The "Cannabis for Private Purposes Act" has been passed but is not yet in full operation, and it primarily addresses personal cultivation and possession, not commercial dispensaries or clubs.
 - d. Legality of the Proposed "Club/Shop": The operation described, where members make "contributions or payments" for cannabis, strongly resembles a commercial transaction. This activity likely falls outside the protection of the Prince judgement. Until national legislation is enacted to regulate such trade, these operations exist in a legal grey area and may be subject to enforcement under existing laws against the dealing or distribution of cannabis.
 - e. Conclusion on Cannabis Legality: The Municipality must be cautious. While the constitutional right to personal use is clear, the operation of a "cannabis club/shop" is not currently a legally recognised land use under South African law. Approving a land use for an activity that may itself be illegal or unregulated creates significant legal and operational risk for the Municipality.
4. Analysis under Municipal By-Laws and Land Use Scheme
 - a. Rezoning from SR1 to B3
 - i. Compatibility: The motivation correctly identifies the property's location adjacent to the Jock's Bay Retail Centre, a designated commercial node in the Municipal SDF. The SDF's support for infill development and small-scale economic activity in this node is a strong point in favour of the rezoning.
 - ii. Precedent and Character: The presence of other mixed uses in the area supports the argument that the rezoning would not be out of character.
 - iii. Compliance with B3 Parameters: The application demonstrates full compliance with the bulk and building line requirements for a B3 zone (coverage, floor factor, setbacks, parking). This technical compliance is a significant factor in favour of the rezoning, irrespective of the specific business.

iv. Recommendation: The rezoning from SR1 to B3 appears spatially and technically justified based on the SDF and the property's context. The use of the property for *a* shop is a permissible primary right under B3.

b. Consent Use for a "Place of Assembly"

i. This is the critical and most contentious component of the application.

ii. The term "Place of Assembly" is a neutral planning term. The intended use as a "cannabis club" is the specific activity that must be evaluated.

iii. Given the unresolved legal status of cannabis clubs (as outlined above), granting a Consent Use for this specific purpose is premature and legally risky.

iv. The Municipality has the discretion to approve or refuse this Consent Use based on its likely impact on the area. The applicant's argument that the use is discreet and generates minimal traffic is noted, but the nature of the activity itself is the primary concern.

c. Consent Use for a Ground Floor Dwelling

i. This is a standard requirement in a B3 zone, where a dwelling on the ground floor typically requires consent.

ii. Provided the dwelling unit complies with all health and safety regulations, there is no apparent planning reason to refuse this consent.

d. Determination of an Administrative Penalty

i. The applicant has admitted to the unauthorized use (both the shop and the club). The By-Law provides for an administrative penalty in such cases.

ii. The nature of the contravention is serious, as it involves establishing a use without any approval. However, the applicant is now following due process to rectify the situation.

iii. It is recommended that the penalty be calculated in accordance with the By-Law and that payment of the penalty be made a condition of approval for any subsequent land use rights granted.

5. Overall Conclusion and Recommendations

a. The application presents two separable issues: the rezoning of the property and the approval of a specific, legally ambiguous use.

b. On Rezoning: The application for rezoning from SR1 to B3 is well-motivated from a town-planning perspective, considering the property's location within a designated commercial node and its compliance with B3 development parameters. It is recommended that the rezoning be approved, subject to standard conditions.

c. On Consent Use (Cannabis Club): The application for Consent Use for a "place of assembly" for a cannabis club is fraught with legal uncertainty. South African law does not currently provide a framework for this activity. Therefore, it is recommended that this component of the application be refused, or alternatively, deferred pending the development of a national regulatory framework for cannabis. The grounds for refusal would be the illegal or unregulated nature of the proposed use, which makes it impossible for the Municipality to properly regulate and condition it, creating potential nuisances and enforcement challenges.

d. On Consent Use (Dwelling): This can be approved as a separate consent, contingent upon the approval of the rezoning.

e. On Administrative Penalty: The application for the determination of an administrative penalty should be approved, and the determined amount must be paid by the applicant as a condition for the issuance of any new land use rights.

6. In Summary: Approve the rezoning to B3 and the consent for the ground floor dwelling, thereby regularising the property's potential for business use. Refuse the consent for the cannabis club due to the current lack of a legal framework. This approach allows the property to be regularised for future legitimate business ventures while preventing the Municipality from sanctioning a potentially illegal land use.

This response should be considered as a formal objection to the application.

2025 PROPOSAL FOR LEASH FREE ZONES IN BETTY'S BAY

1. Executive Summary

- a. This proposal responds to the Overstrand Municipality's (OM) review of by-laws concerning dog-off-leash areas. It is informed by a public debate held on 15 March 2023 and subsequent community feedback. We acknowledge the current by-law and the challenges of enforcement.
- b. We propose a collaborative pilot programme to establish four designated, time-bound, and rule-based Leash-Free Zones (LFZs). This initiative aims to:
 - i. Provide a legal and safe outlet for responsible dog owners to exercise their pets.
 - ii. Reduce community conflict by clearly defining where off-leash activity is permitted.
 - iii. Protect our fragile fynbos and wildlife by concentrating activity in resilient, pre-selected areas.
 - iv. Foster a culture of shared responsibility and compliance within the community.
- c. This proposal outlines not just "where," but a comprehensive plan for the "how," including community-led stewardship, clear rules, and a framework for monitoring and evaluation.

2. Introduction & Background

- a. Betty's Bay is home to many responsible dog owners who wish to exercise their pets effectively and within the law. Currently, the lack of legal options leads to widespread non-compliance, creating tension between residents, endangering wildlife, and damaging sensitive flora.
- b. The community debate of 15 March 2023 demonstrated a strong desire for a proactive, community-driven solution. This proposal formalizes those ideas into a workable model that aligns with OM's goals and can serve as a template for other towns.

3. Proposed Leash-Free Zones (LFZs)

- a. We propose the following four areas as pilot LFZs, selected for their durability, lower ecological sensitivity (compared to pristine fynbos), and minimal conflict with high traffic "people spaces":
 - i. Silversands (Fig 1): A spacious beach area suitable for running and playing.
 - ii. Main Beach (Fig 2): A designated section of the main beach, using flags to segregate zones during peak seasons.
 - iii. Bass Lake Fire Breaks (Fig 3): Existing firebreaks that are regularly maintained, offering a non-beach alternative.
 - iv. Central Fire Break (Fig 4): Another existing firebreak, providing accessible space within the residential area.

4. Enhanced Rules & Code of Conduct. Building on the excellent rules from the debate, we propose this formalized Code of Conduct for all LFZs:

- a. Strict Time Limitations: LFZs are only operational from Sunrise to 9am and 5pm to Sunset. This minimizes conflict with other users and wildlife during peak activity hours.
- b. Absolute Clean-Up Policy: Owners must carry a poo bag for every dog and remove all waste. "Pack it in, pack it out" is non-negotiable.
- c. Voice & Sight Control: Dogs must be under effective voice control at all times. Unsocialized or aggressive dogs are prohibited.
- d. Wildlife and Flora Protection: No dog may be allowed to chase or disturb wildlife. Owners must keep dogs to the designated paths in firebreak areas to protect surrounding fynbos.
- e. Leash-at-Ready: All dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the LFZ.
- f. User Capacity: A maximum of [e.g., 6] dogs per handler to ensure control and safety.

