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Regional Events / Streeksgebeure

Flight For Birders: The "Flight for Birders" bird identification and conservation course by Dr. Anton Odendal will be presented at the Community Hall, Mollergren Park, Hermanus on 21 and 22 Feb 2014. Registration fee is R500. Contact: Elaine at mwiasser@mweb.co.za or 082 455 8402.

Big Blues Festival, Harbour Road, Kleinmond:

28 Feb – 1 Mar 2014. More information at www.bigblues.co.za or #kleinmondharbour

Siyabulela Pre Primary Golf Day, Kleinmond:

7 February: Siyabulela Pre Primary is hosting a four ball golf day at the Kleinmond Golf Club to raise funds for the school. The proceedings will conclude with a prize gifting, auction and dinner after the golf. To become involved you can enter a team of four members at R1,400 per team (R350 per player), sponsor a tee or green at R1,000 (advertising and promotional material welcome), cash donation, sponsorship of prizes, items for the auction or sponsorship of handouts. Contact: siyabulelapreprimary@gmail.com or 028 271 4882 for further details.



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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: Liz Fick 028 272 9800

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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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON FRIDAY, 27 DECEMBER 2013

IN THE CRASSULA HALL AT 10H00

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chairman extended a special word of welcome to all especially those visiting from far and wide over this festive period. He said he was delighted with the attendance, but felt that a number of the members had not attended due to the fact that both the Chairman's and Treasurer's Reports had been sent out early. He said that the attendance register was circulating and requested everyone to complete with all their details so that we can update our data base. The meeting was advised that the quorum requirement of 30 members was exceeded thus the meeting could take place.

40 members attended the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Rob Johnson, Hugo Truter, Dr. and Mrs. Heydorn, Mike Orren, Lydia Bruwer, Richard Starke, Cheryl Broom, Hazel de Kock, Petra Swart, Caroline Silberbauer, Wilna Rademeyer and P Harwood.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

The Chairman advised that the AGM Minutes would be published in the Buzz and on the website, as well as emailed to members early in February and that the AGM Booklet for the AGM for 2014 will be emailed to all on our data base, posted to those who do not have emails and will also be posted on the web site at the end of November 2014.

The Minutes of the AGM held on 28 December 2012 was taken as read and approved.

APPROVED: BRIAN EDWARDS

SECONDED: JOHAN VAN VUUREN

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Coastal Setback Lines

Brian Edwards enquired what further developments had taken place regarding the Coastal Setback Lines. The Chairman advised that the process had been suspended. Gottlieb van der Merwe informed the meeting that he had contacted the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for further information. He said that the project had been put on hold indefinitely and that an entire new study was being undertaken. He advised that the Municipality had submitted a number of changes as 50% of Betty's Bay properties would be affected. He said that the DEA were busy undertaking a study of the West Coast and that it would take a number of years before they would be able to begin with the Overstrand area. G. van der Merwe advised that Integrated Zoning Law of 2008 was being amended.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It had once again been quite a hectic year. The Association had been faced with many challenges throughout the year dealing with many issues either about deteriorating roads, blocked storm water channels, flooding of roads and properties, wash aways, deteriorating infrastructure, ongoing water pipe breakages, delays in the pumping of sewerage tanks, drifting sand dunes, problems with waste disposal, contract meter readers, nuisance dogs, baboon infestation and last but not least the fluctuating incidents of crime in the area. Nev-

er a dull moment.

He said it would be most remiss in not acknowledging the support we had received from Councillor Krige. She needed to be commended for her untiring efforts in representing our Ward. Also a special word of thanks to Allan Heydorn, Richard Starke and Mike Orren for their continued support throughout the year on environmental matters. He thanked the Committee and members for their generous support and in particular members of our Neighbourhood Watch and Volunteer Fire Fighters, many of whom are not even members of the Association, for all their hard work and dedication. Often we are quick to criticize the SAPS but they have under the circumstances been tremendous in their responses.

We dealt with a number of disputes involving the municipal administration which he felt needed mentioning.

Municipal Budget. We actively engaged the Overstrand Municipality on several occasions on certain aspects of sharp increases in rates and tariffs without much joy. Of concern is the extraordinary high salary bill amounting to 30% of the budget. The cost of the Municipal Manager and his six Directors amounts to R16mil per year something we believe we can ill afford. Whilst we are continuously being reminded that the Overstrand Municipality is one of the better municipalities in the country it does not give them Carte Blanche to level increased taxes and levies especially for services we have not and do not receive. We are constantly being faced with complaints by the community about the impact this is having on retired folk who are already feeling the pinch.

Despite our objections, an unreasonably high rate increase of 63.4% has been levied against undeveloped land which the municipality insists it is entitled to do. The municipality conveniently appears not to have taken cognizance of the fact that undeveloped properties are already being charged 'availability' tariffs for water (incl. infrastructure), sewage (incl. infrastructure) and refuse removal and now face a further 63.4% increase in rates. It remains our contention that it is unfair for the municipality to arbitrarily impose a different rate against undeveloped property. We requested the methodology used to determine such a high rates increase as we believe that they arrived at this unrealistic figure so as to generate additional revenue to balance the budget. The reasons given by the municipality for the introduction of a new category of ratable property of 'vacant land ' which will be rated more highly than the category 'residential property ' is inter alia, the following:

- To encourage property development.
- To encourage densification in line with the integrated development plan.
- It is preferable to the municipality to have properties within its jurisdiction which are developed and occupied.
- The need to encourage residential occupation of properties, as this is a municipality where many people seek to retire.
- The category of vacant land will be in line with the actual use and not just the permitted use.

The municipality however fails to address the important issue of whether our ailing infrastructure has capacity to sufficiently maintain and efficiently cope with such additional development that it now encourages and the fact that it will place a further burden on the

financial constraints of the budget, which is likely to attract additional taxes. The perception is that the relationship between Council and Ratepayer Associations in general has become somewhat strained because of the fact that we are continuously highlighting shortcomings in their administration. Letters of complaint are either not being acknowledged or are simply being ignored.

Municipal Accounts. Attention was given to reported discrepancies in municipal accounts after the appointment of new Contract Meter Readers. Readings were not being taken on a regular monthly basis. Accounts consequently fluctuated from month to month.

