



Inside this issue:

Thai TV Crew Visits Hangklip-Kleinmond	2
Nominations for Committee	3
Contract Water Meter Readers	4
Hurricanes, storms ...	5
Pasella visits Betty's Bay	7
Fire Season	7
The Wind bloweth ...	8
Did you know?	9
Emergency Numbers	10
Conservancy Village	12
Parliamentary wit	13
Committee Members	20

Regional Events / Streeksgebeure

BotSoc Talk: Saturday 8th December IN THE MORNING at 10a.m. Venue has been changed to the CRASSULA HALL. **"Does Fracking Really Pose a Threat to the Ground Water Resources of the Karoo?"**. Presenter, Roger Parsons. See *BotSoc Newsletter Nov2012* on our website www.bettysbay.info for more detail. Go to 'Public Interest' and 'BotSoc News' on the left. –Ed

15 Dec, 09:00 - 13:00 Lakeside Chapel Festival

Springtime will be a good time to sort out the goods in house & garage. Goods not wanted can be treasures for others! Register a space in our CARBOOT SALE @ R50.

Contact: Steve de Villiers 028 272 9582 / 08 4367231

12 January Totalsports Challenge, Kleinmond

Entries are now open for the much loved Totalsports Challenge. See www.totalsports.co.za for detail.

Notices / Kennisgewings

NB!! The Annual General Meeting (**AGM**) of the BBRA will take place on Friday 28 December 2012 at 09h30 for 10h00 in the Crassula Hall. The Agenda, Minutes of the previous meeting and Financial Report have been forwarded to all members.

NB!! Die Algemene Jaarvergadering (**AJV**) van die BBBV vind plaas op Vrydag, 28 Desember 2012 om 09h30 vir 10h00 in die Crassulasaal. Die Agenda, Notules van die vorige vergadering asook Finansiële Verslag is aan alle lede gestuur.



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Deadline for submissions:

20th of each month

<http://www.bettysbay.info/>

Please send us your comments, suggestions, events and news.

Subscribing to the BBRA

R55 per person per year, payable to:

BBRA Current Account

ABSA Hermanus

Branch Code 632005

Account No 4066 6164 39

NB! Reference must include your surname and Erf Number. *Please do not send cash.*

Contact: Adrian de Kock 028 272 9998

Obtaining the BUZZ

The following options are available:

1. Get a copy at the Village Centre Café or Penguin Place, normally first week of each month.
2. Download a PDF version from our web page. Go to link 'The Buzz' at <http://www.bettysbay.info>
3. We also leave a number of copies at the Betty's Bay Library.

Advertising and Crassula Hall payments

Payable to:

BBRA Current Account

ABSA Hermanus

Branch Code 632005

Account No 4066 6164 39

NB! Reference must include your business name. *Please do not send cash.*

Contact: Liz Fick 028 272 9800

Disclaimer: The views expressed by the Buzz contributors are the authors' own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor of the Buzz.

Notice: The Buzz is a private newsletter, administered, financed and published by the BBRA so as to communicate important issues with its members. The committee reserves the right not to publish letters or articles it may receive.

Thai TV Crew Visits Hangklip-Kleinmond

As part of an extensive Western Cape Tour, a film crew from Thai Travel Channel Corporation visited the Hangklip-Kleinmond region on Tuesday 16 October 2012.

The purpose of the visit was to film for the television program True Visions, which will be broadcasted on Thailand's largest and most premium pay TV network. True Visions has more than 2 million household subscribers, with more than 8 million viewers. The group consisted of 6 crew, hosted by Ms. Msibi (SA Diplomat in Thailand).

Unfortunately the group travelled over Sir Lowry's Pass and missed the proposed route via beautiful Clarence Drive leading into Rooiels. Local tour guide, Klem Dunstan, (CapeTourino Tours) represented the Hangklip-Kleinmond Tourism Bureau and hosted the group for the day. He met them in Pringle Bay at the Ticklemouse biscuit factory where they tasted some of the delicious fare that the town is known for.

At the Stony Point Penguin Colony in Betty's Bay reserve manager Cuan McGeorge gave an informative talk on the African Penguin and the role of the reserve. So enchanted were the crew with the "tuxedoed" birds, that they proposed spending the whole day there. Little

did they know that the itinerary still had many more surprises in store for them! They worked up an appetite as Loretta Floors conducted a fascinating tour through The Harold Porter National Botanical Garden in Betty's Bay.

The group then travelled to the Kleinmond Harbour where they enjoyed a superb lunch at Europa Restaurant served up by Seb Cloete and his staff. They were impressed by the cuisine, as well as the beautiful views over the ocean.

