



BUZZ

January 2016

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

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From your Editor . . .

We wish all Betty's Bayers a prosperous New Year.

Please put your writing skills to good use and write for the Buzz. We need your contributions.

Karon Scholefield-Engelke

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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: Adrian de Kock, 028 272 9998

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

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Station Commander **082 778 6793**

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CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT [2015]

INTRODUCTION

Once again the Committee has pleasure in giving account of its stewardship.

Allow me, first of all, to pay tribute to my predecessor, Dan Fick and his wife Liz, for their unselfish contribution to the Betty's Bay Ratepayer's Association (BBRA) over a period of ten years, respectively in the position of Chairman and Secretary. The sound foundation that was laid by them, made it easy for me as a newcomer to the village, to take over the reins of the BBRA. I was also fortunate that Adrian de Kock, with his excellent financial expertise, stayed on as Treasurer and also doubled up in the position of Secretary. Two other members from the previous committee, Richard Starke and Wilna Rademeyer also rendered continuity to the work of the BBRA. To all the members of the committee, for the dedication and enthusiasm with which they managed their portfolios in service of the community of Betty's Bay, a word of thanks.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the BBRA and concerned residents, who generously donated funds for various projects during 2015. Thank you for your loyal support.

We would also like to thank our Ward Counsellor, Lisel Krige, for her assistance and support throughout the year.

Sadly, we had to bid farewell to Avril Nunn, much venerated and admired in the Betty's Bay community, who passed away in February at the age of 91. Of all her achievements, she will be remembered most for chairing the Betty's Bay Wild Flower Society and guiding its transition to become a branch of the Botanical Society of SA. With her background in the field of chemistry, she made a valuable contribution to the work of the BBRA in the portfolio of water/waste and sanitation. In 2013 she received the Mayor's Award for Excellence. We salute you.

COMMITTEE

The executive committee consisted of the following members:

Chairperson:	Rudi Perold
Vice Chair:	Heine Foot
Treasurer/Secretary:	Adrian de Kock

The committee continued to structure its responsibilities according different portfolios, to address the various challenges facing the ratepayers.

These portfolios are:

<u>Water, waste and sanitation:</u>	Richard Starke
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Sand dune management,

Beaches and amenities: Hilda van der Merwe

Roads and storm water: Wilna Rademeyer

Property planning and development: Rudi Perold

Martin van Rooyen was co-opted in September 2015.

Fire and emergency services: Although Wendy Tawse was selected in this position, she never took up her duties and eventually resigned.

Safety and Security: Rudi Perold

Kobus Kirsten co-opted in October 2015.

Crassula Hall: Heine Foot

Whale Coast Development Forum: Heine Foot (representative)

Rudi Perold (secundus)

Ward 10 Overstrand Municipality: Rudi Perold (representative)

The following members have indicated that they are willing to serve on the committee again:

Rudi Perold

Heine Foot

Adrian de Kock (only as treasurer)

Richard Starke

Wilna Rademeyer

Hilda van der Merwe

I appeal to local residents and members of the ratepayers association to avail themselves to serve the community of Betty's Bay on the BBRA Committee. The following positions/ portfolios are vacant and need to be filled at our Annual General Meeting:

Secretary

Property, planning and development

Fire and emergency services

Safety and security

THE BUZZ

The Buzz is the official newsletter of the BBRA. This year we had a change in the position of editor, with Helen George now at the reigns, taking over from Nic Swart. Each month 200 copies are printed and distributed through local businesses and the Betty's Bay Municipal Library. The Buzz can also be accessed on our webpage via a PDF download. Thank you Helen, for a job well done as is evidenced by the many positive comments we have received in respect of the contents and changes made.

