



Message from the Chairman

Wayne Jackson

Good day Ratepayers and Residents of Betty's Bay

Thank you

Thank you for attending and participating in our first open meeting two months ago and thank you for your valuable inputs and advice. And thank you to those who responded to our newsletter so positively. Lastly, thank you to those who joined the BBRA as active members.

Next open meeting 11 May 2022

April is the TEAM's fourth month in action. Each portfolio principal is busy developing their respective spaces and each portfolio requires your help. On 11 May 2022 we will be hosting our second open meeting. It would be encouraging to see as many people there as possible. Those who have expressed their concerns or requests for something to be done, please attend. We value your inputs.

First aider training

Coleen Johnson from Pringle Bay has offered to assist with training first aiders for the purpose of being able to give rapid first aid assistance to the residents of Betty's Bay when required. This activity will fall under the Emergency Support Services Portfolio currently headed by Liz Buncker. For this reason we need volunteers who are prepared to be trained as Level 1, 2 and 3 First Aiders who will serve Betty's Bay, along with the neighbourhood watch team. Former nurses, paramedics, and first aiders are also welcome to refresh their knowledge and be part of this important team. We also need trauma counselling in this portfolio and therefore request volunteers to assist us with this.

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Sports and Recreation Portfolio

The Sports and Recreation Portfolio is also taking a while to establish as it requires a special kind of skill to develop this portfolio. We request the "sporty" people in the village to consider joining the TEAM and making this portfolio a prominent one in Betty's Bay. The potential benefits are immeasurable.

New web page

We are redesigning our web page and are upgrading our website to a more modern and purpose-driven window so that everyone can see who we are and what we stand for.

Crassula Hall has new portfolio head

There has been a change in the portfolio head who is responsible for managing Crassula Hall. Mark Fletcher, the former portfolio head, resigned owing to time constraints, but has been asked to consider managing Dunes & Amenities, which might better suit his availability and expertise. Claudele Jackson will now head the Crassula Hall portfolio. She will take over officially on 2 May 2022.

Youth group established

We have started a youth group under the leadership of Marco Sheppard. The youth group will be exposed to all the different portfolios for active participation as volunteers. It is our intention to create a portfolio for Youth later on in the year.

CBD concept

At our next open meeting on 11 May 2022, we will discuss the CBD concept. This is a concept to be adopted for all future developments of the CBD area (Centre Shop area), with a circle on Clarence Drive, a wetland conservation area and more. We would like to share this information with you as you will have an opportunity to get involved with the portfolios that will manage and oversee the community wetland space.

Street name rectification

Requests for the amendment of street names close on Saturday 30 April 2022. I have received three inputs about incorrect street names. I know there are many more. Please double-check yours and submit a request for correction if the spelling is incorrect.

BBRA's new email address

Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA) has a new email address, which is as follows: bettysbayratepayers@gmail.com. You are welcome to talk to us by writing to this email address.

5G, SRAs and CBD

We have looked into and/or are still looking into three areas as a matter of importance.

The 5G concerns have been researched and those concerned answered via email.

A special ratings area (SRA) is being considered for Betty's Bay in the future. We require your inputs.

Lastly, the CBD concept and our responsibility towards its success.

SAPS restructuring

The SAPS is going ahead with their restructuring. This process will not remove or add to any current resources we have available to us. However, the Commanding Officer post is now structured for a Captain. That implies we will lose Lt Col A May and that a Captain will replace her.

Mayor on water pipe breakage crisis

On 19 April 2022 the Mayor and all the ward committee members from Ward 9 and 10 had a meeting regarding the water pipe breakage crisis across the three villages, Rooi Els, Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay. Many items were discussed and agreement was reached to resolve this ongoing and exasperating crisis. The most important steps that were agreed on are to:

Undertake a study of the failures through a data-driven or fact-driven process. (This has been done.)

Park other, less important, projects and focus the funds on a solution for the piping.

Create a third team of plumbers with adequate resources to help the existing two plumbing teams.

The area manager, with our help, is to look at the entire logistics structure, process the Hangklip/Kleinmond area and make the relevant changes.

On 26 April 2022, the stakeholders will sit down again to discuss the integrated development plan (IDP) budget. This is when we will look for the funds to provide a solution for the piping-related problems.

Expedite replacement of water pipes

Note: The BBRA has teamed up with the OM planning team to come up with solutions to expedite the process of replacing our water pipes. Many issues were discussed and resolved. The most interesting aspect of all of this is that we are going to get actively involved, under the guidance of our two engineering portfolios headed by Rob Boyd and Graeme McGill, in some of the work that needs to be done. We are going to be responsible for an audit of all the water valves in Betty's Bay. We need you to help us achieve this in as little time as possible. You may volunteer directly by writing to our email address, which is now bettysbayratepayers@gmail.com.

Adopt a fire hydrant

Another important activity involves all our ratepayers and residents. We will initiate "adopt a fire hydrant" on 1 May 2022. The idea is to ensure that each fire hydrant is attached to a person responsible for it to ensure the highest level of maintenance, accessibility and functionality. Let us have the best fire hydrant system in the world! This will fall in the Volunteer Fire Fighters portfolio headed by Jorika Rabie. Again, volunteers are asked to contact us directly at our new email address bettysbayratepayers@gmail.com.

