



BETTY'S BAY CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER No 6 DECEMBER 2023

As 2023 draws to a close, this newsletter reports back on how the BBC has been active with interesting talks and field walks, supported the Great Southern Bioblitz, held its second AGM, contributed to KBWild and received its Non-Profit Organization registration.

We have also addressed relevant conservation issues in various formats: designed and paid for reflective signage for penguin safety near Stony Point; contributed to the new Kogelberg Biosphere signage; developed an educational leaflet on light pollution; addressed the beach kelp issues and initiated Penguin-Pal projects to work with CapeNature. If you missed being involved in the BBC events and activities, this overview provides you with an opportunity to "catch up".

REGISTRATION as a NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION (NPO)

Our application to be registered as an NPO with the Dept. of Social Development was successful and our NPO number is **289-580 NPO**.

The BBC falls within the Voluntary Association category of an NPO.

An NPO exists solely to serve the interests of the vision and mission of the organisation, with its funds dedicated to achieve these stated organisational goals. The BBC Team decided that an NPO registration reflects a commitment to the long term goal of the BBC to serve the conservation needs of Betty's Bay. The benefit to the members of the BBC NPO is that all funds donated to or generated by the BBC can legally only be utilised towards conservation development in our area.

STILL AVAILABLE: BBC MUGS and TEA TOWELS



Designed by a BBC member, these lovely mugs and tea towels celebrate the biodiversity of our flora and fauna. These are available at Coffee on Clarence and the Botanical Society Bookshop in Harold Porter Gardens. The tea towels are neatly packaged with our BBC logo so besides being for home use, they make great gifts and are ideal "lightweight travellers" for visitors and tourists. You can also purchase them from the BBC at bettybayconservancy@gmail.com.

A: BBC EVENTS from JULY to DECEMBER 2023

B: SHORT BBC UPDATES

C: WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2024?

A: BBC EVENTS from JULY to DECEMBER 2023

BBC "4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH" EVENTS

▪ **JULY : BBC AGM ON 22 JULY 2023**



We held our second AGM on 22 July. We try to make our AGM "light and pleasant" to attend and are grateful for the many members who supported us. These are a good opportunity to meet fellow members who are passionate about conservation in Betty's Bay and to network amongst ourselves and with other organisations over refreshments.



Viv von der Heyden gives feedback on the AGM:

At the AGM of the BBC, held at Crassula Hall on 22 July 2023 with 26 members present and 10 proxy votes submitted, **Carol Clark, chairperson of the BBC, gave an overview of "what's new, what grew, what's on the brew and who the crew is"**.

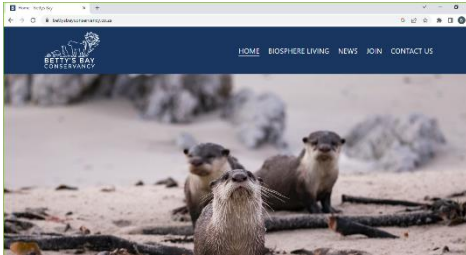
"What's new" included the BBC events held on the fourth Saturday of each month; the BBC clean-ups of the beaches and verges; the new BBC slogan and banner, *"Everyday do one small act for biodiversity"* (at the top of this newsletter); the fundraising efforts which included a Facebook auction of artwork in July 2022 and the sale of beautifully printed BBC mugs and tea-towels; the publication of educational brochures on biosphere living; the Easter Market in the HP Gardens and participation in the Overstrand Bioblitz event.

What grew? The BBC Facebook page grew from 1300 followers to nearly 1900 over the year, the website grew in content, as did the number of newsletters sent and opened, the number of "members" signs and BBC plot signs sold, the involvement of locals in the Overstrand Bioblitz, the size of the networking group with whom the BBC is involved, and the amount of input into various documents, which included the Fire Wise Vacant Erf Policy document, the Draft Biodiversity Management





Plan for the African Penguin, the White Paper on Conservation of Biodiversity in South Africa and the Baboon tender document. The number of issues the BBC was involved in also grew. These included a response to the destruction of Milkwoods on a private erf and municipal reserve in Marine Drive, an objection to an application for a High Transmission Tower on Porter Drive, and giving input into kelp harvesting, penguin and baboon matters.



Conserving Kelp Sanctuaries for coastal birds

In December 2022 beached kelp harvesting on Silversands Beach heightened growing concerns about kelp removal from beaches and the impact thereof on coastal birds especially during their breeding sea... See more



View insights 2,5K Post Reach



everyone for their support, financial and otherwise, and their involvement in BBC activities.

- **What was “on the brew”?** Educating and creating greater awareness of the biosphere and biosphere living, involving more community members in activities and projects and continuing to build relationships with relevant groups and organisations.

