



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

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FROM THE EDITOR OF THE BUZZ

I have two requests to make of the readership this month:

Firstly, I would SO like those of you, English or Afrikaans, who have something of interest to say about Betty's Bay, past or present, to send me articles for publication. At this point, my role is editor AND main contributor and I really would like some imput from other sources.

Secondly, I think it would be great to start a LETTER PAGE, where we all can have our say on issues affecting the Betty's Bay community. Please get writing!

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Contact Us

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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:

- Get a copy at the Village Centre Cafè or Penguin Place, normally first week of each month.
- 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: 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 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

Station Commander 082 778 6793

Additional Cell Nos. 079 894 1624

079 894 1622

082 443 6069

082 522 1831

THE LATEST ON THE SAND DUNE INVASION Gottlieb van der Merwe reports positive developments.

You were previously notified of a public meeting where Mr Laurie Barwell would do a presentation about the rehabilitation and management of the dune field in the Betty's Bay Main Beach area. This meeting duly took place and Laurie made an excellent presentation which led to a lively discussion. You can, on the Betty's Bay Ratepayer's Association website, access the presentation slides, as well as a summary of the presentation and a summary of the questions, comments and responses.

When the plan has been completed, it will be subjected to a public participation process, but you are welcome to raise any questions or comments that you may have at any time.

As I have stated before, there are basically three steps that have to occur in order to accomplish the rehabilitation of the dune field:

- We need an approved Dune Management Plan. The cost associated with this step is R75 000.00, of which the Overstrand Municipality has already contributed R25 000.00 and the community still has to contribute R50 000.00.
- The approved plan must be implemented. The estimated cost of this step, if executed using a contractor, is between R3m and R4m.
- After implementation the dune field has to be maintained in the long term.

This process has repeatedly been successfully executed at other locations in the Western Cape.

The main obstacle to the execution of this plan has been funding of Step 2 (R3m to R4m).

HERE IS THE GOOD NEWS:

The Department of Environmental Management at the Overstrand Municipality applied for R30m of funding for coastal management projects in the Overstrand area from the "Work for Coast" work creation programme of the Government and has been allocated R14.2m over the next two financial years. We have been assured by the Department of Environmental Management that a significant part of these funds will be used to fund the dune rehabilitation projects at Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay. This means that our main obstacle has now been overcome.

As far as the sustainable long-term dune maintenance programme is concerned (Step 3), we are fortunate in that most of the dune maintenance that will be required in Pringle Bay will be done in winter, while most of the dune maintenance required in Betty's Bay will be done in summer. This means that a single maintenance team of about three people will be able to do the work for both areas and that the cost could be shared equally between the two Special Rating Areas to be established in Pringle Bay and in Betty's Bay. As a result, this will not represent a large financial burden to the two communities.

While Pringle Bay has already paid for their Dune Management Plan, our community still has to collect the R50 000.00 required for the completion of the Betty's Bay Dune Management Plan (Step1 above). I previously called for contributions towards this amount and the reaction has been disappointing with only ten people contributing. The fund now

stands at R10 000.00. I therefore now plead urgently with all of you who have not already done so, to make a contribution. The banking details are below. A few of us have already invested considerable amounts of our own time and money to reach the point that we are at now – with a workable solution in sight – and we will all share in the advantages of a successful dune management programme. Any contribution (even a small one), to show your support, will be greatly appreciated.

Contributions can be made by EFT or direct deposit into the bank account of the BBRA with details as follows:

Bettys Bay Ratepayers Association ABSA Hermanus Cheque Account 4066616439

Deposits should be referenced as follows – Surname – Erf Number – DIG E.g. Smith 1234 DIG

Although EFTs are preferred, because they are the most cost effective, contributions may also be made by cheque, accompanied by a letter identifying the contributor and the purpose of the contribution and posted to:

Bettys Bay Ratepayers Association, P.O. Box 48, Bettys Bay

LYN HANEKOM REMEMBERS JOAN NORTON

Because of failing health, Joan was forced to leave her beloved Betty's Bay home in March 2008. Determined to give Betty's Bay a final farewell, she participated actively in the Woman's World Day of Prayer that year, the day before she was hospitalised, after which she moved to her daughter in Pinelands.