Urgent matter: Census participation = monetary allocation

We in Betty's Bay must realise that our being recorded in the Census informs the fiscal allocation that this village will receive. At present our failure to participate has left us with insufficient data to show we deserve a certain allocation. Our actual population data could ensure that we receive the necessary funding to accomplish our goals.

We plead with every ratepayer and resident of Ward 10 to go online and complete the Census.

Please contact 079 958 2909 and speak to Marelize to be counted!

Or

Copy and paste this link below

<https://getcounted.statssa.gov.za/#!/home>

Please get involved: Together we can do anything

Note from the editor

"Together we can do anything"

Dear BBRA Newsletter Readers

We are experiencing exciting times in Betty's Bay. Things are happening. And it is the people in this village who are making this possible – their volunteering spirit, their willingness to jump right in and do something and even their willingness to engage in constructive debate. A good complaint has almost the same value as a compliment for a job well done.

In this edition of the BBRA's Newsletter the call to volunteer your assistance rings loud and clear. It is a matter of selecting the area in which you are most interested or about which you have the most knowledge. There is a whole new experience awaiting you. You will most probably be rejuvenated and freshly inspired once you are involved.

We wish you very fulfilling future engagement with all matters Betty's Bay, whether it is something as simple as adopting a fire hydrant, volunteering your services to a portfolio or even cheering from the sidelines.

The Editorial Team

Contact Wilna at wilnaswart7@gmail.com

English

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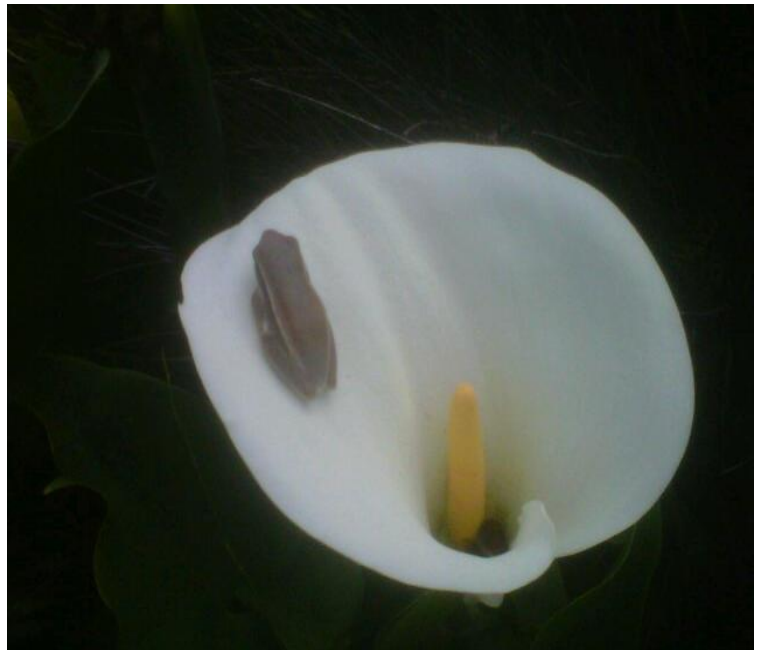
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Many thanks Carol and Hanli!

Afrikaans

The Afrikaans version of the newsletter will be distributed as soon as the available volunteers have done the translation and the Editor has completed collating the content.

We appeal to those of you who can and are willing to translate English text into Afrikaans to write to the Editor and volunteer, please.



The Arum frog at home (endangered micro-frog)
Credit: Karon Scholefield

We have cleared the first major hurdle in solving our water woes!

Richard Gould (Vice-Chairman)

Put simply: We compiled the municipality's own data, proved that Ward 10's water losses must be addressed, and **the Mayor has made our water infrastructure issue the #1 priority for the 22/23 IDP budget.**