5. Community-Led Stewardship & Implementation Plan. We acknowledge that OM cannot be solely responsible for enforcement. Therefore, we propose a shared-responsibility model:
 - a. Community "Watchdog" Group: The BBRA will facilitate a volunteer group of dog owners and residents to promote the rules, gently remind users of their responsibilities, and monitor usage.
 - b. Standardized Signage: We request OM's assistance in producing and erecting official, municipal-grade signage at each LFZ entrance, clearly displaying the Code of Conduct, hours, and penalties for by-law infringement.
 - c. Community Funding: The community is prepared to fundraise for supplementary items like flag poles, additional bags for waste stations, and educational materials.
 - d. Formal Reporting: The stewardship group will provide OM with quarterly reports during the pilot phase, documenting usage, compliance levels, and any incidents.
 - e. Transition strategy after pilot period. During the pilot period rules and protocols must be honed so that after the pilot period we simply move out of a pilot period into and accepted LFZs ruling.
6. Added Benefits & Positive Motivation. This proposal offers significant benefits beyond resolving dog-related conflicts:
 - a. Promotes Public Health: Encourages regular outdoor exercise for both dogs and their owners.
 - b. Social Cohesion: Provides a structured social venue for dog owners, strengthening community bonds.
 - c. Proactive Conservation: By concentrating activity, we actively protect the vast majority of Betty's Bay's fragile ecosystem more effectively than the current unregulated system.
 - d. Reduced Enforcement Burden: By providing a legal alternative, this programme will reduce the number of infractions officers need to address, allowing them to focus on wilful and repeat offenders outside the LFZs.
 - e. A Model for the Overstrand: A successful pilot in Betty's Bay can provide a scalable, cost-effective model for other communities facing similar challenges.
7. Conclusion and Call to Action
 - a. The Betty's Bay community is united in its desire to find a workable, responsible, and legal solution. We are simply not asking for permission; we are offering our partnership.
 - b. We respectfully request that the Overstrand Municipality:
 - i. Formally approve this proposal for a 12-month Pilot Programme.
 - ii. Work with us to draft the necessary by-law amendments or temporary permissions.
 - iii. Collaborate on the design and installation of official signage.
8. We are confident that this collaborative approach will create a win-win situation for dog owners, non-dog owners, the local environment, and the Municipality. We look forward to your positive response and to working together to make Betty's Bay a more harmonious and law-abiding community.
9. Attachments: Maps of Proposed Leash-Free Zones (Figs 1-4)

FIG 1 THE FIRST LEASH FREE ZONE SILVERSANDS



FIG 2 THE SECOND LEASH FREE ZONE MAIN BEACH



FIG 3 THE THIRD LEASH FREE ZONE BASS LAKE FIRE BREAKS.

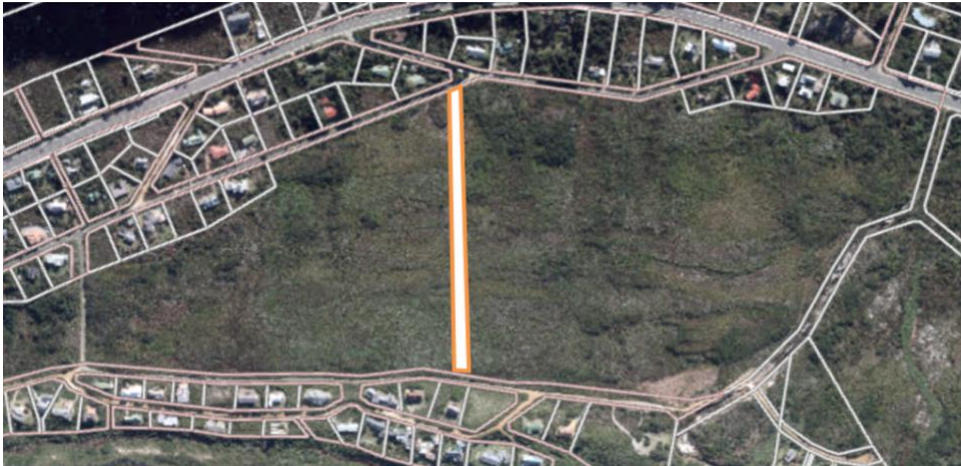
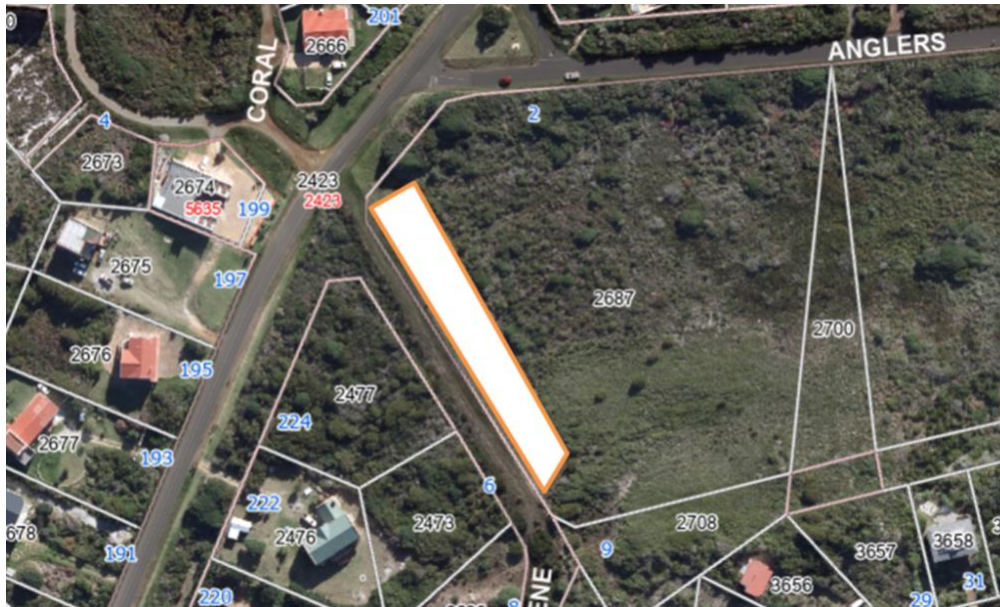


FIG 4 THE FOURTH LEASH FREE ZONE CENTRAL FIRE BREAK.



10. Summary of Community Debate Outcomes (15 March 2023)

- a. A public debate revealed significant community tension in Betty's Bay due to the lack of legal off-leash areas for dogs. This led to widespread disregard for leash laws, causing environmental damage to fragile fynbos and wildlife, safety concerns for residents, and growing conflict between dog owners and others.
- b. The community acknowledged that enforcement was difficult and that a proactive solution was needed. The proposed outcome was the creation of four designated leash-free zones (at Silversands, Main Beach, Bass Lake Fire Breaks, and a Central Fire Break) with a strict set of community-enforced rules.
- c. Key rules included protecting fynbos, mandatory poo pick-up, requiring dogs to be under control, and a ban on chasing wildlife. The conclusion was that the community must take responsibility for funding and managing these areas to provide a legal outlet for dogs while protecting the environment and restoring peace.