- **And then there is the crew.** You! For without you there would be no BBC. Carol thanked

- **Tony Bush gave the Treasurer’s report** which indicated a healthy financial year. This was followed by a discussion regarding the raising of the membership fee from R100 pa to R120. It was suggested that the fee be raised to R150 but as there was concern that some members might not be able to afford this, the fee was officially raised to R120. However, members are invited to pay more if they can afford it!

- **Warren McClelland**, a Biodiversity Specialist at a consultant company in Cape Town, gave a **presentation on the Brodie Link Nature Reserve and the project** he has set up in iNaturalist.

Photos and sound clips taken in the area that has been geo-fenced in iNaturalist (largely the area that underwent a controlled burn in April) and uploaded to iNaturalist will go immediately to the project, helping to generate a data set of the biodiversity of the area, which has already been shown to have about 400 species (July 2023).



- **The election of the 2023/24 BBC executive committee** followed. All seven members of the previous year’s committee were re-elected and Warren McClelland, a co-opted member, was officially nominated onto the Exco.



- **Pete Oxford gave a passionate account of the baboon management in Betty’s Bay.** He stressed the importance of householders being compliant with the baboon-proofing of their homes and bins and the need for the Overstrand Municipality (OM) to improve its waste management programme and to fulfil its obligation to baboon-proof all municipal bins.



He also spoke about the need to build a “pride campaign” about the Kogelberg. At a signage meeting held by the OM, the concept initiated by him and Renee Bish of a **signage campaign for the four villages within the Kogelberg Biosphere**, i.e. Rooiels, Pringle Bay, Betty’s Bay and Kleinmond, was unanimously approved. These signs will be produced by the OM and have since been installed on the R44 at the entrances and exits of the villages.

Equally passionate was **Barbara Jenman’s discussion on aspects of waste management** and community clean-ups. She stressed the importance of reducing the amount of waste sent to the landfills and also of the beach litter affecting the marine life along our coastline and beyond.

- When the floor was opened to **general discussion**: Jane van Wilgen proposed the need to alert people quickly when a “litter incident” occurs on our beaches so that the litter could be immediately removed before it was washed back into the sea. It was noted that the BBC members Info and Alerts WhatsApp group and the Kogelberg Garden Circle WhatsApp group are both used for urgent notices like this.
- Jenny Parsons of Pringle Rewilding requested all organisations to contribute to a petition on speed reduction to save our wildlife, with additional road signs near the penguins. Carol responded that the BBC had designed a sign and had approached Cape Nature about it. As the R44 is a provincial road, reducing the speed limit to 60 kph makes the management and maintenance of the road the responsibility of the OM. It was therefore suggested that a request be made that a maximum speed limit of 70km be imposed for the area.
- Finally, Rosalind Bush proposed a vote of thanks to Renee Bish for her tireless work in the interest of our Chacma baboon troops and in educating our community on how to co-exist with them, “bringing about a greater understanding of what Biosphere Living requires of us”. Carol added a word of thanks to Pete Oxford who has supported Renee throughout and has been involved in many a discussion with Cape Nature and the OM.

After Carol was thanked for all the work she does for the BBC, members enjoyed refreshments and the opportunity to network with one another.

- **AUGUST: BIODIVERSITY DISCOVERY WALK LED BY WARREN McCLELAND**

JOIN WARREN McCLELAND ON A BIODIVERSITY DISCOVERY WALK

#BBC4thSaturday

ALL WELCOME!

WHEN
Saturday
26 AUGUST
TIME
10 am

MEETING PLACE

<https://goo.gl/maps/1WUL8PS6EQ1L27w9>

Access to the burnt area will be via the firebreak. It will help if you install iNaturalist on your phone before the walk

'Every day do one small act for biodiversity' Craig Foster

On Saturday 26th August a group of sixteen nature enthusiasts joined Warren McClelland for the BBC's Brodie Link Biodiversity Discovery Walk. In April 2023 the Blesberg mountain was burnt to reduce the fuel load and to stimulate fynbos regrowth.

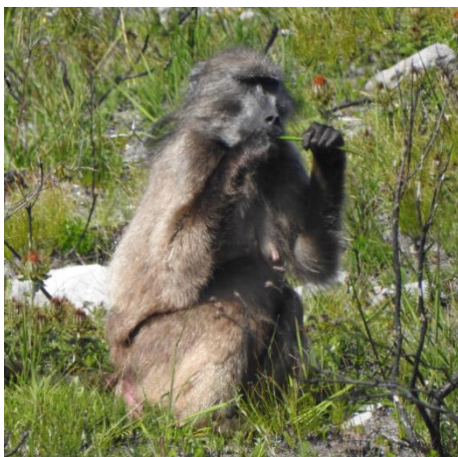


Before setting off along the firebreak, Warren explained how to use the iNaturalist App for identifying plants – a very useful tool and easy to use.