After lunch they visited the Kogelberg Nature Reserve and did a site inspection of the eco-cabins at Oudebosch. Klem coordinated a short walk in the reserve where the Fynbos proved to be the showstopper. River rafting down the Palmiet River was next, sponsored by SA Forest Adventures – an exhilarating end to a great showcase of the region!

A short movie and interview was conducted at each stop.

Liz Fick

Special Notice Inviting Nominations for Election to the BBRA Committee 2013

1. The majority of our current members of the Committee have served anything from 2 to 5 years on the Committee and several have given timeous notice that they will not be available for re-election to the Committee in 2013.
2. Nominations are therefore being invited for election to the Committee of the Association.
3. Only members of the Association in good standing may be nominated.
4. Nominations must be proposed and seconded in writing by two (2) members of the Association and accepted in writing by the nominee.
5. The Committee shall consist of no less than (4) and not more than eight (8) members. We have the option to co-opt additional members to the Committee.
6. In terms of the Constitution the elected Committee shall at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting elect from its nominated members a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and such other Officers as it may deem necessary.

The BBRA has grown in strength over the last years having established additional Portfolios to deal with Conservancy, Sand Dunes, Firewise, Security, Neighbourhood Watch, Volunteer Firefighters and Website not to mention other associated committees on which committee members also serve. The community is more and more relying on the BBRA for assistance and guidance in dealing with specific municipal matters. It is therefore essential that we give early attention to recruiting suitable candidates for nomination to the committee next year. New ideas and energy is also required.

Furthermore, the new committee of 2013 will have to give serious thought to generating additional revenue for the BBRA so as to undertake community related projects as we cannot expect the municipality to provide these finances. Our Membership Subscriptions are simply not sufficient to tackle such projects. Attention possibly needs to be given to establishing a Portfolio on the committee supported by an energetic sub-committee to organize events to raise funds for projects. The general appearance of Betty's Bay is wanting and the community will need to tackle some of these issues themselves.

The BBRA was probably the first to initiate Craft Markets but all and sundry are now in competition with us so as to also raise funds. In December there will be at least 5 such markets on the go. Neighbouring villages have established separate community sub-committees organizing functions/events/festivals so as to raise desperately needed funds to finance community projects. This leaves some food for thought.

Another concern is that although we have increased our membership, there nevertheless remains a large amount of outstanding membership subscriptions. There are also a large number of people who continue to use our services but are not members of the Association.

Contract Water Meter Readers

From the Committee

Contract Water Meter Readers

The Association has addressed a letter to the Municipality drawing their attention to several complaints from homeowners and Neighbourhood Watch Wardens of men wandering through properties. This matter was also raised at a Community Police Forum meeting. The men when confronted claim to be meter readers on contract to the municipality. It is neither unreasonable nor untoward for homeowners to view these so-called meter readers with suspicion especially when:

- Homeowners never received prior notification that contract meter readers, apparently from Cape Town, have been appointed;
- Meter readers have no form of identification either from the municipality, their employer or personal ID's;
- Meter readers are not wearing any form of apparel to identify themselves as meter readers;
- Meter readers have no meter reading devices in their possession to record meter readings as has always been the case. In two instances the men only had pieces of paper and pencils in their possession. How accurate can these readings be especially if they are unable to establish correct Erf numbers? Surely this practice is unacceptable? It has already been seen that no water consumption was recorded on the monthly statements for October;
- Meter readers were found wandering through properties claiming to be looking for meters. One particular meter reader was found to be carrying a golf club as a means of protection against being attacked by dogs. This is going to lead to serious confrontation as well as being attacked by dogs since meter readers have no right to enter other parts of properties other than to read meters which are normally located at the entrance of properties.

Had the Ratepayers' Association, a member of the Ward Committee, been aware of the appointment of contract meter readers then we would have taken precautionary measures of informing the community and it would then not have been necessary to have summoned the SAPS on Saturday (10 November) to deal with trespassers. Surely, in procuring the services of a new service provider, they should at least meet certain requirements such as basic training in the location of meters, be in possession of meter reading devices, forms of identification and some form of apparel to identify themselves as meter readers. It is also unacceptable for meter readers to carry weapons.

We await feedback on steps taken by the municipality to address these issues.

Water Supply

In June a delegation of the Association met with the Executive Mayor and members of her Council to raise a number of issues one of which was the contentious issue of continual water pipe breakages and the erratic water supply to the community of Betty's Bay. As has previously been pointed out, it is most disconcerting having to field an unreasonable amount of complaints from justifiably irate residents and business owners.

