



# BUZZ

September 2015

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

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## From your Editor . . .

Plans are afoot by all role-players to tackle head-on the current crime wave in Betty's Bay. Please read with care the notices and articles in this edition that relate to the fight against crime.

**FOR THE CAMPAIGN TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OR THE SUPPORT OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL.**

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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:

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**Branch Code 632005**

**Account No 4066 6164 39**

NB! Reference must include your business name. *Please do not send cash.*

Contact: Adrian de Kock, 028 272 9998

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed by the Buzz contributors are the authors' own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor of the Buzz.

**Notice:** The Buzz is a private newsletter, administered, financed and published by the BBRA so as to communicate important issues with its members. The committee reserves the right not to publish letters or articles it may receive.

### SAPS Emergency Contact Numbers

**Charge Office 028 271 8219**

**028 271 8200**

**Station Commander 082 778 6793**

**Additional Cell Nos. 079 894 1624**

**079 894 1622**

**082 443 6069**

**082 522 1831**

## **A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**A SPECIAL MEETING TO ELECT THE EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE OF A**

**REVIVED COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM**

**IS SCHEDULED FOR 15 OCTOBER 2015,  
IN THE COMMUNITY HALL, PROTEADORP, KLEIN-  
MOND.**

**THE TIME IS YET TO BE CONFIRMED.**

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED WITH SAPS IN ORDER TO  
ATTEND THIS MEETING? IF YOU HAVE NOT, YOU  
MUST DO SO IMMEDIATELY.**

ALL PARTIES – INDIVIDUALS, NPOs, CHURCH GROUPS,  
RATE PAYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, WELFARE ORGANISA-  
TIONS, SCHOOLS, ETC. – WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BE-  
COMING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM  
ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN  
POLICE NOT LATER THAN 30 SEPTEMBER.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED AND FILLED IN  
AT THE KLEINMOND POLICE STATION. ALTERNATIVELY,  
YOU CAN CONTACT RUDI PEROLD ON 028 272 9054 OR  
EMAIL HIM AT [rudi@perold.co](mailto:rudi@perold.co) FOR A COPY OF THE APPLI-  
CATION FORM. ONCE FILLED IN, THIS CAN BE FOR-  
WARDED TO SAPS.

YOU WILL BE INFORMED OF THE TIME OF THE MEETING AS  
SOON AS THIS IS ESTABLISHED.

# **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

## **FROM THE BETTY'S BAY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION**

A special meeting of the Community Policing Forum (CPF) and all relevant role-players in a co-ordinated response to the crime situation in Betty's Bay, has been scheduled for 15 October 2015. Prior to this meeting, those who are prepared to serve on the Community Policing Forum need to be identified, as certain legal requirements need to be fulfilled, such as submitting a membership application on or before 30 September 2015.

## **A PUBLIC MEETING**

will be held in the Crassula Hall

on Saturday, 3 October, at 11a.m.

The focus of the meeting will be:

**THE REVIVAL OF THE CPF KLEINMOND/HANGKLIP AREA**

**AND FOLLOWING THAT, THE REVIVAL OF**

**THE BETTY'S BAY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NHW)**

### **AGENDA:**

1. Opening address: Chairperson
2. Address by MR DAN FICK, co-ordinator of the previous NHW, who will outline the practices, pitfalls and legal requirements of a functioning NHW under the CPF as required by law.
3. Election of a chairperson for the revived NHW.
4. Election of zone co-ordinators.
5. Identification of volunteers to serve in the different zones.

**THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME. ALL HOME OWNERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND.**

Should you be unable to attend, but are willing to serve on the neighbourhood watch, please contact the co-ordinator, whose details will be made available on our Website.

## BETTY'S BAY SAFETY STRATEGY

### A notice from the Chairman of the Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association

The Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association (BBRA) is currently looking at the viability of a Safety Strategy and a possible process to follow in developing such a strategy for the area with the support and co-operation of local community role players and residents. This Safety Strategy aims to offer guidance and support for addressing safety in a sustainable manner.

The BBRA firmly believes that we, as law abiding citizens and property owners of Betty's Bay, need to search for a new innovative approach to our current safety situation. Betty's Bay is a lifestyle village and at present we are all deprived of the lifestyle that we used to have and that was so unique to our way of life, wellbeing and safety. In order to maintain a quality lifestyle, property values, safety and security, timely action must be taken against the challenges and onslaught of crime that the Betty's Bay area faces.

We are now forced to go for an option to secure and safeguard ourselves against the current crime situation that not only focuses on reaction to crime, **but is also pro-active in the prevention of crime**. We are thus not looking for a more "effective" security company, but for solutions that are the result of thinking "outside the box".

It is for this reason that the BBRA has taken the initiative to engage with Millennium Management, an independent crime risk management and safety consulting firm.

They manage risk by developing and implementing comprehensive safety solutions to urban, commercial and agricultural agencies nationwide. Amongst their work in other areas, they render security and risk management services to abalone farms and work in collaboration with environmental agencies in protecting the Marine Resources along the Western Cape Coast. Since its inception in 1998, they have become a market leader in their field. (See their Web Page – Millennium Management South Africa, for more detail on their business)

They do not market themselves, but engage with communities only by invitation.

The BBRA committee was impressed with the professionalism of the organisation and their success rate.

The rationale for developing and implementing a Safety Strategy is to enable a response to crime-related issues in the area in a **co-ordinated and focussed** manner, specifically looking at issues causing crime. The Safety Strategy aims to increase community awareness and understanding of how to prevent and manage crime, and maintain and improve safety. It is time for us to unite instead of working in pockets to try to hold back the flood of crime. If we do not act now, crime will escalate and become unmanageable in future.