We were astounded to discover the beautiful flowers that have returned after the prescribed burn.



Despite the chill in the air, we had a pleasant stroll enjoying the sunshine after the heavy rains and were amazed to see how the veld had rejuvenated and come alive. We took many photos and had enthusiastic discussions about biodiversity – learning about “re-seeders” and “resprouters”! Remembering botanical names of all the flora is always challenging. We were fortunate to have a few experts in the group. A big thank you to Jenny Parsons and Adele Scheepers for their input and sharing their knowledge.



It was a delight at the end of our walk to see the Silversands baboon troop calmly foraging and digging for new tubers and roots in the burnt area. They are such an integral part of the Kogelberg ecosystem and play a significant role in plant dispersal and the survival of the Cape Floral Kingdom. According to Dave Gaynor, a local primatologist, “If baboons are wiped out of the ecosystem, it is 100% sure that this would have a substantial impact on the local fynbos ecosystem”. By foraging on roots and tubers, they disperse the seeds and aerate the soil, ensuring fynbos survival.

A huge thank you to Warren for leading the group. Your time, effort and expert knowledge is much appreciated. It was both a learning experience and a sociable morning out. Many thanks to Carol and everyone involved for organizing such an inspirational outing.



Surrounded by the power and beauty of nature I realize what a privilege it is to live in Betty's Bay and the urgent need to preserve and appreciate what we have on our doorstep.

Lenore Watermeyer

- **SEPTEMBER: THE INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP IN BETTY'S BAY AND PRINGLE BAY**

"THROW TRASH IN THE BIN AND NOT THE OCEAN"

JOIN A GROUP :		
SUNNY SEAS Yellow Roof house Galia Manicom 082 9633 804 Carol Clark 079 7530 166	JOCKS BAY End of Marine Drive Viv & Harry von der Heyden 084 6852 641	MAIN BEACH Parking area Adele Scheepers 074 7605 305
STONY POINT Parking area Patricia Smit 081 3359 997	DRAADBAAI End of Agapanthus St Wilna Swart 083 3336 810	SILVERSANDS Parking area at Park Rd Brian Mc Millan 082 3730 010 Barbara Jenman 082 3384 109

Coordinator Barbara Jenman 082 3384 109
#BBC4thSaturday
16 SEPTEMBER
9:30 - 11:30am
#Everydaydoonesmallactforbiodiversity

There were hectic winds and gusts of over 150km per hour were measured in Betty's Bay in the days prior to the International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) on Saturday 16 September. On the day of the ICC, the swell was the biggest seen in Betty's Bay in years!

Betty's Bay Clean-up

In spite of these heavy weather conditions about 37 "all weather" volunteers, layered up in windbreakers, beanies and gloves, still headed outdoors to do their "Every day do one small act for biodiversity". Our BBC Waste Portfolio holder, Barbara Jenman, organised coordinators for Sunny Seas, Jocks Bay, Main Beach, Stony Point, Draadbaai and Silversands.

About 29 volunteers collected 22 full bags over 10km of Betty's Bay beaches. The waste picked up on the beaches was mostly plastic bottles, cans, sweet and chip packages, straws, plastic sticks, tops, fishing line and tackle, condoms, netting, strapping, broken up plastic pieces of film, bags, hard plastic and nurdles.



Eight volunteers cleaned up 5 km of road verges in Sunny Seas and collected 10 full bags. On the verges the waste found was mainly builder's bags, cans, plastic bottles, chip and sweet packages as well as broken signboards and even a plastic rat cage.

Together that's 32 bags of trash less lying on the beaches and verges of our village! From these bags, one bag full of plastic bottles and cans was filled for recycling purposes. The data from the weekend clean-up was forwarded to the Sustainable Seas Trust (SST).

Some volunteers observed that on the tidal lines along a 2 km stretch of Silversands beach, there were 1000s upon 1000s of small plastic pieces and nurdles. These are impossible to pick up in a few collections even with

many volunteers. It appeared that a lot was brought up from deep under the waves, perhaps even from the seabed, and the powerful waves threw it onto the beaches. Along certain beach stretches there is a lot of litter left by poachers and some volunteers regularly remove this litter.

Pringle Bay Clean-up

Robert Keyzer organised the Pringle Bay ICC Clean-up event. Twelve volunteers helped to clean up Pringle Bay Main beach and collected a combined two full bags of plastic. Sadly, they found one juvenile seal mortality lying next to a piece of plastic amongst the kelp. They also found diapers, needles and condoms under the life guard house. Despite the weather not being the greatest, this enthusiastic group braved the weather and did their bit for the ICC 2023.