On 14 November we experienced another cut in water supply without any prior notification to homeowners of this break. A sms was only sent out at 19h52 that night to advise of a

'water pipe burst' whilst there had been areas already without water since early the morning. Water was only restored at 00h45 the next morning (15 November) some 18 hours later. This had been followed by another break.

Homeowners are justifiably irate since if they are late in paying their municipal accounts they would inevitably be faced with penalties including an increased water deposit but would in turn not receive any relief when the municipality fails to supply a service.

Another cause of concern is that fire hydrants are left running for hours (treated water being allowed to run down the street – this is to clear the air from the pipes). We have been advised that these pipes should only be left running for 4 hours. There was a hydrant in Clarence Drive which was left running for 12 hours – this is a costly waste of treated water.

Security

At the recent AGM of the Community Police Forum recognition was expressed for the good work being put in by SAPS, Seawatch, Cape Nature, Private Security and the Neighbourhood Watch. Although crime continues to be a problem in the Hanglip-Kleinmond area, there has been a significant reduction in crime in Betty's Bay where established Neighbourhood Watches have been very active. In Betty's Bay alone incidents of crime especially housebreakings have been reduced from as many as 15 per week to an average of 2 and sometimes 1 per week. In recent months SAPS have been very active and made at least 12 arrests in Betty's Bay. Last month with the assistance of the Neighbourhood Watch a group of 5 were arrested in Betty's Bay and they have subsequently been linked to several housebreakings. A number of stolen items have also been recovered. In the last couple of weeks there have been arrests for the theft of a vehicle and copper pipes in Betty's Bay. This underlines the tremendous effort, interaction and team work that exists between the SAPS and all other stakeholders including the community at large.

Refuse Removal – December/January Holiday Period

Refuse will be removed as normal on a Monday, however, there will be municipal vehicles travelling around during the week, except on Public Holidays, to remove refuse placed in the baboon proof bins outside the property. Should a Monday be a public holiday the refuse will be collected the following day. Kindly take any refuse bags that have not been collected to the container provided at the Waste Station opposite the Library at the Municipal Offices in Clarence Drive, this will prevent dogs, mongoose and baboons ripping the bags open and littering the area.

Pumping of Tanks

Remember December/January are very busy months with many holidays makers visiting Betty's Bay, therefore please ensure that you make timeous arrangements to have your tank pumped – **please do not leave it until the last minute.**

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association we wish you a very Blessed Christmas and a healthy 2013. Please drive safely on the roads and treat others the way you would like to be treated – with respect and patience.

Dan Fick

Hurricanes, thunderstorms, tornadoes and such-like

South Africa has recently experienced some severe weather including much damage from thunderstorms while much of the external world has experienced some quite unusual weather.

Thunderstorm damage arises from many causes, such as from lightning strikes causing

fires or death, hail damage, flooding from intense bursts of rain and so on. Lightning flashes carry extremely variable amounts of energy and range from being devastating to merely giving one a fright! The power, not the immense voltage, is what causes damage. Intense lightning discharges set up, or induce, strong eddy currents in solid state devices like computers, alarm systems, LED's and cell phones and these hidden currents may cause damage to the extent of wrecking these. The lightning does not have to "hit" the component to cause such damage but simply has to be nearby. An electrically charged thundercloud (as they all are!) sets up an enormous electrical field (hundreds of millions of volts) between the cloud base and the ground immediately under which humans cannot detect themselves but does cause strong currents to flow in metals or solid state devices like computer chips without any flash or visible discharge occurring. Such a "silent discharge" caused many US\$ thousands damage to a facility manufacturing mainframe computers in Ireland in the 1980's; amazingly, the company had not "shielded" such a sensitive manufacturing area from strong electromagnetic field effects! Incidentally, the company went bust shortly afterwards.

Silent discharges cause strong pulses or surges in telephone and electricity lines too, and when these surges enter dwellings via the house connection, damage may occur. An actual strike on the line causes much more damage although the utility companies usually have (or should have) surge arrestors in their systems to safely send large surges to ground. Obviously a direct strike on a house unprotected by a lightning conductor can set the TV on fire, damage all electrical equipment, smash roofing and injure occupants.