NEW BBRA LEASES ON ERF 2416 AND ERF 4030

1. Feedback from OM. Regarding Erf 2416, they are currently busy finalising our lease agreement for the hall and will forward it to us as soon as they have finalised it.
2. Feedback from OM. They have handed the file over to a colleague, Ms. Madelein Erasmus, who will now draft the lease agreement in respect of Erf 4030 Betty's Bay.
3. We will be eyeing more property in the area for leasing in the new year. There is a specific and very important reason for this. These leases last for nine years and 11 months with the result we can control what happens to these properties within the Ambert of the lease agreements of course.

Wayne Jackson
Chairman

TRIBUTE FROM THE BETTY'S BAY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE BETTY'S BAY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ON THE PASSING OF ADRIAN DE KOCK

The Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA) pays tribute to Adrian De Kock, a man whose life of service and dedication has left an enduring legacy in our community.

Adrian was one of the pioneers of the BBRA, serving faithfully for many years as treasurer, leader, and organiser. He was instrumental in shaping the Association into the respected body it is today. His work was never about recognition, but about service, he gave of his time, his wisdom, and his energy unselfishly, always placing the needs of the community first.

As a firm but fair negotiator, Adrian had the ability to balance strength with diplomacy. He was deeply knowledgeable on all matters affecting our community and could communicate effectively with government and the Overstrand Municipality, ensuring that the voice of Betty's Bay was heard and respected. The systems and structures he put in place remain the foundation of the BBRA, and we will continue to build on them with gratitude for his foresight and leadership.

Adrian was more than a leader, he was a patriarch of Betty's Bay, a man of integrity, principle, and quiet strength. His presence at meetings, his steady guidance in times of challenge, and his unwavering belief in the value of community will be deeply missed.

He leaves behind his loving family, and especially his devoted wife, Hazel De Kock, who stood by his side and supported him in all his endeavours for the community. We acknowledge with gratitude the sacrifices and encouragement that made his service possible.

On behalf of the BBRA, we extend our sincere condolences to Hazel, to Adrian's family, and to all who mourn his passing. His legacy will live on in the work of the Association and in the community, he served so faithfully.

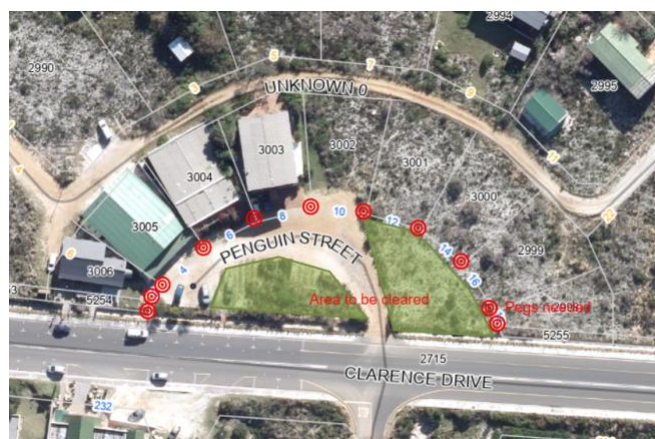
Adrian De Kock will be remembered with respect, gratitude, and affection. A true servant of the people, a guardian of our community, and a gentleman to the end.

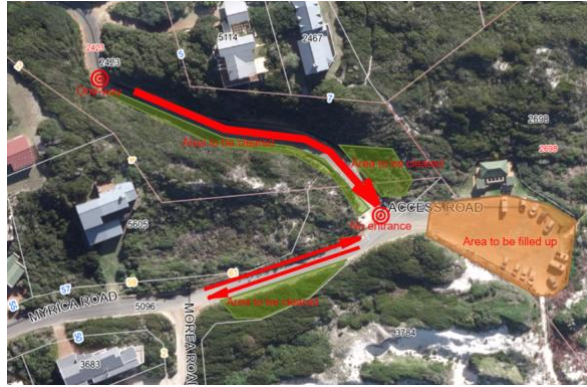
Wayne Jackson

News from the portfolio heads follows:

ENGINEERING SERVICES, TOWN-PLANNING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

Parking Areas / Sites to be renovated: Coffee on Clarence / The Hub Parking





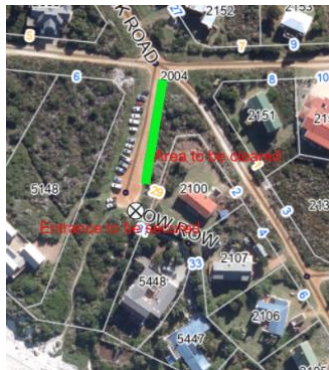
The OLM Traffic Engineer needs to investigate the influence on the “traffic flow” regarding the possible closure of street(s) / possible transforming to one-way street(s).

Awaiting Director Stephen Muller’s go-ahead.

Brenton and his team are ready to do the required earth works.

It is to be confirmed that the storm water drainage has been cleared to ensure that storm water no longer is an issue in the parking area. (Brenton)

Silver Sands:



Awaiting Director Stephen Muller’s go-ahead.

Building Control:

Stats for Building Plans for the period August to September 25: 25 submitted and 21 approved.

Stats for Building plans for period May to July 25: 35 submitted and 41 approved.

Spatial Development Framework (SDF) Overstrand: The Consultants are still busy with the status quo section for the SDF. Once done, it will be circulated for comments/input.

Overhills Low Cost Housing Project (Environmental Process)

Public meetings were held on 10 September 2025 at the Proteadorp Community Hall (cancelled), with a “*virtual meeting*” on the 11 September 2025.

A follow-up meeting was held on the 6 October 2025 (Overhills Community Center) and the 7 October 2025 (Kleinmond Town Hall):

The Environmental Authorization Process was presented/discussed.

All “*interested and affected parties*” will receive the presentation via email/link to the website. Hard copies will also be made available at certain points.

The Town-planning Process should commence in October/November 2025.

Vehicles:

Grader is in for service. A Roller and Grader will be contracted in to assist in the meantime.

One Digger is operational. One Digger is out of action.

The two 3 ton Lorries are operational.

One Tipper is operational. One Tipper is in for refurbishment.

The Lorry used for watering gravel roads is operational.

Currently gravel is being distributed between Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay. Once the Grader and Roller are here, they will be used to gravel and scrape the roads - first in Pringle Bay and then in Betty's Bay.

Gravel: 500m³ of the first order of gravel is available. A second order for approximately 2000m³ has been ordered.

Tar: Tar is available. An order will be placed before December 2025 to ensure enough tar is available over the festive season.

Speed Humps: The reconstruction of speed humps has been dealt with. Remains a contentious issue: Speed humps on gravel roads are most probably illegal as they cannot be clearly marked as required by Law. Chevrons alone are inadequate as the hump itself must be painted/marked.

Cutting of verges: The Parks Division is responsible for this and must be reported to them. The S/W Team in BB is also attending to this issue as far as possible and great progress has been made.