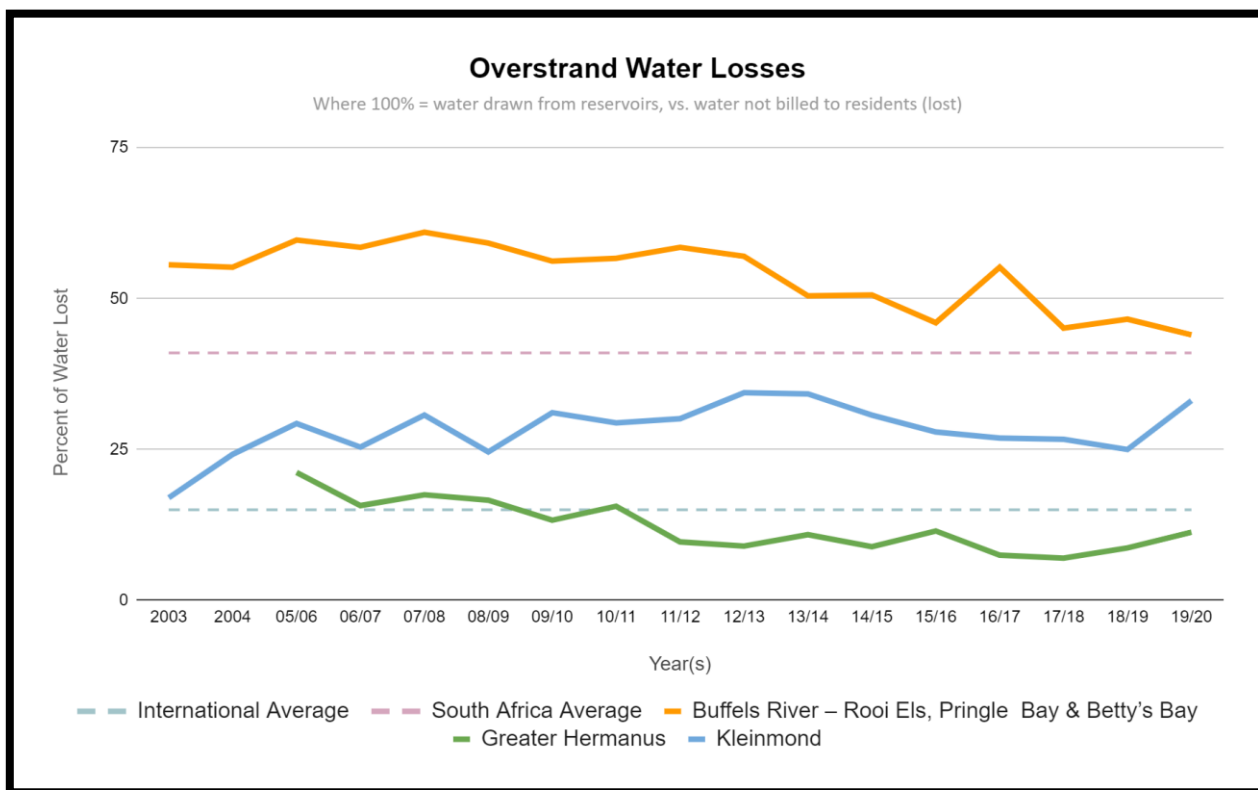
Getting the municipality to take our water issues seriously is a critical step in getting them addressed. We achieved this by analyzing the municipality's own data.

Here's how we did it.

What We Found

With the help of our team of volunteers we went through the documents on the OM website. Among those documents were Water Services Plans containing water loss rates dating back to 2003 for our Buffels River supply, and all of the other sources within the Overstrand. Each report looked at only 1 to 5 years of data at a time.

We compiled the data for the full 18 years in the table below, and chose 3 areas to put into a chart.



Overstrand Water Losses																			
Town	2003	2004	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	AVG
Kleinmond	17.0	24.2	29.3	25.4	30.7	24.6	31.1	29.4	30.1	34.4	34.2	30.7	27.9	26.9	26.7	25.0	33.1		28.3
Greater Hermanus			21.2	15.7	17.5	16.6	13.3	15.6	9.7	9.0	10.9	8.9	11.5	7.5	7.0	8.7	11.3		12.3
Stanford			39.3	32.2	33.6	36.4	41.6	35.5	37.5	30.8	28.9	26.8	24.0	25.1	26.0	27.2	28.1		31.5
Greater Gansbaai			26.3	14.5	26.9	30.8	31.5	32.8	32.0	31.2	31.3	27.8	28.3	37.1	31.8	31.4	27.7		29.4
Pearly Beach			18.8	11.3	23.7	21.6	19.7	26.3	32.3	41.6	48.4	33.5	25.2	16.3	19.3	26.1	30.0		26.3
Baardskeerdersbos					52.0	39.4	25.9	37.3	29.3	36.3	48.6	46.3	46.1	45.2	38.5	45.7	48.8		41.5
Buffeljags Bay					17.6	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	2.6	0.1	15.3	15.7	4.9	8.2	15.2	17.5		7.8
Buffels River – Rooi Els, Pringle Bay & Betty's Bay	55.6	55.2	59.7	58.5	61.0	59.2	56.2	56.7	58.5	57.0	50.5	50.6	46.0	55.2	45.1	46.6	44.0		53.9

The average water losses for **Greater Hermanus (green)** are **12.3%**, which is better than the international average (dashed green line) of 15% and equates to about the loss of one full year's worth of water every 8 years.

The average water losses for **Kleinmond (blue)** are **28.3%**, which is better than the national average (dashed purple line) of 41% and equates to about the loss of one full year's worth of water every 4 years.

The average water losses for our area of **Buffels River (orange)** are **53.9%**, which equates to about the loss of one full year's worth of water every 2 years.

Not included in this chart are the numbers for 2021/22 as they are still in progress. At least one month during this period had a **water loss above 80%**.

The Power of Data

The measurements above were provided to Mayor Rabie, Cllr Theresa Els and the Mayco. As a result the Mayor convened a meeting in Kleinmond on 19 April 2022 for both Ward 9 and 10, and included the Ratepayers' Associations and other affected parties. She provided us with the results of an internal report assessing the state of the current pipes. This report estimates that it will cost R288 million to replace all of our failing water infrastructure.

Actions taken include:

- The Mayor established a committee, headed by Speaker Grant Cohen, to manage the replacement process. Wayne, Graeme, Rob and I will be part of this committee as we are extremely committed to this issue on behalf of all ratepayers and residents in Betty's Bay.
- The Mayor has made our water infrastructure issue the **#1** priority for the 2022/23 IDP budget. This means money that can be spared from other areas will be redirected to addressing our water issues.