We continue to receive complaints from residents about discrepancies in their monthly accounts. We suggest they approach the Accounts Department to deal with their individual problems.

Dispute regarding Penalties and Increase in water Deposit. We supported a member in an on-going dispute relating to the imposition of penalties and an increase in water deposit on an account that had not been paid in full after an account had not been received by the owner. This dispute was initially referred to an Ombudsman Committee which turned out to comprise of officials of the municipality. This committee subsequently became an Advisory Committee.

Property, Planning and Development. Colin Chaplin reported that of particular concern is the increasing number of applications for building line and land use restrictions to be relaxed. These are often to legalize encroachments of existing dwellings or to circumvent terms of Title Deeds. Of concern is that this trend is likely to increase as it has been mentioned that Province intended passing legislation early in the New Year permitting second dwellings on properties. The municipality is also encouraging densification. No doubt this will raise additional revenue for the municipality. This will certainly change the face of the village as we currently know it.

Other areas of concern include:

- The increased number of applications for the erection of second dwellings on plots
- The proposed development of small holdings that surround Betty's Bay
- Correct procedure not being followed by applicants for departures from Title Deeds
- The general lack of architectural uniformity in both existing and new buildings in Betty's Bay.

The BBRA tries to work hand in hand with the relevant authorities, applicants and its members when dealing with any new proposed developments. We are not in the habit of objecting merely for the sake of objecting and try to engage with all parties while acting in the best interests of the community that we represent.

Revised Scheme Regulations, applicable to Residential Zone I (single residential) properties, was published in the Provincial Government Gazette on 29 November which will become applicable as from 1 January 2014. The definitions of the primary uses and most of the consent uses as well as regulations in respect of building line encroachments and parking have been revised. Primary use now provides for second dwellings, guest rooms,

day care centres and house shops.

It is going to make any opposition to any undesirable development very difficult in the future.

We have received prior notification of a developer exploring the possibility of a development on a Portion 229 of Farm 559, which is a large property of 22ha zoned for agricultural development on the far side of Clarence Drive. It falls within an identified critical biodiversity area. We have received conflicting reports regarding the intentions of the owner. We have stressed to the owner that we would await the developer's formal application and respond accordingly.

Some 5 years ago there was an application to develop Erf 4013, Crassula Close. This is a 17,000sqm Erf which has graves on it and which the owner wished to subdivide into several stands. The BBRA opposed it at the time. The owner was trying to do it again. We have told him we will continue to oppose it.

Closure of Beach Boulevard. This emerged once again after some 3 years. The municipality is now seeking to amend conditions set down by the Provincial Minister in 2010 but never adhered to by the municipality. Deep concern was expressed by affected parties about the latest developments. We had several meetings with affected parties and municipal officials. Several letters of objection to the amendments were submitted to Council. Affected parties also questioned the reason for wanting to rezone the affected area. There have been no further developments.

Management of Dunes and Sand Drift. We previously reported on the case brought by a group of homeowners of Nerine Crescent against the Overstrand Municipality applying for an order for the OM to keep clear the road and verges of any beach sand. Judgment was handed down in March and the court ruled in favour of the Municipality. At a subsequent Ward Committee meeting at which the Mayor and the Municipal Manager were present we requested them to clarify the position especially in light of the judgment. The Municipal Manager emphasized that the municipality would not be insensitive to the problem and was committed to assisting home owners where necessary but would confine itself to budgetary constraints.

The Manager also drew attention to the Integrated Development Plan of the municipality where mention is made of certain areas in Betty's Bay that are affected by Driftsand which is threatening the existence of residences and that the municipality is in the process of drafting an appropriate management plan for the dunes. They have also delivered inputs with respect to the placement of setback lines in order to promote the ecological management of the dunes and to protect private property from coastal processes. Area management teams will be clearing road surfaces of dune sediment as an interim management measure.

Affected homeowners are in the process of establishing an interest working group of affected property owners in the Nerine and Morea Roads so as to speak with a combined voice to the municipality.

Judy Kirby and I together with some of the affected residents attended a meeting on Thursday (12 Dec) in Stellenbosch with provincial DA MP, Mike Walters to seek resolution. A further aggravating situation is that truck loads of sand have and still are being moved

from Nerine Crescent and dumped in the main beach car park. There have been several complaints from arriving residents/visitors that parking in the car park had as a result been considerably reduced and access to the beach made very difficult. The proposal put forward to Mike Walters was that the sand blown towards Nerine and Morea Roads should be moved back to the high water mark. This proposal was previously dismissed by Province. Mike Walters undertook to investigate the possibility of the municipality obtaining a mining permit which would hopefully enable them to move the sand back to the high water mark instead of removing the sand off site which is currently happening. On Wednesday 18 December we had a further meeting on site with officials from the Provincial Dept. of Environmental Affairs and Neville Green to discuss the legal restrictions on the removal of sand from the road to the beach and to discuss a proposal from Province that would allow the Municipality to implement a short term management plan to remove sand from the roads onto the beach.

Generally the plan of action is well motivated as an interim contingency measure which will cause the least disturbance and minimise further impact on the environment. It will hopefully avoid any further removal of sediment off site as this has been the cause of considerable beach erosion and possible flooding in the future. However, in unique circumstances like this, one solution invariably is the cause of other problems. Some Morea Road residents have expressed concern that hold the view that by moving the sand through the corner of Morea Road to the high level mark will create a sediment pathway. As a consequence during a strong South Easter the sand is likely to blow back into Morea Road making it once again impassable.

Another reservation that has been expressed is the economic impact this plan will have on all the ratepayers of Betty's Bay as it is likely to result in an increase in taxes across the board. It is stipulated in the management plan that the cost of moving sediment is high and this will impact on Municipal budgets and ultimately ratepayer's accounts. The submission by many ratepayers that an overall increase in rates and taxes should not be considered is quite understandable. This is another issue that will also need clarification.

Gottlieb van der Merwe who has been initiating this effort requested that he address the meeting and elaborate on the Morea/Nerine mandate. He said that a number of residents together with the support of the Ratepayers' Association were trying to reach a solution to the problem by involving Province and the Municipality. He said that he had had a telephonic conversation with the Municipal Manager who stressed that the Municipality was not responsible for the removal of the sand but confirmed that they would continue to assist wherever possible. G. van der Merwe advised that Province had agreed to the removal of the sand to the Parking Area at Main Beach (which was causing huge congestion as far as parking was concerned) and said that they were once again back where they had started. He said that Province were reluctant to move the sand back to the beach saying that there was the possibility of causing a sediment trail. He stressed that the situation was serious and appealed to all to please give their support and thanked the BBRA for their continued support.