Carol Clark; clean-up results supplied by Barbara Jenman and photos from the volunteers

- OCTOBER: BIRDING WALK ON ROD'S TRAIL LED BY WARREN McCLELAND**

A small group of five BBC members braved the cold wind and partly cloudy conditions to join me on a birding walk along Rod's Trail on 28 October. The breezy conditions were not ideal for a productive birding walk but we made the most of the conditions and ended up with a decent list and views of some of the birds.

An adult Jackal Buzzard circling over the car park was our first bird of the day, followed by a productive session at the start of Rod's Trail while watching the local baboon troop's antics.





Flowering Protea and Leucospermum shrubs had numerous Cape Sugarbirds, as well as both Orange-breasted and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds, while a Cape Bunting sang from the rooftops and a Cape Rock Thrush watched us closely from its pole perch. Bird activity was relatively low along much of the trail, with calling Cape Grassbirds, Grey-backed Cisticolas and Karoo Prinias being the most prominent species. A shy Victorin's Warbler called vociferously from a patch of riparian fynbos scrub but refused to come out into view despite our patience.

The walk was full of botanical distractions since many plants were in flower, including the gorgeous Early Blue Disa (*Disa purpurascens*), so we occasionally had to remind ourselves that it was a birding walk! Time flew and before we knew it was time to head back. A Fiscal Flycatcher and a pair of Brimstone Canaries in the gardens along Clarence Drive rounded off the bird walk. Many thanks to the participants for an enjoyable morning.



Text: Warren McClelland

Photos: Lenore Watermeyer

A big thank you once again to Warren for his time and effort and sharing his formidable experience and knowledge of both plants and birds.

Lenore Watermeyer

- **NOVEMBER: ROD'S TRAIL WALK LED BY ADELE SCHEEPERS FOR THE GSB BIOBLITZ**

A BIOBLITZ WALK
led by Adele Scheepers
from TRAILHOUSE WALKABOUTS

Rods Trail to Dawidskraal and back to start via Bass Lake

Sunday 26 November
Time: 7:30am for 4-5 hours (you can do less)
Meet: Centre Shop parking area
Details: About 10Kms, wear hiking boots
Bring: Camera/phone, sunblock, hat, water, snacks, stick, jacket
RSVP: 074 7605305 by 23/11

Event disclaimer on BBC Facebook page

I was privileged to join a group of bioblitzers on this interesting hike during the Great Southern Bioblitz (GSB). Armed with hat, sunblock, cell phone or camera, water, and snacks, we started at Centre shops and headed for Rod's Trail.

First stop was the recently burnt patch next to the electrical substation. I never cease to be amazed at the huge variety of plants that grow on this small patch of soil. Even more amazing is how the variety does not diminish after a fire. It just increases.



As one of the least experienced in the tongue twisting Latin names of the various species which Adele knows so well, I realized anew that I have so much to learn. I was however first to identify the piercing screeches of peregrine falcons high up on the cliffs.

One thing I learnt is the benefit of a good camera (not a cell phone camera) with strong optical zoom capabilities. Only then can you properly capture things such as a wasp taking its prey into its lair. Or identify a butterfly which flutters by and lands momentarily on a flower a few meters away.



Shade was scarce, so we had to walk a long way till we had our first official stop to rest. Chatting to people in the group made me feel really privileged at the opportunity to get to know such talented folk from diverse backgrounds with a common interest in nature and conservation. As one of the younger people, I was impressed and challenged at the fitness levels of those way beyond my age, regardless of orthopaedic conditions or the need to use a walking stick.

The natural beauty surrounding us, and the physical ability to walk, see, feel, hear and absorb it all, made the outing absolutely worth the effort. Activities such as these help to keep me healthy, grateful, and make me feel truly alive.



Graham Clark

- **OVERSTRAND TAKES THE LEAD IN GREAT SOUTHERN BIOBLITZ (GSB) AGAIN!**



The Overstrand participants in GSB 2023 are bursting with pride after winning this year’s Bioblitz challenge by well over 1 000 Observations, with a total of 14 808. This is the third time Overstrand has participated and the second year in a row that we have taken top honours! This year Overstrand also came second for number of Species with 1973 recorded (Cape Town was first with 2080).

GSB 2023 saw cities and towns throughout the southern hemisphere participating for four days in November to capture diversity in their areas. People were requested to take photographs of every living thing (other than humans and pets) and to upload these to iNaturalist. For two weeks after these four days people spent time uploading their observations and trying to assist with identifications. Sharing these observations helps create quality data globally for scientists to better understand and protect nature.



Over the four days 162 observers in the Overstrand managed to place us at the top of the leaderboard – highlighting the magnificent biodiversity of our area. Cape Town placed second with eThekweni third, Pondoland fourth and Overberg sixth – which really shows the world what a special place South Africa is!