WEB PAGE

The new webmaster of the BBRA Web Page is Donn Ingle. Thank you for the many hours that you spend in front of the computer to keep our members informed. Donn made changes to the page, its layout and design. The layout of the new Web Page and user friendliness has received many complements and thumbs up. I appeal to all the ratepayers to visit the Web Page on a regular basis, as this is the way in which we would like to keep you informed. It is not always possible to communicate with each person individually. Members are encouraged to keep on sending photos of our beautiful lifestyle village and surroundings to be posted on the Web.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership currently stands at 399, which includes 8 life members. We are currently the association with the biggest membership in all of Overstrand. All property owners are encouraged to join the association so as to strengthen our call on municipal matters. In paying your rates and taxes to OM, you are not automatically a member of the BBRA. Membership fees are currently R60 per annum. Please contact our treasurer in this regard.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

The public participation with regards to municipal matters, is done through the ward committee system. The BBRA is represented on Ward 10 committee meetings by the Chair person.

The Draft Budget for 2015/16 was discussed and analysed by the Whale Coast Development Forum (WCDF), of which the BBRA is a member.

The Forum was concerned about the high salary Bill of the Municipality's Top Management. From the Budget it is clear that these salaries are not sustainable and have become unaffordable for the taxpayer. One of the effects is an ever decreasing Capital Budget. The Capital Budget of R103,9m for the 2015/16 Financial Year (FY), is 15,4% less when compared to the 2014/15 adjustment budget.

In view of the ever declining Capital Budget, there was concern whether Overstrand Municipality (OM) would be able to replace the existing Capital Infrastructure. The sustainability of the maintenance of these items was also questioned, especially with the limit of R100, 000 per annum to cover the maintenance cost.

The implication for Betty's Bay is that less money will become available each year for Capital Projects and maintenance of infrastructure, such as roads, storm water pipes, boardwalks, etc. As in previous years the BBRA submitted a list of requirements to be considered for the budget within our region. As in previous FY's, this 'wish list' could not be addressed in total due to the financial constraints and pressure on the budget in the new FY. We will thus in future have to prioritise our needs.

With the ever decreasing budget, it is foreseen that in time to come, we as ratepayers, will have to consider a special rate levy in order to address our needs.

The establishment of a Centre Improvement District (CID) is however a lengthy process as the necessary laws and by-laws are not in place and 51% of the ratepayers have to approve a special levy by means of a public participation voting process.

The portfolio managers have built solid relationships with the municipal officials and communicate the needs of Betty's Bay and its people on a regular basis. Often there is little reaction, mainly because their hands are also tied due to financial constraints and lack of manpower.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

One of the biggest challenges facing the community of Betty's Bay, is the current crime situation, with an escalation of burglaries.

The safety structures in place in Betty's Bay collapsed at the end of 2014, as the annual general meeting of the Kleinmond Community Policing Forum (KCPF), on which Betty's Bay has representation, was declared unconstitutional. The Bettys Bay Neighbourhood Watch, as you all know, must function under the auspices of the CPF and as a result of the CPF structure collapsing the Betty's Bay NHW also collapsed, although sections of the community continued to act as a watch. A Word of thanks to all for your dedication.

In October this year, the Kleinmond CPF was revived and the BBRA is represented on the committee. This opens the door for a legal Neighbourhood Watch Structure to be reinstated. As Dan Fick was the co-ordinator and is no longer involved and head of the BBN Watch our structure is still not functioning, someone from the community is needed to take up the reins.

The Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA) is currently looking at the viability of a Safety Strategy and a Risk Management Project for the Area. We firmly believe that we need to search for a new innovative approach to our current safety situation, which is not only reactive, but pro-active in the prevention of crime.

We are thus in the process of negotiations with a crime risk management consulting firm, Millennium Management. The first phase of our plan to introduce a risk management plan is underway with a mandate from the majority of members present at a public meeting, with generous donations received from our members and ratepayers. The total amount received is R 27,300-00. The Firm contracted will now do the operational reconnaissance over a period of 3 to 4 weeks. This will be followed by a quotation to the committee for consideration in terms of cost and sustainability.