The Mayor also made clear that the infrastructure must be replaced with a system that is of good, lasting quality – therefore that it will be done properly, with an eye to the future.

To be clear, **we still have a long way to go** in order to achieve our end goal but through the use of performance measurement we are now headed in the right direction.

Not All Heroes Wear Capes

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the volunteers who assisted with gathering the data and who are still working hard on our behalf.

Together, the team:

- Combed through the OM website for old water reports;
- Scoured the documents for rates of water loss;
- Accurately recorded the numbers for our spreadsheet;
- Standardized the data so it could be compared directly;
- Generated the above charts.

For one person to do all of the above could take several weeks of tedious labour. We were able to divide the work amongst us, who each contributed a little of their time in the area(s) they were best suited to. Many hands make light work!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the water loss records effort, and to the Mayor and Cllr Theresa Els, who recognized the severity of the situation and are taking action on our behalf.

Volunteer to Help Hold OM Accountable

We have other areas that can also benefit from performance measurement, such as service delivery, waste management, storm water and budget allocations.

Are you able to help with any of the following?

- Search the OM website for documents?
- Download documents and skim for statistics?
- Record findings in a spreadsheet?

We need your help! A few hours of your time doing something as basic as skimming a municipal report for the numbers and transcribing them onto a spreadsheet will make a difference.

Please contribute to our next big push for accountability by clicking on the link below:

Volunteer Sign Up Form Link

<https://forms.gle/qSLu3dkAmZXzhds8>

The support and cooperation of everyone in Betty's Bay will play an important part in our achieving what needs to be accomplished.

Water Engineer: The importance of water

Graeme McGill

As a newcomer to the BBRA I've been on a big learning curve, which has been both challenging and enriching.

As a consulting engineer by profession, it was natural to become involved with the portfolio which includes roads, storm water, water supply and sewage. Rob Boyd and I work together on the engineering issues.

The most rewarding aspects are responding to residents' concerns. It has been encouraging to encounter the people's love for their village and their desire for things to operate well but without losing the quaintness with its many gravel roads and streetlight-free nights. As a result, people are tolerant of some inconveniences while remaining actively vocal about legitimate concerns.

During the first few months of the year it has become clear that water is an important issue – either too much (storm water) or too little (burst pipes).

Betty's Bay contains many wetlands and streams and with the construction of roads and houses there is often interference with the natural flow of water. I've been called to address several such cases. Some required asking Overstrand Municipality for a response and others can be resolved in other ways – always interesting.

We remain committed to investigating and finding answers to the queries we receive.

The Roads and Storm Water Engineer reports

Rob Boyd

Incorrect street names

The refurbishment of the curb (kerb or pavement) street signage is largely complete. Errors have been made with a few of the street names. Please email notice of the errors to badjer70@gmail.com so that a consolidated list can be produced and submitted to the Overstrand Municipality for correction. Please provide accurate locations, particularly on the longer roads with multiple intersections.

Grading remaining to be done

Concerns have been received that some gravel roads have not yet been graded this year. The maintenance team is currently busy in Pringle Bay and then needs to complete a road in Rooi-Els before returning to Betty's Bay. Please email the names of the roads that require grading so that they can be formally submitted.

Tar being procured for road repairs

Complaints have been received about potholes and tarred roads needing resurfacing after water pipe repairs. Tar is in the process of being procured, and once this has been done repair work will commence.

Conservation: Fauna

Renee Bish

Successful baboon monitoring by new Overstrand municipal monitors

This month, with the long Easter weekend accompanied by relatively good weather, a plethora of reasons prevailed to go to Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens, not least of which the park run, plant sales, Easter egg hunts and face-painting for the kids, apart from the beauty and tranquillity of the garden, the request was made that the new Overstrand Municipality Environmental monitors help out in the gardens by steering baboons away from picnickers. The monitors had all passed stringent interviews for their positions and are all local. They were excellent at their jobs. It was wonderful to see them loving their job, showing initiative, predicting possible incidents and being there when it counted. All these are traits we have long wished for and recommended. This interaction showed us very clearly that there is another, different, way that the baboons can be managed (without any aggression towards them to boot) and could provide a cost-effective answer for a way forward in enabling the community to bridge the divide in which we find ourselves.

Update about shooting of Brutus

The situation regarding the investigation of the shooting in Betty's Bay of our key adult male baboon, known as Brutus, has been entirely unsatisfactory.

HWS Monthly Report for Overstrand – February 2022

On 26 February BBM₃ and 2 other baboons (an adult female and a juvenile) entered a non-urban property east of Sunny Seas. While the baboon was inside the property two shots were heard by HWS Field Rangers. BBM₃ was seen approximately 13 minutes later leaving the property with blood visible on his chest, but otherwise his movement did not seem impaired. Later it was noticed that BBM₃ had slowed down and was not keeping up with the troop. A vet was called out to assess the extent of his injuries. BBM₃ was anaesthetized and assessed by two vets in the field and then taken to a clinic for X-rays to be taken. After thorough assessments at the veterinary clinic, it was decided euthanasia would be the most humane approach because BBM₃ had suffered extensive injuries from gunshot wounds.

This illustrates that the HWS Field Rangers had heard two shots being fired at Brutus (BBM₃) on a specific property. They therefore know from which property the shots were fired.