Roads and Stormwater Infrastructure. Representation was made to Ward Councillor Krige after the recent heavy down pours which caused flooding of many roads and properties some of which became impassable. Most of the roads no longer have storm water drains,

either they are over grown or have filled up with sand over the years. Consequently, roads become streams or turn into storm water drains. Many houses were also flooded. The Councillor was prompt in arranging a high profile municipal delegation from Hermanus to carry out an inspection. Consequently, an inspection report was tabled in Council emphasizing short to long term solutions. This matter was also raised at a Ward Committee meeting in October. Consensus is that our roads which are predominantly gravel are in desperate need of upgrading and that there is a lack of proper storm water infrastructure and maintenance. As one can appreciate no provision has been made in the current financial year to undertake these enormous tasks.

Mid November we experienced a down pour even greater than the one experienced in 2005. Considerable damage was caused to the Botanical Gardens, Waterfall Road was washed away, the bridge at Otter Close was once again washed away, the banks of the river were considerably eroded making the river much wider than before and several roads and properties throughout the village were flooded.

The municipality pulled out all stops to repair as many roads as possible and restore access across Dawidskraal River for the Otter Close residents. A meeting was held on 17 December which also included SANBI.

Water Working Group. With the retirement of Avril Nunn, Richard Starke has kindly agreed to take over the Chairmanship of the Water Working Group on which Prof. Orren, Kevin Winter and Stephen Muller (Overstrand Director for Infrastructure) and the BBRA also serve. The Group has since held its first meeting. There were as many as 19 water pipe breaks during the month of December. This underlines the state of our infrastructure.

Crime has continued to fluctuate throughout the year with incidents of Housebreakings and Theft out of Vehicles being quite prominent. Only some units of the Neighbourhood Watch system have been active in patrols. More Wardens are however desperately needed to be recruited if we are ever to reduce crime in the area. A few Wardens simply cannot win this battle alone. Many areas remain unprotected simply because they consist mainly of unoccupied holiday homes.

Unfortunately, many residents are oblivious to the fact that crime exists in the village. It has to be recognized that in most cases it may be possible to minimize and control crime but it will never be removed altogether. This is where property owners need to take responsibility to minimize their risk and look after their possessions. If everyone takes due care it minimizes opportunity and temptation. For example, do not leave items of value exposed in the car, lock doors and install adequate alarm systems.

Due to continued suggestions that Betty's Bay seriously consider a CCTV system we established a steering committee to test the market and came up with alarming results. We are looking at anything in excess of R1mil per year to equip, administer and monitor the whole area not to mention monthly levies. We would have to get the entire community to buy into it to make it affordable to each household but this would by no means be an easy task especially because we have many absent homeowners who are not particularly interested in even taking simple precautions like installing burglar proofing or intruder alarm systems. To achieve this we would also have to involve the municipality who would also charge an admin fee to deduct monthly levies. There are certain reservations about the effectiveness of CCTV in a township like BB which has numerous entrances and exits.

We also have other organisations whose prime objective is to protect the marine resources but do not invest in any measures of their own. A public participation process would in any case have to be undertaken and we would have to get a 50+1 support before we can even contemplate such a move. Pringle Bay spent in excess of R350,000 on their installation of 4 cameras and software which came from donations. Also they are faced with a monthly administration fee of R1000. Despite their installation they still experience housebreakings which are gradually increasing. Accesses by perpetrators are now on foot and not by vehicle. Perpetrators easily find ways to circumvent security measures.

I attended a briefing by the National Commissioner of Police to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament which dealt mainly with staffing levels at stations and the crime situation. I also attended a meeting in Gansbaai of all stakeholders with the MEC for Community Safety and officials from the Department of Community Safety to discuss preliminary findings on Policing Needs and Priorities and crime trends for the Overstrand area.

Chamber of Business. At a recent meeting of the Association at which the Councillor was also present, it was felt that there is a need for the business sector in Betty's Bay to seriously give consideration to establishing a Chamber of Business in line with those that already exist in other villages. It is felt that it is important for the business sector to forge stronger links so as to collectively deal with wide ranging changes that are taking place. A representative of the Chamber could also serve on the Executive of the BBRA. Councillor Krige would have been glad to meet with all business owners to discuss matters of concern. Unfortunately, we only had one response.

Stony Point Project. We attended several meetings on the progress of the development of the project. Of great concern is that inadequate provision has been made for visitors' parking and that tour busses are known to have left without tourists being dropped off because of the lack of parking. We foresee that during peak periods adjacent roads will become congested. This will cause great disruption to neighbouring properties as the roads in question are too narrow to allow for both parking and passing traffic. It is also likely that tourists will be forced to park on the verges of neighbouring properties.

Protest Actions. I thought I should draw attention to the change in mood of residents over the last year. The municipal budget received quite a lot of adverse publicity in the media and also lead to unprecedented protest action in front of the municipal offices in Kleinmond by predominantly white pensioners where a petition was handed over to the municipality. There was also a protest march by Xhosa speaking residents from the informal settlement demanding improved service delivery. A petition was also handed over to the municipality. A third protest action by Proteadorp residents took place on Youth Day when they marched on houses identified by the community as houses allegedly involved in the sale of drugs. Ward 10 has also been faced by some very irate residents protesting about the condition of roads and storm water drains especially after the recent heavy rains. These actions are a clear indication of the discontent that currently prevails in the Hangklip-Kleinmond area.

Based on what we have experienced this year we do not foresee things improving, certainly not in the short term. In fact we believe things will get far worse. Some officials concede that Betty's Bays infrastructure is in a huge mess. Council simply does not have the resources to rectify what has been allowed to deteriorate over the decades. Of concern is

that for the last three years we have been paying water and sewage infrastructure levies but have not seen any improvement. What is happening to this revenue? What we have seen is a great deal of development in Hermanus. Many promises made but very little action. Betty's Bay does not make an attractive destination. We are receiving increased enquiries from prospective property buyers enquiring about the crime and services in the area. It places us in an unenviable position as there are frequent adverse reports in the media which are difficult to challenge.