Betty's Bay is a lifestyle village and the expected outcome of the Safety Strategy is to restore the peaceful lifestyle that we used to have and that was so unique to our way of life, wellbeing and safety as well as increasing our property values.

We need to build a safer community, who are resilient because they are actively involved, organised, share information, resources and effort, are safer and less likely to allow criminal acts, such as drug abuse and gangs to become systemic within the community. We need a holistic approach.

FIRE FIGHTING

Betty's Bay is in the privileged position to have Volunteer Community Fire Fighters.

It takes dedication and many hours of training to be a volunteer.

During the fire of February 2015 they played an active role to fight the fires raging through the village, protecting households, along with their professional counterparts. The Counsellor of Ward 10, Lisel Krige, was ever present to support and assist and the people of Betty's Bay supported the fire fighters by providing refreshments.

As a result of the dedication of the Volunteers, a number of residents showed their appreciation by donating funds for the work of the Volunteer Community Fire Fighters of Betty's Bay. As the representative of the volunteers withdrew from the committee early in the year, I had deliberations directly with the Overstrand Municipality Fire Fighting and Disaster Management Division. We are now in the process to allocate funds, according to their needs.

Thank you to the volunteers for their enthusiasm and the support from the community.

DUNE MANAGEMENT

The Dune Interest Group (DIG), under the leadership of Gottlieb van der Merwe, made good progress. Laurie Barwell was appointed as consultant and a Beach Front Management Plan was developed at a cost of R75,000-00, of which the OM has contributed R25,000-00. Donations from the community were deposited in the account of the BBRA and ring fenced for this project. Donations received amounted to R56,650-00, of which the BBRA donated R2,000-00.

The next step in the process in having this plan approved is the Public Participation Phase. The public meeting for the presentation of the Betty's Bay Management Plan will take place on 21 November 2015 at 1600h at the Community Hall in Pringle Bay.

The management plan will also be available for viewing on the OM Web Site (www.overstrand.gov.za).

CLOSURE

The Committee appreciate the contribution of every member of the ratepayers association. Our membership number demonstrates that the people of Betty's Bay would like to be involved in addressing the challenges of our village. Thank you for all the advice,

support and constructive criticism via emails and the telephone.

We look forward to take on the challenges ahead and be of service in 2016.

RUDI PEROLD

November 2015

Bettys Bay Ratepayers' Association – Treasurer's Report:

AGM 19 December 2015

1) Certain funds held by the BBRA are ring fenced for the funding of particular areas as follows:

a. R113,600-01	Volunteer Fire Fighters
b. R21,650-00	Dune Interest Group
c. R 27,300-00	Millennium Management
d. R10,545-00	Neighbourhood Watch
e. R1,844-46	Eco Centre
f. R 187-80	Conservancy
g. R175,127-27	TOTAL

2) Taking these amounts onto account which have been specifically earmarked for the purposes mentioned the unallocated funds held by the BBRA amount to R96,270-03 as at 31 October 2015. Total funds held are R271,397-30.

3) For the past year the income and expenditure for the BBRA excluding ring fenced funds amounted to the following:

a. R54,352-87	Income
b. R30,359-82	Expenditure
c. R23,993-05	Net Income

4) Crassula Hall has been effectively managed by Heinie & Meryl Foot over the past year with the net income amounting to R3,282-81 mainly due to increased hiring fees.

The YOY picture is as follows:

5) The Buzz has run at a loss of R2,482-00 for the year but taking into account the following:

6) Due to increased cash holdings and donations the following has occurred:

a. R7,650-00	Increased income amounting to 88-4%
b. R2,062-24	Increased expenditure amounting to 13-7%
a. R1,200-00 subsequently paid	Funds due for advertising outstanding or sub-
b. R 664-85 vember 2015.	Buzz boxes donations collected early in No-
c. R 617-15	Actual position deficit.
d. R1,499-00	Expenditure on purchasing software
a. R6,040-87 crease	Bank interest received – 95-9% YOY in-
b. R2,166-80	Bank charges – 50-8% YOY increase
c. R3,874-07	Net position surplus

Lastly I must mention that the relative financial statement has been published on our web site and was distributed by E-Mail to all members for whom we hold E-mail addresses. The current membership stands at 402 which is encouraging taking into account the fact that at the last AGM membership stood at 370 with 15 members being subsequently removed from the register due to non-payment of the annual fees. Therefore we were pleased to welcome 47 new members during the year and would like to see this figure grow at an increased rate giving us more leverage with the authorities.

