



BUZZ

April 2015

Newsletter of the Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association
Nuusbrief van die Bettysbaaise Belastingbetalersvereniging

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APOLOGIES FROM THE NEW EDITOR OF THE BUZZ, HELEN GEORGE:

The compilation of THE BUZZ is in new hands and those hands are definitely on the wrinklier end of the spectrum. The downside of advancing old age is that it takes longer to master technology. Grappling with MS Publisher has proved quite a challenge and, as a result, the April BUZZ is late. My apologies.

TO ALL YOU BUZZ READERS OUT THERE, I would greatly appreciate your input. What would YOU like to read about in the Buzz? Please email me with your suggestions and comments at helen.george.buzz@gmail.com. Also, your contributions in the form of articles, photos and letters for publication will be greatly appreciated. *Ed.*

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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

N.B. 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

N.B. Reference must include your business name. *Please do not send cash.*

Contact: Heinie Foot 082 375 4827

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 to 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

Station Commander **082 778 6793**

Additional Cell Nos. **079 894 1624**

079 894 1622

082 443 6069

082 522 1831



TRACK THE REGENERATION OF THE FYNBOS AFTER THE FIRE

This lovely plant, *Haemanthus canaliculatus*, appears on the Red Data list as endangered. It has been flowering profusely in the vleis area after the recent fire. Many other plants are sending up new leaves, including Restios, *Mimetes cucullatus* and Watsonias.

BETTY'S BAY VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY FIRE FIGHTERS

Dear everyone

in Betty's Bay / Pringle Bay / Rooiels / Kleinmond / South Africa & across the World

The fire fighters, support staff and our firefighting partners—Overstrand Fire & Rescue Services, Pringle Bay Volunteer Community Fire Fighters and Betty's Bay Rate Payers Association— would like to say thank you to everyone who offered us their support during the recent fires that we experienced in our area.

We were overwhelmed with messages of encouragement, gifts of food and water, as well as financial donations. Thank you, and be rest assured that every donation will go towards sustaining our firefighting equipment for the future.

We would also like to say a special thank-you to our firefighting partners from other districts, who didn't hesitate to come and help when the call went out for assistance – the City of Cape Town Fire & Rescue Services, the West Coast Fire & Rescue Services, the Cape Winelands Fire Services, the Stellenbosch Fire Services and the Overberg Fire Services.

Thank You!

It is our Honour to serve!

BETTY'S BAY, *QUO VADIS?*

A word from our chairman . . .

Slightly less than a year ago my wife and I arrived with all our worldly possessions at our beautiful and, judging from the appearance, very tranquil, Betty's Bay. I am not one of the ordinary 'incomers'. In fact, for many years I have owned a plot in our town and have enjoyed many holidays here. Also, I am a true 'Capey', in that I started life in Tiervlei, which later was renamed Parow Vallei.

Currently my little writing den is a crowded corner amidst lots of furniture covered in dust sheets in a dining-room doubling as a bedroom, where we have to fold away a sleeping couch each morning. I am sure many of you have survived the camping stage of a house subjected to alterations and extensions. The seemingly eternal battle against building dust and rubble is just never won.

Names are not the only things that change nowadays. We live in a dynamic society. Change happens all the time and is often presented as progress. All this makes me wonder: Where is Betty's Bay heading? How is it going to change in the future?

Do we, the residents, really want change, and if so, what kind of change? There is an old saying stating that 'only babies look forward to a change', but it is a fact that some change is absolutely necessary. Some changes are true improvements, solving problems brought about by new conditions or an environment that have changed. While these changes might favour some they can be to the disadvantage of others. Thus, it is clear that change should never be considered without due care.

All decisions regarding change require a sound awareness of all the possible consequences and also how they will impact on the affected groups of people, now and in the future. For this reason I am going to consult the members of the BBRA frequently and on an ongoing basis to gather their opinions and also to gain more insight in the matters at hand.

The planned N2 Toll project that often crops up in the media will, if it becomes a reality, affect the nature of Betty's Bay and Clarence Drive and especially so if the R44 through Betty's Bay becomes the favourite route for traffic evading toll fees.

Such increased traffic will definitely spoil the tranquil nature of our town, but it is equally true that the passing traffic might promote more business along the road. A higher traffic density will possibly generate more traffic accidents and will surely increase traffic noise along Clarence Drive.

We might have to face changes. We must know which other matters are regarded as being of paramount importance by Betty's Bay ratepayers and which are requiring urgent action.