As at 22 April 22, the HWS ranger on duty, whose identity is known, has not yet been interviewed by the police. The police was unable to share any further information. This is nearly two months later.

Baboons are protected by law

"In terms of the Cape Nature Conservation Laws Amendment Act, 2000, Ordinance 19 of 1974 and the Provincial notice 955 of 1975:

1. It is illegal to feed baboons.
2. It is illegal to poison, trap, hurt or kill a baboon by driving at it with the intent to kill.
3. It is illegal to hunt by shooting at baboons using a pellet gun, catapult, bow-and-arrow, stoning, setting your dog on them, or using a weapon of any kind in order to injure a baboon.
4. It is illegal to keep a baboon in captivity without a permit."

All these offenses are punishable by law and carry stiff penalties.

This month our Conservation (Flora) portfolio introduces us to the important and threatened ...

WETLANDS in BETTY'S BAY

Carol Clark

The legal definition of a wetland – National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998)

"Wetland" means land which is transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land is periodically covered with shallow water, and which land in normal circumstances supports or would support vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soil.



Fig 1 – water near surface exposed after a failed bulldozer attempt (stuck in the bog peat) in late summer



Fig 2 – water at surface level during most of winter

This definition can include the fragmented privately-owned wetland sections found scattered throughout the urban area, predominantly in the lake system between Rondevlei and Bass Lake. Small wetlands should be considered as a collective system rather than as individual units.

Our wetlands in Betty's Bay provide rich habitat for birds, fauna, amphibians, you name it, and offer excellent ecosystem support. Although wetlands are variable in classification, they are most easily identified by the presence of reeds and other hydrophytic vegetation.



Fig 3 – roadside wetland (All photographs in this article are credited to Carol Clark)

Here you will hear the delightful *tjrrooo-tjrrooo* of the *Black Crake* (swartriethaan) with its striking neon beak, with more of them often cascading into a duet. The peculiar old winding watch-turning *krrrkrrrkrrr* of the critically endangered microfrog and the persistently sweet *clicks* of the clicking stream frog delight us and tell us they are still here. Wetlands are vital habitat for the survival of our amphibians and even reptiles such as the Herald snake, that feasts here. Otters frequent these wetlands as well as using the spaces as corridors. Unfortunately this rich biodiversity is under great threat due to rapid development here in Betty's Bay and some chosen building methods that are driven by cost rather than by environmental sustainability.

As if the biodiversity of our wetlands is not enough to convince you of the immense value that each and every fragment of remaining wetland contributes to Betty's Bay, let's talk about just some of the **wetland superpowers, which:**

- Trap pollutants and naturally filters water. *Typha capensis* absorbs nutrients.
- Performs carbon storage services
- Provides critical habitat and, for some creatures, the **only** habitat
- Absorbs and slows down flood waters by acting like a sponge
- Are economically significant, as explained in the next section

The cumulative effect of wetlands being able to provide flood attenuation is economically significant. In one study in the USA it was found that flood flows were reduced by as much as 80% in basins with wetlands. In another USA report it was noted that the construction of storm water facilities for flood control is estimated to be 130% more costly than just simply using and maintaining natural wetlands.

The "*Phase 2: Overberg DM Sea Level Rise and Flood Risk Modelling 2012*" report has warned about "*possible flooding of low elevation areas around the coastal Betty's Bay Lake System (from west to east, Rondevlei, Grootvlei and Malkopsvlei).*"

What you can do to look after our wetlands

Participate in the local, provincial and national processes inviting public comment. If you find yourself in or adjacent to a wetland, embrace your wet environment and you will never need fertilizer or pesticides. If you plan to develop your erf, build sustainably, build wisely and be careful with our sensitive and immensely valuable wetlands. It can be done. We can do it!

Many thanks to my guest writer, Liezel Bohdanowicz: Wetlands Coordinator, Betty's Bay Conservancy.

Minor works, noise levels and new plans

Karon Scholefield

Property & Development Portfolio

MINOR WORKS = A FENCE – WIRE/WOODEN/VIBRACRETE/GABIONS

All the fences that require foundations fall under MINOR WORKS, which means that the property owner needs to draw in the area/ lines on the specific property's plans, and pay R388.00 (2021/22 tax year costs). If the edited plans are submitted to the BUILDING Department at the Kleinmond municipal offices by Thursday in any given week, on Friday that addition will be processed.

BUILDING WORKS/NOISE LEVELS in accordance with SANS 10400:F:2010/SITE OPERATIONS

The following rules apply:

1. The owner of any land on which excavation work is in progress or on which any building is being erected or demolished, shall take precautions in the working area and on surrounding roads and footways to limit to a reasonable level the amount of dust arising from the work or surroundings thereof.
2. (a) No person shall, during the course of any building/demolition/excavation work, use any machine, machinery, engine, apparatus, tool/contrivance which in the opinion of the local authority may unreasonably disturb/interfere with the amenity of the neighbourhood
 - (i) on a public holiday/Sunday
 - (ii) before 06:00 or after 17:00 on any Saturday
 - (iii) before 06:00 or after 18:00 on any day other than those days contemplated in subparagraphs (i) + (ii)
- (b) the prohibition in paragraph (a) shall not apply in any circumstances in which the use of such machine, machinery, engine, apparatus, tool/contrivance -
 - (i) is urgently necessary in order to preserve the life, safety/health of any person
 - (ii) is urgently necessary to preserve property.