Stormwater problems/Potholes: As the Municipality becomes aware of problems, they are addressed within the capacity of the Municipality and 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)

Twelve callouts were attended to in September 2025. Three falls (fractured femur, hospital for x-ray, uninjured). One Sixty60 motor bike accident involving a turning car, the patient transferred by ambulance to hospital. Two seizures, both taken to hospital for assessment. One dog bite, referred to Overstrand Emergency Care for tetanus and possibly sutures. Three medical cases, one of which required hospitalisation. Most regrettably, two deaths upon arrival, our sincere condolences to the families and friends of the deceased.

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

Any donation to BEST will be most welcome as we have ongoing expenses and may also require a new patient vital signs monitor (R75 000). Fortunately, we have a number of spare patient monitors which have been kindly donated - ABSA, Betty's Bay Ratepayers account 4066616439, Branch 632005, with BEST as the reference to ensure that your donation is used solely for our purpose. Many thanks to all those who have contributed - without your support we would not be able to provide this service.

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

Rob Boyd

BETTY'S BAY FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

With the last official month of training season coming to a close, the team have completed their last chapter of the 5th Edition of *Fire Fighting Essentials* for the season, and will now begin to gear up for the upcoming Fire Season.

FIRE & RESCUE: We are grateful to have had another quiet month, with no major incidents to report.

ARE YOU FIREWISE? Follow this link to download the Fire Wise Booklet which is full of great tips and important information <https://bettysbayratepayers.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/WCG-Wild-Fire-Ready-Booklet-13082020-.pdf>

Report fire and emergencies immediately. Always phone – no WhatsApp messages AND no WhatsApp calls

YOUR IMPORTANT NUMBERS – load them into your phone NOW!

028 312 2400 ALL Fire & Emergency – 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**

Stay Informed

The Fire Danger Index or Rating predicts the fire behaviour should a fire start and how dangerous it would be attempting to extinguish the fire. The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions. On Orange and Red days, NO FIRES should be lit.



LOW

Fire Danger Index 0 - 20

Flame Lengths (m) 0 - 1

[Fire Control Guide regarding fire danger rating application](#)

Low fire hazard. Controlled burning operations can normally be executed with a reasonable degree of safety

MODERATE

Fire Danger Index 21 - 45

Flame Lengths (m) 1 - 1.2

[Fire Control Guide regarding fire danger rating application](#)

Although controlled burning operations can be done without creating a fire hazard, care must be taken when burning on exposed, dry slopes. Keep a constant watch for unexpected wind speed and direction changes. reasonable degree of safety

DANGEROUS

Fire Danger Index 45 - 60

Flame Lengths (m) 1.2 - 1.8

[Fire Control Guide regarding fire danger rating application](#)

Controlled burning is not recommended when the FDI exceeds 45. Aircraft should be called in at the early stages of a fire. reasonable degree of safety

VERY DANGEROUS

Fire Danger Index 61 - 75

Flame Lengths (m) 1.8 - 2.4

[Fire Control Guide regarding fire danger rating application](#)

NO CONTROLLED BURNING OF ANY NATURE should take place. Careful note should be taken of any sign of smoke anywhere - especially on the up-wind side of any plantation. Any fire that occurs should be attacked with the maximum force at hand, including all available aircraft at the time. reasonable degree of safety

EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

Fire Danger Index 76 - 100

Flame Lengths (m) 2.4 +

[Fire Control Guide regarding fire danger rating application](#)

ABSOLUTELY NO BURNING. All personnel and equipment should be removed from field. Fire teams, labour and equipment are to be placed on full stand-by. At the first sign of smoke, every possible measure should be taken in order to bring fire under control in the shortest possible time. All available aircraft are to be called without delay. reasonable degree of safety

SUPPORT THE VOLUNTEERS: If you would like to join our team or support us in any way, please contact Jorika on 072 616 8418.

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

Bank details: Name: Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association Bank: ABSA Account: 4066 616 439

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

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

*Thank you for your ongoing support and donations. Until our next update, keep warm and stay **Fire Wise!***

Jorika Rabie

DRAMA AND THEATRE ARTS

Welcome to Drama and Theatre Arts, a new portfolio of the BBRA, which is now my responsibility.

I look forward to arranging and promoting drama and theatre arts in Betty's Bay. And I would welcome suggestions in such regard from all of you. Please note, this does not mean professional performance – *your* participation is my goal, and it need not involve any performance. I look forward to hearing from you. My contact details are provided below.

My name is Ilona Frege. At the beginning of 2024, my husband and I relocated from Cape Town to what had been our holiday home in Betty's Bay for 20 years.

I specialise in physical theatre, acting, voice, choreography, and movement direction. I have taught at various tertiary institutions (University of Stellenbosch, Wits, and UCT), and at private institutions and schools in the Western Cape, offering modules in physical theatre and acting. I have more than 30 years of experience working as a performer, theatre educator, and theatre-maker. In 2019, I launched *Frege Moves*, offering specialised training in physical theatre, movement for performance, and acting.

Are you curious about exploring creative ways to use your voice and body to express thoughts and ideas, your own as well as from texts or poems? I would love to meet up with you, so I am arranging a *Meet and Greet* at Crassula Hall on

Wednesday 12 November: 11H00-12H00

Please be there! I can be contacted on: ilona@fregemoves.co.za or 083 427 3706

Ilona Frege

And now for news from other community groups doing good work in our village:



HANGKLIP COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE

HCCC provides welfare services to the Hangklip community, i.e. residents of Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els. During the month of September we distributed 52 food parcels and cooked 474 scrumptuous, nutritious meals.

Our semiweekly Pilates and Line-dancing classes, weekly Bridge afternoons and monthly Friendship Circle meetings have continued as usual, the Bridge meetings now taking place at our HCC Centre, while the Pilates and Line-dancing classes will continue at the Crassula Hall in Betty's Bay.

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

A further home carers' training course was presented during May in Pringle Bay.

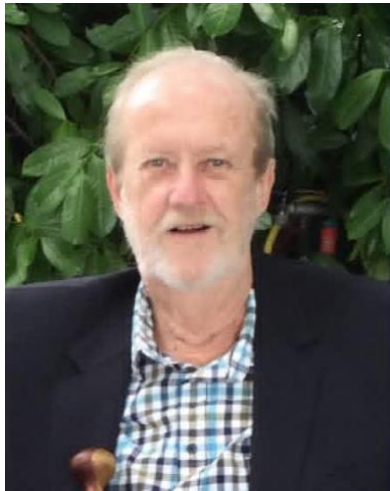
If anyone would like to know more about our activities and the work that we do, please contact our chairman, Colin Cook, at myrna.colin@gmail.com.

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

David Fritz

A Tribute to Adrian de Kock

Adrian de Kock, who sadly passed away on 6 October, was a pillar of strength of the Hangklip Community Care Centre for many years. As secretary of the then Hangklip Fynbos Service Centre, he took the lead, in 2012, in transforming the organisation into a registered, independent NPO with its current name, constitution and funding base. Since taking over as treasurer, his characteristic drive, initiative and attention to detail ensured that HCCC has prospered and remained financially sound even through difficult times.



In spite of regular setbacks in his fight against cancer in recent years, he doggedly continued with his task as treasurer. Words such as "total commitment, dedication, scrupulously honest and caring" spring to mind. With his banking background he could account for each cent collected or disbursed. As a servant to the Hangklip community he would also ensure that value for money was obtained for each such cent and that the lives of the people were enriched - not only physically but also in terms of self-worth.