Joan and her husband Maurice built their Cliff Road cottage overlooking Jock's Bay in the 1970s. They had fallen in love with Betty's Bay after spending many holidays at *Norwood*, the family home next door. After Maurice died in 1986, Joan moved permanently to Betty's Bay and involved herself wholeheartedly in the community. She was a founder member of the Anglican Church, before the chapelry of St. Francis was established. Together with Avril Nunn, she organized communion services in their homes for any Anglicans in Betty's Bay and this led to our now thriving Anglican parish.

Joan's garden in Cliff Road is a testament to her love of our fynbos. She served on the committee of the Botanical Society, was an active and regular participant in the monthly Hack, and never missed the Thursday "potting" group at the Harold Porter Gardens. She was also a wonderful and loving mother and grandmother to her large family. Her twelve grandchildren all shared with her the delights of Betty's Bay.

She was a strong supporter of the Anti-Electricity campaign and, after the installation of electricity, she worked hard to keep invasive lighting in check. She wrote a poem, "Don't put out the Stars in Betty's Bay", which was published in one of the very early editions of the Buzz. She was a brilliant writer and her children's books, "Susan and the Betty's Bay Leopard", which was loosely based on fact, and "Fynbos Friends" have been read and enjoyed by generations of Betty's Bayers.

Her bubbly sense of humour, her zest for life and her unfailing generosity will long be remembered.

BETTY'S BAY IN THE GRIP OF A CRIME WAVE 75 BREAK-INS IN BETTY'S BAY IN JUST 5 WEEKS [Overstrand Herald 23 July]

Crime in Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els is a very serious problem and an evergrowing number of the property owners are becoming victims. Many residents have suffered multiple burglaries in the last couple of years, varying in severity, from petty crime – the removal of taps and copper pipes and the siphoning of petrol from cars – to very serious crime, where the entire contents of a house are stolen. Most commonly, however, a lock is broken or a window or sliding door is removed and flat-screen TVs, DVD players, laptops, cell phones, tablets, handbags, wallets and liquor are taken. A very worrying new trend is that houses are being broken into while the residents are there. So far, there has been no violence involved in these cases, but this could change at any time.

The home-owners are very angry. They are also becoming more and more anxious because of the brazen attitude of the criminals.

Residents feel strongly that not enough is being done to protect them from the rampant crime in Betty's Bay. They would like to see a concerted combined effort to curb the crime wave, where the police, the local government, the security companies operating in the area, and the residents work together.

In most cases, the occupants are worthy citizens who have paid their rates and taxes and, as such, have very definite expectations as regards the quality of security supplied by the state. Many home owners have installed expensive alarm systems and, in addition, pay for armed response on a monthly basis. Everyone is entitled to adequate police protection. This is a basic human right. However, it is strongly felt that this protection is not forthcoming in our area, for very little of value appears to be done by the South African Police Services to combat the current crime-wave. Little or no investigation or proactive policing is in evidence and it is the strong impression of the home-owners that the only role that the police play is to take statements and hand out case numbers for insurance claims.

However, property-owners are aware that the Kleinmond Police are very underresourced. For example, it was reported in the Herald that only one police van is available at night to cover the entire stretch from Arabella to Rooi Els. In addition, the police in Kleinmond complain of being chronically understaffed. They claim to have applied for more officers to be deployed to the area but are not expecting additional staff to materialise any time soon. Thus, as things stand at the moment, there is little chance of a police sub-station being established here to serve the communities of Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els, as is the fervent wish of the residents of the area.

The present Police Spokesman was quoted as saying that contact crime was the national priority [Overstrand Herald, 23 July], the implication being that SAPS concentrates its efforts on solving violent crime - rape, murder, attempted murder, assault and armed robbery – at the expense of simple house-breaking where no one, usually, is physically threatened. This is simply not good enough. The Constitution of South Africa states that

the South African Police Services have a responsibility to "protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their property". Furthermore, unless effective measures are adopted to fight the present crime wave, a violent outcome is inevitable at some point.

The local perpetrators of most of the break-ins *are* well-known to the police and the security companies operating in the area. The criminals are also known to many of the residents. Yet they are seldom arrested and, if convicted, tend to be back on the streets before they have completed their prison sentences.