We are very proud of Adele Lamprecht, a keen environmentalist living in Betty's Bay, for taking first place in the Overstrand for recording the most Species (509) and second place for number of Observations (1251). Well done Adele and thank you to all who participated in this inspiring event.

GSB Overstrand Project: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/great-southern-bioblitz-2023-overstrand>

GSB Umbrella Project: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/great-southern-bioblitz-2023-umbrella>

- **CELEBRATING OUR GSB OVERSTRAND 2023 CHAMPS!**

Our huge thanks and congratulations to these wonderful GSB participants - all of whom went above and beyond to ensure we secured first place in the southern hemisphere for the second year in a row! Well done [Magriet Brink](#), [Adele Scheepers Lamprecht](#), [Jan Momsen](#), [Suzette Vermeulen](#) and [Vic Brink](#)!

Thank you to the wonderful members of our community who came forward with donations to make these locally-focused prizes possible! [Betty's Bay Conservancy](#) donated some of their wonderful mugs, [Fuss Free Printing](#) donated the beautiful 2024 Fynbos calendars and [BBC](#) members donated money that enabled us to top up the gifts with [KB Wild](#) magazines and some sweet treats. What a wonderful community and beautiful biosphere we live in!



Magriet



Adele



Jan



Suzette



Vic

Sandy Immelman, GSB coordinator

The BBC congratulates Sandy and her team of Overstrand Bioblitz coordinators for the excellent task they do of marketing and organizing the Overstrand Bioblitz events.

● **DECEMBER**

December was a busy month as the BBC was involved in a number of conservation projects:

○ **“BIOSPHERE LIVING” LIGHTING**

This BBC Leaflet encourages homeowners and residents to assess how their current artificial lights at night impact the wildlife and neighbours. You can print a copy of the leaflet from <https://bettysbayconservancy.co.za/biosphere-living-lighting/>

‘BIOSPHERE LIVING’ LIGHTING




Photo: Oxford

Light Pollution is the human-made alteration of outdoor light levels from those occurring naturally.

Have you sat outside and enjoyed the wonderful stargazing opportunities in our villages in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve? Besides the impact on our wildlife, light pollution significantly alters the aesthetic beauty of our night-time surroundings.

WHY IS ECO-FRIENDLY LIGHTING IMPORTANT ?

“Scientific evidence suggests that artificial light at night has negative and deadly effects on many creatures including amphibians, birds, mammals, insects and plants.” Light pollution harms wildlife and ecosystems | DarkSky International. Animals and plants are genetically adapted to day/night and seasonal cycles. These can be disrupted by artificial light at night which turns the “night into day”.

Diurnal species such as bees, butterflies, songbirds, tortoises, rock hyrax (dassies) and baboons are primarily awake during the day and sleep at night.

Nocturnal species such as moths and other insects, geckos, frogs, owls, porcupines and leopards sleep during the day and move about at night.






Photo: A.S. van der Merwe

Artificial light at night affects both diurnal and nocturnal species, but in different ways. It interrupts behaviours such as reproduction, feeding, sleep and protection from predators. Artificial light:


- **Repels:** it equates to a loss in habitat as more light encroaches on fewer remaining dark areas where they can live safely.
- **Attracts:** concentrates creatures as a food source or a trap that kills them.
- **Interferes with day/night patterns:** creatures do not get sufficient sleep and their reproductive cycles may be affected.

Some examples:

Frogs  The glare from artificial lights can affect our wetlands and negatively impact on the growth and population of the frogs that live there. This light can affect their calling which impacts their breeding behaviour. Artificial light also affects frog life cycles, such as delaying metamorphosis of tadpoles.

Birds  Birds that migrate at night use the moon and starlight for orientation. Artificial light that obscures these features can cause them to migrate too early or too late thereby missing ideal climatic conditions for nesting, foraging and other behaviours. They may also collide into buildings, transmission lines or the artificial light source.

Insects Artificial lighting fixtures create a deadly appeal for insects. It also disrupts their feeding, breeding and movement patterns. This may negatively affect all species of animals or plants that rely upon insects as food or for pollination.

Other animals  For small, nocturnal, herbivorous mammals, artificial light at night increases their risk of being killed by a predator and decreases food consumption. Porcupines may also be impacted by these night lights.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE THE LIGHT POLLUTION FROM YOUR HOME ?

As the coastal conservancy villages of Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooiels do not have streetlights, the main source of light pollution at night comes from houses and businesses.

Assess your indoor and outdoor lighting

- **Indoor lighting:** Switch off unnecessary lights and save on electricity costs. Close your curtains or blinds at night time.
- **Outdoor lighting:** Strong lighting not only creates glare and light pollution but also wastes energy and money. It negatively impacts the wildlife and your neighbours.