We honour the legacy he leaves behind and offer our sincere condolences to his wife Hazel and his family who lovingly supported him on his life journey.

George Green and Werner Zybrands



INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN UP: 20 SEPTEMBER

My thanks to:

Barbara Jenman and all the site supervisors in Betty's Bay
Robert Keyzer who helped coordinate the ICC in the Hangklip villages and supply the ICC data forms to all the Betty's Bay sites. He is also analyzing the sample bags from each site.
Ronni van der Westhuizen who helped to collect and transport the bags of trash to the Betty's Bay drop-off facility
The Maties Underwater Club (MUC) divers: I hope that next time that they will have great diving weather!



Everyone who helped on the ICC day to do an “*Every day do one small act for biodiversity*”
Overall, in the Hangklip villages: 180 people helped to collect 120 bags at 14 sites.

In Betty’s Bay, there were eight ICC sites:

Baumgartner Place, Silver Sands beach



Five bags were collected from this site, which extended across Silver Sands Beach. There were seven volunteers, one of whom had already done a solo clean-up on the Thursday before the official event on Saturday, 20 September. The area behind the volunteers in these pictures was heavily littered with plastic —enough to fill one bag on its own.

Items collected from the beach included bottle tops, bottles, straws, microplastics, glowsticks, condoms and wrappers, cigarette butts, lollipop sticks, earbuds and fishing line. The volunteers were upbeat and enthusiastic, proud to be contributing to the care of the pristine beaches in Betty’s Bay.

Much of the debris appears to be left by fishermen, another reason why our Marine Protected Area (MPA) should be designated a “no-take zone” to safeguard our marine environment and its resources for future generations. In short: no more fishing in Betty’s Bay.

Patrick Boltler

Watsonia Road, Silver Sands beach

Ronnie and his helpers met at Watsonia and cleaned that area of Silver Sands.

Ronnie van der Westhuizen



Draadbaai



Thanks to Wessel, Ruargh, Paul, Louwrens and Cilla for helping to clear up at Draadbaai. Louwrens picked up lots of glass, which made his bag heavy!

Stony Point:

The International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) and the “Dive Against Debris” (DAD) at Stony Point: We watched the weather, hoping for a calm day for the clean-up, as it’s not fun trying to pick up litter in the wind! It blows the litter and the bags adding a rather unpleasant challenge! Saturday presented us with a “clean-up friendly” day but, sadly, it was not “dive friendly”.

The swell was strong and the dive masters, Ben and Lenize, assessed the conditions and made the decision to cancel the dive for safety reasons. So disappointing. The students from the Maties Underwater Club (MUC) had travelled to Betty’s Bay the day before, been generously hosted by a family in Sunny Seas on Friday evening, unpacked all their gear at Stony Point and were ready for the go ahead to start changing into their dive gear. However, it was a “no go”.

To the credit of this positive and enthusiastic group of students, they made Plan B and joined us for the ICC in Stony Point and along the coast.

**International
COASTAL
CLEANUP &
DIVE AGAINST
DEBRIS (DAD)**



**A joint project
of the BBC, Maties Underwater Club (MUC),
Black Sheep Diving and CapeNature**

About 19 volunteers from MUC, BBC, some BBC Penguin-Pals and other residents armed themselves with big yellow bags, and headed off in various directions from Stony Point to remove trash from the coastal area and roads nearby.

On their return, their bags contained lots of fishing line – a reflection of the fishing in the MPA area, and the lack of cleaning up by the anglers.

Other items in the trash bags included: plastic cold drink bottles, beer bottles, danger tape, straws, condom packets, broken pieces of glass, chips and sweet packets, paper cups, takeaway cartons, rope, a pair of scissors, thick cord, cigarette boxes, bits of broken plastic, piping, cardboard and bits of wood. A brave volunteer picked up a very smelly five-liter container that probably had bait in it, in the penguin colony.

The ages of the volunteers ranged from 18 to 82, and included students from Germany and America. Anyone can help clean up!

We gave the ICC “Top Volunteer” certificate to the MUC students for all their effort in coming to Betty’s Bay and their help in the ICC.



Carol Clark

Main Beach: Sea Way

It was great to see so many folk out collecting litter for the ICC, thank you! We cleaned from Sea Way to Main Beach and back. By far the majority of items collected were fishing line - balls of it, strips of it, twisted around kelp, etc. Sadly, we also saw a dead tern and a dead seal pup, which we reported.



Sandy Immelman



Main Beach: from the car park



Thanks to Hannelie, Dries, Mercia, Sandra and to the most energetic Gary who emptied the bin at the lifesavers hut into two full bags. It was a real treat to see an otter surfing the waves onto the beach. Gerda and Johan Theron picked up trash between the Dawidskraal Rivers, which is a bird sanctuary area.

Thanks to Jannie who picked up all the Betty's Bay bags in his bakkie, excluding those tagged as sample bags, and transported them to the Betty's Bay drop off.

Barbara Jenman

Jocks Bay

Pictures of the Jocks Bay clean-up crew and the trash we collected. Five volunteers collected two full bags. Thanks to Wendy, Gordon, Alta and Susan.



In addition, Alta and I filled the big yellow bag (bottom right in the picture) from a 15 m section of the stream just below Clarence Drive, alongside Waterfall Road.

Viv von der Heyden

Sunny Seas: Dolphin Drive, Abalone and Luckhoff area

The *Sunny Seas Cleanup* resulted in 32 bags collected by 20 volunteers, including Carole Roberts, Dorrienne Maes, Anita Louw who each coordinated a group. Three teams combed a small beach enclave, verges and ditches, which span just over two kms. The items collected ranged from cans, bottles and plastic bags, to unsecured debris blown from building sites, which was mostly destined to end up in the ocean at some stage. Herewith, a snapshot of some of our enthusiastic volunteers and the final load en route to the transfer station!





Dorrienne Maes

“MOWING PAUSED” SIGNAGE IN BETTY’S BAY



The signs are now up in Betty’s Bay.

Thanks to Joan Isham and Jan Briers for installing the 26 “mowing paused” signs that the BBC sponsored at the pre-determined sites. The Kleinmond Nature Conservation Society initiated the project and organized the artwork and printing of the signs.

Although the signs say that the “mowing paused” season is from August to November, they were put up in early October due to the logistics of liaising with Overstrand Municipality and the design and printing of the signs. Next year they will be ready to go up at the start of the “mowing paused” season.



Unfortunately, it seems that the Overstrand Municipality did not communicate clearly with their mowing teams regarding some of these “mowing paused” areas, and Bass Road was mowed just before the signs were put up.

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT THE BETTY'S BAY BOOK



The spirit of Betty's Bay captured in a book

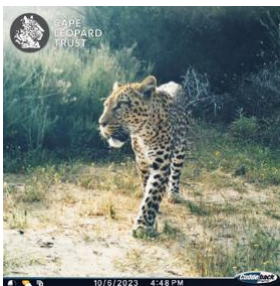
A limited edition coffee table book titled **Betty's Bay - Between Mountain and Sea**, comprising 608 colour pages is due to be launched on 20 December at 4:00 pm in the Nivenia Hall, Harold Porter Garden.