Safety can only be achieved through a change of mindset focussing on the local context, local needs and local systems.

The expected outcomes for the Safety Strategy are:

- **Community Development and Participation:** Building a safer community, which is resilient because the members are actively involved, organised, share information, resources and effort, are safer and less likely to allow criminal acts, such as drug abuse and gangs to become systemic within the community.
- **Lifestyle:** Reducing insecurity at home and on the street, increasing the use of public facilities, beaches and walking trails.
- **Municipality:** Increasing the property value of houses, businesses and industrial enterprises; providing a favourable community image to attract new residents.
- **Reputation:** With the successful implementation of a Safety Strategy, the area will gain a reputation of safety, which is attractive to investment and tourism – making Betty's Bay the place to be.

The Safety Strategy will require the positive involvement and participation of all members of the community who are interested in living and working in a safe and flourishing environment.

If we accept the need for this new holistic approach in forming a Safety Strategy for Betty's Bay, the next step is to request Millennium Management to conduct an appreciation of the current situation in Betty's Bay, compile a report and come forward with a proposal and quotation in terms of cost to sustain and maintain.

We expect that this type of service will not come cheap – but then, what is the price that you place on your life? – For by the look of things, if we do not take action soon, someone might get hurt.

Funds are needed for the appreciation and plan to be developed. It is foreseen that a budget of R15,000 will be needed. A concerned resident and home owner has already pledged the amount of R5,000.

I would like to invite property owners, residents and business owners to respond to this article. If you are in support of this initiative, we would like to hear from you.

**Rudi Perold**

**Chairperson, BBRA. 2015-09-21**

## BETTYSBAAI VEILIGHEIDS STRATEGIE

Die Bettysbaai Belastingbetalers-vereniging (BBBV) ondersoek tans die lewensvatbaarheid van 'n Veiligheid Strategie en 'n moontlike proses om die strategie vir die area te ontwikkel, met die samewerking en ondersteuning van rolspelers van die plaaslike gemeenskap en inwoners. Hierdie Veiligheid Strategie het ten doel om leiding en ondersteuning te bied vir die volhoubare adressering van veiligheid.

Die BBBV glo dat ons as wetsgehoorsame burgers en eienaars van eiendom, moet soek na 'n nuwe, innoverende benadering tot ons huidige veiligheid-situasie. Bettysbaai is 'n leefstyl kUSDorp en tans word ons almal beroof van die sorgelose leefstyl wat so eie aan ons dorp was. Sekerheid en veiligheid was die minste van ons bekommernisse en ons algemene welsyn was in pas met die rustigheid van ons bestaan. Ons moet dit waarvan ons beroof is terugneem! Om weer 'n gehalte leefstyl te verseker, die waarde van ons eindom te beskerm en veiligheid en sekerheid te herstel, moet ons betyds optree teen die uitdagings en aanslag van misdaad wat Bettysbaai tans teister.

Ons word nou verplig om 'n opsie te kies om ons te beveilig teen die huidige misdaad situasie wat nie uitsluitlik fokus op reaksie op misdaad nie, maar ook gerig is op die voorkoming daarvan – '**n pro-aktiewe benadering**'. Ons soek dus nie na 'n meer 'effektiewe' sekerheids-maatskappy nie, maar vir oplossings wat spruit uit ons denke '**buite die vierkant**'.

Dit is om hierdie rede wat die BBBV die initiatief geneem het om Millennium Management te nader. Hulle is 'n onafhanklike organisasie wat spesialiseer in **misdaad risikobestuur en veiligheidskonsultasie**.

Hulle hanteer risiko deur die ontwikkeling en implimentering van veiligheids-oplossings vir stedelike, industriële en landelike instansies landswyd. Hulle is onder andere ook betrokke by veiligheid en risiko bestuur van perlimoenplase en werk saam met omgewings-instansies om die Mariene bronne langs die kus te beskerm. Sedert hul totstandkoming in 1998 het hulle ontwikkel tot mark leiers in hul veld.

(Sien hul Webwerf –'Millennium Management South Africa' vir verdere inligting rakende hul besigheid ) Die organisasie bemark nie hulleself nie, maar raak betrokke by gemeenskappe op uitnodiging. Die BBBV was beïndruk deur hulle professionaliteit en suksesse behaal.

Die rasionaal vir die ontwikkeling en implementering van so 'n Veiligheid Strategie is om misdaad-verwante aangeleenthede in die gebied op 'n gekoördineerde en gefokusde wyse aan te spreek. Die onderliggende redes wat aanleiding tot misdaad gee, kan ook so aangespreek word. Die Veiligheid Strategie het ten doel om bewustheid en begrip by die gemeenskap te bevorder hoe om misdaad te voorkom en bestuur en veiligheid te verbeter. Dit is tyd vir ons om saam te staan in stede van om afsonderlik in silos te werk in 'n poging om die golf van misdaad terug te dryf. As ons nie nou optree nie, mag misdaad eskaleer en in die toekoms onbeheerbaar word. Veiligheid kan bereik word deur 'n verandering in denke met 'n fokus op dié plaaslike konteks, behoeftes en sisteme.