Adrian de Kock

Secretary/Treasurer BBRA

BETTYS BAY RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF AGM HELD AT CRASSULA HALL ON SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 2015 @ 10H00

1. Opening & Welcome:

The AGM began at approximately 10H20 instead of the published time as attendance of additional members was awaited so that a quorum was established. Quorum subsequently obtained.

Rudi Perold welcomed all those attending and gave a short opening address.

2. Apologies:

The following members gave their apologies: Stephen Hofmeyr QC, David Newark & Laura Brown, Terry & Jeane Simon, Janet Meyer, Andrea Benn, David Hofmeyr, Lesley Charnock, Wilna Rademeyer, Martin van Rooyen, Richard Starke, Andre Louw, Tim McGavin & Caroline Silberbauer.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the previous AGM held on Friday 19 December 2014 @ 18H00 were accepted – Proposer Glenda Muller – Secunder Lynette Perold.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

No matters were raised.

5. Chairman's Report:

Rudi Perold presented his report – Proposer Glenda Muller – Secunder Peter Berrisford.

6. Discussion of Chairman's Report:

- a Gottlieb gave an explanation of the workings of a CID and the requirement of the passing of the necessary by laws by the Overstrand Municipality.
- b Lewis Silberbauer advised that in his area of Stellenbosch the CID establishment, primarily as a security tool worked with a 90% improvement in crime incidents.
- c Peter Berrisford advised that with the demise of portions of the Neighbourhood Watch there are still areas where the "eyes & ears" principle are operative such as in the Bass Lake area.
- d Pressure should be put on the Overstrand Municipality as they must realise that

it is not what they want but the ratepayers should be telling them our needs. Pressure can be exerted via the Local Elections and by representation to the Speaker of Overstrand Municipality via the Ward system.

- e Gottlieb gave a brief explanation of how the dune issue would be tackled.
- f A discussion took place around security issues i.e.
 - i Security companies are not being held accountable for their responsibilities.
 - ii What would be the position of insurance companies in the event of the employment of Millennium Management.
 - iii In the event of the employment of Millennium how would the collection of fees be handled.
 - iv If a CID was established the resignation of property owners from a voluntary payment system would be solved.

7. Treasurers Report:

The financial statement as at 31 October 2015 was dispatched to all members – Copy available on the website.

Adrian de Kock presented his report – Copy attached.

Proposer Gottlieb van der Merwe – Seconder Peter Berrisford. No questions were raised.

8. Election of Committee Members:

Adrian de Kock advised the members that with the work load of the committee and the number of portfolios it was necessary for the recruitment of additional members to fill vacant posts and relieve pressure on some committee members.

In terms of our constitution (paragraph 9d) nomination of new committee members must be made by two members and accepted by the nominee in writing and in the hands of the Secretary before the AGM. This requirement was fulfilled and the following new members were elected unanimously by all members present:

Tim McGavin	-	Neighbourhood Watch
Elsa Jacobs	-	Secretary
Jorika Rabie	-	Volunteer Fire Fighters

It is customarily the practice to allocate portfolios at the first committee meeting after the AGM but as the current committee needed to fill certain vacant posts new members had to be recruited to fill these portfolios specifically.

All current committee members have expressed their desire to continue to serve our members in their present capacities.