The pre-launch and launch price is subsidised at R500 per copy. Post-launch the price will be higher.

Over 300 copies have already been pre-ordered. To pre-order your copy at R500, please contact Skip Krige: 082 411 3414 or skipkrig@mweb.co.za

You can also contact Skip if you or your company would like to support this remarkable project by making a donation towards the cost of producing the book.

CAPE LEOPARD TRUST (CLT): FUNDRAISER: Only three days to go!!!

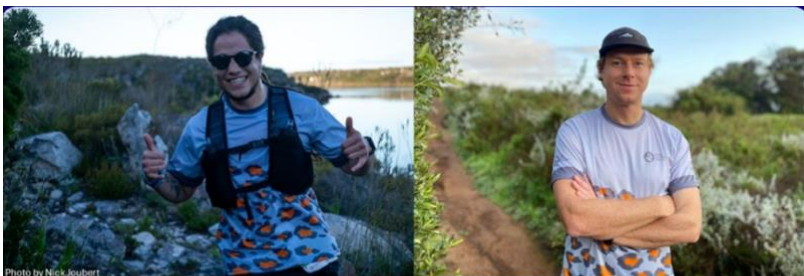


“RUNNING FOR LEOPARDS”: Running 42km to raise R48 000 for CLT projects

Matthew Arendse and Naas van Jaarsveld both work for CLT. They have been training hard to run their first marathon, the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon on 19 October. **With two days to go**, they have raised R20 500 in donations which is 48% of their target.

Matthew and Naas have put in many thousands of steps towards raising funds for the leopards.

One quick step to donate something towards their marathon project is the easy part! Please consider supporting their mission: <https://bit.ly/Runningforleopards2025>



Running for Leopards! 42k for 42k!

Run: Running for Leopards

The BBC hosted CLT at our BBC4thSaturday event in May and we were amazed to hear about all the valuable work they do. Every donation helps CLT towards education about, research on and conservation of these incredible animals.

Photo credit: from their fundraiser page

The funds they raise will support projects for educating young people:

<https://capeleopard.org.za/news-media/news/story/the-clt-gents-trek-2024-climbing-mountains-building-leaders>
<https://capeleopard.org.za/news-media/news/story/girls-in-conservation-inspiring-young-women-for-a-greener-future>



UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED RETIREMENT VILLAGE ON ERF 4032 CRASSULA WAY



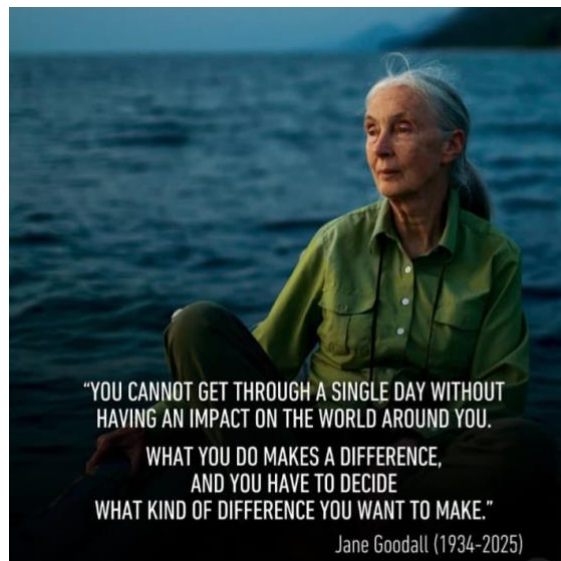
On 20 September, the advertising board next to the erf 4032 was taken down.

As per the OM Town Planner this week, no planning application was received for this proposed development. If you look on Property24, Erf 4032 is now on the market for R10 Million. The price in the previous sale in 2016 was about R1.6 Million.

If you know any person or organisation who has the interest and financial capacity to purchase this large erf for conservation purchases, please let me know on bettybayconservancy@gmail.com or 079 7530166. It

has a wetland on it, is a big, green and safe habitat area for local wildlife and connects to other green open spaces in close proximity. It is currently zoned as a commercial property, but it would be wonderful to have this purchased and rezoned for conservation purposes.

CLOSING THIS UPDATE WITH WORDS FROM THE LEGENDARY DR JANE GOODALL WHO PASSED AWAY ON 1 OCTOBER 2025



Penguins Come in Many Colours

I recently discovered a delightful coloring book about the African penguins of Stony Point, called *The Colours of an African Penguin*. It was created by a local artist in Betty's Bay, Xena Gericke. She explained that her goal was to help more children understand and care for the environment. I was certainly surprised to learn from the book that African penguins can dive up to 130 metres under the sea! Clearly, when we learn more about animals, we grow to appreciate them and naturally want to protect them. That way, future generations can enjoy them. Xena wished there had been a child-friendly and informative book like this when she was growing up, so she decided to write one herself. Now, she's able to share the same joy she felt using colouring books with today's kids, while also teaching them new words like 'flipper'.



I especially enjoy the drawing of a penguin with a watch on its flipper, showing that they can hold their breath for four and a half minutes. You might be wondering where Xena learned to draw such fun illustrations. Alongside her love for colouring books, she has always enjoyed the creative process of art since childhood. She completed a 3D animation course at Oaksfield College in Somerset West, where she acquired helpful technical skills that enabled her to create her book's illustrations more quickly and precisely.

Why write about penguins? Xena said her parents have been volunteer first responders for penguin rescues for the past two years, meaning that by accompanying them, she has spent a lot of time around penguins. Experts at SANCCOB were consulted to ensure the facts in the book are correct. This is definitely not what I expected her to say. I had assumed she had visited the colony as a tourist multiple times throughout her childhood, which inspired her to write the book. Her answer was much more exciting.

Aside from the artwork, it was interesting to learn how the colouring book was made. The book is self-published, through working with CTP Printers in Cape Town. The colours needed to be tweaked to be more visible to readers. Xena has had to do the marketing herself, which she says was a challenge. Fortunately, her mother has been very helpful with her experience in that field. Right now, the book is available to buy in the Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens bookshop, the FDDP print shop, Coffee on Clarence, and the SANCCOB coffee shop in Tableview. She hopes more shops will sell it in the future, and other animal colouring books she may write in time.

When I first saw this book, I was interested in its innovative way of presenting and appreciating the natural wonders of this beautiful animal in Betty's Bay. I did not expect to learn more about penguins through the medium of a colouring book. I'm glad Xena has provided a fun opportunity for children to learn about the environment. I'm glad her passion for wildlife is shown in how she donates 10% of the proceeds from the book to SANCCOB. You should definitely buy this book for the family at Christmas.

Tony Norton

Many thanks to Tony for his regular contributions to our newsletter!

HACKING - The Battle for Betty's Bay: Report on Hack No 739 on 4 October 2025

Twenty three volunteers attended this hack. This was the fifth hack at Brodie Link to remove thousands of rooikranz seedlings which have taken root after the January 2024 fire. Lifts were arranged from the R44 gate for those who didn't want to risk taking their cars up the jeep track to the hacking site as the top turn off into the grassed parking area was still deep in mud despite only four days of rain in September (43mm).