Membership. As Adrian de Kock has informed in the past it is not our practice to send out invoices annually in respect of membership fees. The reason for this is to save unnecessary costs to your organization. Our year begins on 1 November annually and the constitution states that you have until the end of April to pay your subs. To our mind this is too long a period and we wish to propose an amendment to our constitution at to make membership fees payable by the end of January annually. This will enable us to begin sending out reminders to members at an earlier stage. From a cost perspective we would prefer to utilize E-mails for this purpose and therefore appeal to members to ensure that we have your E-mail addresses on record if you have not already supplied them. Additionally please advise us of any change in your E-mail addresses as many of our notices are often returned undelivered.

Come on guys we need to have as many members as possible to give us clout in dealing with the authorities. At the moment Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association has the largest membership of any such association in the entire Overstrand area.

Fire and Emergency Support Services. Wendy Tawse reports that the Betty's Bay Volunteer Community Fire Fighters were kept busy during the first half of 2013. In total they responded to no less than 8 fire call outs, 1 motor vehicle accident and 1 sea rescue.

During January, February, March and April, the Betty's Bay Volunteer Community Fire Fighters were very busy (when not fighting fires) at the Fire Station, giving it a face lift. They are very proud to announce that the station has been painted out, tiles laid, ceiling boards put in and we now even have shower and toilette facilities, although not 100% complete yet due to lack of funding. We still need to give attention to the paving outside the station, which needs to be filled up with gravel and leveled out, but due to a lack of funding, this too is still outstanding.

During May and June the Overstrand Fire and Rescue Services as well as the Betty's Bay Volunteer Community Fire Fighters embarked on their annual hydrant mechanical checks. Our Volunteer Community Fire Fighters wish to make an appeal to all members of the community to note the nearest hydrant to their homes and assess its visibility.

We had another veld fire which threatened neighbouring properties in Disa Road. The fire was caused by the occupants throwing braai coals into the bush. Our Volunteer Firefighters were quick on the scene to extinguish the fire. Once again they need to be congratulated.

Public Participation Process regarding a Proposed Controlled Burn. A group of concerned homeowners resident in the Sunny Seas area of Betty's Bay have made representations to the Municipality requesting a controlled burn of the area on the mountain side bordering onto their properties.

Motivation for their request is:

- For ecological reasons; Fynbos needs to burn every 12 to 15 years to allow for regeneration before species are lost;
- The area last burnt some 21 years ago. The burn in June 2010 was extinguished before the entire area could be burnt and as a result the area has become very dry and has the potential to turn into a disaster should a fire occur in the area;
- If this is not attended to then the area burnt in 2010 could be totally destroyed should another fire occur;
- This area has limited fire hydrant capacity and residents are concerned that protection of the infrastructure would not be possible should a fire occur.

An initial meeting was held in June 2013 with affected residents and various stakeholders such as Cape Nature, Nature Conservation, Overstrand Fire Services, Ratepayers' Association and Volunteer Firefighters to discuss the matter and establish a plan of action. A sub-committee was established which have met on several occasions and it was proposed that a controlled burn take place early next year at an appropriate time along the mountain side eastward from the Botanical Gardens through to the western entrance of Seaview Road in Sunny Seas.

It is essential that the Municipality, property owners and voluntary firefighters work together to reduce the fire risk. A public meeting was held in August.

Baboon Matters – The Present Situation. Adrian de Kock reports that following on from our previous communications in this matter we have had a meeting on 19 June 2013 with the Overstrand Municipality to establish the present position with regard to our various concerns.

Here are the matters which were discussed and the outcome:

Municipal Dump Site

- The “dump site” at the Betty’s Bay Municipal offices is manned seven days a week from 08H00 to 16H00 by a dedicated official but this service is sometimes interrupted through absences due to sick and annual leave. This service has definitely improved the situation and we appeal to residents/visitors to use this site responsibly when it is not manned and not to just dump their refuse outside the bins.
- We have discussed the ineffective locking system on the cages and the fact that the trailer has no wheels which poses a health risk and is counterproductive when emptying the trailer. The Municipality has undertaken to examine the possible solution of replacing the trailer with “industrial bins” such as used in Pringle Bay.

Refuse Collection

- Bags removed from bins are now collected without delay.
- Bins are closed after collection preventing egress by rain water.
- The order of collection of refuse at egress points into the village has to be constantly changed as the baboons change their points of entry in line with these movements.

Baboon Proof Bins

- All households are required to utilize such bins in terms of Municipal by-laws.

Letters were sent out to transgressors and subsequently Law Enforcement has issued some official warnings. The next step for those that do not comply will be the issue of fines.

- The locking system on “baboon proof bins” is ineffective. The Municipality no longer supplies such bins but property owners may obtain them from “Bou Handel” or “Buildit”. These bins do not come with locking systems and it is up to purchasers to have suitable systems installed. Those property owners who already have bins would have to see that suitable locks are installed.
- It is up to property owners to ensure that those renting or occupying their properties comply with the regulations.

Signage

- We are negotiating with the Municipality for suitable signage to be erected at the entrances to Betty’s Bay re the prohibition of feeding baboons.

All these matters will be kept on the forefront of Ward Committee meetings and progress will be monitored.

Farewell. After many years of loyal service, more than one can care to recall, we bid farewell to Avril Nunn, a long standing executive committee member. Her enthusiasm and energetic service to the community of Betty’s Bay was greatly admired and we are very sorry to have bid her goodbye. She has relocated to a retirement village in Somerset West.

Cecile Jonkheid (Area Manager) and Chris Harding (Operations Manager) retire at the end of this year (2013). We have over the years built up a good working relationship with both of them and they have been a tremendous help to us. We wish them a long and healthy retirement.

6. DISCUSSION OF CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

6.1 Brian Edwards enquired whether it was not possible that a red line be painted along Access Road with No Parking signs and that Municipal Law Enforcement is on hand to ticket and control offenders. Both the Chairman and W. Tawse stressed that it was a huge problem and that Emergency Vehicles could not access the area due to illegal parking. D. Fick thanked W. Tawse and the Volunteer Firefighters for their tireless effort trying to control traffic over the festive period.