I invite you to share your observations, fears, opinions and other emotions about the future of Betty's Bay so I can be fully aware of what would be of prime importance to the Betty's Bay ratepayer. For instance, should Betty's Bay modernise, or should it strive to retain its existing character? Let me hear your opinions!

Finally, on the subject of the constant fire threat, please acquaint yourself with the regulations below and be guided by them.

Please contact me at:

E mail: rudi@perold.co

or: Rudi Perold, P O Box 48, Betty's Bay, 7141

REDUCING FIRE HAZARD - CLARIFICATION OF REGULATIONS

In an effort to reduce the fire hazard in the area, and in accordance with section 34 (2) of the Standard By-Law relating to Community Fire Safety, as published per Provincial Notice No. 342/2006 dated 27 October 2005, the Municipality is requiring owners to take steps to ensure that they reduce the fire hazards on their properties.

This requires that owners:

- remove any dead brushwood and dead trees on their property;
- focus particular attention to reducing the hazard posed by old, woody blombos (*Metalasia Muricata*);
- all alien invasives must be removed and stumps treated with herbicide. These plants carry a highly hazardous fireload, (Rooikrans/ Acacia Cyclops, Port Jackson/ Acacia Saligna, Gums/ Eucalyptus sp. and Pines/ Pinus sp.)

FYNBOS FIRE – A BLESSING AND A CURSE

Fire is an inevitable and necessary factor in the ecology of the Fynbos Biome. To ensure the optimal regeneration of our precious veld it needs a comprehensive burn every ten to fifteen years. Dead growth is removed and precious nutrients re-enrich the infertile soil. And when the dense canopy is removed there is sufficient space and light to stimulate almost immediate regeneration. A few fynbos plants, like *Mimetes cucullatus*, *Protea cynaroides*, *Protea nitida* [Waboom] and *Leucospermum conocarpodendron*, have fire-resistant, woody rootstock or stems and soon resprout after a fire. Others rely on reseedling and the new conditions stimulate the germination process. Most fynbos seeds have evolved specifically to survive fire and some actually require the chemicals in the smoke, as well as the heat of the fire, to push-start the regeneration process. [In botanical terms, our fire came at the best possible time—just before the Autumn rains.]

The transition from the post-fire “lunar landscape” to recognisable fynbos vegetation is a fascinating and surprisingly quick process. Within days of a summer fire the first lilies appear. Soon, the dormant bulbs begin their growth cycle, producing leaves and then flowers. With the first autumn rains, there is widespread germination and the final stage of the regeneration of the fynbos begins. And, in a mere five to seven years the veld will be back to “normal”, but with a significantly greater variety of plants.



Within a week, the green belt bursts into life!

As Betty's Bayers, we are privileged to live in one of the most species-rich fynbos areas of the Western Cape. The spectacular veld is ours to enjoy and we have fabulous fynbos-rich mountain slopes as our backdrop. But fire is a constant threat to person and property and with privilege comes responsibility. We need to do everything in our power to limit the destruction that runaway fires can wreak.

We were reminded of this necessity a mere month ago when a fire that started east of Dawidskraal swept through the greenbelt to Bass Lake. Strong winds fanned the flames and changes in wind direction meant that properties on either side of the green belt were seriously threatened. There were flare-ups for nearly a week as smouldering embers and roots were reignited by the wind. Without the valiant efforts of our municipal and volunteer fire-fighters, and of the fire-fighting teams from other areas, the destruction could have reached catastrophic proportions.

The first thing a responsible property-owner needs to do is assess the risk to his personal property in order to take appropriate precautions. If one lives in a built-up, more "suburban" part of Betty's Bay, the risk to one's property will be significantly lower than to a property near a large open natural area or on a mountain slope. An area that is exposed to strong Southeasters will be at greater risk than the more sheltered pockets. But we are all, to some degree, affected and therefore have a duty to ensure that conditions on our property will not exacerbate the devastation of a runaway fire.

