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Regional Events / Streeksgebeure

BotSoc Talks

Saturday 21st June, 6pm. Dick Stroh will talk on the Helderberg Fire Record, a comprehensive account of the terrain before, during and after fires.

At all talks a voluntary collection will be taken and there will be liquid refreshments. Please check the posters for possible changes of venue.

Contact Merrilee 028 272 9314.

Gansbaai: June/July Fees van die Ganse and Winter Fynbos Show (<http://www.ecoscape.org.za>)

Stanford: June PenguinPlunge Stanford Country Fair

Pringle Bay: September, Windgat Festival – enviro (eco & family)

Please watch the notice boards for detail. -Ed.

Some Links of Interest

Cape Leopard Trust

<http://www.capeleopard.org.za/>

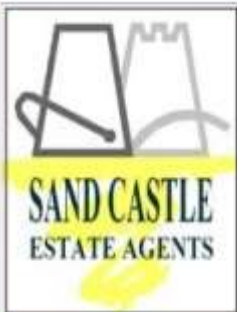


Volunteer Wild Fire Services, Western Cape

<http://www.vws.org.za/>

Botanical Society of South Africa, Kogelberg Branch

<http://www.botanicalsociety.org.za/BranchesAndGardens/SitePages/Kogelberg.aspx>



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Contact Us

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7141

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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

R60 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.

SAPS Emergency Contact Numbers

Charge Office **028 271 8219**

028 271 8200

Capt Marthinus **082 778 6793**

Additional Cell Nos. **079 894 1624**

079 894 1622

082 443 6069

082 522 1831

Bettys Bay Roads Encroachment

It is becoming evident that many roads in Bettys Bay are becoming dangerous due to the fact that the bush/Fynbos on the sides of the roads are encroaching at an alarming rate resulting in the following problems:

1. Certain gravel roads are now so narrow that two cars can not safely pass each other.
2. In some cases the surrounding bush/Fynbos has become so high that there is a danger to motorists and pedestrians alike being unable to see approaching traffic on bends.
3. Pedestrians in places have nowhere to go in the face of approaching traffic.

As can be seen this encroachment is becoming a serious problem in certain areas which could result in accidents and possible injury to road users.

The Overstrand Municipality requires us as an association to identify the problem areas so that they can be addressed but as you can appreciate this would be a mammoth task for one individual taking into account the size of the area.

To this end we request that you look at your area and advise us per E-Mail of these problems in your vicinity in the following format:

1. Name of road where these problems are evident.
2. The sections of these roads affected i.e. between which intersecting roads.
3. Your name.
4. Your erf number.
5. Your contact phone number.

The details can be E-mailed to me at the undermentioned address by 6 June 2014 so that a schedule can be submitted to the Overstrand Municipality at the next Ward Committee meeting.

Adrian25@telkomsa.net

Adrian de Kock

Vice-Chairman & Treasurer

Bettys Bay Ratepayers Association

Hangklip GemeenskapSorgsentrum (Hangklip GSS)

(Reg No 102-000-NPO)

Ons missie is om:

- Onderlinge sorg en steun aan inwoners in die Hangklip-gebied te bevorder
- Finansiële steun vanuit die Regering, die sakesektor, godsdienstige organisasies en individue te mobiliseer
- Voedsame maaltye teen 'n bekostigbare prys aan almal te voorsien met ondersteunde tariewe aan spesiale gevalle
- Te reël dat basiese gesondheidsbehoefte aandag kry en hulptoerusting beskikbaar is

- Die behoeftiges, eensames en geïsoleerdes wat in Rooiels, Pringlebaai en Betsysbaai woon die voordeel van 'n sorgsame, waardige, hongervrye gemeenskap-somgewing te laat geniet.

Tot nou toe bekend as:

Die Hangklip Fynbos Dienssentrum, en is nou by die Departement van Nie-Winsgewende Organisasies geregistreer as 'n onafhanklike geenwins organisasie (No 102-000-NPO)

Ons voorsien nog steeds:

- **Verpleging en verwante hulpmiddels** – Bloeddruklesings, chroniese medisyne en 'n verskeidenheid van rystoele, loophulpmiddels, toiletstelle, ens.
- **Voedsame maaltye** – aansit-etes op Maandag, Woensdag en Vrydag, ook wegneem-etes, alles teen gesubsidieerde pryse
- **Voedselpakkies** wat verskeie soorte kruidenerware, blikkieskos en huishoudelike items bevat vir diegene met spesiale behoeftes.

Toekomstige uitbreiding

Dit hou verband met gemeenskapsaktiwiteite, noodvervoer en huishoudelike dienste.

Vrywilligers

- Hulle is die ruggraat van die Hangklip GSS.
- **Vrywillige kokke** help in die kombuis met die bereiding van etes, gewoonlik eenkeer per maand. Bykomende vrywilligerkokke bly altyd noodsaaklik omdat bestaande kokke se omstandighede dikwels verander.
- **Vrywillige vervoer** is nodig wanneer nood dit vereis.