Alan Reid was welcomed back before we set off in two groups armed with poppers, loppers and poison. One group tackled an area lower down and the other an area higher up the western slope. Jan, with chainsaw, lopper and poison tackled the larger trees growing between the field rangers house and the top parking area.

Apart from the normal popping, it was time consuming and necessary to hand pull the hundreds of smaller rooikranz seedlings hiding away amongst the grass and restios.



The mid-morning break was taken back at the parking area at 10am. Thanks to Dave Maurant for providing all that was needed for a good cup of tea or coffee before he headed off early for the *Birds of the Kogelberg* book launch at Harold Porter. Thanks to Mary Whitelaw and Lee Boyd for making their delicious egg and mayo and cucumber and grated cheese sandwiches. Needless to say, none remained!



After the break, the top group reached and surpassed the western edge of the target area which is demarcated by a huge erosion gulley. It was hugely rewarding to achieve our target which was set four months earlier. The evidence is clear for all to see with piles of freshly pulled green seedlings from today's effort and all the brown, dried out heaps from previous hacks.



A very big thank you for a most productive and enjoyable hack. Thanks to Chris, Anne, Brian and Hatch for joining us from Pringle Bay and Megs from Rooiels, your support is always appreciated. It was agreed that we will return to Brodie Link in November 2025 to remove a thicket of large Port Jackson seedlings growing close to the western edge near the erosion gulley and then do a sweep back down the slope to remove what we have missed.

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

Rob Boyd

Convener Betty's Bay Hack Group

SUPPORTERS OF THE KOGELBERG BRANCH OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

The first two weeks of October have been extremely busy for the Kogelberg Branch. What has stood out in these two weeks is how blessed and fortunate we are to have the most amazing volunteers supporting the branch.

On 4 October we launched our very own “Birds of the Kogelberg” book and we had the highest turnover for a single day in the shop that day (excluding plant sales April and October 2025). Volunteers produced eats, served coffee and tea and generally provided a jovial and pleasant atmosphere for the launch.

Kleinmond Nature Conservation Society invited us to be part of their Fynbos Fees from 3 to 10 October. This meant manning a table in the Kleinmond Library from 6 -10 October. On Friday 10 October we sold 600 plus Fynbos Plants. Of course, the force behind this was Janet Nel who planned to the minutest detail all aspects of our participation in the Fees, prepared everything for us, the volunteers, and on Friday together with Galia Manicom manned the plant sales desk. Thank you, Janet, for always going the extra mile with a smile.

What has become very evident these past few months is that we need to grow closer to similar associations and groups in the Overberg: Hermanus Botanical Society, Kleinmond Nature Conservation, Betty's Bay Conservancy, Rooi Els Conservancy etc. All have very similar goals, and we should not be working as silos in the area but co-operate more in future. This past week, being part of the Kleinmond Fynbos Fees, has been wonderful and it was really good to get to know Vic and Thea Brink, Carl Swart, Carin Malan and all the other Committee Members of Kleinmond Nature Conservation. The Kogelberg Branch will definitely be working in tandem with them on many projects in future.



A joyful Ebraime meeting Leon Kluge at the show

Galia Manicom and her garden circle and Fighting for Fynbos continue to do amazing work. She organised that, when we visited the Stanford Chelsea Flower Show, Ebraime Hull of Harold Porter National Gardens could accompany us, a wonderful gesture from Galia and her team. The show was outstanding.

The Friends of Harold Porter Gardens get stuck in on alternating Tuesday and Thursday mornings, weeding the beds and cutting back overgrown plants, gaining much satisfaction from doing so. Contact Viv von der Heyden (084 685 2641) should you wish to join them. More volunteers would be welcomed!

Because of all your support of the shop we are able to supply SANBI with much needed poles and steel rods to fix the zigzag path. This is a donation from our branch to SANBI. This donation has been a true morale booster for the staff in the gardens. Because the shop is generating reasonable profits, we are able to support SANBI in key initiatives like keeping the zigzag path in good condition. This has had a huge positive effect on the morale of the staff, and it has been a very worthwhile investment. We will continue supporting Harold Porter National Gardens with materials when needed if we can. The Hermanus Botanical Society looks after the Fernwood Gardens entirely themselves with no Government support. We have the most beautiful garden in the world and we do have some government support, but it needs our support too. I believe our partnership with the staff at the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens is on a very sound footing at present.

HAROLD PORTER BOOK AND CRAFT SHOP

It has been a very busy month for the bookshop and thanks to everyone's efforts we are now on track to show a 50% growth year on year in the shop, which is indeed a very pleasing result.

On Saturday 4 October, we successfully launched Keith Hamilton's beautiful book "Birds of the Kogelberg". Keith did a great job of telling us about the journey he undertook with this book and while he will not get rich and we will not get rich from this book, we are very proud to be associated with it and proud that we could launch it as our third very own book.

On Saturday 25 October 2025, we launched Alan Lee's book "Birds on the Brink". We have just stocked this amazing book in the shop.

Special mention must be made of the wonderful extension that Harry von der Heyden built onto the bookshop, connecting the main shop to what was an office and now is the repository for the second-hand and children's books. Galia is delighted to have the extra space for the many books and it is indeed a very attractive addition. Children are fascinated by the stuffed mongoose that greets them in the doorway to the book room! Many thanks for all your hard work, Harry. The new display cabinet that stands outside the main entrance to the shop was also built by Harry for the local Overberg Geoscientists Group. Dave Maurant will be filling it with fossils and rock specimens from the area, complementing the geological displays already in the Gardens.

SANBI Membership: As per our previous newsletter, we truly urge everyone to take out SANBI Loyalty Membership (Delicia Apple at the SANBI Offices can assist you with actioning your membership) and visit the Harold Porter Gardens on a regular basis. The gardens look stunning at present.

We urge you to visit the shop. We are forever stocking new stock items and Janet Nel and the volunteers look forward to welcoming you.

KOGELBERG GARDEN CIRCLE and Fighting For Fynbos do a great job of plant rescue. Convenor: Galia Manicom Cell: 082 963 3804.

HACKS: The hackers continue to do amazing work, but they just keep on going the extra mile. Cape Nature has put up fences around the Kogelberg Nature Reserve which have restricted the movement of small buck, porcupine, tortoises and other fauna. After long negotiations with Cape Nature it was agreed to remove the bottom two or three strands of the fence so that small animals can have free movement. The Hangklip Hardcore Hackers (HHH) are participating in removing some of the wire strands from the recently erected fence. This is an amazing initiative. We owe a big thank you to all the hardcore hacking team for undertaking this task.

Betty's Bay Hacks: Convenor Rob Boyd 082 567 8858 (*Rob's report appears above - Ed*).