Here are some suggestions:

- Ensure that all fast-burning alien vegetation is removed from your property [pines, eucalypts, Port Jackson, myrtle, rooikrans, black wattle, New Zealand Christmas trees, pampas grass, etc.]
- Remove all dead vegetation and trim sprawling plants.
- Ensure that the area that surrounds your house is kept as clear as possible. In a three-metre band, try to limit your planting to grass, ground-covers and low-growing plants, especially those with fleshy leaves, that are trimmed to a height of no more than 20 centimetres. Ericas and restios are fine as long as there is no dead plant material nearby. Never have trees or bushes close to or overhanging your house.
- Beyond the three-metre mark, stick to indigenous plants of varying heights that naturally reduce heat – fleshy-leaved plants like bietou and plectranthus, certain Proteaceae, like the King protea, and indigenous shrubs and trees, like wild olive, sutera [wild fuschia] and rooi els. Succulents and aloes are great in this regard.
- Ensure that your gas cylinders are housed legally and keep gutters clear.
- Store your firewood and compost well away from any buildings.
- Never burn garden waste. Take it to the dump.
- Whenever you braai, have a hosepipe at hand and always extinguish your

your fire before you leave the vicinity. [The coals must be cold to the touch.]

- Never leave a fire unattended.
- If you are outside, use welding equipment and other tools that cause sparks on windless days only. Always have a hosepipe nearby.
- Always extinguish cigarette butts. [And bin them. A filter takes 30 years to decompose.]
- Never set off fireworks.

Should there be a fire in your area, however unthreatening it may seem, be aware that it could spread alarmingly at any time. By taking certain precautions, you could be saving yourself a lot of future heartache. Many residents were forced to evacuate their houses with very little warning during the recent fires.

- Ensure that you have access to a vehicle that has sufficient fuel and is dependable.
- Have all important papers, ID documents, passports, contact numbers and addresses, birth certificates, medical aid details, bank account details, wills, etc., together in a readily-accessible place.
- The same goes for prescription drugs, cell phones and chargers.
- Valuables and especially-loved possessions should be identified beforehand.
- Pack a change of clothes for each occupant and one or two blankets.
- Ensure that you fill a couple of water bottles for yourselves and your pets. [Remember to grab a suitable receptacle for the latter.]
- Close all doors and windows when you vacate your property and leave the lights on, both inside and outside the house. This will aid the fire-fighters in thick smoke.
- Leave containers of water on your property for animals that have escaped the fire.

And , finally, make sure that you have secured realistic fire insurance and that your instalments are never allowed to lapse.

Helen George

**SHOULD YOU SPOT A FIRE THAT APPEARS THREATENING,
IMMEDIATELY CALL EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS:**

The Fire Department: 028 312 2400

The 24-hour Emergency Control Room 028 313 8111

ON THE EDGE OPENS AT THE WHALING STATION

The new Stony Point Eco Centre on the old whaling station site was officially opened on Friday, 10 April, by Tourism Minister, Derek Hanekom, accompanied by local dignitaries and the trustees of the recently-constituted Mooiuitsig Trust.



The initiative is owned by the Mooiuitsig community and provides much-needed employment to its residents. The aim is to develop a sustainable, vibrant tourism economy that will give the local community the opportunity to share in the benefits of tourism. All profits generated by the project will be used to uplift the Mooiuitsig residents, with educational opportunities for the youth being a top priority.

The facilities were built by the Department of Tourism in conjunction with the Overstrand Municipality and include a restaurant and a visitor information centre that has a display documenting the history of whaling in the area. The restaurant, ON THE EDGE, which offers indoor and outdoor seating and is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., is appropriately named. It is almost on the water's edge and offers a beautiful view of the sheltered bay that for decades has provided a safe launching place for fishing boats and, before that, for the locally-stationed whaling vessels. As it is at the entrance to the walkway to the Stony Point penguin colony, the development is intended to attract both international and local visitors. Already, the penguin colony is a popular destination for tourist buses and their frequency is sure to increase with the facilities that ON THE EDGE has to offer.

The African penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*), also known as the jackass penguin and black-footed penguin, is an endangered species, confined to southern African waters. It is called the "jackass" penguin for its donkey-like bray. There are only two mainland-based colonies in South Africa, both near Cape Town. One is at Boulders Beach, near Simonstown, and the other at Stony Point in Betty's Bay. Both colonies were established by the penguins in the



in the 1980s. In the early days of the Stony Point penguin colony the birds were allowed to roam free, but after a couple of vicious attacks by our local leopards it was decided to enclose the area to safeguard the birds. A walkway has been built and visitors are charged a small fee to view the colony. The proceeds have been used to maintain the enclosure and its access.