9. General:

- a The question of communication was raised as it needs to be improved. Adrian advised that a new E-Mail address titled bettybayratepayers@telkomsa.net had been established and this should solve the problem.
- b Adrian advised that there was need for certain amendments to the constitution to be made as the current one was a bit outdated in terms of our needs. For instance the committee was limited to 8 members and only 2 members could represent a property plus a number of other small items would need updating. As the current constitution only allows for amendments thereto to be made at an AGM the members present unanimously agreed that Adrian would draft an amended constitution and circulate it for comment amongst members. The final proposal would then be presented at the next AGM.
- c Gottlieb van der Merwe thanked the committee for their efforts as well as the donation of R2000-00 towards the DIG planning exercise.
- d Peter Berrisford expressed thanks to the committee for all their hard work.

10. Closure:

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting was closed at 12H10.

CANCELLED: Eskom Energy-Saving Light Bulb Roll-out

Change of plans: ESKOM Supply of Energy-Saving Globes / Verskaffing van energiebesparende gloeilampe

Ek bevestig hiermee, en vra weer eens om verskoning vir die verwarring, dat ESKOM te blameer is vir die vertraging met die uitdeel van energiebesparende gloeilampe (uit huishoudings) in ruil vir ou gloeilampe.

Die veldtog gaan wel plaasvind, maar sal deur latere kennisgewing bekendgemaak en bevestig word. Wanneer dit gebeur, sal die omruilpunt na alle waarskynlikheid by 'n punt buite die biblioteek (ook voorheen munisipale kantore) op Betty'sbaai wees. 'n Amptelike Overstrand-voertuig sal na verwagting as uitdeelpunt dien.

I would herewith like to confirm, with apologies for the confusion, that ESKOM is to blame

for the delay in the distribution of energy-saving bulbs to households in exchange for existing ones that are in use.

The campaign will be launched in our area at a later date, of which you will be notified. Once the date has been set, the exchange point will most probably be at a place just outside of the library (and former municipal offices) in Betty's Bay. Weather permitting, an official vehicle of the Overstrand municipality will serve as the exchange point.

LISEL KRIGE

Ward Councillor / Wyksraadslid

OVERSTRAND

VOTER REGISTRATION

Although the date for the 2016 municipal election has not yet been announced, the processes leading up to the election are in motion — Registration and re-registration of voters can take place at any time at an office of the IEC (Independent Electoral Commission) — our closest one being in Hermanus.

However there will also be two official voter registration weekends IN the Hangklip area, of which the first one will be during the weekend of 5 and 6 March 2016.

It is extremely important that new residents, unregistered residents, as well as first-time voters (the 18 year olds and older who have not yet registered or voted), ensure that they are registered in our ward (Hangklip, ward 10). The voter registration will again be facilitated in the Crassula Hall in Betty's Bay for our three villages, and at the Proteadorp Community Hall for persons residing in Overhills and Proteadorp. (You may employ people from these residential areas in Kleinmond: please be sure to alert them as well!)

Shocking figures released by the IEC last week indicate that in the Western Cape, out of 189 386 young individuals between the ages of 18 and 19, only 10 204 are at this stage registered as voters.

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD AS WIDELY AS YOU CAN! AND PLEASE ENCOURAGE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO REGISTER **AND TO VOTE: EVERY SINGLE VOTE IS NEEDED!**

- You must be registered in the Ward in which you reside (owner or tenant) in order to vote.
- SMS YOUR ID NO. TO 32810 to check your voting status
- Remember Registration weekend 5-6 March. Take ID doc and proof of residence (Municipal rates or such) with you. This should take no longer than 10 mins.

For any additional information on registration and the forthcoming election, you may contact me at 028-272 9533 / 082 572 2711 or lisel@solidstuff.co.za

Thank you and kind regards.

LISEL KRIGE

Ward Councillor / Wyksraadslid

OVERSTRAND

HAROLD PORTER BRIDGE REPAIRS

Good News from the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden:

BRIDGES IN DISA KLOOF TO UNDERGO REPAIRS AT LAST!