We often read of roofs being lifted off, windows shattered, chimneys and trees felled, even church towers knocked down, and walls thrown over during thunderstorms even in the absence of a direct strike and we have all experienced the strong gusts of wind, some from freezing cold 100+ kph downdraughts, associated with a thunderstorm. What is not well known is that all well-developed thunderstorms, i.e., those having a towering structure with a familiar "anvil" shape, develop some tornado activity at frequent intervals. The tornados are not anywhere near as large as the horrific "twisters" that pound the USA mid-west but appear and disappear in seconds. I have seen three little "cones" snake down from under a thunderstorm at sea, touching the sea for about 5 seconds, causing a great stir then they retracted back into the cloud and vanished. These transient, unseen, but potent tornadoes are, I believe, responsible for most of the structural damage incurred during a big thunderstorm. For evidence, you can observe that many walls are blown outwards, just as you'd expect in the low pressure centre of a mini-tornado and the collateral damage is caused by the short lived, but very violent, winds in the tornado. The damage occurs over a short strip of land, the strip where the tornado touched down, and is not widespread as would be the case with gale damage.

A note: regarding the weird weather we are all, north and south, experiencing at present, remember that I told you first, more than about 10 -12 years ago, about a more energy-rich atmosphere/ocean system from the earth's known warming? And that this would increase the chances of having exceptional weather over the chances of such exceptional weather occurring in the past? The recent flooding of New Jersey and New York was made much worse by the insidious rise and rise of the ocean overwhelming seawalls engineered for past storms. High Spring tides did not help. The storm was not even classified as a hurricane when it landed, just an extra-tropical storm. This region of the USA lies directly in the path of hurricanes past and Hurricane Sandy as it was at sea, will by no means be the

last. Sandy's remnants contained an unusually low central barometric pressure (940 mB) and this would have caused an even greater rise of sea level-remember that a 1 millibar drop in pressure on your barometer causes the sea to rise 1 cm above "normal" astronomical tides (what you get in tide tables) and storm surges. The strong wind pushing on the shore caused a storm surge of a couple of metres. Hurricanes steadily weaken as they pass over land since they have lost their source of energy which is warm sea water but have enough momentum and stored rainfall to cause havoc for several days.

I just hope the New York/New Jersey authorities in charge of storm protection for the metropolis had not listened to the Republican party's so-called 'scepticism' about Global Climate Change and hence did not bother to take sensible precautions like raising seawalls to meet predicted sea level rise or from more intense storm activity. Such storm impacts will happen again-the atmosphere/ocean system takes no notice of politicians (or scientists!).

Prof Michael Orren

Pasella visits Betty's Bay

Betty's Bay has once again been in the spotlight. A TV crew from Pasella visited our town early in November to learn more about the area and to film interesting places and activities for the popular programme which is aired on SABC TV on a Wednesday evening.

Without giving too much away – as you must definitely watch the programme on 26 December 2012 – the crew began their visit by meeting and filming some of our dedicated Hackers. After some interesting time spent with Kerneels Breytenbach they then visited the Harold Porter Botanical Garden where they were given a short tour by Berenice Carolus. The crew then went to visit Gaspard Bossut to witness the making of his famous GaBoli chocolates. Aandkoor Guest House played host to the crew whilst they were filming.

The following morning the crew met with Raymond Smith who enlightened them as to the early development of Betty's Bay and its early homes. The history of the Whaling Station was also discussed.

The crew spent a very interesting morning filming and interviewing the staff of Stony Point Penguin Colony. They were then taken Bass fishing at Rondevlei – their hosts being Ronel and Billy of Ultimate Braai Master fame.

Time was also spent filming the beach and general shots of Betty's Bay. I don't know about you – but I for one can't wait to see the programme of our beautiful town and its interesting people.

Liz Fick

Fire Season

It is Fire season in the Western Cape and December is also the peak of the holiday period when thousands of visitors flock to the towns along our coastline. Unfortunately many of them are unaware of just how easily a fire can start in our biosphere reserve and adjacent conservancies. In these small villages most of us try to protect the natural environment. Once a fire starts in these areas on a windy day it is virtually impossible to stop and the consequences could be devastating. Although there are very few thatch roofed homes

around I do not think I need to remind you of what happened in St Francis Bay just recently where a strong wind fanned on a fire that destroyed more than a hundred homes. The natural veld within which we live has the same potential as those thatched roofs.

We all want to enjoy the holidays so please do keep the fire rules in mind.

1. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE A FIRE ON A WINDY DAY EXCEPT IN A PROPERLY BUILT BRAAI ROOM!
2. ALWAYS KEEP A HOSEPIPE READY NEXT TO YOUR FIRE DURING AN OUTSIDE BRAAI
3. PROPERLY EXTINGUISH YOUR BRAAI FIRE WITH WATER ONCE YOU HAVE FINISHED.
4. DO NOT DISCARD FIRECOALS INTO THE VELD EVEN IF YOU THINK THAT YOU HAVE PROPERLY EXTINGUISHED IT.
5. IF YOU SEE ANYONE MAKING A FIRE ON A WINDY DAY PLEASE CONTACT THE EMERGENCY CENTRE IN HERMANUS AT TEL: **0283138111**. THEY WILL DISPATCH SOMEONE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO INVESTIGATE.
6. IF YOU SEE A FIRE IMMEDIATELY PHONE THE FIRE EMERGENCY NUMBER NO: **0283122400**
7. PLEASE DO NOT THROW CIGARETTE BUTTS INTO THE VELD.
8. PLEASE DO NOT SET OFF FIREWORKS AS IT IS ILLEGAL IN THIS AREA. IF YOU SEE ANYONE SETTING OFF FIREWORKS YOU CAN REPORT THEM TO THE POLICE AT NO: **0282718219**
9. SHOULD YOU LET YOUR HOME DURING THE HOLIDAYS MAKE SURE THAT THE VISITORS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THESE FIRE RULES. STICK THEM ON YOUR FRIDGE DOOR WHERE THEY CAN BE SEEN EVERY DAY!
10. SAVE THE THREE EMERGENCY NUMBERS ON YOUR CELLPHONE

Christine van Vuren, Betty's Bay Firewise

The Wind bloweth...

On March 24th, 2006, with our earthly goods packed into a Stutterfords removal van and our car bursting at the seams with all it could hold, including the dog, we bade farewell to Pretoria and headed for Betty's Bay. Retirement at last! Five years before we had carefully chosen our final home's situation. The natural beauty of the place had taken our breath away as we sat on a bench high up on the mountain in the Harold Porter Garden, surrounded by Proteas and other flowering fynbos, and surveyed the vista of the sea below. Not a breath of wind, warm sunshine... and contentment.

We hurried down the path again and consulted an estate agent. The ground we fancied was way beyond our budget, and other available land was unsuitable for a variety of reasons. Disappointed, we left for Knysna the following morning, leaving our contact number with the agent. As we left, I silently prayed "Lord, if you want us to live here, please provide a beautiful, affordable piece of ground for us to build on!" And to cut a long story short, two days later we were phoned to say that a lovely stand in Sunny Seas had just become available, and the seller might be open to dropping the price to what we could (only just) afford!

We drove back from Knysna, viewed and bought the site, and the rest is history. Many

were the prayers of thanksgiving offered by two excited people! We loved the area, the sea and the warm, friendly people, and looked forward to exploring the greater area once we had settled permanently. Both nature lovers, George and I planned long hikes up and down mountains, along beaches, photographing and sketching wildlife and flora to our hearts' content. After all, we would be free as the proverbial bird, with both sons married and happy, our responsibilities behind us. Life would be a long, happy existence in Paradise. As I write, I can hear snorts and chuckles from all the other retirees who discovered that life in Betty's Bay, if you're any use at all, is far from idle bliss.

Also, beauty comes at a price. The wind blows, the wind gusts, the wind deposits uprooted bushes into dining room corners after ripping the doors open – when the man of said house is away and the lady of the house is alone. During a violent storm an Eskom pylon erupts in spectacular showers of sparks, taken and carried by the wind to flame a fire which burns and destroys several homes in its path. Our magnificent green mountain background, in the following morning's early light, is black, grey and still smoking. Our smiling ever-friendly neighbours are exhausted from fire-fighting, frustrated and swearing, while others, evacuated from their homes during the night, have returned to ruins.

Many phone calls were received throughout the night as the fire raged, from concerned friends and neighbours offering assistance if necessary... and those are the memories that linger more than the flames, which mercifully kept their distance from our home. At that stage my chief concern had been comforting our three very small grandchildren, one of whom was crying for his daddy who was out trying to help fight the fire, and yours truly being the only one who had not had time to change clothing, had even less time to consider evacuating in my pyjamas.

Over time we have learned that the Creator of the Universe, in His wisdom built life into every seemingly tragic situation; because of the heat of the soil that night, our Belladonna lilies flowered profusely in Spring, and new plants suddenly appeared, having waited for the stimulation of the fire to germinate and grow. The following year the mountain was covered in new, vibrant growth as the dead wood, turned to ash, nourished the roots. With not a cloud in the sky we had prayed for rain and retired to bed. Just as my head touched the pillow at 2am, our son arrived back, announcing that it was raining, (horizontally) blown by the wind to douse the flames, and that the danger had passed.