[Betty's Bay in Autumn boasts some perfect days—wind-free and sunny, with calm, clear seas. Today was like that, so ideal to try out ON THE EDGE for the first time. We sat on the deck in the early morning sunshine, sipping some really good coffee and revelling in the uninterrupted view of the bay. We were amazed and heartened when we saw the seemingly endless stream of visitors to the penguins, even though it was far too early for the tourist buses. What a pleasant experience! I had just returned from a stay in Johannesburg, where almost every restaurant and coffee shop overlooks a car park.]

We both ordered the mini breakfast—bacon, eggs, mushrooms and grilled tomato, served with lashings of toast—and jolly good it was too! Best of all were the staff, charming, enthusiastic and helpful, and all of them members of the Mooiuitsig community. The menu was extensive and varied and the items fairly reasonably priced. There is also a specials menu that changes daily.

The restaurant is in the process of applying for a liquor licence and this will materialise in six months' time. A wide variety of soft drinks are on offer, but the manageress is quite happy for patrons to bring their own wine and beer in the interim.

*At the moment, the Mooiuitsig Trust is operating in partnership with **Casidra**, the Cape Agency for Sustainable Integrated Development in Rural Areas, and is chaired by Kobus Oosthuizen. Marghrieta de Bruin, from Mooiuitsig, is the vice-chairman. **Casidra** is an implementing agency of its sole shareholder, the Provincial Government of the Western Cape. The mission of the organisation is to make a difference in the lives of rural people through effective project management. It provides leadership, strategic direction and appropriate support services to its many projects. Once an initiative becomes self-sustaining, the reins are handed over to the relevant community and **Casidra** retains an advisory role.*

The information centre is fascinating, albeit a bit sparse at this point as it is work-in-progress. However, it contains excellent information boards outlining the history of whaling in Betty's Bay and providing insight into the whale species frequenting our coast. Information on the African penguin is also presented.

*Please support ON THE EDGE. Visit it yourself and suggest to your friends that they do the same. Our local community stands to benefit from our support. **Ed.***

A MESSAGE FROM THE HANGKLIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library in the Betty's Bay municipal complex opened in 1993 to serve Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els. Recently, albums with newspaper clippings, photos and other information on the very early years in the Hangklip area were donated to the Friends of the Hangklip Library. These documents are precious and invaluable in that they reflect the history of our particular area.

There is no doubt about the considerable importance of public libraries in the provision of information, education and the promotion of reading skills, as well as the establishment of a reading culture. Therefore, we would like to extend a sincere invitation to all, old and young, to support the Friends of the Library with your enthusiasm and membership. In this way we shall be able to give our public library that much-needed extra support. We would really welcome the involvement of more of the younger parents in our communities. Please enquire at our library about membership of the Friends. You can contact Rosaline with any enquiries on 028 272 9263.

We truly are a *lekker* circle of friends.

Some information for potential Friends:

- There is an annual fee of R25 per person or R30 per family, payable at the Library.
- Your talents and expertise can be spread around.
- Please donate good secondhand books and puzzles.
- You can create greeting cards that can be sold in the library.

THE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The Friends of the Hangklip Library are looking for donations of articles, newspaper clippings, photos, documents and more that pertain to the history of our area, that is from Rooi Els to Betty's Bay. This information will be preserved and housed at the local library in Betty's Bay for use by present and future generations. Please bring items of interest to the library, which can be found in the municipal office complex opposite the Caltex Garage in Betty's Bay. The Friends would be keen to welcome your help and expertise.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

IMAGINE a non-stop stream of cars speeding through Betty's Bay.

IMAGINE huge articulated trucks on Clarence Drive, belching noxious fumes into our clean air and disturbing the peace of Betty's Bay.

IMAGINE being stuck in horrendous traffic jams on the coastal road behind said trucks.

IMAGINE the damage to the Betty's Bay infrastructure such traffic would generate.

IMAGINE the frustration and anger that this intrusion will inevitably cause.

THIS SCENARIO COULD BECOME A REALITY IF THE ANTICIPATED N2 TOLL ROAD MATERIALISES. CLARENCE DRIVE WILL PROVIDE A CHEAP AND CONVENIENT ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO ROAD-USERS.

We need to plan our response NOW, We need to be proactive. Any ideas?

THE BUZZ is planning a letter page. This can be a forum for such discussions.

[In the same vein, what is your take on the blue LED security lights that pollute our night sky?]