After a very lengthy and frustrating wait, the bridges which were damaged by the massive floods in November 2013, are finally going to be repaired. We are delighted and relieved to be able to announce that the repairs will start on **Monday 18 January 2016 and should be completed in June of this year.**

The long wait was caused by having to comply with the many regulations demanded by the Department of Environmental Affairs, which included a Botanical Survey, an Environmental Impact Assessment and an Hydrology Study, all of which had to be contracted out which required a tender process and all the red tape that that involves, as well as a Water License Application which had to be approved. A further tender to find the correct, fully compliant, contractor with experience in bridge building was then advertised and, once approved, was appointed.

PLEASE NOTE:

As soon as repairs commence, Disa Kloof will be completely closed to the public who will not be able to proceed further than the Olive May Porter Bridge which crosses the Dawidskraal River.

We would like to thank all our Garden visitors for their patience and understanding while the bridges have been out of commission and hope that the lowered entrance fee has helped to offset the inconvenience of not being able to visit this special section of the Garden. As soon as Disa Kloof is opened once again with the new bridges, the entrance fees will be raised as decided by the SANBI Board. As always Botanical Society members and children below 6 years will enjoy free entry.

Jane Forrester,
Interpretive Officer
Harold Porter National Botanical Garden

Tel: 028 272 9311

E-mail: J.Forrester@sanbi.co.za

MALKOPSVLEI – a remarkable water body in Betty's Bay



Also known as "Bass Lake", it offers sheer perfection on a hot, windless day.

My profession as marine and coastal ecologist has taken me to many coastal environments throughout the world. On the basis of this experience I can say with conviction that Betty's Bay, with its mountains, forested gorges, fynbos-dominated coastal plains, rivers, lakes and wetlands, dunes, beaches and the sea, ranks amongst the best.

A quite remarkable fresh water body in Betty's Bay has the unusual name of Malkopsvlei. The story goes that the area around this lake was used in years gone by for cattle grazing. Obviously the cattle came to the lake to drink. However, when they ventured in too far, they got stuck in the slushy mud of the bottom and in their panic went 'malkop'. To avoid this from happening, the owner of the cattle is said to have filled in the shallow, eastern part of the lake with dune sand. Hence the sandy bottom of the eastern periphery which is such a boon to those who play and swim in the lake today. I cannot vouch for the correctness of this story, but what is interesting is that there is a huge hollow in the dunes immediately on the seaward side of the 'filled in' area. So it seems as though there may well be truth in the story. Many years later, large-mouth bass were introduced into the lake and it is therefore often referred to as 'Bass Lake'.

The configuration of the lake is equally interesting. It is about 350m long (measured by GPS & Google), 80m wide in its outlet region and it has a maximum depth of about 2m. Water reaches the lake from various sources. A major part of the wetland area westwards of Dawidskraal between Bass and Reed Roads drains into Malkopsvlei and it re-

ceives water from the Betty's Bay Mountains via streams and sub-surface flows. It also receives water from the kloof and waterfall above the Betty's Bay Shopping Centre and Garage. As the run-off water from the mountains is rich in tannins, it is typically dark. In scientific jargon Malkopsvlei is therefore referred to as a black-water system.

The outlet of Malkopsvlei to the sea is particularly interesting. Instead of opening directly into the marine environment via the shortest route over a distance of some 300m through the dunes and across the beach, lake water flows through a deep trough between two old and stable backshore dune systems to enter the sea at a sandy beach inlet, some 1.5km to the east, near Dawidskraal. The channel banks and upper edges consist of very steep sandy slopes consolidated by typical dune vegetation dominated by *Olea*-, *Maytenus*-, *Colpoen*-, *Metasia*- and *Passerina* scrub. In the lower, damper sections of the outlet channel, this scrub merges into swamp vegetation, dominated by various species of reeds, especially *Phragmites*. Milkwood trees are common along the damper parts of the channel.