Die verwagte uitkoms vir dié Veiligheid Strategie is:

- **Gemeenskapsontwikkeling en deelname:** Bou van 'n veiliger gemeenskap wat paraat is omdat hulle aktief betrokke is, georganiseerd is, inligting, hulpbronne en poging deel. Hulle is veiliger en minder geneig om kriminele dade soos dwelmmisbruik en bendes toe te laat om sistemies binne die gemeenskap te word.
- **Leefstyl:** Verminderde gevoel van onveiligheid tuis en op straat. Verhoogde gebruik van ons openbare fasiliteite soos wandelpaie en strande.
- **Munisipaliteit:** Verhoogde waarde van residensiële eiendom en besighede en 'n gunstige gemeenskaps-beeld wat nuwe inwoners kan aantrek.
- **Reputasie:** Met die suksesvolle implementering van 'n Veiligheid Strategie, sal die area 'n reputasie van veiligheid kry, wat aantreklik is vir belegging en toerisme - **die plek om te wees.**

Die Veiligheid Strategie benodig die positiewe betrokkenheid en deelname van alle gemeenskapslede wat belangstel om in 'n veilige, florerende gebied te woon en te werk.

As ons hierdie holistiese benadering tot 'n Veiligheid Strategie vir Bettysbaai steun, is die volgende stap om Millennium Management te versoek om 'n waardering van die huidige situasie in Bettysbaai te maak en 'n verslag op te stel tesame met die nodige kostering. Na verwagting sal so 'n diens nie goedkoop wees nie – maar dan – wat is die prys wat jy op jou lewe plaas? Soos sake nou staan, mag iemand seerkry as ons nie gou optree nie.

Fondse word benodig vir die waardering en plan wat ontwikkel moet word. Daar word voorsien dat 'n aanvanklike begroting van plus minus R 15,000 benodig sal word. 'n Besorgde inwoner en huiseienaar het reeds die bedrag van R 5,000 vir die saak beloof.

Ek wil huiseienaars, inwoners en besigheidseienaars uitnooi om op hierdie skrywe te reageer. As jy bereid is om die inisiatief te steun, laat hoor van jou.

**Rudi Perold**

**Voorsitter, BBBV     2015-09-21**



## **A PROMISING RESPONSE TO CONCERNS ABOUT CRIME**

**Pat Markovina, who wrote an impassioned letter to the Mayor and Ward Councillor [See August Buzz], gives details of a meeting that took place in the middle of August.**

The Mayor of Overstrand, Mrs. Botha-Guthrie, together with the Director Overstrand Protection Services Neville Michaels, and our ward councillor, Lisel Krige, came to our house this afternoon to discuss the letter I wrote to the Mayor on 6 July, about crime in Bettys Bay. The Mayor and Lisel have both been away on annual leave, and this was the first opportunity they had had to get back to us about our concerns.

Mrs. Botha-Guthrie has committed herself to taking this matter further without delay. Mr. Michaels will meet with the Police Cluster Head in Caledon, Brigadier Dyantyi, and they will also meet with the Minister of Police in the Western Cape, Dan Plato, and if necessary the National Police Minister. Her office has also forwarded copies of my letter to Dr. Michael Cardo, DA Member of Parliament, who is the Constituency Head for Overstrand, and also Mr. Masizole Mngasela, Chair of the Standing Committee on Local Government in the Western Cape Parliament.

Mrs. Botha-Guthrie has assured me that she has the political will to take this matter forward and ensure that our concerns are taken seriously, and asked me to let friends and fellow residents know that everything in her power will be done to put an end to the totally unacceptable crime level in our village. As soon as the way forward becomes clearer, a meeting will be called that we can all attend.

**Mrs. Botha-Guthrie has underlined that it is important that we all pull in the same direction and work together.**

## **REVIVAL OF THE BETTY'S BAY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**Plans are underway to revive the Betty's Bay Neighbourhood Watch as part of a coordinated effort by all stakeholders to address the problem of crime in Betty's Bay. [Details later.]**

**DAN FICK, WHO COORDINATED THE VERY SUCCESSFUL WATCH THAT OPERATED IN OUR AREA IN RESPONSE TO A PREVIOUS CRIME WAVE, REPORTS ON THE EFFECTIVENESS AND PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THAT ORGANISATION. IN ADDITION, HE EXPLAINS THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OF CREATING AND MAINTAINING A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.**

**ENTHUSIASM FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE PREVIOUS WATCH WANED WHEN THE INCIDENTS OF CRIME HAD DROPPED TO “ACCEPTABLE” LEVELS. IT IS HOPED THAT A REVIVED NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WILL BE MORE ENDURING AND THIS REQUIRES THE SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION OF AS MANY RESIDENTS AS POSSIBLE.**

Way back in 2010, because of increased levels of crime in the area, the **Betty's Bay Rate-payers' Association** took the initiative of establishing a **Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)**. Initially, we depended largely on the 'eyes and ears' approach of our volunteer wardens and the community at large, who would alert the police to any suspicious circumstances. However, in time we realised that this was not very effective, especially at night, mainly because not much could be seen owing to dense bush and because the village had no street lights and also because large areas consisted mainly of vacant holiday homes.

Consequently, we tried to establish NHW activities throughout the village. We divided the village into manageable zones, under the coordination of zone coordinators. This approach had a dramatic effect in reducing incidents of crime. Its success could be attributed to mobile patrols being undertaken throughout the day and night.

Zones were established for the following areas:

Sunny Seas (De Koker);  
Jocks Bay (Van Deventer);  
Central (Beresford);  
Stony Point (Van Der Walt);  
Rondevlei (Burger).