Finansies

Ons begroting beloop tans nagenoeg R10 000 per maand. Dit word befonds deur:

- Maaltyeverkope teen pryse wat wissel van R9.00 tot R40.00
- Jaarlikse ledesgeld – R82 vir 2014
- Donasies van individue, kerke en plaaslike ondernemings
- Fondsinsamelings en straatkollekte
- Staatsubsidies (Daar is tans 'n hangende aansoek by die Dept. van Sosiale Ontwikkeling)
- Toewysings deur die plaaslike owerheid

Ons het u ondersteuning nodig:

Om ons in staat te stel om 'n sorgsentrum te bedryf wat die gemeenskap dien, nooi ons u uit om:

- 'n Volle lid te word
- Die etestelsel te ondersteun deur wegneemetes te koop of saam met vriende op die perseel te eet
- 'n Vrywillige werker te word
- 'n Dienswerker of 'n tuisbesoeker te word
- U naam op die lys van vrywillige noodvervoerders te plaas
- Geldelike donasies aan ons te maak.

Vir verdure inligting

Skakel asseblief met:

Hangklip GSS (geleë op die perseel van die Lakeside Chapel, H/v Wheeler-weg en Lakeside-rylaan, Bettysbaai), Bus 592, 7141 Bettysbaai

Telefoonnommers:

Bestuurder: 028-2729-051 (Maandag, Woensdag, Vrydag)

Sekretaris: 028-2729-998

Epos:

lakesidechapel@sonicmail.co.za

The Wind Bloweth

My husband and I are on a mission... as from 6.30am last Monday, when we opened weary eyes. We've embarked on a quest for ten days of peace and quiet; no telephones ringing, no television, no family visits. I write this seated on a (for some strange reason) rotating bar stool in the cottage on Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve, about 150km from Betty's Bay; Cape Nature at its best – the only guest cottage on the reserve ...with no telephone or TV.

The scenery en route was beautiful in so many ways, but the most pleasing was the sight of three young municipal workers removing election posters from poles in Rivieronderend. Hopefully Betty's

Bay's posters will have met with the same fate by the time we return. Don't get me wrong; I really admire our Helen and congratulate her too, blue-clad toyi-toyi and all, (and she is a lot more glamorous than her opposite number in both the ANC and EFF) but the election smile universally tends to become as boring as Queen Elizabeth's royal wave if it is displayed long enough... isn't it good that it's all over?

What would be our most amusing, enjoyable and unforgettable moments on the journey? Undoubtedly best by far, in the metropolis of Suurbraak – which you miss if you blink – where we witnessed one of its residents walking his pets – a dog and a pig. Yes, I kid you not, a pig – a young pink sow, full of the joys of spring in winter. I strongly suspect that she has been raised with the dog since piglet-hood; she delighted in chasing every vehicle that passed through the single narrow street, (one has to drive slowly,) then running alongside it for a few metres before literally dancing back to join her canine friend and her doting owner on the opposite side of the street, looking for all the world as if she was laughing, mouth open and ears swinging. The sheer joy of the animal was an experience which had to be seen to be believed!

Walks through the lovely quiet forest on the reserve are a balm to the soul; bar the spiders' webs that span the width of paths. One can hear distant bird calls and softly flowing water, stop to gaze in awe at the ancient enormous trees, (some of which are 40 metres in height) with the sun gently filtering through their top branches. The psalmist would have waxed lyrical... after dusting the webs off his lashes and nose, that is. Directors of children's movies or authors of children's books would revel in the sheer unspoilt beauty of moss- and lichen-covered rocks and weathered logs, decorative red, brown, or yellow mushroom-like fungus growing on, and feeding off the bark of trees, and two (one of them 3-storey,) rustic hides for watching birds at the birds' level – conjuring up all sorts of excit-

ing images, while a cacophony of enthusiastic frogs provides the perfect music score. Add to this the troops of baboons and monkeys whose calls echo through the trees and the occasional sight of bushbuck, and every step of the hike becomes a privilege.

The paths meander over the mountains with steep climbs and equally steep descents; we shall return home a great deal fitter! One frustration, however, is the impossible task of recording the magnificent, indescribably beautiful kloofs with waterfalls, weathered trees, branches and ferns. The experts have yet to perfect (an affordable and portable) camera to do justice to God's creation on so grand a scale; memories will have to suffice. In three days' time we will move on to explore Swellendam and surrounds, then further afield to some unexplored but recommended quiet beaches where we can stroll along the stretches of sand, enjoy rock pools and search for shells... whole ones for a change! Then perhaps we can return home unobtrusively and lie low for a while before life happens again...

In the meantime, we are doing what Jesus bids the weary do in Matthew 11: 28, 29: "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." May He bless you all, too.

Beverley Green

So 7 May 2014 Has Come And Gone

THE high voter turnout at the Crassula hall on an election day has become a familiar characteristic of our villages. The Hangklip part of the Hangklip ward. Ward 10.

Our residents did us proud by not letting the opportunity go by to speak out by making your cross – oh, and having your left thumb unattractively marked!

Although quite windy, it was fortunately a sunny day and our residents came from all around to queue for that opportunity. Fanie Krige and his helpers made sure that they felt welcome and assisted them if they wanted to check whether their names indeed appeared in the voters' roll.

Dominic Jackson and his team of helpers tirelessly produced pancakes behind a makeshift shelter – for those who felt like adding a touch of celebration to the occasion.