GETTING TO KNOW OUR FELLOW BETTY'S BAYERS

We are lucky enough to live in a breathtakingly beautiful environment. We take delight in our mountains, the fynbos, the sea and the sunshine and we even make excuses for the wind that batters our houses and destabilises our sanity. We relish the solitude and peace that Betty's Bay offers us, so different from the hurly-burly of city life.

But this solitude comes at a cost. Now and again you will strike up a conversation with a complete stranger at the Centre Shop, seemingly a newcomer or a visitor. Then you discover that both of you have lived in Betty's Bay for the last ten years and have never clapped eyes on each other.

We don't get to know one another in Betty's Bay and this is really sad. There may be any number of potential soul-mates out there, but we seldom get to meet them. Betty's Bay's missing sense of community could be the result of the unique layout of our town, a meandering strip with no true focal point. Compare Betty's Bay to Pringle Bay. Pringle Bay may not be as dramatically beautiful, it may be even windier, but what it does have is a vibrant village life. People interact more. They socialise and look out for one another.

From now on, **MAY I INTRODUCE . . .** will be a regular column in the Buzz and we would appreciate suggestions and contributions.

MAY I INTRODUCE . . . ROBBIE AND VICKI THOMAS

Mimetes stokoei was thought to be extinct. First identified in 1922 by Thomas Stokoe in the mountains behind Kleinmond, it was rarely seen. Then it disappeared completely for more than fifty years. A huge mountain fire in 2000 triggered the germination of a handful of seed that had lain dormant for decades and suddenly this magnificent plant was back. The precariousness of its continued existence led Cape Nature to approach Robbie Thomas to ensure its survival. By grafting cuttings on to *Leucospermum conocarpodendron* rootstock, Robbie propagated a sustainable colony. As anticipated, the Kogelberg plants died off after about three years, falling victim to Phytophthora, as did the specimens in both Harold Porter and Kirstenbosch. At this point, the only known plants of *M. stokoei* are to be found in Robbie Thomas's garden in Betty's Bay. And it is thanks to Vicki Thomas that the world can appreciate the beauty of this rare species.



Mimetes stokoei [Vicki Thomas]

Robbie and Vicki are Betty's Bayers of long-standing and both have played significant roles in ensuring the sustainability and glorification of our local fynbos. Robbie, like his mother before him, is a dedicated horticulturalist and propagator of endangered plant species, while Vicki is a renowned botanical artist, whose work has gained widespread recognition, both in South Africa and abroad.

A visit to their home, appropriately positioned next to the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, is testament to their work. The garden boasts an astonishing collection of rare



Robbie Thomas in his garden in Betty's Bay, surrounded by mimetes plants.

fynbos and is a joy to behold. A baboon-proof nursery area contains hundreds of young plants, mainly *Proteaceae*, that Robbie has personally propagated and reared. And, when you enter their house, you are welcomed by a breathtaking display of botanical art, the work of his wife, Vicki.

Robbie is particularly interested in the propagation and cultivation of *Mimetes* and twelve of the fourteen known species are to be found in his garden. But, he has also played a role in the successful rescue of the Marsh Rose, *Orothamnus zeyheri*, the very rare and exceptionally beautiful member of the *Proteaceae* family that grows in the high peaks of the Kogelberg. Several plants grace his garden and are quite spectacular in their flowering season. Every year, Robbie propagates a new batch, always on *conocarpodendron* rootstock. In so doing, he plays his part in ensuring that the species will never again face extinction.

Robbie is constantly exploring ways to successfully propagate fynbos plants. He has devised a simple method of infusing water with smoke and has gallons at hand for the germination season. His watering system is ex-



The glorious Marsh Rose in full flower

traordinary but effective, consisting of cunningly-connected hot water cylinder trays that drain into tin drums. The nutrient-rich water that he collects is then reused in a neverending cycle. Four or five earthworm farms on the property provide him with rich fertilizer.

At present he is working on the propagation of ericas, notoriously tricky because of the dusty nature of the seed, and he is enjoying considerable success. In his garage is a fridge that has been specially adapted so as to produce daily cycles of heat and cold, emulating the daily temperature fluctuations in nature. It is in this fridge that his ericas start their life.

Robbie Thomas is an extraordinary man who is creating an enduring legacy in the botanical world. No less extraordinary is his wife, Vicki Thomas.