A LETTER TO THE MAYOR

A Betty's Bay resident has become so angered and frustrated by the crime levels in Betty's Bay that she has written an letter on the subject to the Overstrand Mayor, Alderlady Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, with a copy sent to our local ward councillor, Lisel Krige. In her letter she describes the escalation in crime that we are currently experiencing and complains about the lack of effective policing. [The letter is published in full on the Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association website.]

She then outlines exactly what has been happening in her immediate neighbourhood, to people she actually knows. Her family has been burgled no fewer than six times in the last three years and the majority of the properties within a one-kilometre radius of her home have been victims of crime to a greater or lesser extent. She lists the erf numbers of the properties that she knows have experienced burglaries and invites other victims to add their names and erf numbers to the tally. Needless to say, the list is growing daily. [There is a map on the website that shows the affected erfs.]

The good news is that her efforts are being taken seriously. The letter received by the Mayor is currently being handled by the Counsellor who is responsible for the portfolio for Management Services and Security. The security of our area is currently being addressed by various role players in the governance of our area.

It is foreseen that the deliberations currently taking place will result in a public meeting where owners can participate. It is hoped that there will be an impressive turnout of property owners from Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els to emphasise the urgency of the situation.

Another very positive outcome of the process that began with the letter to the Mayor is the promise of assistance offered by the two main Armed Response companies operating in the area, ASK and SAFE. Between them, they have a huge client base and they are willing to contact each one of their clients by email to impart any pertinent information about the crime situation in Betty's Bay. With their assistance, contact via email will be made with as many property-owners as possible when the anticipated meeting is due to take place

ALARMS AND UMBRELLAS

Criminals regularly manage to enter houses without setting off the alarm systems, a serious problem when one has to deal with insurance providers. Fingers are invariably point-

ed at the security companies, who are accused of having malfunctioning equipment in the houses of their clients. But, now and then, a foreign beach umbrella is found on the victim's premises or a mattress will have been dragged from a bedroom into the lounge area. The burglars know what they are doing. They know how to render an alarm system ineffective and these umbrellas and mattresses provide the clues as to how they can achieve this.

Over the past 30 years, the standard, most cost-effective method of intruder detection worldwide has been the Passive Infrared Detector, or PIR sensor, which is essentially a heat detector. Any object that has a temperature above zero radiates infrared in the form of heat. Thus, a human body, with its temperature of 37 degrees, is an excellent infrared emitter. The PIR, together with its associated electronics and lens, detects the infrared emitted by the human body and when that heat source moves against a background with a lower temperature, an alarm circuit can be triggered.

The role of the umbrella or mattress suddenly becomes clear. They are used to block the perpetrator's body heat from the detector's field of view. He can thus move undetected around a room.

Over the years, the PIR sensors have become more efficient and it is the systems that were installed many years ago that cause the most problems. There have been improvements in the electronic systems that interpret what the sensor is detecting. The same applies to the lenses that determine the detection pattern. A lot of other factors influence the detection probability – the height and angle of the detector/sensor, the ambient temperature of a room, the amount of shielding [the size of the umbrella or mattress] that the intruder is utilising and so on. However, a PIR sensor remains dependent on body heat. Therefore, successful burglaries will on occasion happen if PIR sensors are used.

MICROWAVE DETECTORS: A MORE EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE

The future is less bleak; thanks to a totally different detection method that uses microwave radiation. Microwave detectors emit high frequency radio waves that detect movement instead of body heat. This is a new technology that has been used for a number of years, mainly in conjunction with PIR detectors, to minimise false alarms. Purely microwave alarm systems have until recently been prohibitively expensive. But now, more flexible and cost effective microwave detectors have come on to the market. The local security companies recommend their use, particularly in the living-rooms of houses, as these are generally the target spaces. They are also recommended for outside use.

For peace of mind, it may be sensible to upgrade one's security system to a combination of PIR and microwave sensors.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY!

SOME USEFUL HINTS, AS SUGGESTED BY THE SECURITY COMPANIES.

Most, but not all burglaries occur over the weekends and sometimes on a Thurs-

day nights or Monday mornings. Be extra vigilant in the latter part of a week.