An interesting fact that may not be known to all, was that the Crassula voting station had been selected as one of a few that were monitored country-wide!

Verder is dit noemenswaardig dat die Crassulasaal een van die hoogste stempersentasies in die hele Overstrand gehad het. Wel gedaan!

Die feit dat die gemeenskapsaal in Proteadorp wyk 10 se ander stemlokaal is, gee egte 'n mate van waarskuwende perspektief aan die prentjie: die stempersentasie was vanjaar hoër daar as in die verlede; en net meer as een uit elke drie kiesers het bv. vir die DA gestem. Die ANC het daar die oorhand gekry, hoewel nie met 'n oorweldigende meerderheid nie.

Vertrouensverhoudings word gedurigdeur gebou met diegene wat besluit het dat hulle nie meer 'n pad met korrupte radikale en ondoeltreffende regeerders wil stap nie. Vir hulle lyk 'n party soos die DA na 'n aantreklike opsie, hoewel die vooroordele van persepsies oorkom sal moet word.

This election was an extremely important one. It showed which parties were strong enough to carry on to the next upcoming round of elections in 2016; which were likely to play strong roles and which would merely survive and have a low profile.

From my side not only as the ward councillor, but also as chairperson of the Hangklip branch, I would like to herewith express my sincere appreciation to all my fellow residents for taking this opportunity seriously and making the most of it.

Although an encouraging number of young people came to vote, we still need to inspire many more – also those who will become eligible to vote by 2016 – to believe that their vote makes a difference.

Viva Democracy!

Lisel Krige

Also see p18 for election results (local wards). -Ed.

Proposed Betty's Bay Marine Protected Area (MPA)

(RECRUITMENT NODE FOR ADJACENT FISHING AREAS)

BACKGROUND

Declining trends in availability of fish and of other renewable resources of the sea is a matter of increasing concern in South Africa and in many other countries. The reasons can be manifold: prolonged exploitation at too high levels; *inadequate implementation of protective legislation; competition between various resource users; ruthless fishing methods such as deep-water long-lines or 'walls of death' (i.e. nets spanning migration routes of fish); poaching; fishing in the territorial waters of other nations; pollution; estuarine degradation; changes in atmospheric and oceanic climate - and - unfortunately, human shortsightedness and greed.* In the end it boils down to the simple truth that too many people are competing for limited renewable resources. Inevitably, the end result is progressive loss of resource sustainability, loss of economic and ecological viability and hardship for fishing communities.

Concern in South Africa revolves around aspects such as the threatening collapse of West Coast pelagic fisheries, drastic declines in availability of abalone; declines in availability of certain species of line-caught fish, declines in demersal species such as stockfish and kingklip and ongoing dispute over indiscriminate trek-net fishing. It is clear that conventional protective measures such as closed seasons, size and bag limits, have not been adequately effective. There is widespread disillusionment about the fact that South Africa's fleet of expensive patrol vessels is inoperative because of poor maintenance. Dissatisfaction about discrepancies in the allocation of line-fish quotas is causing much anger. Accusing fingers are being pointed at responsible governmental Authorities for ineptitude.

If further collapse of fisheries resources is to be avoided, new and improved efficiency in protective legislation is essential, coupled to effective implementation thereof. Furthermore, there must be better collaboration between the responsible Authorities and resource users at commercial-, recreational- and artisanal levels. It needs to be accepted that protective measures are not aimed at infringing upon fishing rights but at ensuring long-term sustainability of the resources upon which all fishing depends. A 'top down' approach by Authorities and a defensive "us and them" mentality on the part of fishing communities, need to make way for a more collaborative approach in resource management. The

Southern African Sustainable Sea-food Initiative (SASSI) shows that such a collaborative approach is possible. This initiative is promoted by WWF-SA and is underwritten by commercial fisheries, restaurants and the government in the interests of better protection of threatened line- and trawl-caught fish species.

Another initiative requiring a collaborative approach and which is currently under discussion, is the selection of areas which can serve as recruitment nodes within much larger adjacent areas which are open to fishing. As declining trends in fishing are causing concern at international level, South Africa is not alone in its quest to create such recruitment nodes in the form of Marine Protected Areas or MPAs. This is, however, not an easy matter as fisherfolk throughout the world tend to be defensive when access to areas previously open to fishing, is to be restricted. Discussions and public participation meetings so far have shown that there is a great deal of misunderstanding about the issue. It is hoped that the current report will provide greater clarity and a sharper perspective.

THE PURPOSE OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAs)

The objective of MPAs is the safeguarding of sustainability of biological communities and food chains which are of value to man for artisanal-, commercial- or recreational fishing. Because conventional conservation measures have not been adequately successful in curbing excessive demands placed on limited and finite resources, some sectors of fisheries are in danger of collapsing – in South Africa and in other countries bordering on the sea.

The reason is clear. As soon as artificial mortality over and above natural mortality exceeds the reproductive potential of the species concerned, that species is placed under stress - to the extent that it may lose its productivity or even become extinct. When this happens, the ecological equilibrium of the entire foodweb is affected to the detriment of all other fishing activities dependent upon it.