Use outdoor lighting fixtures that shade the light source to minimize glare and light trespass:

1. **Design of lampshade:** Install lampshades that are shielded and shine down and not up or outwards towards the street or your neighbours. Downlights are preferred. Use motion sensors and timers so your lights are off when they are not needed.

2. Type of light bulb:


- Type: Use LED bulbs
- Colour temperature (Kelvin):
 - Avoid higher colour temperatures which have more blue light i.e. 5000K or more (shorter wavelength)
 - Use lower colour temperatures i.e. warm white coloured light of 3000k or less (longer wavelength)
- Power: The amount of power consumed by the bulb is measured in watts
 - Use a maximum of 8 watts: generally a 5-6 watt LED lamp is sufficient.
- Brightness: The total amount of light emitted by the bulb is measured in lumens
 - Use lower lumens for lower brightness.

3. Position: Install lights at a maximum height of 2.1 meters (standard door height).


4. Quantity: Not more than two per elevation of house.

Bad types of external lighting that shine light upwards and outwards:

No canopy to shield or direct light downwards




Unshielded lights




Incorrect angle

Good types of external lighting that shine light downwards:

Downlights



Solar



Angled down

Biosphere Living - Our Lifestyle Choice

Preserve our natural night sky and the night environment for our wildlife and neighbours :

- Use minimal light, only when and where it's needed to create a balance between safety and starlight.
- Use fewer, low mounted, shielded, long wavelength (warm colours) lights and use motion sensors.

Consult DarkSky International for more information <https://darksky.org/>

“Every day do one small act for biodiversity”
Craig Foster's message to BBC at the 2022 AGM



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© Jenny Parsons

○ **BBC POSTERS ON THE COMMUNITY DISPLAY BOARDS**

The three community noticeboards in Betty's Bay have been in a rather sorry state for a while, but informative and attractive posters put up by the BBC have gone a long way to brighten them up and to give them a purpose. The boards, at the entrance to Crassula Hall, the Centre shop and at Penguin Place, are now displaying a two-page poster encouraging residents to keep light pollution to a minimum, with valuable tips as to how to do so.

We hope that not only residents but visitors too will take the time to peruse the posters and that they will follow the guidelines so that all can enjoy our starry skies. The added bonus is the possibility of seeing nocturnal members of our wildlife community – and of maintaining harmonious relationships with our neighbours!

Sadly, after the owner of the antique shop on Clarence Drive in Jock's Bay had put up a beautiful display of photographs and informative pamphlets on the board at Penguin Place, the noticeboard was vandalised and the posters and pictures stolen. The board's glass frame was broken off at the hinges. According to Claudele Jackson, of the Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association, who kindly put up the BBC posters for us, the

frame will only be fixed next year, so we hope that the posters will not be blown off or removed. As the board does not have a pressboard backing, the posters had to be stuck with prestik onto the wall behind the frame - not an ideal solution. If you are able to provide a pressboard backing or to fix the frame (which is in



safekeeping at the Penguin Place supermarket), your offer will be gladly accepted- email bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com. Once the boards have been fixed, there will be a regular display of informative and colourful brochures by the BBC, encouraging everyone to fully embrace the ethos of "Biosphere Living". There are some who still have to be converted!

Viv von der Heyden

○ **KOGELBERG WILD - the fourth in the Wild series of magazines**



The first magazine covered Rooiels, the second was produced by Betty's Bay, the third one highlighted Pringle Bay and now **KBWild** covers the Kogelberg.

This time we decided to encompass all four of our Kogelberg Biosphere coastal villages to include Kleinmond and further our efforts to unify the villages and promote a sense of pride in the important natural environment in which we live.

It has more pages than previous editions and is even better quality. Great collectors' items and full of useful

and informative articles and images. Perfect to display in a Bed and Breakfast or Air B&B businesses as well as a “must read” for all Kogelberg residents.

It is currently on sale in Rooiels and Betty's Bay (Coffee on Clarence and the Harold Porter Book Shop shop) until we set up sales points elsewhere. Pick up a copy now. You won't be disappointed.

Pete Oxford

○ **NEW SIGNAGE FOR THE KOGELBERG VILLAGES**

Two years ago the **Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group** conceptualized and designed the beautiful new signs which have recently been placed along the R44 by the Overstrand Municipality (OM). The **Betty's Bay Conservancy** added extra funding to the OM to pay for the Betty's Bay signs to be larger as there was not enough money from the OM budget.

The whole concept was to link the 4 Kogelberg coastal villages (including Kleinmond) with a unified design, yet highlighting each of their unique differences.

The idea was firstly to promote a sense of pride in our home of the Kogelberg, advertising to visitors that this is indeed a special place.