- For obvious reasons, full moon is a great time for burglars.
- They often choose windy and rainy nights, so that the noise they make is masked.
- Be on the lookout for dubious characters on residential streets during the day.
 They may be "casing the joint". Their presence could indicate an imminent hit.
 Contact your security provider and ask for extra night-time surveillance.
- Our local burglars are on the lookout for flat-screen TVs, laptops, tablets, wallets, handbags and cell phones. Make sure that these are out of sight. If you are away, lock them in a cupboard or hide them somewhere. The burglars need to make a quick getaway and are unwilling to waste time searching for these items.
- If you have a DSTV dish, you are telling the burglars that you have a TV set on the premises. You will need to be extra vigilant.
- If you replace a flat-screen TV set or laptop, do not leave the packaging lying around. You will invariably be targeted a second time.
- Consider a silent alarm in place of a loud siren. This means that there is a greater chance that the criminals will be caught.
- If you are alone and nervous, sleep with the remote control on a ribbon round your neck. If you hear noises in the night, pretend to be asleep. Do not confront the burglars as this could end in violence. Instead, press the panic button.
- Unless they are properly secured, sliding doors are very easy to remove.
- The *modus operandi* of most of the house-breakers is to hide the loot in bushes nearby to make an unencumbered getaway. This is collected later when the coast is clear. If you have had a break-in, immediately search for the stolen property in the bushes close to your house. You may be lucky.
- Always ensure that important documents on your laptop are backed up on a harddrive. Store this in an inaccessible place.
- When you are inside, activate the outside alarms. This gives you warning of impending danger and may well scare away the burglar.
- Consider upgrading your alarm system for peace of mind.

MAY I INTRODUCE . . . four amazing women who are bringing the hope of a better life to the very young of our community. Together they run the Pikkewyntjie Pre-Primary School in Mooiuitsig, "WHERE CREATIVITY MAKES LEARNING FUN".



They are, from left to right: **CHRISTEN MALGAS** [teacher], **LOUISE PLAATJIES** [cook], **ZAAN CILLIERS** [principal, teacher and bus driver] and **SALLY TOBIN** [assistant teacher].

Zaan describes theirs as a dream team. Each staff member is hard-working and intensely loyal to the school. And while each has designated responsibilities, all four lend a hand wherever help is needed. Together they keep the place spic and span, they tend the vegetable garden and they help with food preparation. But their main focus is on the needs and education of the kids. Every day, says Zaan, her staff goes the extra mile for the children and it is this dedication that lifts this little school way above the ordinary.

The community of Mooiuitsig began its existence in the very early seventies as a typical apartheid-era township. It was originally built to house Coloured municipal workers. As in so many such townships, the residents have remained poor. They have had few opportunities to improve their lives and the lives of their children because jobs in Betty's Bay are scarce and education is difficult to access. There are the inevitable social problems that are found in such townships – unemployment, dire poverty, hunger, single-parent families and, more recently, the scourge of *tik*, the cheap and devastating drug

that is causing havoc in poorer communities throughout South Africa. Young townshipdwellers are easy meat to unscrupulous dealers as these youngsters have so little hope of a fulfilling future. They are trapped in a cycle of poverty and have few opportunities to make something of their lives.

We all know the importance of early education in the life of any child. It is especially important to provide quality pre-school education in our poorer communities, for the mothers are often locked in a struggle for survival and do not have the time, the money or the skills to provide a sufficiently stimulating and safe environment for their pre-schoolers. In addition, quality pre-primary education stimulates creativity and confidence in young children and provides them with a sound educational and social foundation that can put them on the path to success in later life.

In Mooiuitsig young children can now enjoy the many benefits of an excellent early education, thanks to the establishment in 2007 of Pikkewyntjies, the pre-primary school that is run from the Community Hall. It is a very impressive little operation and well worth a visit as it will very definitely restore your faith in humanity.

You will be greeted by 30 brighteyed little people, all involved in some or other activity and supervised by one of the ladies celebrated in this article. You will be blown away by the facilities and the efficient and caring way that the school is run.

Not only is Pikkewyntjies an educational facility, it also provides for the social needs of the Mooiuitsig community.



The children singing to visitors.