6.2 Peter Joubert enquired which address he was to use when corresponding with the Municipality. He said that he now had two – an Erf No. and a Street Address. D. Fick said that it was his decision and advised that a number of people even had three different numbers especially if they were located on a corner. Each owner had to deal with the municipality.

6.3 Johan Fourie enquired what the results of discussions held between the Municipality and members of the community regarding the Baboon problems were. He stressed that it was really becoming a very serious issue in the Sunny Seas area.

Adrian de Kock advised as follows:

The following issues in respect of the baboon problem were discussed:

- Baboon monitors – The BBRA applied through the “Greenest Town Award” to implement such a scheme but unfortunately it was unsuccessful.

- Baboon proof bins By-Laws – It is a requirement of all residents to comply with the By-Law. The Caledon Magistrates Court has now approved the issue of fines for failure to use baboon proof bins. The fines appear to be R500-00. Law Enforcement will act on complaints from residents and their officials on patrol. The issue of fines will quickly become known by residents resulting in adherence.
- Signage warning of the baboon problem will be erected at the entrances to Betty's Bay when funds become available.
- The trailer at the refuse drop off site will be replaced by industrial bins when funds become available.
- It is the responsibility of residents to obtain baboon proof bins. These are no longer available from the Municipality. Wheelie bins can be made baboon proofed by installing a simple locking device. The responsibility with regard to baboon control rests as follows:
 - a. Mountain side – Cape Nature
 - b. Roads & verges – Overstrand Municipality
 - c. Private property – Property owners
- Ultimately it is the property owners' responsibility to protect their own homes and ensure that they comply with refuse By-Laws.
- The feeding of birds and other small animals results in exacerbating the baboon problem.

Allan Clegg felt that it was the responsibility of every resident to ensure that their home was baboon proof – bars on windows, doors kept closed and windows closed when leaving the house.

Brian Edwards felt that it was important to circulate to all property owners where the bins were to be purchased, as well as what was the best baboon proof catches. He enquired whether it would not be possible to place an article in the Municipal Bulletin which accompanies the monthly accounts.

6.4 The meeting was informed that 18 incidents of crime had been reported since 22 December from Kleinmond to Rooi Els. He said that many were due to negligence – laptops, cameras, cell phones being left in cars despite warnings. Mr. Eddy felt that this type of carelessness should not be condoned and said that Insurance Companies should have clauses in their policies dealing with this kind of negligence. It was again suggested that an article be placed in the Municipal Bulletin.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported as follows:

- Membership stands at 371 which include 9 Life Members and 4 who have not paid or short paid their fees for the past year. Approximately 30 members were removed from the list due mainly to nonpayment of their subs. The Treasurer advised that we have the highest membership of Ratepayers in the Overstrand.
- Fire Fighters – there had been no need for fund raising to the extent of that undertaken in the past. R1 250 was spent on alterations and upgrading of the Fire Station.

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
	Capt. Marthinus	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
	Fynbos Service Centre	082 719 6200
	Fire Extinguisher Service	083 741 9914

□ Crassula Hall hire showed a loss of R5 830.32 due to the need to purchase 6 tables at a cost of R2 944 as well as the reduction in income. We have bookings for R5 000 for the IEC for next year. Expenditure on the hall was kept to a very reasonable 2-7% increase year on year.

□ Buzz showed a profit of R3 953.63 in current year. This was due to the increase in advertising revenue and a reduction in costs due to the new system of distribution. He said that the printing and postage costs had increased by R3 638.35 due to the AGM notification being posted, whereas in the previous year this had been incorporated with the distribution of the "Buzz".

□ Neighbourhood Watch showed a surplus of R2 676 after the purchase of magnetic decals, radios, signs, luminous bibs and caps offset against generous donations from members.

□ Under other expenses you will note two large items i.e. R1 000 and R2 937.95. These were due to a refund of a donation which was in expectation of advertising which never materialized where we are custodians of the relevant funds and expenditure on a farewell function for Avril Nunn in honour of her many years of dedicated service to the community respectively.

□ We have received the 2012 assessment from SARS in terms of our tax free status and this shows no amount owing.

There was a suggestion from the floor that the fact that the Crassula Hall is available for hire should be advertised. L. Fick advised that there had been a number of enquiries as to the hire of the hall, but said that people were just not prepared to pay. She said that the rates varied for various functions, but felt that R1 000 for the hire of the hall for a wedding and R300 for the use of the kitchen, including crockery etc was not unreasonable. A. de Kock said that we tried to meet requests made from various organisations, but stressed that the hall could not be hired for free as we had costs to cover. He advised that we leased the hall from the Municipality and was responsible for the water, refuse and sewerage costs, electricity, cleaning, as well as providing toilet paper, etc.

The Treasurer drew the meetings attention to the fact that the Municipality was busy with the waterproofing of the exterior of the hall and said that once complete we would start with the painting.

Alan Clegg requested that the committee consider purchasing a PA system, as he had attended various functions in the hall and found that people sitting at the back experienced difficulty in hearing what was being said. The Treasurer undertook to look into the matter.

The Financial Statement was then accepted and approved.

PROPOSED: FRED BROOM

SECONDED: DAVID HOFMEYER

8. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Treasurer advised that the under mentioned proposed amendments to the Constitution needed to be ratified at the AGM. He said that a two-thirds majority of members present are required for the amendments to be ratified.

Proposed Amendment Paragraph 7:

Amend paragraph 7 (b) by substituting the date 30 April with 31 January.

Amend paragraph 7 (c) by substituting “six (6) months” with “three (3) months”.

The reason for this amendment is that it is considered by the committee to be too long a time i.e. six months at present whereby members have to pay their annual membership fees before being considered to be in arrears.

Amend paragraph 7 (a) by substituting the word “minimum” with “maximum”.

The reason for this amendment is to correct a previous mistake.

The proposal was unanimously accepted.

PROPOSED: BRIAN EDWARDS SECONDED: COLIN CHAPLIN

9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chairman said that the majority of the current members of the Committee had served anything from 2 to 5 years and some have given notice that they felt that they needed a break; however they were prepared to stand if required to do so. He said that this provided the opportunity for new blood and new ideas including some younger folk which was so essential for our committee and community. Unfortunately only two nominations had been received.