International recognition of this highly dangerous trend has, inter alia, led to agreement that certain areas in the sea must be set aside so that key sections of marine ecosystems can be protected in their entirety and to serve as seeding centres for neighbouring waters open to fishing. It is on this basis that South Africa, in March 2013, formally gazetted declaration of the waters surrounding the Prince Edward and Marion Island Group as an international MPA. These waters are regarded as a global biodiversity hotspot.

The purpose of MPAs is therefore not to infringe on the rights of fisheries or fishing communities, but to provide long-term safeguards through effective protection of the living resources upon which all fishing depends.

Currently South Africa has a number of formally declared MPAs - in Kwazulu/Natal, at Tsitsikamma National Park, at Stilbaai and at De Hoop Nature Reserve. However, each MPA is only capable of serving as a recruitment node for the region in which it is situated. An international guideline is that 20% of fishing areas should be set aside as recruitment centres but this is seldom achievable. A target of 10% is probably more realistic.

Additional carefully selected and strategically placed MPAs are therefore required. That is the background to the current discussions in the Robberg, Goukamma and Betty's Bay areas and to the invitations for public participation depicted in Appendix 1. These discussions are taking place in terms of the requirements of the Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of

2003).

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A number of criteria must be considered in the selection of areas suitable as MPAs:

a) Habitat diversity

There is a direct relationship between the diversity of organisms (or biodiversity) in any area and the diversity of habitat which that area provides - both on land and in the sea. The selection of localities suitable for declaration as MPAs must therefore be done in a manner which looks not only at the organisms which are exploited but also at their habitat requirements. Inaccessible rocky shores areas subject to high wave onslaught may therefore not be suitable as MPAs. This aspect will be elucidated further when the Betty's Bay Marine Reserve is dealt with below.

b) Dispersion potential

Recruitment from MPAs into areas open to fishing must apply to both adult and juvenile life-forms. Adult organisms, especially fish, squid and marine mammals, are capable of moving into neighbouring areas by swimming. On the other hand, dispersion of larvae and juvenile life-forms depends on the availability of wind and water-driven sea currents.

THE BETTY'S BAY MARINE RESERVE (BBMR)

The BBMR was established early in the 1970s as a result of public and governmental concern about progressively declining trends in the availability of line-caught and angling fish. It lies at the foot of the internationally recognized Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve (KBR) and represents the marine component of the core area of the KBR. Biosphere Reserve core areas are selected to allow ecosystem functioning without undue interference by human activity.

Despite declaration of the BBMR more than 40 years ago, seriously declining trends in the availability of angling and line-caught fish are still evident today. Within the boundaries of the BBMR, all marine organisms are protected with the exception of fish caught by means of shore angling. Unfortunately this concession has brought with it misuse and targeted exploitation of certain species within the reserve boundaries, especially during angling competitions - with knock-on effects through the entire foodchain. Targeted exploitation and fishing competitions in marine reserves obviously negate the fundamental principle according to which they were created, namely that ecological processes and the interactions between the various levels of the food-chain, should be allowed to function unhindered by human activity.

The BBMR covers 3 km of the some 35km of coastline between Gordon's Bay in the west and Botrivierlei in the east and encompasses the inshore marine environment between two beacons, the western one of which is situated on a rocky promontory at Stony Point and the eastern one, just to the east of Jock's Bay. The BBMR encompasses a wide range of both marine and coastal features and hence also exceptional habitat diversity:

- Areas of both high- energy and low-energy wave-onslaught in close proximity.
- Rocky reefs running parallel to the shore which provide sheltered lagoon-like conditions.
- A number of rivers and streams flowing into such sheltered near-shore marine are-

as, create fresh- to brack water conditions favoured by species such as white steenbras and kabeljou, occur over extended periods. At times of heavy river outflow, this component of the BBMR warrants the description of an “estuary in the sea”.

- An interspersion of rocky shore and sandy beach environments.
- The release of drift cards at the seaward edge of the Dawidskraal kelp beds, as part of an intensive abalone research initiative by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute in the 1960s, indicated that this area holds exceptional larval dispersion potential. Drift cards were returned from as far afield as Quoin Point in the east and Simonstown in the west.
- The dispersion potential of the BBMR has now been confirmed by satellite imagery, clearly showing oceanic gyres and mixing of Agulhas and Benguela Current waters essential to larval dispersion over wide areas.
- The habitat diversity of the BBMR is also a prerequisite for the occurrence of a wide range of coastal birds, including penguins, oystercatchers, cormorants, terns and waders. These birds are an important component of the core area of the KBR.

MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS SPECIFIC TO THE BBMR

In spite of its name, the BBMR has not fulfilled its function as a refuge and breeding ground for a number of reasons:

- Ongoing intensive and blatant poaching of abalone due to apparent inability of the government to impose the necessary controls over this criminal activity. Abalone are dependent on a gregarious lifestyle as fertilization takes place externally. When they are thinned out to the extent that sperm and ova can no longer meet in the water, long-term survival is placed in jeopardy. Their niche on the reef rock faces is taken over by algae and other sessile life forms and thereby functioning of the entire reef ecosystem is disrupted.
- Anglers complain of declining trends in inshore fish species such as galjoen, bellman, white and red steenbras, blacktail, zebra, hottentot, red roman and john brown. The scarcer a fish and the harder it is to catch, the more difficult it is to throw back an undersized specimen. Due to the paucity of fish, bag limits are seldom reached.
- Underwater observations have shown progressive accumulation of discarded fishing line (“kraaineste”) which place further stress on the reef ecosystem.
- Inter- and shallow sub-tidal life is damaged through trampling and bait collection.
- Littering of beaches with fishing line, hooks, bait, plastic packets, glass bottles, and beer cans, occurs continuously. This is unacceptable in aesthetic terms and detracts from the value of the area as a reserve. Ensnarement of seabirds and life-forms is another danger.
- Bottom-living sharks are targeted, especially during angling competitions. Although considerable efforts are made to return them to the sea unharmed after capture and measuring, many succumb to the stress and are washed up on the shore subsequently.

- Concomitant with the reduction in the availability of angling fish has been an increase in the abundance of rock lobster. This is ascribed to reduced occurrence of fish which prey upon bottom-living juvenile rock lobster.
- Rock lobsters in turn prey on sea urchins under which baby abalone shelter during early phases of the bottom-living phase of their life-cycle. This is a typical knock-on effect.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that the cumulative effects of human activity in marine and coastal waters is inhibiting the ability of those waters to maintain their productivity. It is in the interests of all fishing - from boats, by shore angling, by trek-netting or by spear-fishing - that this productivity is maintained.

It is fully appreciated that the setting aside of MPAs demands sacrifice on the part of those who have enjoyed fishing in these areas in the past. Reluctance to do so was illustrated unambiguously during the public participation meeting held at Betty's Bay on 27 March 2014 – see Appendix 2. In spite of the sometimes acrimonious debate, the positive effects of MPAs in other countries and in areas such as Tsitsikamma and De Hoop, should not be overlooked. Some of the comments reflected in Appendix 2 show that the fundamental principles upon which the declaration of MPAs are based, were not understood. To use but one example - as pointed out earlier, all areas are not suitable for declaration as MPAs. Ecological diversity and a wide range of habitats are essential prerequisites if an area is to serve as a recruitment node for adjacent fishing areas.

Responsible Authorities need to take the fact seriously that the imposition of MPAs is difficult when inadequate control over poaching and other forms of misuse are perceived in the same area on a regular basis. It is of cardinal importance that inadequacies in law enforcement are overcome as a matter of urgency, including re-instatement of the patrol vessel fleet. Nevertheless the argument that recreational fishermen will not cooperate until the shortcomings in the imposition of compliance with existing legislation has improved, does not hold water – resource protection must be implemented from every possible angle if the future of fishing and the well-being of those dependent upon it is to be safeguarded.

In Betty's Bay it must also be kept in mind that this region is a key part of an internationally recognized Biosphere Reserve. The diverse and beautiful environment of the KBR – land, coast and sea - is of huge importance in terms of attracting visitors from all parts of the world. The capital inflow generated by people who settle there (not necessarily all anglers) and from tourism, is essential for the economy of the Overstrand and the welfare of its people.

It is realized that the debate about the declaration of additional MPAs along the South African coastline is far from over and most certainly not in Betty's Bay. This report was not written to stymie such debate – to the contrary. It is sincerely hoped, however, that it will be of assistance in overcoming some of the misunderstandings which were evident at the public meeting of 27 March and that it will assist in placing this debate on a more rational basis.

In the end the safeguarding of the future of all forms of fishing remains the common denominator.

Dr Allan E. F. Heydorn, Marine and Coastal Ecologist

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 5004 |
| 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 |
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Global Extreme Weather Events and Us



Fig: An extra-tropical cyclone - rather too close to us for comfort?

It must first be emphasised that Extreme Weather Events are naturally occurring, are certainly **not** caused by mankind, and are nothing unusual; these are quite simply at the extreme ends of natural weather fluctuations.

However, in the past such events were infrequent enough to be considered exceptional. Of course, we know from historical accounts that extreme weather has occurred everywhere over millennia, and many such events caused much hardship, destruction and-sadly-very many casualties. Second, do remember that we are discussing weather-related events here; earthquake-,volcano-,and tsunami-initiated disasters are caused by separate and distinct geological processes and not by the processes which drive weather.

During our 'normal' weather, cold fronts are created to the west under the high-speed, 8km high Polar Jet Stream centred south of us, which meanders widely, occasionally blowing over us from west to east at high levels as can be attested to by high altitude jet planes. Warm, moist air over the wild Atlantic is lifted up, condenses and falls, often as heavy rain, our "North-westers", as the fronts rapidly pass over, tracking west then more to the south east. Most fronts generally pass over us in winter, less in summer, moving faster during winter months. Hot air rising in summer over our sunbaked interior pulls in much moister air both from the ocean and from Equatorial Africa and this falls as heavy rain during fully developed summer thunderstorms over the interior, occasionally 'hailing', and 'thundering' on us too!