Secondly, to promote a 'stop-and-stay' philosophy as per the ideas coming from the OM, such that instead of a whistle-stop visit to the penguins, holiday makers are encouraged to spend one or two days of their time enjoying the plethora of eco-tourism opportunities each village has to offer before dashing through, *enroute* to Hermanus.



Pete Oxford

- **PENGUINS PROJECTS for the AFRICAN PENGUINS at STONY POINT**

- **BBC Stony Point Penguin-Pals Projects**

A big BBC thanks to the residents who helped on Friday 17 November to move some cut rooikrans to Stony Point for nesting material: Astrid Twomey, Hermien Van Der Westhuizen, Alex and John Watson with Andrea and Michael, Wayne Jackson, Rob Geugis as well as Steve Gildenhuys, Isak Kalmeyer and Julian De Wet from CapeNature. Four vehicles/trailers were loaded and CapeNature now have a pile of rooikrans on site at Stony Point to make their task easier.



Thanks for your **“Every day do one small act for biodiversity”**. There will be more of these “load up” projects. We are also going to work with CapeNature to help source and transport nesting material for the cormorants at Stony Point to help reduce their need to take it from the nearby gardens.

If you have a vehicle/trailer or a willing pair of hands and would like to be part of these “load up” **BBC “Stony Point Penguin-Pals Projects”** please email bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com, or WhatsApp 079 7530166, with your name, contact number and whether you can offer a vehicle/trailer, a pair of helping hands or both. We will contact you with further information as to the way forward for this and other Penguin-Pals projects.

Carol Clark

- **The BBC “SLOW DOWN Penguins Crossing” signs are finally up!**



As the holidaymakers arrive for their annual December holidays, many are unaware that some of the penguins from Stony Point move out of the colony into the surrounding area and onto the verges. The penguins are especially vulnerable in these roadside areas at dusk and dawn when the visibility is poor and motorists don’t see them waddling along the roads.

Photos: Caire Lottring from CapeNature



To help make motorists more aware of the penguins on the roads and verges, and to help avoid more penguins being hit, these lovely new signs are reflective at night.

Photo: Graham Clark

Our thanks to Caire, Gavin, Steve and SK from CapeNature for helping to identify the six sites for these first six signs. Also to Denovan from the Overstrand Municipality and Stefan and his team for installing them before the December long weekend

This was another good example of how partnerships make a positive difference in our community: BBC – CapeNature – OM worked together to make this BBC initiative to help protect the penguins on the roads a reality.

Also a big thanks to our designer and to those BBC members who made donations to the BBC when they renewed their membership fees this year. The money you donated has helped to finance the printing of these first six signs – so thanks to each of you for your **“Every day do one small act for biodiversity”** and for helping to make a difference for our wildlife.

The BBC Stony Point Penguin-Pals Projects will be planning more initiatives in 2024. There will also be an opportunity for other people to donate towards the next batch of signs.

Carol Clark

○ **WORLDWIDE WADDLE for the AFRICAN PENGUIN**

NOT ON OUR WATCH (NOOW) organized a worldwide waddle to raise awareness for the plight of the African Penguin. In support of this campaign and Stony Point colony, the BBC ran a five day education/awareness campaign on the BBC Facebook page providing the background to the issues facing the African Penguin. These two others sections below deal with visitors and neighbours of Stony Point.

Guidelines for visitors to Stony Point African penguin colony

There are many rental homes and B&Bs in Betty’s Bay and surround and visiting Stony Point is one of the top tourist attractions. Please help by giving your visitors some tips for when they go to the penguins:

- Although penguins are such incredible marine birds and it’s tempting to get as close as possible to them - please keep three (3) meters away from the penguins.
- Rather use a zoom lens for close-up photos than try and get too close for “selfie” photos.
- It’s an amazing experience for children to see penguins. Encourage your children to visit quietly at the colony so as not to stress the penguins. Do not try to touch or chase them or throw things at them.
- Please respect the signage and the rules at the colony.
- Stay on the designated pathways so that you don’t disturb nesting sites.
- Please don’t attempt to feed them anything.

- Give the penguins “right of way” and space so you don’t block pathways to their nests or the sea.
- Before you drive away from the colony, check that no penguins are hiding under your car.
- Drive slowly when you arrive at and leave the colony.
- Read the information on the signage boards to learn about the penguins and other seabirds at the colony and of their endangered status.