Only Wardens in the Rondevlei and Stony Point Zones undertook mobile patrols whilst other areas relied on the 'eyes and ears' approach.

We had no response from the Silversands, Main Beach or Disa Circle areas, despite repeated requests for them to become involved.

It took much effort, not to mention strong commitment and personal cost to individual members of the NHW, to become operational. Through the generous support from some of our residents, we were able to equip our wardens with ID cards, magnetic car door signs, caps and jackets. We also erected NHW signs throughout the town. **Rondevlei** took the initiative of purchasing radios of their own from the proceeds of funds raised and at least ten other wardens purchased their own radios.

Some 30 NHW wardens attended training workshops over weekends during 2012, presented by the Provincial Department of Community Safety [DOCS], and certificates were issued to participants. Ten portable radios, ten torches and jackets for use by those who attended the training were handed over. Two bicycles were also received. However, these items remained the property of DOCS/CPF and were withdrawn when our NHW became dormant.

NHWs are in the first instance accountable to SAPS. They are also accountable to the CPF and, in addition, are bound by the Provincial Constitution and Code of Conduct for Neighbourhood Watch Structures. Wardens are screened by SAPS before they are registered and issued with ID cards. It is important to stress that wardens have to align them-

selves to the laws of the country. It is not a NHW that sets the rules and regulations; these are contained in the WC Constitution for Community Safety Structures (NHW). An NHW and its wardens also have to operate within the confines of the Criminal Procedure Act (1977).

We held lengthy discussions with SAPS around the appropriate measures to be adopted by the NHW in combating crime in our area. The general view was that our prime objective was to take every precaution to **prevent** incidents of crime and not to go get involved in the arresting of culprits, that being the function of SAPS. Our task was to keep SAPS informed of suspicious circumstances. All were in agreement that **visibility** and **communication** were essential elements in achieving this objective. Later, when wardens were increasingly faced with high fuel costs and the subsequent strain on their finances, some of the wardens who regularly undertook patrols, many of whom were retired, decided to curtail their number of patrols and rather take up static observation points. At all times there was an awareness that it would be unwise for zones to become independent of one another and operate in isolation. To coordinate these operations was no easy task as we all needed to complement one another. Collectively we needed to review our approach from time to time since we had to take cognisance of the numerous routes of access by culprits into our area that could very easily circumvent any of the static observation points that were being established.

Our NHW network assisted in the apprehension of a number of suspects, recovered stolen items and assisted detectives in their investigations. The wardens were also involved in road blocks and they assisted in the search for missing persons and, once, in the recovery of an injured hang glider on the Blesberg. Cooperation between SAPS, MCM, Cape Nature and the NHW was constructive.

It was very important that we record and report any suspicious circumstances and vehicles in our area. Descriptions and recording the registration of vehicles were essential so that important information could be reported to SAPS for follow-up purposes.

SAPS indicated at the time that crime was 'out of control' in our area and that manpower constraints were adversely affecting service delivery. Visible policing was and still continues to be most unsatisfactory. This is not unique to our area as there then was a shortage of some 600 police officers throughout the Western Cape. This figure is likely to be much higher now. Betty's Bay has simply become a soft target for opportunistic criminals.

Our aim in establishing a neighbourhood watch activity was primarily to safeguard our community against criminal activities and strive for a safe and secure environment. However, we did encounter some problems, all of which will be relevant if the NHW is revived.

These were:

- Betty's Bay being a ribbon-like development stretching for some 20kms and dissected by a provincial road made it not only very difficult to manage but it also became a costly burden on the shoulders of a few individual NHW Wardens;
- Many areas consisted mainly of holiday homes that remained unoccupied and unprotected for most of the year. Many areas were therefore not covered by the NHW;
- Many houses were not adequately protected by updated intruder alarm systems;

## EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

<b>Overstrand Emergency</b>	24 Hours	028 313 8111
<b>Fire Department</b>	Control Room	028 312 2400
	Marlu Rust	082 776 9287
	Wendy Tawse	082 442 8005
	Fires in Reserves	082 783 8585
<b>Police</b>	Emergencies	10111
	Charge Office	028 271 8219
	Station Commander	082 778 6793
	Sector Policing Officer	082 522 1831
<b>Security Providers</b>	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
<b>Ambulances</b>	Provincial	10177
	ER24	084 124
<b>Doctors</b>	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
<b>Dentists</b>	Dr Duvenhage	028 271 3467
	After Hours	082 861 0616
	Dr Engelbrecht	028 271 3662
	Dr Visser	028 271 5321

<b>Hospitals</b>	Hermanus Provincial	028 312 1166
	Hermanus Medi-Clinic	028 313 0168
	Vergelegen Medi-Clinic	021 850 9000
<b>Child Welfare</b>	Kleinmond	028 271 4044
<b>Veterinarian</b>	Dr Dave	028 271 4183
	After Hours	083 440 5191
<b>KAWS</b>	Animal Welfare	028 271 5004
<b>Pharmacies</b>	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
<b>Optometrists</b>	Obermeyer	028 271 3119
	Optical Eyes	028 271 5684
<b>Municipality</b>	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
<b>Seawatch</b>	Betty's Bay	028 272 9532
	Mike Tannett	082 994 9300
<b>NSRI</b>	Gordons Bay	021 856 1992
	Hermanus	028 312 3180
<b>Electricity (Eskom)</b>	Electricity	021 859 5304
	Emergencies	08600 37 566
<b>General</b>	Councillor Lisel Krige	028 272 9533
	Betty's Bay Post Office	028 272 9363
	Centre Shop	028 272 9230
	Penguin Place	028 272 9257
	Tourism Bureau	028 271 5657
	Hangklip Community Care Centre	082 378 1614
	Fire Extinguisher Service	083 741 9914

Permanent residents consisted predominantly of elderly retired folk;  
Wardens were drawn from elderly pensioners who carried the burden of patrolling the area.