Way back (Mark 4:39) Jesus spoke to the wind in a violent storm and bade it be still, with immediate calming effect. We have witnessed the waves on the sea in gale-force north-westerlies, and can understand the disciples' panic and fear. So what's new? People we know and love are in the throes of weathering the storm of Cancer and other diseases; many have been affected in different ways by criminal activity in the area, including provision of drugs and alcohol to increasing numbers of our youth... Is it too late to unite in calling upon the Lord of wind and rain to calm the storm? ...never! All of Heaven knows the village we call home and the country at large desperately needs Him.

Beverley Green

DID YOU KNOW?

IAN FARLAM

Ian Farlam the retired South African Judge who is currently the Chairman of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Lonmin's Marikana mine violence was born in Cape Town and has a home in Betty's Bay.

Emergency Contact Numbers

Overstrand Emergency	24 Hours	028 313 8111
Fire Department	Control Room	028 312 2400
	Marlu Rust	082 776 9287
	Wendy Tawse	082 442 8005
	Fires in Reserves	082 783 8585
Police	Emergencies	10111
	Charge Office	028 271 8219
	Capt. Marthinus	082 778 6793
	Sector Policing Officer	082 522 1831
Security Providers	Safe Security	028 272 9110
	Response	082 410 7845
	ASK Security (Office)	028 272 9500
	24 Hour Emergency	082 951 1892
		071 135 9029
	Sandown Bay Security	028 271 5633
		028 271 3306
		028 272 9575
Ambulances	Provincial	10177
	ER24	084 124
Doctors	Dr Du Plessis	028 271 4227
	Dr Van Niekerk	028 271 4227
	Dr Morkel	028 271 4227
	After Hours	082 653 6355
	Dr Greeff	028 272 9999
	After Hours	082 659 9437
	Dr Moses	028 271 3152
	After Hours	078 417 5628
Dentists	Dr Duvenhage	028 271 3467
	After Hours	082 861 0616
	Dr Engelbrecht	028 271 3662
	Dr Visser	028 271 5321

Hospitals	Hermanus Provincial	028 312 1166
	Hermanus Medi-Clinic	028 313 0168
	Vergelegen Medi-Clinic	021 850 9000
Child Welfare	Kleinmond	028 271 4044
Veterinarian	Dr Dave	028 271 4183
	After Hours	083 440 5191
KAWS	Animal Welfare	028 271 3004
Pharmacies	Albertyn Pharmacy	028 271 4666
	After Hours	082 927 5240
	After Hours	082 868 4267
	Kleinmond Pharmacy	028 271 3320
	After Hours	082 652 4309
Optometrists	Obermeyer	028 271 3119
	Optical Eyes	028 271 5684
Municipality	Betty's Bay	028 272 9263
	Kleinmond	028 271 8400
	Fire & Water	028 313 8111
	Law Enforcement	028 313 8111
	Traffic	028 313 8111
	Sewerage Removal	028 271 8435
	Hermanus	028 313 8000
Seawatch	Betty's Bay	028 272 9532
	Mike Tannett	082 994 9300
NSRI	Gordons Bay	021 856 1992
	Hermanus	028 312 3180
Electricity (Eskom)	Electricity	021 859 5304
	Emergencies	08600 37 566
General	Councillor Lisel Krige	028 272 9533
	Betty's Bay Post Office	028 272 9363
	Centre Shop	028 272 9230
	Penguin Place	028 272 9257
	Tourism Bureau	028 271 5657
	Fynbos Service Centre	082 719 6200
	Fire Extinguisher Service	083 741 9914

Betty's Bay - A Conservancy Village

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association extends a hearty welcome to you and your family. We hope you will share in our pride in this wonderful area; our coast line, the mountains, the vleis areas, the fauna and especially our unique Fynbos flora.

Some facts about our area:

Betty's Bay is situated within the buffer/transitional zone of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve and it is important to think of the Biosphere as not only a floral kingdom, but to take into account the entire ecosystem. The Kogelberg area was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO and Betty's Bay was awarded Conservancy status.

Visitors continue to visit our area because of the beautiful Fynbos, beaches and the peace and quiet. However, so many fail to endeavour to abide by the simple rules of keeping our area clear of litter and adhering to the simple rules and regulations that exist.

We would like to take this opportunity of offering some hints on the preservation of this paradise.

● LITTER, WASTE AND RECYCLING

We have an active recycling programme. Please recycle where ever possible. The white plastic bags are for recycling - glass bottles, paper, plastic and cans. We do have special containers for glass and paper situated at the Waste Station next to the Municipal Offices (opposite the Library) on Clarence Drive, Betty's Bay.