The Chairman advised that the Committee shall at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting elect from its members a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and such other Officers that are necessary.

Available for re-election:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Dan Fick | Chairman. |
| 2. | Adrian de Kock | Treasurer. |
| 3. | Liz Fick | - Secretary. |
| 4. | Colin Chaplin | Property, Planning & Development. |
| 5. | Wendy Tawse | Fire, Emergency Support Services. |
| 6. | Wilna Rademeyer | - Roads & Stormwater. |
| 7. | Nic Swart | - Editor of Buzz |

New nominations received were;

- | | | |
|----|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Richard Starke | Water, Waste and Sanitation |
| 2. | Jorika Rabe | |

The election of the committee was unanimously accepted.

PROPOSED: FRED BROOM SECONDED: MR. BOLTON

10. GENERAL

10.1 D. Fick once again thanked Wendy Tawse and the Volunteer Firefighters for their dedication and hard work throughout the year and particularly over the Festive season. He also thanked all members of the Neighbourhood Watch for their dedication and always being prepared to patrol whilst the rest of the community was spending time with their loved ones – he said he could assure them that their efforts did not go unnoticed. He also thanked Councillor L. Krige for all her support throughout the year.

10.2 Mr. Eddy passed a motion of thanks to the committee for their hard work over the

year. He stressed that it was not an easy job and said that it was encouraging to note that the entire committee was prepared to stand again. He thank D. Fick for the way in which he dealt with matters and for always keeping the community informed of important matters concerning us all.

10.3 The question was raised as to what was happening at Stony Point. D. Fick advised that despite numerous meetings being held there was still no definite date as to when the project would be finalized. He said that the parking area was insufficient for the large number of visitors to the Colony, but said that despite the matter being raised on numerous occasions nothing had been done to improve the area. W. Tawse said that it was proposed to open the restaurant and eco centre beginning February. D. Fick informed the meeting that it was a condition of Casidra that the Mooiuitsig community be given the opportunity of running the restaurant.

10.4 Mr. van Hove enquired what could be done regarding dogs and cats being allowed to roam freely.

D. Fick said that there were very clear By-Laws and that he should contact Law Enforcement in this regard.

11. CLOSURE

D. Fick once again thanked all present for attending the meeting and wished them all a safe journey back home at the end of the holidays. On behalf of the committee he wished all a very healthy and fruitful 2014. The meeting was then adjourned.

The Wind bloweth...

...And a happy New Year to you, too!

What a tremendous opportunity to make good things happen in the year that lies ahead, leaving our gripes, disappointments and negative attitudes behind us! Unfortunately our streets will be plastered with election posters soon, and we will be inundated with flowery speeches and flamboyant, but empty promises made by beaming politicians to capture the vote of the gullible. Desperation still reigns in the lives of those deprived of life's essentials, and comparatively, how much of a crisis is the odd pothole we dodge as we traverse the post-storm damaged Betty's Bay roads en route to our daily destination?

However, let's face it, it's so much easier to become despondent when newscasts are filled with criminals getting away with every conceivable offence for a variety of reasons, the shocking abuse of the innocent, and lawlessness in the guise of legitimate protest. One tends to feel anger, helplessness and worse, hopelessness in the face of present conditions in our country, especially if you have been a victim of the crime.

But there is a bright side... we, as a family, recently took a weekend off to celebrate two birthdays on a guest farm bordering on the Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve in the magnificent Langeberg mountains. Ignoring the TV sets in the cottages, we were blessed with beautiful cool weather, wonderful hospitality and the only noise factor arising from the excitement and enjoyment of the four

grandchildren. Horses, and sheep who thought they were, were a constant source of peaceful entertainment... the children thrilling to a ride on the horses on the second day.

The presence and knowledge of the Conservator in the family made our walk in the Nature Reserve very special, enjoying the peaceful sound of the flowing but unseen river, the song of the birds from the hide constructed several metres above the forest floor, and many fascinating plants and insects.

We adults experienced life through the eyes of the children, and it is not surprising that Jesus bade us become like them... the owner's pet dogs and cats were a constant source of joy and amusement to them, as were the herd of young oxen who came onto the lawns to visit and had to be herded away by the farmer and his dog.

Watching the four cousins (seldom blessed with time together due to the distance separating them) spending quality time together and making the most of every opportunity to share each new exciting adventure of discovery, made me wonder how we, as adults, have lost the ability to find and embrace special attributes in people we encounter, thereby enriching our lives – and outlook? It can be challenging stuff, watching kids co-exist happily.

How the world has changed since we were small – can we remember that far back? Just try talking to a four year-old who, having spent a fair amount of her short life flying to holiday destinations, is well versed in the procedures of air travel, including the all-important meal at the Wimpy (the place with the best view of incoming or departing aircraft) and thereafter the final family farewells. Every flight is an adventure, related in great detail to whoever meets her at the other end. (We travelled endless distances in the family car). Most of us spoke one home language or 'n moedertaal, depending on which side of the fence we resided – this little one speaks them both fluently, with a smattering of Khosa... she is purely South African. Her parents are the most important and most special people in her life and with whose discipline she still complies unquestioningly... (remember the Bible stating that God disciplines those He loves?) When we were children, computers hadn't been invented, people still boarded ships to reach other countries, and we stood in awe, shading our eyes from the sun, to watch the occasional aircraft pass overhead. Today... yes, the wind bloweth and the mind boggleth...

So back to the present, the world our grandkids are enjoying now, and let's focus on how to handle life in 2014, regardless of the outcome of the election. Children live one day at a time – manageable. They

learn something new every day – desirable. They find something enjoyable in every day – well worth the trouble. They encourage one another and build relationships – worth emulating. They love unconditionally, sometimes undeservingly. They are loyal and trusting – regardless. Should we live each day thus, this year should be great, because Jesus said: "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Beverley Green.