The "regular" pattern is, therefore, that as a cold front, part of a "low" (a low pressure system), approaches, warm winds freshen from the north, heated more by blowing down the coastal mountains as very dry "berg" winds; then the wind backs to north-west and-cooling -brings light drizzle, then persistent light rain, thick clouds, and heavier bursts of rain as winds strengthen. During winter such gale-force winds seriously endanger small ships at sea. Next, the wind backs still more to the west, followed by some clearing of the cloud with intermittent patches of blue sky, a definite cooling as the freshening wind backs south-west and now occasional heavy, often thundery, showers roll in dumping much rain, along with a dusting of snow on high ground mostly, but not exclusively, during winter.

The showers clear away as the front moves past and cool air remains as pressure rises rapidly. Soon the wind backs quickly through south, freshens from the "south-east" and warms as high pressure builds. After the wind drops, we often get up to 4 days of hot, calm weather, "broken" by a coastal low which allows a thick fog bank to drift in from the west coast, normally preceding the next cold front. Usually, we thus get a regular procession of alternating highs and lows, with the weather mostly predictable, even by our South African "Weather Service" who last week talked on TV about a "cold front" which never ever appeared on their synoptic charts, and issued a flood "warning" for the East London region

about 12 hours after the heavy rain had already begun to fall with flooding already in full swing. Recent scientific research (Thompson & Barnes, 2014) has shown a previously unsuspected 20-30 day periodicity in the weather patterns south of us and it will be interesting to see how this influences our local weather. However, every so often, we get much heavier rain than usual; or strong, destructive gales; perhaps very hot or very cold weather; or extended dry periods (droughts), all natural “Extreme Weather Events” which have occurred here, albeit infrequently, for millennia. These are what concern us.

Weather extremes cause considerable material damage, serious social disruption, pose a significant hazard to human health and life, and require intervention by authorities.

It is clear that we need to know as much about such events as possible and in particular to be able to forecast these accurately and in sufficient time for precautionary measures to be set up by authorities. Reliable and accurate, high quality weather forecasting is a critical element of such precautionary measures and we must be sure that our forecasting is of the highest professional quality and certainly neither ‘educated guesswork’ nor derived from some online websites of unknown quality. Most of what we do know about Extreme Weather Events is derived from international experience, much documented in detail by major insurance companies, who have a vested interest since they have to “put out” for the many and expensive losses caused by powerful weather extremes.

Worldwide, we have recently endured a lot of seemingly unusual weather.

The media have gone to town on this, branding every single extra flood event or gale damage as “extreme weather” but is it? What does the “science of the weather” tell us? How do we categorise Extreme Weather Events?

Such include:

exceptionally strong winds (“storm-force gales”, “hurricanes” and so forth), damaging and felling trees, utility lines and property, interrupting communications

and which also set up **ocean storm surges**, water rising perhaps a metre above normal astronomical tidal predictions, and energy-rich storm waves first inundating then trashing low-lying, unprotected coastal land; extra-tropical cyclones, resembling smaller, fortunately less powerful, versions of tropical hurricanes (e.g., complete with a “catherine-wheel” pattern, an “eye”, strong winds and heavy rain) but generated outside of the more usual known tropical hurricane regions-note that several have been observed recently, fortunately just off our coasts (satellite pictures above and below);

severe thunderstorms with lightning damage, destructive violent high speed downdrafts, along with the setting of fires and often with severe hail damage, allied with moderate to large **tornadoes** causing much property damage-note that transient (lasting a few seconds to minutes) highly destructive tornadoes occur during ALL well-developed thunderstorms;

cloudbursts of intense rain are far more damaging than steady rainfall of the same number of mm registered; the rate of fall (i.e., mm/hour) of rain is critical;

prolonged drought, food-, vegetable-, fruit -and crop-damage even total loss of these,

loss of livestock and chickens, more veldfires, dire water shortages for our ever-expanding urban conglomerates;

dust storms, disrupt transport by reducing visibility and are a serious nuisance to householders clogging everything up;

persistent dense **fog**, disrupts all transport (ships, trains, planes, motor vehicles) and frequently causes serious traffic "pile-ups";

major extended periods of very hot weather ("**Heat Waves**"); hot dry weather supports far more house-, shack-, and veld-fires, encourages societal disorders like riots, and is lethal to the very young, the infirm or the very old (35 000 deaths were directly attributed to a recent spell of exceptionally hot weather in Europe) or

very cold weather ("**Cold Snaps**"), again causing very many deaths among the unprotected, homeless or infirm, while both excessive heat and unusual cold cause widespread harm to crops, fruit, animals, both domestic and wild, insect pollinators (e.g., bees) and bird life;

snow storms and **ice storms**, very unlikely here, but very serious in cooler climes; can create a complete shutdown of an affected locality for days.

Destruction from sea and river floods is exceptionally severe, indeed most of the really serious damage associated with extreme weather is caused by water. Rain causes floods swamping properties and drowning people while fast-moving water, sea or fresh, is highly destructive both bulldozing all before it regardless of size, and is also a merciless killer.

Ocean storm waves are unbelievably powerful demolishing everything in their path with careless abandon; as usual, Shakespeare put it so well, describing a big storm as "...the sea wax mad." (in "Titus Andronicus").



We all know water floods into a house from outside, coming first through doors, wall vents, then windows, but most householders do not think about the easy access much filthy, pathogen-laden water has, entering through toilet, shower, bath and sink drains, if, like most of our homes, these do not have non-return valves.