NEW PLANS SUBMITTED

Between 01012022 and 12042022 = 51

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Laura Brown
Business Portfolio

During April & May 2022 inspectors from the Department of Labour are in all of the villages in the Overstrand conducting occupational health and safety inspections.

These visits are primarily to ensure that businesses are complying with legislation around managing potentially harmful situations that may occur in the workplace, ensuring the operators of heavy machinery are trained and dangerous substances within the workplace are suitably safely stored.

Documents such as electrical compliance certificates, gas installation certificates, hygiene monitoring records, and risk assessments are inspected and employees interviewed.

Businesses who receive contravention notices have 60 days to rectify any outstanding issues.

If you haven't had your visit yet and would like to touch base with someone who has, feel free to contact Laura on 083 554 7789 for guidance.

Free downloadable signs are available on the internet.

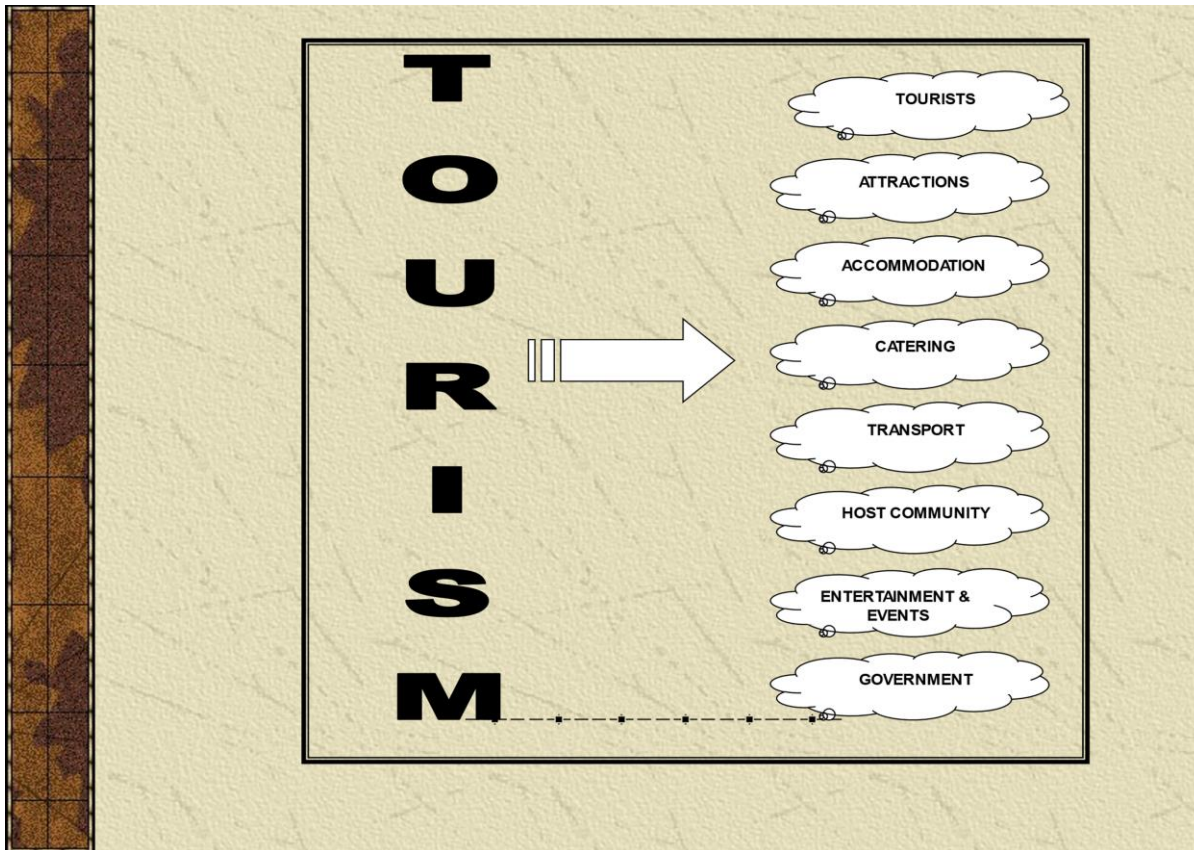


Welcome to Betty's Bay!

Annalize Grimbeek
Tourism Portfolio

Betty's Bay, a jewel on the coastline between Rooi-Els and Kleinmond, is also called "Betty's Waai" for its strong wind, fresh air, gentle sea breezes and stormy ocean. It is a place of peaceful nights and starry skies, owing to the blissful absence of streetlights, where the francolin's call is heard and a last shout comes from the sentinel in the mountain calling his baboon family to their sleeping spot.

Here in Betty's Bay, as anywhere in the world, tourism consists of more than just accommodation, waves, beaches, and the beauty of nature. It is a combination of services and products, therefore the tangible and the experience.



© Prof Melville Saayman 2010

We as host community should make our area attractive while ensuring its sustainability for future generations. This is a very responsible task and therefore tourism needs the knowledge and active participation of the local community in and around Betty's Bay.