PIKKEWYNTJIENUUS –WARM BORSTE

Lekka my pel, lekka.....shieeee... hierie vakansie was darem lekka en lank gewies. Myse ma het somme hier na twee dae geseg sy wens die skool wil hier begin. Al wat onse kinnere gedoen het was om heeldag haarse bors warm te maak. Nou ek verstaan nie lekka die ding van bors warm maakie. Soe sit ek eendag en ek dink en dink nalat myse ma my hier ytgeskel het. Hoe maak ek haarse bors warm? Ek lê togie op hom nie, ek isie naby hom nie, nou hoe nou? Ek loep my ma so skelm en bekyk om te sien hoe lyk die warm bors. Wa was tjulle? Myse ma sien toe daar is sieker iets aanie gang, toe ek weer sien, toe kry hierie klontjie vir jou n klap dat myse ore tyt, nog n paar tanne waai en die voelies sing in myse kop. Sy dog toe ek raak voor myse tyd oudertouts om haarse "private parts" soos myse juffrou dit noem, uit te kyk. Neeeeeeee.... Ek wietie meer met die groot mense nie, kyk jy kry jy n klap, kyk jy nie word jy ytgeskel! Ek sal nou n ander plan moet sien om hierie warm bors te bekyk en yt te vinne wat dit betieken.

Gelukkig het die skool laaste week begin en ek wietie wie was die blyste eke of myse ma nie. Ek het somme van ligdag af by onse skool se hek gewag dat iemand moet oepmaak. Shieeeeeee... was dit nie lekka toe ons hier kan speel en werk by onse skool nie. Juffrou seg onse kinnere het wild geword hierie vakansie en sy wiet nie of haarse hart haar gaat laat leef tot die end vanie jaarie. Sy kyk on yt en vra vrae, maar ons is so dom soos klippe. Oeeehhhh, ek sien toe hier kom n ding....myse ma lyk amper soos juffrou as sy seg ek maak haarse bors warm. Ek kyk en kyk maar ek sien niks by myse juffrou nie, al wat ek sien is tranes in haarse oge en moereloosgeit, maar die bors bly koud. Oih...ek dink ek moet maar later hierie ding verder bekyk en dalk volgende maand sal ek tjulle verder vertel.

Nou vra ek net dat tjulle mans togie tjulle se vroue se borste warm maak tot ons hier praat nie!

Zaan Cilliers

Nova Centaurus 2013 - exploding star

The passing on of Mr Nelson Mandela has coincided with an astronomical event in the southern hemisphere skies. On the 2 Dec 2013 John Seach from Australia discovered a nova close to β Centauri (one of the bright pointer stars near the Southern Cross)

Excitement mounted as the nova brightened to being the brightest nova of the millennium thus far. On 4 Dec a post appeared on Facebook alerting us here in South Africa. Fellow amateur astronomers started reporting observations of the nova as a naked eye object.

Every evening I gazed up at the sky deciding whether I should set my alarm for 03:00 when the Southern Cross and pointers would be high in the sky. I must admit I gave a "little" sigh of relief when clouds rolled over or the wind was howling and I could go to bed and rather get up at break of day like a normal person.

If I had set my alarm for 0:300 on the morning of 6 December, I would have heard the news earlier. Madiba had passed away the previous evening.

On the evening of 8 Dec, the sky conditions were perfect. I had been watching all the tributes coming in for Tata Mandela, watching how, once again, he was reconciling a nation. There was no wind, the night was warm, the sky was beautiful. I set my alarm. This was the night I was going to search for the nova.

I was awake and outside before the alarm sounded. A cloud had moved in over the Southern Cross and pointers. Every now and then I actually caught a glimpse of β Centauri and the new "star" nearby. Eventually the cloud lifted and at 04:00 I could take a photo.

As an astronomer I'm always reading about dying stars, novae and supernovae. Now that I've seen a nova with my naked eye, I'm looking forward to the next alert: supernova – so bright that it shines during the day!

"This particular event, Nova Cen 2013, is known as a classical nova, and is not to be confused with a supernova. Classical novae occur in binary star systems when hydrogen gas from the orbiting stellar partner is accreted onto the surface of the main star, causing a runaway thermonuclear event resulting in the brightening of the main star. In a classical nova the main star is not destroyed as is the case in a supernova. Instead, the star is dramatically brightened, and there is a simultaneous expansion of a debris shell" - <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap131207.html>

Carol Botha

BREAKFAST KLOOF

Betty's bay has many hidden magic places. Some so rare that their location needs to be kept secret from those who would not tenderly and considerately look after them.

For decades the Attwells celebrated breakfast on New Years Day in the hidden kloof they called "**Breakfast Kloof**"

The schlepp to the foot of the kloof is not for sissies, or those sporting a New Year's Eve head, although the climb will either kill you, or cure the same.

Lugging frying pan, eggs, bacon, sausages, and tomatoes, you have to struggle through thick scratchy, resistant Fynbos if the slope has not burned recently, (**clamber up the streamlet if you will, but this will test you anyway**).

Tea, coffee, and milk are essential, and a beer or two will salve any remaining headache.

Water is not required as the amber stream provides the best drink in the world.

At the foot of the kloof is a shady platform, only a few yards square and the constant drip down the vertical cliff, conveniently limits itself to a corner, but fills a little pool of delicious **mountain champagne**.

Now you can enjoy that beer or fizzie that loaded you down, but enhanced your thirst on the way up.

Take a rest as you slake your thirst in the shady bower that shelters you, it will restore

flagging spirits and the vista down to the sea:

De Wet's Baai and the Hermanus Hills across Sandown Bay, will delight your eye.

Now ravenous, breakfast needs preparing.

The Attwells always had a “volcano”.

This magnificent camp-kettle was a simple 12-inch Diameter metal tube surrounded by a water jacket, and some 15 inches tall.

Fill the jacket from the pool, drop a few twigs down the tube, light them from the convenient holes circling the base, and in no time you have boiling water to fill the Thermosses - ses, -s's -oi) you remembered to bring along.

At the same time the Frying pan, placed on top of the open upper end of the “volcano”, and primed with bacon, eggs, sausages and tomato, will soon be sizzling. A toast-mat similarly placed will do its duty in turn.

Depending on the number of climbers, breakfast may have to occur in shifts.

Before long, replete and somnolent bodies will be scattered around on the moss-carpeted sward, and you can admire the dripping water as it falls straight down the tall kloof, wetting the rare Red Disas that cling to the rocky cliffs.

You will be tempted to stay forever, and, though sad to leave, take comfort in the thought that next year you can come again!

Peter Joubert

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE KOGELBERG BRANCH OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF S.A.