- **Black bags** are to be placed in the baboon proof bins provided on the property. These containers should be placed outside the property on Mondays for collection by the Municipality. Please do not place the black refuse bags outside the property – should there be no baboon proof bins provided it would be appreciated if the bags could be placed in the cage provided at the Waste Station. Over the Christmas holiday season refuse will be removed as normal on a Monday, however, there will be municipal vehicles travelling around during the week, except on Public Holidays, to remove refuse placed in the baboon proof bins outside the property. Should a Monday be a public holiday the refuse will be collected the following day. Kindly take any refuse bags that have not been collected to the container provided at the Waste Station opposite the Library at the Municipal Offices in Clarence Drive, this will prevent dogs, mongoose and baboons ripping the bags open and littering the area.

● Pumping of Tanks

Remember December/January are very busy months with many holiday makers visiting Betty's Bay, therefore please ensure that you make timeous arrangements to have your tank pumped – please do not leave it until the last minute.

● BABOONS

Baboons will try to enter a house if they see or smell food inside. Please keep all doors and windows closed if nobody is at home. Note that it is illegal to feed the baboons, harm or shoot them.

● PETS

Leashes are compulsory when taking dogs for walks, even on the beaches. Please ensure that your pets do not constitute a nuisance or danger to fellow residents, birds and our precious wild life. When walking your dogs it would be appreciated if you would pick up the faecies.

● FIRES

Fires can be a major hazard in our area – Fynbos burns very quickly. We ask that you

exercise extreme caution when setting and lighting fires and to avoid doing so at all times when the wind is strong. Please be extra careful to extinguish the fire COMPLETELY and not to let it die down on its own, as the slightest bit of wind can cause a fire. Under no circumstances must hot coals be dumped in the bushes, this has been the cause of many fires in Betty's Bay.

- **FIREWORKS**

NO FIREWORKS ARE ALLOWED. Please do not discharge any fireworks or crackers in Betty's Bay. The unlawful discharge of fireworks is not only a fire hazard to the summer Fynbos but also affects animals and annoys your neighbours.

- **WATER**

Please use water sparingly as this is a very precious source in the Western Cape.

- **LIGHTS**

Lights are a pollutant, negatively affecting not only your neighbourhood but also the fauna. Outside lights should not be left on all night. Relax and enjoy the stars!!

- **NOISE**

You have come to Betty's Bay for the peace and quiet. Please respect this. Sound systems should be for your ears only!!

- **SPEEDING**

Many visitors to Betty's Bay, especially the youngsters, are often seen spinning their cars around corners on the sand roads. This is not only extremely dangerous but also aggravates the conditions of the roads, especially after heavy rains. We also request parents not to allow young children to drive – we know that the roads are quiet, but this is all the more reason why youngsters ride their bicycles, skate board or play games in the roads.

- **SAND DUNES**

Please help to protect our sand dunes by adhering to the path ways and not creating new paths every time you visit the beach. Please do not interfere with the natural growth on the dunes. Sand boarding can be enjoyed on the dunes in Silversands.

- **OYSTER CATCHERS AND BIRD LIFE**

We request visitors to please not interfere with the rare Oyster Catchers during breeding season. Areas have been demarcated where there are nests. Please keep children and dogs away.

We would also request you to please respect other people's properties, we have chosen not to have fences but that does not give anyone the right to walk through our properties.

We sincerely trust that you will help to keep Betty's Bay the lovely, peaceful village that keeps bringing you back to visit us.

PARLIAMENTARY WIT

Parliamentary debate is a serious matter, but in newer democracies, the debate has often deteriorated into serious slanging matches, or fisticuffs, or even shootings.

Mature parliaments have learnt to be more civilised, and are able to defuse conflict with humour.

Here are some nice examples:

Lady Nancy Astor was the first woman to sit as a Conservative Member of Parliament in the British House of Commons. She despised Winston Churchill, but seldom bettered him

in debate.

Famously she declared: *"Winston, if I were your wife, I would put poison in your coffee."* Churchill replied, *"Nancy, if you were my wife, I would drink it"*.

Abraham Lincoln's riposte to an inquisitive diplomat: The latter walked into the president's office and saw the great man shining his own shoes. He asked, "Mr President, *you black your own boots?*" "Yes," said Lincoln. *"Whose boots do you black?"*

Jawaharlal Nehru even carried his sense of humour to the breakfast table. Seeing Nehru peel a delicious apple, veteran parliamentarian Mahavir Tyagi told him that the skin of the apple contained vitamins. Pat came the repartee from Nehru, *"Tyagiji, you concentrate on the vitamins, I will eat the rest of the apple"*.