The response time by Kleinmond SAPS in the event of an emergency is currently likely to be anything from 30 minutes to several hours, taking into account that the police station is approximately 20kms away from Betty's Bay and provided that there is an officer immediately available to attend to the call. We only have one Sector Officer dedicated to our entire area stretching from Betty's Bay in the east to Rooi Els in the west.

Our exhaustive efforts in the past to have manpower increased, especially for deployment to outlying areas, were not successful, despite our raising this matter:

- At Cluster board meetings;
- With the Cluster Commander;
- Writing letters to the Provincial Commissioner;
- Raising it with the MEC for Community Safety (Dan Plato) at a meeting at SAPS Kleinmond;
- Raising it at a Police Needs and Priorities meeting chaired by the MEC; and
- Last, but not least, with the National Commissioner when she briefed the Standing Committee on Community Safety of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

Let us hope that current efforts to mobilise ALL roleplayers will be more successful than in the past. The indications are that they could be.

It was the objective of each NHW Warden to gain the confidence of the community in his/her respective area (zone) of operation and to establish a database of the homeowners. Despite repeated requests through our official newsletter, website and flyers and through email communications, the response was not altogether successful. Many residents did not respond positively, too many remained complacent and some seemed oblivious to the problems we were currently facing.

Crime continues to trouble our community. Most of this can be attributed to criminal elements within our community driven to crime through unemployment and poverty.

Thieves often target areas with minimal security and will continue to do so with impunity while left to their own devices. Residents therefore need to take all the necessary precautionary measures to secure their properties. We need to be particularly alert to anything suspicious and out of the ordinary. We all need to be vigilant and not become too complacent. Some residents have already taken the initiative of organising neighbours in their streets to improve communications and to be alert to strangers. We all need to become united in confronting the threat.

There were many incidents of criminal activity in the village that were not reported to SAPS or to members of the NHW so we could never know the true crime statistics and crime patterns of the area and without reliable information in these respects it was impossible to be truly effective. It is essential that, in future, wardens keep a central distribution

point informed of anything untoward that has happened so that appropriate action can be taken. SAPS must also be kept fully informed of suspicious behaviour, and not only of crimes that have already been committed. In addition, the security companies must be encouraged to share their data and individuals with knowledge of crimes past and future must have a safe way of imparting this information. For SAPS to perform their duty in preventing crime, as well as to responding effectively to actual crimes, they need as much information as possible and the full support of the residents.

All homeowners need to have security alarm systems installed and these must be activated if the house is unoccupied, even for a short period of time. Systems should periodically be tested and upgraded where necessary. What has emerged is that many systems have not been checked or tested since they were installed many years ago and houses where this is the case are the first to be targeted. Detectors must cover all areas within a house and it is wise to install additional outside alarms. Control panels need to be protected, i.e., they should be covered by a detector. Time delays must not be too long. Some houses have been found to have alarm systems that are not linked to any service provider and other owners have security signs outside their houses but have no systems installed.

During 2015 crime has shown a significant increase, with as many as 15 burglaries a week being a regular tally. This calls for a coordinated response from all roleplayers – the Municipality, SAPS, the CPF, the security companies and, critically, the community itself. It is essential that the Neighbourhood Watch be revived in the very near future.

**Dan Fick**

## **HATS OFF TO THE OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY!**

Everyone acknowledges that poverty alleviation and job creation are the two most effective tools in the upliftment of communities and the reduction of social ills. I am delighted to report that the Department of Local Economic Development [LED] of our local municipality is again being proactive in bettering the lives of the Mooiuitsig community. [*On the Edge*, the restaurant at the Whaling Station and the first major project of the department and the community, is already up and running.]

This month, a three-day workshop was held in Mooiuitsig by LED and their partner, Productivity SA, a division of the Department of Labour, to teach the basics of Entrepreneurship to fifteen women from the community. They were taught how to start up and sustain a business and were given assistance in the selection of a suitable business venture. The first project is to be a shop that sells food and clothing and LED will assist in the sourcing of stock, the registration of the business and the securing of funding. There are also plans to start a vegetable-cultivation project, so that the shop can be provided with fresh produce. If all goes according to plan, the shop will open in January, 2016, and will initially be housed in containers. More training will be offered as the project gets underway.

## **MAY I INTRODUCE . . . Rudi Perold, Chairman of the Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association**

The overriding feeling that I was left with after a long chat to Rudi Perold was that the concerns of the Betty's Bay home-owners couldn't be in better hands. What struck me most was his comprehensive grasp of the challenges we face in Betty's Bay, as well as his perceptive and logical response to them. His obvious intelligence and competence, coupled with the energy levels of a man half his age, an unshakeable morality [based on a profound Christian faith] and a strong sense of community, make him a man



*Rudi Perold and his wife, Linette.*

in whom we can confidently put our trust to represent us in the issues affecting Betty's Bay.

One only has to reflect on Rudi's fairly humble beginnings and his subsequent meteoric career path to understand the calibre of the man. His father's family were farmers in the Porterville district and had links to the Huguenots. [The surname *Perold* evolved from the French name, *Perot*.] Born in 1948, Rudi spent the first years of his life in Maitland. In the lean, post-war years, work and study opportunities were few and Rudi's father, like so many other young Afrikaners, had joined the South African Railways and Harbours, where he could work his way up through the ranks. Later, the family moved to the Northern Suburbs and Rudi matriculated at *Hoërskool J. J. du Preez* in Parow.