Hangklip Hardcore Hackers: Chris reported that in the month of September the HHH performed 221-man days from eight hacks (four rural verge and four project). Chris goes on to report that a new initiative of the HHH, the clearance of the old Porter Drive between the Hangklip Fontein and the old Water Reservoir, is making good progress. This is now real hardcore hacking and the main reason that it entails all types of hacking techniques. The benefit is the exposure of such beautiful fynbos, from the King Protea to the smallest petite Ericas. Progress is slow but extremely rewarding

For the month of October, Chris states that they will continue on the M-Plot and the G-Plot next to "Stroompie" in Betty's Bay, the Turtle Creek, the hakea site and follow up on the verge of the R44 (Rooi Els to Betty's Bay). Convenor: Chris Geldenhuys 082 900 8299

Pringle Bay Hack: Pringle Bay Hack No.215 (27 September 2025): This hack worked on the aliens in the Hangklip Valley (Rooikrans and Seedlings) and the verges of Terminal, Peak and Three-way roads, Pringle Bay. Chris continues that "it is now the time that it becomes too hot on the mountain to work effectively. From the end of October we will focus on the river surrounds and that will give us a chance again to work together as a big oiled lubricated machine. By doing this, we are not abandoning the aliens in the mountain - in the new year we will tackle them again after we have formulated our strategy and tactics. In the meantime, if you are in the mountains and you are being confronted by alien seedlings, nothing stops you getting them out of the way." The Pringle Hacks take place on the last Saturday of each month. Convenor Chris Geldenhuys

Rooi Els Hack: The Rooi Els Hack takes place on the second Saturday of each month, led by Mike Christelis. Mike reports that the Rooi Els September hack took place on the third Saturday of the month to avoid clashing with the Rugby. As it turned out, it clashed with the Coastal Clean Up Day and the annual Rooi Els Boat Club Survey. Nevertheless, fourteen hackers arrived in the morning. The hack focused on Klein Rooi Els and the

vacant plot across the road from Bella Italia. Both these areas were recently hacked – Klein Rooi Els quite extensively last year so it shows the benefit of the follow ups. It is amazing how much new growth there was, 95% of it being Rooikrans. The team also chopped down a few big trees on a residential plot. Thanks to the owner for giving access. Convenor: Mike Christelis 082 467 2795

CREW: The Kogelberg Crew Team continues to do wonderful work in searching for endangered or near endangered species, recording the numbers and locations and it all helps the conservation of the fynbos in the Kogelberg Biosphere. We salute all the outstanding work that Crew does and especially what Adele Scheepers does for Crew.

MONTHLY TALKS: The October monthly talk titled “Elegant Dragons and Dainty Damsels”, took place on Saturday 18 October 2025. Corrie du Toit presented fascinating facts about and beautiful photos of the remarkable world of Dragonflies and Damsel Flies found in South Africa.

WEATHER

I received many comments re the rainfall figures that I have published in the newsletters, and I note how many people are interested in the rainfall data. What many have been telling me is that my rainfall figures are much higher than theirs. We live close against the mountain and especially westerly and south easterly rain is greater in our area as the clouds hit the mountain.

As one can see from our table below the rainfall figures for August and September have been significantly lower than the average figures.

Betty's Bay Rainfall 2015 to 2025

Harold Porter National Garden

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average
Jan	42	74	77	47	45	93	17	7	54	24	33	47
Feb	28	23	18	54	27	38	30	19	85	31	24	34
Mar	28	132	23	62	119	13	187	41	173	34	43	78
Apr	14	71	26	88	34	51	12	32	68	137	27	51
May	56	35	6	90	71	67	263	90	263	31	153	102
Jun	134	167	119	157	104	161	213	212	277	133	202	171
Jul	246	144	110	84	195	168	211	91	126	391	195	178
Aug	134	110	148	188	67	196	193	119	89	219	111	143
Sep	29	104	51	113	140	100	33	44	232	71	61	92
Oct	71	33	72	28	12	84	124	14	65	30		53
Nov	45	12	140	59	61	127	69	25	38	38		61
Dec	18	32	10	21	61	39	125	89	34	26		46
Annual Total		845	937	800	991	936	1137	1477	783	1504	1165	849
	1058											

There is always something new in the fynbos. The Aristeas are just starting to bloom as well as the Wachendorfias.



Once again, a big, big thank you to the amazing volunteers that the Kogelberg Branch is so fortunate to have.

Peter Dall

Should you wish to join the Supporters of the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society contact Peter on 082 784 4326 or email him at peter@pdconsult.co.za. Should you wish to partake in any of the many projects and activities please contact the conveners directly.

More snippets for an amateur fynbos gardener

This month, let's get a bit more technical about alien invasive plants. Remember, that **alien** plants are not naturally found in this area, but are not necessarily invasive. **Invasive** plants spread aggressively, are very, very thirsty and lead to the decline or extinction of endemic plants. **Endemic** plants are ones that grow naturally in specific geographic areas, found nowhere else on earth – here it is fynbos. One more term you need to know is **indigenous** – plants that are found in South Africa.

Here comes the official stuff - according to the NEMBA (National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act), the law requires property owners to remove and destroy invasives. They are also required to disclose any NEMBA-listed invasives when selling the property, as this can affect the sale of a property. It is important to note that this does **not** mean just chopping down all vegetation on the plot, only removing the baddies.

<https://invasives.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/General-Alien-Invasive-Plant-Control.pdf>

Which trees are baddies? For a comprehensive list, please see the websites below. Some of the bad (and prettiest) culprits in this area include the New Zealand Christmas tree (*Metrosideros excelsa*), Hakea (*Hakea salicifolia*), Australian myrtle (*Leptospermum laevigatum*), Australian Cheesewood (*Pittosporum undulatum*) and Banksia (*Banksia ericifolia*). The 'problem' with mature invasive trees is that they are showy and provide privacy, so it's understandably difficult to get rid of them, but grit your teeth and do the fynbos a favour! For pictures of the culprits mentioned see <https://bettysbayconservancy.co.za/alien-invasive-species/>

Which trees to plant instead? There are the fairly fast growers, and the slow-and-steady growers. A good idea is to plant a fast-grower next to a slow-grower. The fast-growers have shorter life spans (10 – 15 years), but they will act as a natural shield to the slow-growers.

Some examples of faster-growers – Boekenhout (*Rapanea melanophloeos*), Wild Peach (*Kiggelaria africana*), Keurboom (*Virgilia oroboides*), Cape Silver Oak (*Brachylaena neriifolia*), Rooiels (*Cunonia capensis*) and of course, all the colourful pincushions (*Leucospermum* species).

When buying trees, it sounds counter-intuitive, but buy smaller, sturdier plants. Just imagine plants from the nursery as coming from intensive care. Then we shove them into the street, without even giving the poor creatures a 'step-down' facility! Trees will have a better chance of surviving when they grow up with the harsh,

local weather conditions, which include drying, summer winds from the Antarctic, gale-force winds in winter and poor, acidic soils.

Lastly, once trees are planted, remember the 'step-down facility'? They need protection and nurturing, so next month, we will cover mulching (good), composting (bad) and water (the ugly, because of scarcity and cost)! Watch this space and happy gardening till then.

Galia Manikom

And that is all for this month, folks. You may have noticed some anomalies in the articles in terms of dates of events and incomplete rainfall figures! I receive all the input for the newsletter by the 15th of the month when some of the events still have to take place, but because Wendy needs time, after her full working day, to load all the articles onto the BBRA website the newsletter only appears at the end of the month, when the events will have happened. So a bit of careful editing needs to be done. I hope this clears up any confusion!

Till next month! Warm regards

Vivienne von der Heyden (Editor) Email me on vivvdh@gmail.com