There have been many local initiatives in the past and we need to build on those. In addition, good signage should ideally point the way to our visitor sites such as the penguins, the botanical gardens, and the start of hiking trails. Above all we need an orientation map of our town at the entrances. These are expensive items, and the first of the envisaged projects will be raised at the next BBRA meeting.

I invite all members of our community to contact me at 0711098467 with their knowledge and information so that together we can build a tourist-friendly environment.

Warm tourism greetings until next time!



Fire & Rescue

TO REPORT A FIRE: CALL 028 312 2400

Jorika Rabie

The winter months are almost upon us and as our days and nights are getting chillier, the heaters are being dusted off and the fireplaces stacked with wood. This is the most common time of year for chimney and electrical fires.

Chimney Fires

Most chimney fires are caused by dirty chimneys.

We are often asked, 'What is the black stuff in my chimney?' Well, any time you burn wood, by-products of combustion are formed, and those by-products include creosote and soot. This is what you're seeing – and it's not good.

Soot needs to be removed from the chimney periodically. However, the by-product of wood burning we're most concerned with when it comes to chimney fires is creosote.

Here's why...

When you burn wood, the smoke produced by the fire contains unburned wood particles. The smoke cools as it passes through the chimney, leaving condensation on the walls of the flue lining in the form of creosote.

Creosote is a black or brown residue that can be crusty and flaky, tar-like, drippy and sticky, or shiny and hardened. At first, the build-up may be light and easy to remove. But with each fire you burn in your fireplace, creosote can build up, thicken, and glaze.

Naturally, creosote is corrosive and can damage the flue liner over time, but the real concern is its highly flammability. Because creosote is formed from unburned wood particles, all forms of creosote are highly combustible. If the temperature within the flue is right, the creosote inside could ignite and cause a chimney fire. In fact just 0.3cm build-up of creosote is considered enough to cause a chimney fire.

Chimneys are meant to contain smoke, not fire.

In fact, if you have a fire in your chimney, within a matter of seconds or minutes, the tile liner could expand and crack, allowing heat and fire to access the roof, nearby walls, and other combustibles in the home through the brickwork. And that's how a chimney fire rapidly spreads to become a full-fledged house fire.

Flammable blockages caused by birds' nests and other debris can also cause a chimney fire. And it's not uncommon to find nesting materials in a chimney, either.

Like we said, most chimney fires are preventable. All you must do to prevent dirty chimney-related chimney fires is schedule annual inspection and cleaning, and make sure your chimney is properly capped.

Spare firewood should not be stacked too close to your house ... not only for insect problems but one of the most common ember hazards homeowners create is the placement of firewood stacks next to their home. **During a wildfire, hundreds of burning embers could become lodged within the stack.** The dry, high winds that often accompany wildfire can fan the embers and cause ignition.

Electrical Fires

Electrical fires can occur because of defects in wiring or appliance failure, and many happen because of overloaded electrical outlets or extension cords.

Here are the 7 most common causes of electrical fires in the home:

- 1. Faulty electrical outlets and aging appliances.** This can include faults in appliance cords, receptacles and switches. If an appliance has a worn or frayed cord it can generate dangerous levels of heat, igniting surfaces like rugs and curtains, starting a fire.
- 2. Using ungrounded plugs.** Appliances have the a third prong so they can be only used in outlets designed to handle the demands of higher wattage appliances. Never circumvent the ground on an appliance or power cord.
- 3. Overloading light fixtures.** Installing high wattage bulb in a lamp or light fixture that it is not designed for is a leading cause of electrical fires. Always install a bulb that is within the recommended wattage.
- 4. Placing flammable material near light fixtures.** Placing cloth or paper over a lampshade can cause the material heat up and ignite, causing a fire.
- 5. Extension cord misuse.** Large appliances should not be plugged into an extension cord. If you do not have a nearby outlet for your appliances, you should have one installed.
- 6. Space heaters.** Placing an electric heater too close to combustible surfaces such as curtains, bedding and furniture is a leading cause of house fires. Coil space heaters should be avoided if possible. Liquid-filled "soft heat" electric heaters are safest.
- 7. Old wiring.** If your home is over twenty years old, it may not have the capacity to handle today's energy intensive homes. In addition, outdated breaker boxes often have worn connectors that do not work, causing the system to overload.

Adopt A Fire Hydrant

This is not a new concept. However, we are going to simplify it to the max!

We are appealing to EVERYONE to play a part in supporting the "Adopt A Hydrant" movement. Quite simply, if there is 1 or more fire hydrants near your property which is obstructed or neglected, please "adopt" them by helping us to clear away surrounding vegetation. We would like to have a meter around the hydrant clear, with the vegetation low. The hydrants are painted bright yellow and this will also improve visibility.

It makes a world of difference in an emergency when firefighters need quick and easy access to a hydrant to be able to see them. Remember, we don't fight fires from hydrants but they are critical for filling the fire trucks that do!

Once you have located your nearest fire hydrant/s that you are willing to adopt, please send us a **WhatsApp to 074 1417600 with your name and erf number.**

If you are not sure of anything and would like to receive more info, please send your query to the same number.

The Hackers have also kindly gotten involved and will be assisting with hydrant clearing.

Thank you for your support!