Towards the end of 2002, there was a suggestion that widening of this outflow channel might enhance drainage from Malkopsvlei and hence reduce high bacterial loads which had been measured during the summer months. I was worried about such artificial interference with a natural and stable aquatic system. That prompted me in December 2002, to work my way from the sea near Dawidskraal to Malkopsvlei along the entire length of the channel, wearing wetsuit, pants, booties and armed with a camera capable of taking photos above and below water.

The investigation led me to recommend that artificial widening of the channel should be avoided at all cost, as disturbance of the steep vegetation-bound channel slopes would inevitably lead to dune subsidence and hence the likelihood of total blocking off of the exit channel - with serious consequences for the entire lake system.

In spite of hot and uncomfortable conditions and attacks by thousands of midges and ants, the traversing of the channel was a memorable experience. This is, in fact, a remarkable piece of wilderness in the Betty's Bay environment. Amongst others, I came across otters, snakes and an exceptional variety of bird-life.

Sadly, Malkopsvlei continues to be subjected to severe and increasing human impacts. All-important peripheral sponge and wetland areas, which formerly acted as filters and which replenished the lake through the slow release of water during the dry summer months, have been drastically degraded by houses, roads and other infrastructure. Pollution by leaking sewage conservancy tanks is a serious problem. Surface water run-off has been concentrated by road culverts which, in turn, affect ground water levels. Pollution is furthermore exacerbated by stormwater run-off. In addition, many Betty's Bay dog owners enjoy using the lake as playground for their dogs. While the romping dogs are a pleasure to watch, they foul the immediate periphery of the lake, including the grassed verges where people sun-bathe and children play.

The overall consequences of these various sources of pollution are two-fold:

Firstly - the risk of unacceptably high bacterial levels, especially of *Escherichia coli* and at times of filamentous algae, both of which are hazardous to human health.

Secondly - encroachment into open surface areas by the reed *Phragmites australis* as a result of high nutrient levels in the water reaching the lake.



Water quality is tested weekly and, if necessary, the lake is closed to swimmers until the pollution levels drop.

These undesirable ecological and human health indicators unfortunately make their appearance during the hot summer months when the occupancy of houses and recreational use of Malkopsvlei are at their highest. In the past, this has forced Overstrand Municipality to prohibit swimming in the lake during the summer holiday period. It would be a huge loss to the allure Betty's Bay if the recreational and scenic benefits of Malkopsvlei enjoyed by generations of residents and visitors, were to be jeopardized.

Can this danger be averted? Probably yes, but only if strong collaborative steps are taken, including:

- Rigorous protection of undeveloped plots on the lake periphery acting as sponge and filters.
- The upgrading of the sewage removal system in this region.
- Ensuring that portable toilets used by builders drain into proper conservancy tanks and not directly into the wetlands feeding the lake.
- Proper management and possible upgrading of the road stormwater system.
- And sadly - prohibition of dogs in the lake and on its peripheral areas during peak holiday periods – dogs enjoy the lake as much as people do.

The Water and Sewage Committee of the Betty's Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association are collaborating with the Municipality. But it is clearly of vital importance that all residents do their bit by adhering to preventative measures such as those outlined above.

Dr Allan E F Heydorn [11 December 2015]

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

AN ANONYMOUS DONOR CHALLENGES LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE PIKKEWYNTJIES PRE-SCHOOL.



Every contribution will be matched during the month of February.

I came into contact with Pikkewyntjies Pre-Primary school two years ago, after having lived in Betty's Bay on-and-off since I was a child. Since then, I have visited the school and connected with the team, and of course the children. This is a most extraordinary environment, and the community is unbelievably lucky to have the pre-school and people like Zaan and her staff.



It is wonderful to see what the team have done. The Pikkewyntjies Pre-School serves the most needy, disadvantaged families in the region. Every one of the children come from a background which is socio-economically stressed, and without this school, these 38 children would be left without the educational support that they need.

