

## BETTY'S BAY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

### INFORMATION ON THE DAWIDSKRAAL RIVER WORKS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS OF THE BBRA.

An application for information under the 'Promotion of Access to Information Act no 2 of 2000' by Prof Wieland Gevers has yielded a number of insights:

1. The Dawidskraal River is located on SANBI property once it crosses the R44 flowing southwards, except for the residual stream (bed), running in the footprint of the some-time Dawidskraal Road where the Otter Close bridge is located, which is municipal property.
2. The river deviation works just south of the R44 bridge at the HP Botanical Gardens were planned, executed and fully paid for by SANBI. SANBI's motivation for undertaking this (probably considerable) expenditure is unclear, but may have been the restoration of the erstwhile 'multichannel reticulation system' of the river before the big flood', but this is entirely speculative.
3. The recent re-construction of the 'low water bridge' leading to and from Otter Close was undertaken by the Overstrand Municipality at a total cost of R1 090 845.83. The motivation for this project and its associated expenditure is given by the Municipality as "the replacement of infrastructure destroyed by flood wash-away in 2006".
4. To my knowledge, SANBI has not made public any plans for the development of its land holding south of the R44 as part of the organised Botanical Garden accessible to the public, and the 'Visitors map' of the Gardens currently in use does not include these areas. The website does, however, make the claim that the Gardens "extend to the sea":

#### **"Garden Expansion**

In 1962 the Hangklip Beach Estates added to the Garden property by giving it the adjoining area of Disa Kloof. Later still, the then Betty's Bay Village Management Board, donated an additional adjoining piece of land which reaches to the sea. In total the land incorporated into the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden now comprises 200.5 ha, stretching from the top of the Kogelberg mountain range to the sea, encompassing a whole river system. Ten hectares have been cultivated as a garden while the remainder is managed as a natural reserve which is included in the core zone of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, while the developed area forms part of its buffer zone."