Vicki is a self-taught botanical artist. Her career took off in 1979, when she produced illustrations for prize cards at the annual flower show at Kirstenbosch. Her potential as a serious artist was spotted by Ernst van Jaarsveld, the eminent plant explorer and collector. Her years of hard work and dedication culminated in the inclusion of her drawings in Curtis's Botanical Magazine, the illustrated publication

of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, that has been in print since 1787. It provides the definitive record of newly-discovered species in the world. Vicki's latest inclusion is *Cyrtanthus sanguineus*, which was recently discovered in Southern Namibia and is a relation of the well-known George lily, which grows naturally in the Knysna area.

Vicki has even done work for Prince Charles's charity, the Prince's Trust. Her comment about Prince Charles, whom she met, was "... a really nice guy. He would have made a great gentleman farmer."

Vicki explained why, in the botanical world, illustration is preferable to photography. With the curved lens of a



Vicki, at work in her Betty's Bay studio

camera there isn't the necessary focal depth. In addition, it is near-impossible, using photographs, to present all the diagnostics of a particular species [its seeds, leaves front and back, bulbs, flowers and stems] on a single page. She



also described the three types of botanical drawing: scientific illustration, displaying all the diagnostics, botanical art, where the illustration is aesthetic rather than informative, and semi-scientific, which is a combination of the two.

Betty's Bayers with artistic aspirations and an interest in botanical illustration will soon be given an opportunity to learn the craft. Vicki is holding a three-day workshop in May at the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens. Details of this workshop appear below.

LEFT: The scientific illustration of *Cyrtanthus sanguineus*, as it appeared in Curtis's Botanical Magazine.

Botanical Art Workshop with Vicki Thomas in Betty's Bay

HAROLD PORTER BOTANICAL GARDENS, BETTY'S BAY,

18, 19, 20 MAY 2015, 9.30 A.M. - 4 P.M.



This workshop is intended for novices, giving guidance through sketching, careful observation and drawing to watercolour painting. Indigenous flowers from the beautiful Betty's Bay area will be provided. The fee is R750 and includes some equipment.

Vicki Thomas has botanical artworks in collections around the world and in many publications. She teaches a module on botanical illustration at Stellenbosch University and has held workshops in the UK and around South Africa.

PENGUIN CONSERVATIONISTS WADDLE INTO BETTY'S BAY

On Thursday, 16 April, a group of footsore, placard-waving demonstrators were spotted making their way along Clarence Drive in the direction of the municipal office complex. The most legible of the posters read: "HOOT FOR THE PENGUINS!" and most passing drivers did just that and then continued on their way. A people-carrier was waiting for the intrepid walkers at the Caltex Service Station. I stopped to chat to them as they were massaging their blistered feet and was made aware of the valid cause that prompted their efforts.



One passing motorist did a U-turn and drove back to the rest place. With a puzzled expression he squinted at the placards. "Whew!" he said. "I thought they wanted us to go SHOOT the penguins."

The walkers had just completed the Kleinmond to Betty's Bay leg of an annual weeklong WADDLE from Gansbaai to Boulders Beach. The walk thus incorporates the three most important Western Cape habitats of the endangered African penguin. Dyer Island, off Gansbaai, is home to the biggest colony and a state-of-the-art bird rehabilitation centre was opened in the town in March.

I learnt some worrying facts about our local penguins. A hundred years ago there were more than a million in existence. Today there are only 18 000 breeding pairs left to sustain the whole population. These cute iconic birds face extinction in the wild as their numbers continue to decline dramatically. Loss of food because of overfishing, climate change and habitat destruction are just some of the factors taking their toll. Another significant contributor is the pollution that has contaminated the sea. In fact the prognosis is so dire that it is predicted that, unless there's a significant intervention, the African penguin will be extinct in 15 to 20 years.

An unusual feature of this Waddle for a Week initiative is that it is not seeking donations from the public. Instead, it wants PROMISES, promises from us that we will do our bit to ensure the continued survival of the penguins.

Continued on Page 20

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
	Station Commander	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
		028 271 8466
	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
	Hangklip Community Care Centre	082 378 1614
	Fire Extinguisher Service	083 741 9914

Here are some of their suggestions:

- **RETHINK USING THE PLASTIC SHOPPING BAG.** They often end up being eaten by animals, whether at sea or on land.
- **TAP IN TO THE RIGHT WATER SOURCE.** Bottled water comes in plastic bottles that end up polluting the environment.
- **BIN YOUR BUTTS AND KICK THE FLICK HABIT.** Cigarette butts are toxic and take 30 years to decompose. They are poisonous to animals and fish.
- **BUST YOUR NEED FOR BALLOONS AND STRAWS.** They are unnecessary and will harm the environment and be a danger to foraging animals and fish.
- **CUT A LOOP AND SAVE A LIFE.** Trash that is left in long strands poses a huge threat to both land and sea animals. [Fishing line and plastic rope spring to mind.] Make sure that all looped trash is cut up before disposal.