From early on, Rudi's commitment to hard work was evident. While studying Environmental Health part-time at the Cape Technical College, he worked as a Trainee Health Inspector for the Cape Divisional Council under Dr Frank Mitchell, Medical Officer of Health in the Cape Province. As a deacon in the Dutch Reformed Church since the age of seventeen, he also spent a lot of time working with the elderly and, in addition, he was an active member of the Police Reservists.

Rudi then spent ten years in Stellenbosch working in the environmental office of the Stellenbosch Municipality. It was during these years that his children were born, two sons and a daughter. He acquired a further qualification while in Stellenbosch – a diploma in Occupational Health and Safety. Now, as an industrial hygienist, he decided on a career change and joined the South African Defence Force, where he was first stationed in Simonstown and later in Pretoria, where he was in charge of Environmental Health in the then Northern Transvaal.



It is a little-known fact that in addition to the conventional three arms of the Armed Services, a fourth was established during that time – the South African Medical Service – and this was where Rudi served until his retirement. When on Border Duty, Rudi served as a Medical Commander in the Eastern Transvaal and when back at his desk his role was to establish the Eastern Transvaal as a Medical Command Area.

During the last years of *Apartheid* and through the transition years, Rudi worked his way steadily through the ranks, retiring as a Full Colonel nine years ago. He went on to live in and manage the Shandon Estate, outside Nelspruit, for a period of four years, at which time he decided to retire properly – to Betty's Bay, where he had holidayed and owned property since 1982.

Fortunately for the Betty's Bay property owners, Rudi Perold is not a man who can live an idle life. He took on the chairmanship of the Rate Payers' Association at the beginning of this year and works tirelessly to address the issues and problems that our community faces.

But it is certainly not a case of "all work and no play" with Rudi. As a descendent of Dr Abraham Iszak Perold, he has a genetic appreciation of good wine. [The first professor of Viticulture at Stellenbosch University, Dr Perold is best known for developing the *Pino-tage* grape variety in 1925 through crossing *Pinot noir* and *Cinsault*.] Rudi enjoys nothing better than sharing a bottle of wine with friends. In fact, what he laments most about living in Betty's Bay is the lack of a sense of community among the permanent residents. Not only would an improvement in community spirit lead to a richer social life, it would also result in a more coordinated response to the problems facing Betty's Bay, the crime situation here being a case in point.

## AN IMPORTANT CORRECTION

In last month's edition of The Buzz, it was incorrectly reported that **PIKKEWYNTJIES** had a monthly funding shortfall of R1000. This was a gross understatement.

The monthly deficit is a whopping R600 per child. There are 30 kids at the school so the total monthly shortfall is a daunting R18,000. All the more reason to dig into the old wallet and make a monthly contribution. The project is too important for the future of Betty's Bay to allow it to fail through lack of funds.



The bank details are as follows:

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## **OPEN GARDENS DAY**

### **A VISIT TO THREE BETTY'S BAY GARDENS**

**ON MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER, AT 9 A.M.**

**[VISITORS WILL MEET IN THE HAROLD PORTER CAR PARK IN ORDER TO SHARE LIFTS.]**

**There are three gardens to visit, well-loved and maintained by their owners. Two are large gardens and the third has a small nursery and several endemics (only found in this region).**

**If you are interested, please phone 021 7941761 or email me at [bennest@mweb.co.za](mailto:bennest@mweb.co.za) by Thursay, 1 October. We need to know numbers. The idea is to have tea at Harold Porter Gardens afterwards, a walk away from the last garden visited.**

**SPRING IS HERE AND THE GARDENS ARE A RIOT OF COLOUR. YOU WILL BE SEEING THEM AT THEIR VERY BEST!**

**Andrea Benn.**

## **OUT AND ABOUT IN THE OVERBERG**

The weather is improving and Spring is here. The *fynbos* is at its very best and the days are mild. So, what better time to don one's walking shoes and explore our local natural environment?

### **THE HANGKLIP ECO CORRIDOR**

One of the most beautiful but least-visited places in our area is the Brodie Link Nature Reserve between Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay. This magnificent nature reserve 'links' the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve with the coast. The land is named after the late Bernard Brodie, whose family paid for the purchase of the property in his honour. The land originally was part of Hangklip Farm but had for some time been worked as a smallholding. This very large reserve offers wonderful walking opportunities in all directions but unfit walkers are advised to choose their routes with care as there are many steep and sustained climbs, as well as loose rocks to contend with. The spectacular views, the rich *fynbos* and the solitude make this reserve a must for hikers. You can start your walk at *Die Stoor* or, if you prefer a shorter walk, you can park a short distance beyond the cuttings on the way to Pringle Bay, pretty close to the old dump on the opposite side of the road. There is a small, signposted parking lot for this purpose.