TWO RECENT TALKS BENEFIT HAROLD PORTER NATIONAL GARDEN

The voluntary collection at the December talk (Cape Leopard Trust) was for the Flood Relief fund at the Harold Porter Garden and the over 100 attendees donated R3105! This has been deposited in the special account held by SANBI for that purpose. At the request of the January speaker, Hilary Guise, the money collected (R2097.40) is to be put towards the Children's Educational Fun Garden planned for the Harold Porter Garden and has been deposited with them for that purpose. Again over 100 people attended. The Kogelberg branch thanks all those who so generously supported these causes.

DONATION

A generous donation has been made by The Jane Yeats Trust Fund to the Kogelberg Branch. The BotSoc committee is to decide on the use to which it will be put. Thereafter we will advise you further.

PETER BERRISFORD

TREASURER (BOTSOC)

FIRE PREVENTION IN OUR CONSERVANCY VILLAGES

We are experiencing very high temperatures with strong winds predicted. It does not mean that because of the heavy rains we have experienced over the last few months that we do not need to take the necessary precautions in preventing fires and are therefore re-publishing the article below.

Fires are becoming an increasing problem in the Western Cape. The Overstrand annually has its own growing number of fires. Unfortunately the three conservancy villages of Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooiels experience the same tendency. The biggest problem in these areas is to marry the concept of being fire wise with that of preserving the natural environment.

Although this seems to be a conflicting goal it is achievable if all of us just follow the fire wise guidelines as set out in the Firewise booklet posted to every property owner in 2008 when the three little towns became the first Firewise villages in South Africa.

The fire wise concept as many of you probably know is that of a joint responsibility between ratepayers and the local municipality in following the Firewise rules and guidelines in protecting the area against run away veld fires. Many people refuse to clear their undeveloped properties on receiving letters to the effect as they claim that Municipal properties are just as overgrown as their own. This problem has been brought to the attention of our Fire Chief who has taken up the matter with the area manager resulting in an undertaking by the municipality to clear municipal properties. Clearing will however be done in the same fire wise manner expected from the public and is thus a time consuming project.

Up and until the devastating fire of 13 May 2008 when four homes burnt down against the mountain in Betty's Bay, ±75% of the destruction was caused by downed Escom power lines. Since Escom upgraded these lines it has not happened and all fires aside from the one caused by lightning on the mountain in the Kogelberg reserve on the 3rd of June 2010, were caused by humans, either through negligence or on purpose. At least two of these fires were caused by inhabitants of Betty's Bay who threw fire ashes into the fynbos. Fortunately both these fires were quickly extinguished.

Fighting a run away veld fire is very costly. The per hour cost of one big Fire Tender is R900.00 during normal working hours and escalates considerably after hours as over time for the crew comes into play. The amount per hour for the use of a small helicopter is R19,000.00 and that of a big one R35,000.00. It does not take a mathematics wizard to realise that an operation that lasts for a couple of days could run into millions.

I do not like to be the bearer of bad news but if found guilty by a court of law of being the offender causing such a fire you could be held responsible for **all** of the costs to effectively extinguishing it.

Fynbos is highly flammable and needs to burn from time to time to regenerate itself. Our main problem is that fires which start on the perimeter or within our villages are more often than not fanned by high winds which make them very difficult to fight especially on steep slopes. Our fynbos is further infested in some areas with virtually impenetrable alien trees which add to the problem. As we live within a conservancy and simply can

NOT afford to destroy our natural environment it becomes critically important to manage our fynbos gardens by **annually removing all dead wood, cutting away undergrowth** and most importantly eradicating **ALL ILLEGAL ALIEN TREES AND SHRUBS**. According to **NEMA** legislation (National Environmental Management Act) it is **illegal** to have these alien infesters anywhere in the Western Cape. It is equally illegal to have any of them in your garden as windbreaks or shade trees! These illegal aliens include, Port Jackson, Rooikrans, Australian Myrtle, Spider Gum, and Pampas Grass.

Complying with the regulations and following firewise guidelines in your garden will make it much easier for our Fire Brigade, many of whom are volunteers, to try and save you, your pets and your property.

Most roads are very narrow and if verges are not cleared regularly it simply means that they cannot be negotiated by big Fire Tenders. Randomly clearing the verges can however lead to other problems as in some areas in the villages this is exactly where we find that some very rare and endangered plant species grow. Fortunately our municipality is sensitive to this problem and will not cut down the vegetation in such areas **if made aware of its existence in advance**. If you see them cutting in your area and you are aware of such plants simply point these out to the workers and ask them to leave the relevant spot untouched.

If all of us work together, comply with the regulations and respect our environment, it is possible to preserve our conservancy with all its natural beauty that we are so blessed to live in.

Friends of the Library/Vriende van die Biblioteek

Library hours: Mon to Fri 9h00 – 16h00

Good wishes to all for another New Year;

may you experience good health, purpose & much Joy in 2014!

Join the Friends of the Library / Sluit aan by die Vriende van die Biblioteek

Your ideas, suggestions & talents make this organization a successful group of people coming together, sharing ideas and offering cheerful fellowship. We support the Library & librarian by helping to maintain an efficient service to the community.

Annual fee of R25 pp or R30 per family. This can be paid at the Library.

Become involved with **The Local History Collection** at the Hangklip Library, Betty's Bay. If you have any articles/newspaper clippings/ photographs of the Hangklip area

(Rooiels, Pringle Bay or Betty's Bay) - PAST or PRESENT, we would be very grateful to receive them to include them in this Collection; appreciation for your help & expertise too!

Do you have any past editions of the BUZZ, PRINGLE POST?

Periodic dates for meetings to work on the Collection will be displayed at the Hangklip Library in Betty's Bay.

Contact: Rosaline Matthews at the Library (028 272 9263)

or Pip Prinsloo (028 272 9949)



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 MPRE, MIEASA

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Cell: 082 484 1279

Ronel Swart

Prokureur & Aktebesorger
Attorney & Conveyancer

Tel: 028 272 9151
Fax: 028 272 9906
Cell: 082 576 9990
PO Box 404
Betty's Bay
7141
E-mail: ronelswart@telkomsa.net

Tierkloof Centre
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Betty's Bay

Albertyn Apteek/Pharmacy

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Fred Broom
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