IF YOU MAKE THESE PROMISES, IT WON'T ONLY BE THE PENGUINS WHO WILL THANK YOU.

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE OVERBERG

For the casual visitor to Betty's Bay a typical day involves beach walks, swims in the sea or Bass Lake and, possibly, a potter around the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens. Then there'll be the obligatory afternoon nap or reading session, the welcome re-charging of batteries after a trying week of work. This is followed by sundowners around a braai and much cheerful chat. Not a bad way to spend a weekend!

But Betty's Bay has so much more to offer—delights that are largely undiscovered. For the super-energetic, there are spectacular mountain hikes and cycle routes. The adventurous can canoe down the Palmiet or even attempt the infamous Palmiet bridge leap—a favourite pursuit of the young. For the less hearty, there are lots of untaxing alternatives. Two of these spring to mind. There is the Palmiet trail in the Kogelberg Reserve, where one can amble through some fabulous fynbos and punctuate the walk with dips in any number of inviting natural pools. [A Wild Card means free entry.] And there is the Lighthouse Circuit at Maasbaai, especially enjoyable in springtime when the coastal daisies are in full bloom. This coastal walk doesn't take much more than an hour and ends at, to my mind, the most beautiful beach in the area—Moonlight Bay. This is likely to be deserted and is great for swimming .

The Tides Restaurant , which adjoins the Centre Shop, offers top-quality fare in surprisingly pleasant surroundings. Their mussels are simply delicious, in fact, the best I've ever had. The Tides is open each week from Wednesday to Sunday and booking is essential over the weekends as it is very popular. However, the owners are pretty accommodating—pals of mine arrived there one Saturday evening with plaintive expressions on their faces and a bridge table and two folding chairs under their arms, and a spot was immediately found for them.

Kleinmond itself provides entertainment for all tastes. It boasts one of the most beautifully-situated golf courses in the country—a nine-holer—on the foothills of the Kogelberg. The shopping street at the harbour is full of quaint shops and eating places. On a windless day the restaurant on the beach offers spectacular views of sea, lagoon and mountain. The coastal walk is quite wonderful. It stretches all the way from the lagoon mouth to the Palmiet River mouth, with wooden walkways over the trickier bits, a definite plus for the less sprightly.

If one ventures slightly further afield, the possibilities are endless. There are any number of great destinations where you can enjoy glorious scenery and delicious food and drink. It is these destinations that we shall be highlighting in forthcoming issues of The Buzz.

Twice this week I explored Bot River in search of such gems. On both occasions we were experiencing loadshedding in Betty's Bay and I urgently needed some diversion to quell my internal anti-Eskom rants. And I was successful, first at Honingklip, the artisanal brewery and restaurant on the outskirts of Bot River and, on the second outing, at the famous Shuntin' Shed, that gloriously eccentric pub/eating joint in the very heart of the village, and then at the beautiful Beaumont wine farm, which is a stone's throw away.



Honingklip Restaurant & Brewery

**Opening Times: Tuesdays to Sundays,
10:00 to 18:00.**

Botriver Rd, Bot River, 7185, South Africa

+27 82 542 6484

After learning to appreciate the wide range of European beers, in particular the Belgian beers, Mark and Analize ter Morshuizen set out to brew them locally. After eight years the result is Honingklip Brewery, which produces a range of Belgian-inspired ales. Their beers are complemented by Chef Jon Light's cuisine, which features local fresh produce that is freshly prepared daily.

Honingklip's location is idyllic, with beautiful mountain views from their stoep, and a secure, child-friendly play area. Honingklip is dog-friendly. While we were there, the three resident golden Labradors dragged themselves up from their spot in front of the fire to say hello to a visiting pooch.

There is also a 4-by-4 trail on the property for those who enjoy a bumpy ride.



I chose the Saison as the accompaniment to my meal—a refreshingly light beer with a touch of wheat and a moderately spicy aftertaste. My friend decided on the India Pale Ale, which was complex and intensely-flavoured, but without a bitter aftertaste.