## **Dr Allan Heydorn recounts how this important tract of land was secured for posterity.**

The Hangklip Ecological Corridor between Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay was established over a 12-year period (between 1998 and 2010) through the wonderful collaborative efforts of the Kogelberg Branch of the BotSoc, WWF-SA, Cape Nature, conservation-conscious individuals and the private sector. As will be explained below, the properties that were consolidated to establish this ecological corridor are now in the ownership of WWF-SA, who facilitated the land purchases through fund-raising and many hours of intensive negotiation. The land thus consolidated is now managed by Cape Nature as part of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. Had this corridor not been



established, Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay would have merged progressively through property development and urban creep, to the detriment of its biodiversity and incredible beauty. The story of the 12-year collaborative effort that led to establishment of the Hangklip Ecological Corridor had both exciting and sad facets. Very few people living in Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay are aware of this exciting initiative and perhaps this is a story that needs to be told.

In 1998, Ursula Huyssen, an enthusiastic member of the BotSoc, discovered to her horror that a smallholding known as *Koppie Alleen*, near the cutting of the road between Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay, was on the market for purposes of property development. This smallholding was registered as Erf 162 of the original Hangklip Farm 559, with an area of 94ha. Consequently, the Kogelberg Branch of the BotSoc asked me whether WWF-SA could help. At that stage I was no longer CEO of WWF-SA but was still closely involved with the organisation. Had I known what this request would entail over the next 12 years and the magnitude of the funds that would have to be raised, I might not have had the guts to take it further.

When I brought the matter to the attention of WWF-SA, they immediately agreed that property development between Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay would be of immense detriment to the ecological integrity of the area and should be prevented if at all possible. What followed were hours of negotiation with the owners of the smallholding, Mr and Mrs van Schalkwyk. These discussions went hand in hand with an intensive effort to raise the necessary funds. Eventually WWF-SA was very fortunate in that Mrs Rita Brodie of London and her family donated a generous sum, which enabled the purchase of the 94ha property. Two conditions were attached to this donation. Firstly, the land purchased should be named in honour of Bernard Brodie, Rita's late husband, who was a great nature lover and a WWF benefactor – hence the name 'Bernard Brodie Link Reserve'. Secondly, the property should be registered in the name of WWF to prevent alienation at a later stage. A memorial plaque to Bernard Brodie was erected on a beautiful rocky outcrop high on the property, which, at the time, could still be reached by means of a 4x4 vehicle on a rough jeep track. It was my privilege to take Rita Brodie there to see the plaque. Understandably, a few tears were shed.

WWF-SA does not have the capacity of administering large tracts of conservation land and Cape Nature was therefore approached with a request to take on this responsibility.

ity. Fortunately, they agreed to do so and to manage it as part of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve.



The next chapter in this saga was an attempt by a Mr Esterhuizen to develop chalets on a strip of land immediately to the west of the Brodie Link Reserve under the pretext of their being labourers' cottages. The land concerned has an area of 22ha and is registered as Erf 559/115. Protracted negotiations followed. Eventually, WWF-SA also bought this land and added it to the Bernard Brodie Link Reserve.

Everyone thought that this was the end of the project. Then in 2005, 294ha of land registered as Erf 559/160, comprising a major portion of the eastern flank of Hangklip Mountain, including the iconic Hangklip Peak, unexpectedly came on the market. This was as a result of the sad passing of its owner, Mr John Mudge who was another great nature lover. His family were not in a position to keep the property and had to sell. Pam Golding Estate Agents informed me of the intense interest in this land - again for purposes of property development. Had such development taken place, all efforts to prevent urban creep between Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay would have been negated. WWF-SA was therefore approached again and agreed to guarantee the necessary bridge funding, on condition that an equivalent amount was raised elsewhere.

After much head-scratching and scurrying around, I was very fortunate to meet Ben and Karen Marais at the home of Municipal Councillor, Louis van Heerden. Ben and Karen referred me to Ben's brother, Simon, who headed Allan Gray Financial Enterprises in Australia. The Marais family are dedicated to the conservation of unspoilt natural environments and I was told that Simon had a particular love for the mountains of the fynbos region of the Western Cape. Simon had founded a Trust to enable support of charitable initiatives and, at the suggestion of Ben and Karen, WWF-SA approached him about the matter. This led to the donation of a very meaningful sum of money as a contribution towards acquisition of this 294 ha property. However, there was still a shortfall between the market price and the now available funds. After much further discussion with the Mudge family, they agreed to lower the price on condition that the money was transferred immediately. My friend and predecessor as WWF-SA CEO, Frans Stroebel, was most helpful in these negotiations. WWF-SA was now in a position to purchase the 294ha property and to add it to the Hangklip Ecological Corridor – again with the stipulation that it be registered in the name of WWF, to prevent any future efforts of development in this conservation

area. This addition to the Hangklip Ecological Corridor and the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve was registered in 2006.

Following this purchase in 2006, I took Simon Marais up the mountain to see the extent to which his Trust had contributed to the establishment of the Hangklip Ecological Corridor. When he saw that 69ha of land (Erf 161 of Hangklip Farm 559), was situated directly between the Bernard Brodie Link Reserve and the eastern flank of Hangklip Mountain, he asked that we launch new negotiations with a view to also adding this land to the ecological corridor. It was established that the property belonged to Mrs Gemma van Schaardenburgh, a lovely lady who ran a pottery and art studio on the smallholding. Understandably she was not keen to sell and to move out of her house, but she loved that land so much that she wanted it to be preserved for conservation in perpetuity. Eventually, after many hours of discussion with her and her family, she agreed to sell as long as WWF gave her a life-usufruct to continue living there. The Trust, chaired by Simon Marais, generously donated another substantial sum which, in 2010, enabled WWF-SA to purchase both the land and the house on it. Gemma continued living there.