Fig: Ugh!

Contributing factors which have been shown internationally to severely intensify the destructive effect of extreme weather include:

Excessive, unprotected building on, and agricultural development of, natural **flood plains** and known **wetlands**, like the UK Somerset Levels, known since Roman occupation times to be exceptionally prone to flooding, but clearly forgotten about by our modern dwellers. As is quite evident from their names, such areas always flood naturally to a greater or lesser extent every time rivers rise, that is every rainy season! One would think that was obvious, but greedy developers ignore the risks, and, quite unbelievably are often encouraged by local or central government. For example, a

very senior former UK Labour Minister actually had the temerity to over-ride the objections raised by his flood experts in the highly professional UK Environment Agency and permitted a large, expensive development in a known flood plain downstream of London. It is only a matter of time before innocent parties, the residents, are subjected to unpleasant, disruptive and expensive flooding, but since the Minister concerned is (fortunately!) retired he will escape the blame that should be heaped upon him.

Deforestation, regrettably endemic today in most tropical regions, and in many temperate regions too, very greatly enhances natural run-off. Naturally forested areas act like efficient sponges holding back much water, and slowly releasing it thus significantly limiting rapid run-off. Once the forest is removed by “developers”, the rain normally held back by trees rushes down slopes unhindered by tree’s absorption and the binding of roots and the underlying saturated land then often become unstable enough to slip, setting off disastrous **land-and mud-slides** where these were previously unknown, killing many and burying built structures. In general, more run-off occurs from any agricultural land than from naturally vegetated slopes, the water often with greatly enhanced loadings of fertiliser salts.

The non-stop rush to **urbanisation** by the human race also very greatly enhances run-off. Paved (tared or even gravel) roads and built-up areas are excellent facilitators of run-off and greatly enhance any natural flooding. Just look at the water streaming off your roof into gutters or off your nicely groomed home surrounds during a rain storm and compare this with a neighbouring naturally vegetated area to observe this for yourself!

Inadequate **storm water drainage** within towns and cities is all too common everywhere, as are unnecessarily **blocked street drains**, subjecting residents and vehicle travellers to unnecessary, and indeed negligent, flooding.

Along the ocean/land interface-our global coastline - **inadequate sea defences** are endemic. It remains absolutely amazing to me to see coastal built structures demolished during storms both in the USA and UK being expensively rebuilt in exactly the same place and without any extra armouring against the next storm! Just what do they expect to happen next?

A cliché often mouthed by “decision makers” is that “*Lessons have been learned*”-but they have not. Likewise for some of the puny, laughably-called sea defences built without proper professional input; “Mickey Mouse” constructs is a nice name for these ‘temporary’ structures; temporary because when the next storm hits they’ll be gone!

And as for continued building on known vulnerable, **eroding coasts** - aboveit is quite unbelievable how all our accumulated human knowledge is totally ignored all over the world’s heavily populated coastal regions where large, heavily populated structures are every-



where constructed right in the path of the next batch of invading violent storm waves, their devastating impact enhanced by the stealthy ongoing measured **rise in sea level**, eating away around 3 cm coast annually, more in many areas.

Fig: The sea always wins.

So, Extreme Weather Events have al-

ways been with us but we humans have managed to make their impacts much worse by our stupidity in not actively using the vast amount of accumulated knowledge we have in hand. Ominously, our most recent IPCC 2013 Global Climate Change forecasts tell us that, based on the huge amounts of extra solar energy (millions of times the total global generation of electricity by all humanity!) trapped in the past several decades in the atmosphere/ocean system (90% of this energy is stored in the ocean) mainly by the effect of human's massive output of carbon dioxide, we can reasonably confidently expect that the frequency -but not the intensity-of future Extreme Weather Events is already increasing quite dramatically everywhere. Translated, this means that events will not generally be more intense, i.e., the amount of rainfall per event will not go up, nor will it get much hotter during a heat wave etc., but these events will occur much more often than they did in the past. It can be put simply as the "1000 year storm" of the past now occurring every 100 years; the previous "100 year storm" now every 10 years and so on. We humans really have to get our act together and plan for the future and not wait for the next event to-yet again-catch us unawares, we have no more excuses for inaction. The knowledge is there-use it or else face bitter consequences.

Prof Michael Orren

Election results 2014

| Ward | Area | %ANC | %DA | %VF+ | %EFF |
|------------|--|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Gansbaai / Masakhane | 56% | 36% | 3% | 3% |
| 2 | Pretorius Hall / Blompark | 16% | 77% | 4% | 0% |
| 3 | Hermanus / De Mond | 2% | 91% | 4% | 0% |
| 4 | Hermanus / Mt Pleasant / Ertjiesvlei | 17% | 78% | 2% | 1% |
| 5 | Qhayiya / Hou Moed | 89% | 1% | 0% | 5% |
| 6 | Lukhanyo / Zwelihle | 88% | 2% | 0% | 4% |
| 7 | Sandbaai | 1% | 91% | 5% | 0% |
| 8 | Hawston / Lake Marina / Honingklip | 34% | 57% | 1% | 0% |
| 9 | Kleinmond / Mthimkhulu | 3% | 86% | 9% | 0% |
| 10 | Betty's Bay / Proteadorp | 34% | 60% | 3% | 1% |
| 11 | Pearly Beach / Stanford / Baardsbos / Viljoenshof / St Pauls | 34% | 58% | 3% | 1% |
| 12 | Zwelihle PS | 91% | 2% | 0% | 3% |
| 13 | De Wet Hall / Amana | 1% | 92% | 5% | 0% |
| Tot | | 36% | 56% | 3% | 1% |

Note: The above does not distinguish between National and Provincial figures, and merely presented here as indicative figures. Also, the ward names are not correct. Voting stations are used in places, instead. And only the main player's figures were added. -Ed.