It is also clear that the poor economic times we all face are being felt terribly hard by this school. The state provides almost no support, and corporate donations are reducing. The expenses to run the school continue to rise substantially, and the school is under major financial pressure. I have also heard that a portion of the community members who previously contributed to the school have reduced their support. Some have done this in anger at the recent spike in crime, which is thought to have certain perpetrators within the Mooiuitsig communities.

We need to respond positively and actively. We need to try everything possible to create jobs for the community, so that they do not have to resort to crime. Secondly, we need to support the children even more, so that they do not become victims of the same cycles of poverty and crime. Without this school supporting these children to be able to make better choices, our community will be ravaged by even more crime in the future!



Thus, I am writing to challenge the Rooiels, Pringle and Betty's Bay to join me in raising money for Pikkewyntjies. My family will create an "incentive fund" of R25,000, and this will be used to match any contribution from another family made in February 2016. If your generosity pushes us to the max, we will have a total of R50,000 raised for the school, and we will then look to the possibility of setting up a trust fund for the school.

Join us in showing our appreciation to Zaan and her team for what they do, and starting a legacy project to protect these children and the community in the long term.

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. She can be reached at pen-guinkidz@hotmail.com. Please ensure that the words "Funding", followed by your surname appear on the school's bank statement.

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FIRE INFORMATION

EMERGENCY NUMBERS: 028 313 8111 or 028 312 2400

WESTERN CAPE FYNBOS favours fire and ignites ferociously, so we all need to take preventative measures to ensure that an afternoon braai celebration does not turn into a disastrous runaway wild fire. It will consume everything in its path with heated passion and possibly leaving devastating consequences.

VITAL RESOURCES DURING A FIRE

Fire/Emergency Support Services – Jorika Rabie – J.Rabie@vodamail.co.za – 072 130 5760

Satellite images of fires:

CSIR Advanced Fire Information System — <http://southernafrica.afis.co.za/>
NASA Web Fire Mapper — [NASA FIRMS](#) (Do not worry about the security warning. You can trust this page. Allow it to proceed.)

VWS — Volunteer Wildfire Services:

<http://vws.org.za>

Follow them on Twitter for very useful live news — <https://twitter.com/vwsfires>

Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association:

<http://overbergfpa.co.za>

Also follow them on Twitter — <https://twitter.com/OverbergFPA>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

YOU WILL BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OF LIFE AND/OR PROPERTY IF
YOU ARE THE IRRESPONSIBLE PARTY WHO CAUSED A RUNAWAY
WILD FIRE TO IGNITE. PROSECUTION IS A CERTAINTY. ACT RESPON-

NEVER light an outdoor fire when the weather is hot and dry and/or windy.

ALWAYS have a garden hose connected and readily available to use when holding a braai.

NEVER leave the fire unattended.

Extinguish your braai fire COMPLETELY after use.

- Do not discard coals in the bushes.

If a wild fire should sweep through the village and threaten your existence/ family and home, there are a few objectives that you may wish to consider in order to act proactively to avoid complete loss and/or injury. Loss of property through fire in Betty's Bay is mainly through broken windows caused by flying debris from fire generated wild winds. External window shutters or mosquito gauze frames help minimize such flare ups to ignite within.

- Firstly, switch off your electricity at the main trip switch;
- Disconnect gas bottles and place them in the centre of a cleared location i.e. centre of lawn;
- Close all windows and doors, seal drafts with wet towels;
- Fill your bath and basins with water;
- Open curtains and leave linen or paper roller blinds rolled up;
- Have buckets of water on standby at high risk zones;
- If a member of your family is outside using the garden hose to irrigate potentially high risk zones, they must remain outside, as a house door opening may ignite a potentially hazardous ember due to the increased draught created by such action;
- DO NOT open your door for anyone unless it is for complete evacuation or rescue - use the thumbs up signal for containment;
- Monitor signs such as intruding smoke to determine hot-spots... douse such zones with water;
- Avoid throwing cold water on unbroken heated glass panes.

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082 595 6722

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