With that the Hangklip Ecological Corridor project reached its conclusion. It was one of the longest but most exciting land acquisition projects in the history of WWF-SA, especially as the properties concerned are situated in the heart of the Fynbos Plant Kingdom of the Western Cape. While the actual prices paid for the individual properties concerned cannot be made public, it can be said that the total sum enabling the establishment of the Hangklip Ecological Corridor was very close to R11 million. If one adds existing protected land adjacent to that purchased by WWF-SA, the total functional ecological corridor stretching from the top of Hangklip Mountain to the sea, now has an area of over 1000 ha. The existing protected areas include 33 ha of Municipal Conservation Land and the Seafarm Conservancy of 259ha.

But there is a sad side to this story. The late John Mudge will always be associated with the eastern flank and the Peak of Hangklip Mountain and it was not easy for his family to part with that land. Gemma van Schaardenburgh did not have the pleasure of continuing living on her property for long as she succumbed to cancer. Then, Simon Marais very unexpectedly passed away at the age of 5, also as a result of cancer, which he fought with immense courage. WWF-SA remains in touch with his wife, Corena, and his family and the intention is to erect a memorial plaque for him at the place where he asked us to try and complete the jigsaw puzzle through acquisition of Erf 161 of Hangklip Farm 559. That plaque will overlook both the Hangklip Mountain and False Bay – a truly magnificent place.

The total current functional area of the Hangklip Corridor: is ± 1068ha

Story told by Allan Heydorn  
September 2015

## A SCOURGE IN BETTY'S BAY: *ACACIA ELATA*

(Article compiled for the Kogelberg Branch of the BotSoc by Dr Allan Heydorn)

Originating in south-eastern Australia, the Peppertree wattle, *Acacia elata*, is an invasive species causing increasing concern in the Western Cape. As with other invasive *Acacia* species, it displaces indigenous fynbos vegetation, lowers groundwater levels and poses a serious hazard during wildfires. It spreads rapidly through prolific seed production and dispersion. *A. elata* is listed under the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) as Category 1b. Its removal is therefore enforceable by law.



Unfortunately, *A. elata* is also spreading rapidly in Betty's Bay. In some areas prolific stands of adult *A. elata* trees and their saplings occur in the immediate vicinity of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve (KBR). It therefore represents a serious threat to this internationally-recognised conservation area.

The smallish leaves of *A. elata* are very similar to those of the indigenous Keurboom (*Virgilia oroboides*) but can be distinguished by the pointed bipinnate leaves of the former *versus* the rounded tripinnate leaves of the latter. This characteristic enables accurate identification of even small saplings. Furthermore the flowers of the two species are notably different. Flowering seasons also differ with *V. oroboides* flowering from January to April while *A. elata* flowers on November and December.

The rapid growth and decorative leaves of *A. elata* make this species popular as an ornamental shrub. However, the shrubs grow to become trees of over 20m in height with massive trunks and root systems and, together with their dense clusters of saplings, they are exceedingly difficult to remove. The clusters of saplings become very dense and this characteristic drastically enhances the danger they represent during wildfires. The Betty's Bay Hack Group and especially hack convenor, Ed Silberbauer, have waged an unremitting battle for years to keep the spread of *A. elata* saplings at bay - especially in the immediate vicinity of the Disa Jeugkamp and its neighbouring properties on the border of the core zone of the KBR. During a hack that took place here in October 2014, it became clear once again that the removal of saplings is an impossible task as long as large numbers of mature trees remain standing. Earlier during the same month a wildfire driven by a powerful NW gale had destroyed several houses in Betty's Bay. Had this fire been driven into the vicinity of the Disa Jeugkamp and set the dense clusters of *A. elata* saplings and mature trees alight, the entire camp as well as properties in its vicinity - including the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden - would have been placed at severe risk.

This catastrophic fire attracted the attention of the responsible authorities, especially the Bio-Security Directorate of the Department of Environment Affairs (DEA), who conducted an inspection of Betty's Bay on 17 December 2014. Amongst others, they visited the Disa Jeugkamp and neighbouring properties. It was encouraging that one owner had already removed the bulk of *A. elata* from his property at substantial cost.

Following the inspection, Mr Pagel Haefele, of the Disa Jeugkamp, drew up a plan for the systematic removal of *A. elata* from the camp terrain for submission to the DEA.

PLEASE CLEAR YOUR PROPERTY OF ALL EXAMPLES OF ACACIA ELATA.

## **FRIENDS OF THE HANGKLIP LIBRARY/ VRIENDE VAN DIE BIBLIOTEEK**

Library Hours: Monday to Friday 8h00-16h30

### **OCTOBER EVENT**

Theme/ tema: CANCER month: A Talk by Maryke Malone.

You are most welcome to join us; donations to CANSA greatly appreciated.

Date/ datum: 22 October 2015

Time/tyd: 10h30

Venue/plek: Library, Betty's Bay/ Biblioteek, Bettysbaai

### **HANGKLIP COMMUNITY BOOTSALE**

The Friends of the Library in association with various Hangklip organisations,

invite you to join us in holding a BOOTSALE!

Date/datum: 12 December 2015

Time/tyd: 9h00-14h00

Venue/plek: Crassula Hall/saal, Betty's Bay

Fee: R50.00

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Please register your place @ R50.00 at the Hangklip Library, Betty's Bay.

There will be much fun to be had, and refreshments too.

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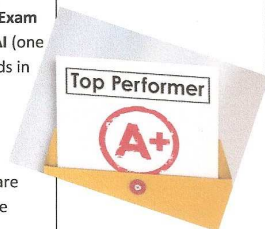
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