A heckler who boasted of being a Democrat was haranguing **Theodore Roosevelt**. "May I ask the gentleman why he is a Democrat?" Teddy asked. "My grandfather was a Democrat", came the response. "My father was a Democrat. And I'm a Democrat". Fair enough, replied the president. *"Now let's say your grandfather had been a jackass. And your father was a jackass. What, then, would you be?"*

Of prime minister Stanley Baldwin, **Winstone Churchill** said, *"He occasionally stumbled over the truth but hastily picked himself up and hurried on as if nothing had happened."*

George Reid (Australian politician) a heckler pointed to his ample paunch and exclaimed, "What are you going to call it, George?" to which Reid replied: *"If it's a boy, I'll call it after myself. If it's a girl, I'll call it Victoria. But if, as I strongly suspect, it's nothing but piss and wind, I'll name it after you."*

This joke could be heard back in the 1960s in Moscow, **USSR**:

What is the difference between Capitalism and Socialism?

Capitalism is the exploitation of man by man.

Socialism is the exact opposite.

Nikita Kruschchev: *"Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build bridges, even where there are no rivers."*

Former Indian prime minister **V P Singh** once entered Parliament without his trademark fur cap (when animal-lover Maneka Gandhi had persuaded him that it was cruel to wear dead animals). Asked about this by an Opposition member, Singh shot back, *"What is important is not the cap but what is under it."*

He commented on Mahatma Gandhi's frugal lifestyle and his army of aides: *"If only he knew how much it costs us to keep him in poverty."*

"The House of Commons is the longest running farce in the West End." **Cyril Smith** [Former UK Member of Parliament]

Question Period in House of Commons can show flashes of genuine wit by MP's.

Take this exchange between Liberal **Paul Zed** and Tory Party Secretary **Diane Ablonczy** on the budget, with Zed scoring points for imaginative alliteration and Ablonczy coming back with the Zed Zinger:

His bumbling brood has engaged in buffoonery in their brutal budget bungles and their backstabbing and betrayal by these ministers of bark and bluster.

Ronald Reagan, who went a long way given his mental equipment, had a sunny sense of humour. Never known as a hard-working president, the Gipper was given to dozing off during important meetings. At one point, as legend has it, he left a directive to his staff. *"In case of a national emergency,"* it said, *"I want to be awakened – even if I'm in a cabinet meeting."*

"They say hard work never killed anybody," Mr. Reagan pointed out on another occasion. *"But why take the chance?"*

The classic example of wit being deployed to defuse tension came from **John F. Kennedy**, whose family was accused of using shady tactics to win votes. *"I've just received the following wire from my generous dad,"* JFK told an audience. *"Dear Jack. Don't buy a single vote more than is necessary. I'll be damned if I'm going to pay for a landslide."*

Following the 1997 election, the first Labour cabinet meeting in 18 years was waiting in silence for the arrival of Tony Blair. Noticing the tension, the new secretary of state for health, **Frank Dobson**, decided to break the ice with a joke. He leant over to the first ever blind cabinet minister, David Blunkett, and said: *"How does a blind parachutist know when he is about to hit the ground? The dog leads goes slack."*

Germans are hardworking people, and I have found few witticisms from their debate, but I like this one: **Herbert Wehner** (SPD) to **Michael Glos** (CSU): *"When one looks at you, one loses interest in childbearing."* (Wenn man Sie sieht, vergeht einem die Lust am Kinderkriegen).

Theodore Roosevelt: *"When they call the roll in the Senate, the Senators do not know whether to answer 'Present' or 'Not guilty'."*

Robert Muldoon, Prime minister of New Zealand had a brutal wit. He is celebrated for his quip about the Kiwi brain drain to Australia *"raising the average IQ in both countries"*.

Adlai Stevenson: *"In America any boy can become president, I suppose its one of the risks he takes."*

"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country".

Marion Barry (Mayor Washington, DC)

Comedian **Will Rogers**: *"The trouble with practical jokes is that very often they get elected"*.

Anon. *"Don't vote. You'll only encourage them."*

Helen Suzman was certainly quick witted — accused by a cabinet minister of asking questions in parliament that embarrassed South Africa abroad, she flashed back: *"It's not my questions that embarrass South Africa, it's your answers."*

Cornelis Jacobus Langenhoven. Poet, writer, philosopher and campaigner for Afrikaans, was elected to parliament in 1914 and was instrumental in getting the language accepted in parliament in 1925.

He had a biting wit. During a heated debate he said: *"Helfte van hierdie parlement is donkies!"*. Uproar ensued and the speaker ordered him to withdraw the remark.

"Helfte van hierdie parlement is nie donkies nie!"

Dr Peter Joubert



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