School days start at 7 a.m. and end at 4.30, Monday to Friday, thus the school provides a safe haven for the children of working mothers. Unlike most pre-primaries, Pikkewyntjies doesn't close for school holidays, except for a three-week period in December. This gives working parents peace of mind throughout the year.



Little helpers in the vegetable garden.

And the children are fed twice daily. A thriving vegetable garden ensures daily fresh veges and teaches the kids how to be self-sustainable. Parents are heavily involved in the school. They attend monthly meetings with the staff and they are offered training, which ranges from parenting skills to preparing nutritious meals.

Thanks to the Lotto, the school was able to buy a 12-seater minibus, and every morning Zaan dons her bus-driver's hat and picks up children from Lower Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and even Rooi Fls

FUNDING AND THE HIGH COST OF CRIME

Pikkewyntjies is a registered Non-Profit Organisation [NPO], run under the auspices of Child Welfare and the Department of Social Development. Parents who can afford to, pay R150 per month in school fees and Social Development pays R15 per day for SOME of the children. Out of this meagre monthly income, four salaries need to be paid, as well as rental, electricity, water and food bills. There is also the significant cost of replenishing the educational resources needed to keep the children stimulated.

Pikkewyntjies has a monthly shortfall of close to R1000 and the staff and the supporters of the school are constantly involved in fund-raising activities. These are time-consuming and enervating. The energy and time that is spent chasing funds could be so much better spent on the children themselves.

According to Zaan, the crime wave in Betty's Bay is costing the school dearly. It is her opinion and the opinion of many who live in Mooiuitsig that Betty's Bay residents regard Mooiuitsig as the source of all the crime in the area. As a result, several residents are withdrawing their financial support of the school and are refusing to employ people who live in Mooiuitsig. This, in conjunction with the deteriorating economic climate, is making life ever more difficult for the parents. 90% of the children in the school have single mothers and most do domestic or casual work. Currently, they are struggling to find employment and, more and more, mothers find themselves unable to pay the school fees. Because removing affected children from the school is an option that Zaan refuses even to contemplate, and because running costs are ever-escalating, the funding shortfall increases monthly.

Zaan, who has her finger on the Mooiuitsig pulse more than anyone else I have met, says that the prevalent belief that Mooiuitsig residents are solely responsible for the crime in Betty's Bay is completely unfounded. While a few members of the community, no more than seven, are involved in the wider crime ring, the majority of the Mooiuitisig residents are regular law-abiding citizens. While many are aware of what is going on, they feel compelled to keep their mouths firmly shut, as they live with the threat of being killed or having their houses burnt down if they dare speak to the authorities. However, the parents do confide in Zaan.

The Mooiuitsig residents feel as strongly about the crime wave in Betty's Bay as we all do. It must be remembered that they too are frequent victims of break-ins. Like us, they feel that the police need to do more to combat crime in the area. They also complain that convicted criminals seldom serve their full sentences. When the ringleaders are in jail, the crime levels in Mooiuitsig and the rest of Betty's Bay drop, but on their release the problems of theft resume immediately in the wider area and theft, drug-dealing and drugtaking intensify in Mooiuitsig itself.

YOU CAN HELP!

To most of us, R1000 a month seems a paltry amount, but to those running Pikkewyntjies it is a fortune. Without it, the continued existence of the school is in jeopardy.

Please consider making a monthly donation to the school. R50 a month won't make much of a dent in most of our pockets, but would make a huge difference to the school. And innocent children should not be deprived of a future through the sins of their fathers.



The little ones are taught social responsibility. Here they pick up litter in Mooiuitsig.

So impressed am I by the wonderful work being done at Pikkewyntjies that I definitely am going to set up a monthly stop order to help fund this worthy cause and I challenge others to do the same. A one-off contribution would also be greatly appreciated.

The Pikkewyntjies bank details are as follows:

First National Bank [cheque account] Account number: 62147034988

Branch code: 200412

If you do decide to contribute to the school, please inform Zaan that you have done so. She would like to thank you for your generosity. She can be reached by email at pen-guinkidz@hotmail.com. Or you can phone her on one of the following telephone numbers: 028 271 5753 or 073 5728120. Please ensure that the words "Funding", followed by your surname appear on the school's bank statement.

Should you wish to visit the school, this can be arranged at any time.