The Aesthete

Author: W. S. Gilbert

If you're anxious for to shine in the high aesthetic line,
as a man of culture rare,
You must get up all the germs of the transcendental terms,
and plant them everywhere.
You must lie upon the daisies and discourse in novel phrases of your
complicated state of mind,
The meaning doesn't matter if it's only idle chatter
of a transcendental kind.
And everyone will say,
As you walk your mystic way,
"If this young man expresses himself in terms too deep for me,
Why, what a very singularly deep young man
this deep young man must be!"

Be eloquent in praise of the very dull old days which have
long since passed away,
And convince 'em if you can, that the reign of good Queen Anne was
Culture's palmiest day.
Of course you will pooh-pooh whatever's fresh and new, and
declare it's crude and mean,
And that art stopped short in the cultivated court
of the Empress Josephine,
And everyone will say,
As you walk your mystic way,
"If that's not good enough for him which is good enough for me,
Why, what a very cultivated kind of youth
this kind of youth must be!"

Then a sentimental passion of a vegetable fashion must
excite your languid spleen,
An attachment *a la* Plato for a bashful young potato,
or a not-too-French French bean.
Though the Philistines may jostle, you will rank as an apostle
in the high aesthetic band,
If you walk down Picadilly with a poppy or a lily in your mediaeval hand.
And everyone will say,
As you walk your flowery way,
"If he's content with a vegetable love which would certainly not
suit me,
Why, what a most particularly pure young man
this pure young man must be!"

Sent in by Dr Peter Joubert. -Ed.

What is a “cut-off Low”-and why should I be concerned?

These days, we hear all sorts of weather jargon from our weather and climate “experts” such as “a weak cold front is approaching” or the “South Atlantic High is ridging in”, and in these cases we know that light rain can be expected, or that a south easter will blow, respectively. Alternatively, our national forecasters might have got it wrong-as they do!

But every so often, we do get unpleasantly different, and quite unexpected weather, like prolonged, heavy rain such as occurred in April, 2005 and more recently in November 2013 and January this year. Such heavy rain falling over our relatively small land area runs rapidly off the steep rocky mountain slopes behind us, and devastating flooding may occur. This type of “Extreme Weather”, weather that occurred infrequently enough to be considered ‘rare’ in the past, is very often caused by a “cut-off low”. So what is that?

Under normal weather conditions, we experience a series of high and low pressure systems marching successively past our village, the ‘highs’ aligned with weather systems more to our north, giving us south-easters, and the ‘lows’ along with their north-westers, closely related to the frequently violent westerly wind belt to our south. On occasions, however, a low pressure system gets “stuck”, or, more correctly, is cut-off, in a position to the north of the usual path and develops into a high altitude ‘trough’ of lower pressure. This moves very slowly or even remains stationary, since it is now out of the regular west to east winds and the Southern Polar Jet Stream which between them usually speed lows on their way at around 20-50 kph, the speed varying seasonally. Hence our “regular” cold fronts move by quite quickly and their heavy load of rain falls safely and well-spread out over an extended area as the system moves on. Air always moves from high to low pressure and you can think of the cut-off low trough as sucking up air from its surrounds. However, this air supply is mostly from over the sea, air which is mild, humid and very moist from the rapid evaporation of seawater. As this air rises, it expands and cools, the huge mass of moisture condenses and falls as rain. The system stays put in general terms so the rain just falls and falls, and dozens of mm or more of rain can fall in an hour or so over the same smallish area of catchment-and continues falling. The rivers cannot cope with the excessive flow and flood with fast-flowing water. Such an event caused the awful 1981 Laingsburg disaster. Luckily-in some respects anyway-the cut-off low moves off within a day or two but its lethal damage has been done.

These damaging events have been infrequent in Betty’s Bay in past decades to half century or so as gleaned from the memories of long-time residents. The April, 2005 cut-off low was in a sense a wake-up call for us since past flood events impacted on a much smaller, widely spread-out village with just a few permanent residents and hardly any dwellings or structures were near the lakes or streams where flooding is most likely. The raw power of fast-flowing water is beyond comprehension and it smashes and cuts away all before it-indeed we have recently seen this as the relatively new Harold Porter Gardens paved car park and sturdy fences were swiftly demolished and Waterfall Road, a sadly apt name, was badly eroded away after flooding nearby properties. What happens next? Well, rather unfortunately, it does appear that previously rare Extreme Weather Events like cut-off lows may become rather more frequent. times!

Prof Michael Orren **Note:** See rest of article on our web page www.bettysbay.info -Ed.



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