Honingklip stocks eight different home-brewed beers, all reputedly delicious. Sadly, we were driving home, so resolved to try the others on later visits.

Honingklip also sells the Everson range of ciders, produced in the Elgin Valley. Their apple and pear ciders are wonderful—I have enjoyed them on several occasions. Their other two products will have to be enjoyed in the future—something to look forward to.

Wine-drinkers are also catered for at Honingklip. They only stock wine that is produced within a ten-mile radius of their property.

The food menu was very tantalising. The pork fillet had been recommended to us, but we decided on a meat platter to share. It was a great choice. We were presented with a array of delicious *charcuterie*, served with a colourful variety of tasty accompaniments. Three different homemade bread, made with locally-ground flour, and generous slabs of farm butter complemented the meal.

All in all, our visit to Honingklip was a great experience. The food and beer was of a high standard and the prices very reasonable. It is with great confidence that I can recommend Honingklip as an excellent destination.



The Shuntin' Shed is a pub with a difference. It is housed in a disused, corrugated iron railway shed on the Bot River station and is full of SAR&H memorabilia. The seats in one section of the pub are the old, green leather beauties that once graced the compartments of our local, long-distance trains. On the

walls is a collection of instantly-recognisable photographs. They too were a dependable feature of those train trips of the past.

By the way, trains do still run through Bot River—at least twice a day—so best to be vigilant when you cross the railway line through the village.



It was a particularly chilly and windy day when we visited the Shuntin' Shed, so we plumped for the comfier armchairs in front of the fire. The pub is well-known for its delicious pizzas, made in a wood-fired oven at the far-end of the building. We each ordered one and they did not disappoint—tasty, fresh ingredients on a thin, crispy base, without a hint of sogginess. On a previous visit I had chosen



their other famous dish, pork spare ribs and chips, and it too hit the spot.

The Shuntin' Shed is particularly vibey on Friday and Saturday evenings. Often they provide live music. Some time ago we enjoyed a jazz evening there. Andrew Ford, one of Cape Town's premier jazz pia-

nists, was performing. What a fabulous evening that turned out to be!

The Shuntin' Shed is a great destination. You can follow them on Facebook to get information on forthcoming events. Alternatively, you can give them a ring on 071 1795876.



BEAUMONT WINES



Beaumont is a charming, family-run farm and winery, situated in the quaint Overberg Village of Bot River. The farm – home to the region's oldest wine cellar – is steeped in history dating back to the 1700s.

Jayne and Raoul Beaumont purchased the historic Compagnes Drift Farm in 1974 and set about replanting the vineyards. Twenty years later, having revitalised the cellar, Jayne released her first vintage of Beaumont Pinotage. Rave reviews followed and these motivated her to increase the range to what they produce today.

In 2004, Sebastian Beaumont, having honed his skills in the vineyard, took over the reins in the cellar and has continued to build the Beaumont reputation. Their flagship Chenin Blanc, Hope Marguerite, has received 4 Platter Five Star ratings.

You can visit the cellar to taste their full range of delicious wines, The estate produces a large variety, from Chenin Blanc, wooded and unwooded, to Pinotage, to Shiraz and Mourvèdre and a blend of the two. There is a blended white and a blended red for more casual quaffing and a delightful dry Rosé. And their Port is quite splendid.

The views across the vineyards and wheat fields to the mountains beyond are spectacular and the Beaumont family is happy for visitors to potter about among the historic buildings or meander through the garden and vineyards.

An ancient mill on the farm has been meticulously restored and is now one of the oldest working mills in the Overberg district.



Keep an eye on the Beaumont website so that you can be aware of events in which the public can participate. For instance, you can attend the annual Barrel Lunch where you can enjoy a sumptuous meal in a long, narrow cellar lined with wine barrels. Sebastian's wife is a co-owner of the well-known catering company ZEST, so you can count on food of the highest quality, with each course paired with an appropriate Beaumont wine.

One thing to bear in mind is that dogs should, if possible, be left at home. If you have them with you they will have to stay in the car.. The alternative could be an unpleasant confrontation with the resident canine population.

You can visit Beaumont during the week from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The contact telephone number is 028284 9194.

Seeff

PROPERTIES

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Fax: 028 272 9293
Cell: 082 484 1279

Albertyn Apteek/Pharmacy

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082 378 1641 Maandag, Woensdag en
Vrydag van 09.00 tot 12.30.



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