As a registered NPO, the school has certain legal obligations that it has to fulfil. One of these is an annual audit. This requirement should give you peace of mind that the money you donate will be used for the purpose for which it was intended.

HANGKLIP COMMUNITY BOOTSALE

The Friends of the Hangklip Library, in association with other community groups, Hangklip Community Care Centre, Men's Fellowship, Jukskei Club & Pikkewyntjies, invite you to join in a social morning of fun, refreshments & good fellowship!

Date/Datum: 12 December 2015 Time/Tyd: 09h00-14h00 Venue/Plek: Crassula Hall/Saal, Crassula Rd, Betty`s Bay/Bettysbaai BOOTSALE site: R50.00 Registration & payment at Library, Betty`s Bay 028 272 9263

> Contact: Pip Prinsloo: 028 272 9949 Penny Davidson: 028 272 9940

THE KLEINMOND LAGOON BREAKS THROUGH

Thanks to a prolonged period of heavy rains in the Overberg region, the Kleinmond Lagoon opened to the sea on 31 July. Dan Fick had his camera ready for this annual event.



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 |

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE OVERSTRAND...

The weather in Betty's Bay over the last couple of weeks hasn't been great. Winter is very much here and the rain has been bucketing down. The North-Wester has also been howling about our ears, rattling the roof and jarring the nerve-endings. On the glorious winter days that have punctuated Nature's onslaught, it seemed mad to leave Betty's Bay. The beach in the soft winter light was just too alluring.

As a result, I chose not to venture out and about in the Overstrand this month. I limited my entertainment to what was available in Betty's Bay and, I confess, most of that entertainment was enjoyed right here in my snug living-room, in front of a TV screen.

But on Thursday evening of last week, I did confront the elements. My eldest daughter was here, with her newborn infant, and we decided to treat ourselves to a meal at The Tides Restaurant, next to the Centre Shop.

THE TIDES – a much celebrated gem on our very doorstep

It was quite unexpected, when we struggled into the restaurant, laden with infant paraphernalia, to be asked the question: "Have you booked?" It was after all a Thursday night and there were very few lights to be seen around and about in Betty's Bay. Needless to say, we hadn't booked, not having anticipated the need to do so on a week-night in the dead of winter. How wrong we were! The place was packed, a testament to the excellent reputation that The Tides has earned over the last few years.



As always, the owner was very accommodating and led us to the back section of the restaurant where we were separate from the crowds, a perfect arrangement under the circumstances. [In a previous Buzz, I related a story that has become a bit of a chest-nut: pals of mine, in the middle of the Christmas season, arrived at The Tides with a folding table and chairs and plaintive expressions on their faces. Needless to say, a spot was found for them.]

As expected, the food was fabulous. My dear daughter is a chef and can be a touch critical of the cuisine served up at restaurants, but even she was blown away. We decided to go big, as our spouses weren't around to put a dampener on our enthusiasm for a hearty meal.

For starters, she had deep-fried brie, served with a pear poached in red wine. ["Wow! This is amazing," was Katy's surprised response. [When it comes to eating out, she is a bit of a pessimist.] I settled for my all-time favourite – mussels in a cream sauce with parsley. With a generous squirt of lemon juice it was quite as delicious as I remembered.

For her main course, Katy, a banter of note, decided to throw caution to the winds. She

chose Pasta Alfredo, pasta with a creamy ham and mushroom sauce. The portion was suitably generous and she raved about the flavour, the texture and, need I say, the quantity. I chose a hake and calamari combo with chips and it was delish, albeit a bit pedestrian. I should have been more adventurous. The menu is extensive and varied and there were a lot of more exotic options to be had.

Katy had dessert while I settled for a cup of coffee. She chose the old standard, ice-cream and chocolate sauce, which, she declared, was the perfect end to a perfect meal. She did say that the choccy sauce was not quite as good as mine, which made me feel particularly good.

The Tides is open from Wednesday night through to Sunday lunch each week. The owners, who spend the first part of the week in Stellenbosch, are considering making a permanent move to Betty's Bay from the end of the year, so the restaurant could be open for business more often in the near future.

If you want some really good food in a pleasant environment, I recommend The Tides. You will not be disappointed.

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