For more info & updates, visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Bettys-Bay-Volunteer-Community-Fire-Fighters-558429274174559>

If you would like to join the Fire & Rescue Telegram Group for important updates, send your Full Names, Erf number and Telephone number to: 074 1417600 (Download the TELEGRAM app).

Culture goes Classic

Pieter Swart

Since the successful presentation of Piaf the Culture portfolio has been inundated with requests for more shows and the intrepid producer has his thinking cap on.

A variety of suggestions that have been received include a dance (bring own picnic), another show, a play, an art exhibition! All of these are being processed. But do not let that stop you. Please send your proposals, along with your offers of assistance, in a WhatsApp to the Culture portfolio head at 071 034 8447.

Classic movie night is in the pipeline for mid-May. Further details to be broadcast soon.

Betty's Bay Neighbourhood Watch



Emergency: 072 015 5729
Email Address: bbaynhw16@gmail.com

Chairman: 0829281260
Email address: wayrayjack@gmail.com

Dear members and patrons alike, may I once again thank you for your support and contributions. It is because of you that we are able to build on what we have and make progress with the prevention of crime in our large and diverse space. We have come to the end of our current camera project in terms of the funds that were available to us. Keep in mind this was the R100 000 that you had donated to us for this project. At the moment we have all but completed the project bar the two cameras that still need to be installed in Sunny Seas.

Our next focus will be on proper signage in appropriate locations. This will also require funding and we will drive this project according to income and donations. Once the signage has been completed, we can focus on more cameras and equipment for the Watch.

Kindly note that the provincial Department of Community Safety has decided not to allocate funds to OM in the near future. This will have an impact on the by-law enforcement programme to some degree.

We as Watch team have recently established a new partnership with the Vetus Schola security company based in Pringle Bay. The reason for this was to broaden our scope of intelligence and support. Vetus Schola has a specialized dog unit that will also be available to us here in Betty's Bay if required.

We are looking forward to many more years of fruitful cooperation between residents and the Watch team.

Dunes and Amenities

Wayne Jackson

Dunes and Amenities is a many-pronged portfolio with a multitude of challenges. So many in fact that slow and steady progress would be the only way to approach resolution.

Mark Fletcher has been approached to take over this portfolio to free up Wendy Lucas for the IT and Communications portfolio. As Mark often works away from home, he will need all the support we can muster.

Dogs on leads, please, ladies and gentlemen!

Dunes mean beach and people and birds and dogs, usually a happy combination. Now the birds' breeding season is upon us and it means we have to ask our residents to put their dogs on leads when they walk them on the beach. No one is blaming the dogs for wanting to chase birds – that is pure instinct. But we need to conserve our sensitive environment and its inhabitants as best we can. Let us lead by example and put our dogs on leads when we walk them on the beach.

Boardwalks

We are negotiating the installation of boardwalks, which would take us to and from the beach, in key areas to eliminate the random trampling of vegetation and habitat during the creation of "informal pathways" to the beach.

Amenities

Our amenities are in a shocking state. Let's be honest about this. Looking at OM to give us a solution right now does not appear to be feasible. As a way forward, perhaps we as a community could take ownership of our amenities and manage them ourselves with the support of OM.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Betty's Bay Neighbourhood Watch **072 015 5729**

Fire and Rescue Emergencies **028 312 2400**

For everyday law enforcement complaints **028 313 8980**

For Safety and Security issues **028 313 8996**

Kleinmond Police **028 271 8200**

Hermanus Public Protection (HPP) **028 312 4900**

Police Emergency **10111**

Ambulance and Fire Brigade **101777**

All Emergencies **112 (Mobile Phones)**

All emergencies that involve police, medical service, fire and sea rescue. This free number can be dialled from mobile phones without airtime as well as from most locked phones. An operator will connect you to the relevant department.

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Ambulance Kleinmond **086 106 3342 / 10777**

Crime Stop **086 001 0111**

Water leaks, burst pipes, blocked sewer drains, missing manhole covers, water supply interruptions and any other service delivery issues (as for the relevant administrations at these numbers:

Kleinmond **028 271 8400/04 or 028 271 8465**

Overstrand Control Room (all hours) **028 313 8111**

For switchboard and general enquiries, such as municipal accounts, progress with approval of building plans, phone

Kleinmond **028 271 8400**

Overstrand Switchboard (all hours) **028 313 8000**

AFTER HOURS (Municipal Services)

After hours services have been centralised and all above numbers will still work but will be diverted to the

Overstrand Switchboard **028 313 8000**

24-hour Emergency Control Room **028 313 8111**

***Print this cut out and put it on your notice board**

Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association

Membership application

Title: _____ Surname: _____

First names: _____

Title: _____ Surname: _____

First names: _____

Number of applicants: _____

Postal address: _____

Postal code: 7141

Erf number Betty's Bay: _____

Registered owner: _____

Telephone numbers: Home: _____

Work: _____ Cell number: _____

Email address: _____

Annual membership fee: R100,00 per person

Signatures: 1) _____

2) _____

Send to: Box 48, Betty's Bay, 7141 or

Email to: bettysbayratepayers@gmail.com

Payments should please be made electronically (eft) to:

Betty's Bay Association

Absa

Hermanus

Account number 4066616439

Use your name and erf number as reference.

Thank you very much for your participation.