If you live near Stony Point colony in Betty’s Bay, here are some ideas of how you can help

- Many penguins have nesting sites in the areas around the colony, so please ensure your dogs do not injure any adults or chicks. Please keep your dogs on a leash when walking near the colony as dogs often find the birds before their owners see them.
- The BBC does arrange regular litter clean-ups but many residents do a wonderful job of picking up litter on their beach walks. Pop a bag in your pocket when you walk and help to pick up litter to keep it from blowing into the sea and to keep the area litter free.
- If you find an injured penguin or seabird, you can contact SANCCOB. Call 021 557 6155 or 078 638 3731 (after hours & weekends). There is a SANCCOB Seabird Ranger at Stony Point.
- If you see inappropriate human behavior around the penguins, you should inform the ranger or CapeNature staff.
- Respect the boundaries of the nesting sites.
- Drive slowly near the colony – especially at dusk and dawn. There are often birds on the verges nearby or waddling across the road. They are endangered and it’s tragic if any of them are killed or injured on the road by cars.
- If you live close to the colony, remember to do a “penguin peek” under your car before you drive off.



Carol Clark; pictures from NOOW resources

KELP REMOVAL IN THE SENSITIVE COASTAL ECOSYSTEM IN THE KOGELBERG BIOSPHERE

BBC engagement of the Dept. of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on beach cast kelp removal and urgent appeal to DFFE to reassess seaweed concession areas and permit conditions in Zone 8 with regard to sensitive coastal ecosystems within the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve

Growing concern about the negative impacts of beach cast kelp removal and practices along the Betty's Bay coastline, as observed and reported by BBC members both last year and up to the present, led to our engagement with DFFE to lodge our concerns and to establish what the current permit conditions are.

Initial contact revealed that the Seaweed Resource group in Concession Area 8, which includes the Betty's Bay coastline, has been apportioned to the recently established Small Scale Fishing (SSF) sector¹ (and so permit conditions are not under the Commercial Fishing Sector as we believe was previously the case). We were informed by a manager in the DFFE SSF resource group that the Seaweed permit conditions for Area 8 are under review and that the current Seaweed permit holder for this area has been given 30 days to 'wind up his business' here.

We have since written to the relevant officials in DFFE outlining the basis of our concerns on current beach cast kelp practices in the context of the importance of beached kelp to the functioning of a healthy coastal ecosystem as has been well explained and illustrated by Pete Oxford on our Betty's Bay Conservancy Facebook page and in an article in the latest issue of the *Wild* series – *KBWild*.

We made an urgent appeal to DFFE that during the forthcoming seaweed permit review process they take into consideration the issues we have raised with a view to: a) Extending the current exclusion areas for seaweed permits beyond the demarcated western boundary of the Betty's Bay MPA and b) Implementing 'no-harvest' seasons during coastal bird breeding seasons.

Further to this we appealed to DFFE to engage with locally based conservation organisations in identifying such areas and seasons.



More details to follow.

To provide ecological background in support of this appeal the Betty's Bay Conservancy are embarking on a project to collect data on coastal shorebirds, their nesting sites and habitats and map their distribution along the Betty's Bay coast. We aim to involve all those who have been monitoring the shorebirds and those citizen scientists who are expressly interested in the conservation of our coastal ecosystems (judging from the latest iNaturalist Bioblitz there are many of you out there!)

¹ <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/62-small-scale-fishing-co-operatives-get-fishing-rights-w-cape>

B: SHORT BBC UPDATES

- **Fee renewal 2023/4**
After some discussion at the July 2023 AGM, it was decided to raise the annual fee from R100 to R120, but members who would like to donate more are welcome to. Thanks to all those member who have renewed and to those who gave generously. We will send a reminder to those who have not yet renewed. Thanks to all of you for your continued financial support of the BBC.

- **BBC signs**



If you would like to put a BBC members sign (only for paid up BBC members) on your property or on an empty plot that you have purchased to preserve:

Members Biosphere Living sign

@ R100: 200 x 300mm

Plot Purchased for Preservation sign

@ R200: 300 x 420mm

on chromadek with UV glaze .

- **BBC Facebook page**
Our colorful BBC Facebook page has nearly 2000 followers. Thanks to Sandy Immelman and all the contributors who keep this page up to date with interesting local conservation related information and wildlife sightings.

Join our Facebook page on:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/188173089692496>

- **BBC “Info and Alert” WhatsApp group**

We encourage our paid-up members to join this group as it is the easiest means to notify you of events and information. There is no chatting. Use this link to join the group:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FpaDaImmPjv5O6yzz61MOo>

- **BBC website**

bettysbayconservancy.co.za



There are a number of informative brochures on the Biosphere Living page on our website, including: “Welcome to the coastal conservancy villages of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve”.

<https://bettysbayconservancy.co.za/welcome-to-the-coastal-conservancy-villages-of-the-kogelberg-biosphere-reserve/>

- **BBC representatives**
BBC is on the Stony Point Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC).

C: WHAT'S AHEAD in 2024?

There is so much to do to support our biodiversity!

We will continue our BBC 4th Saturday events which are a mixture of interesting talks, walks, clean-ups and activities. Please contact us to share any ideas you have for talks or activities.

We plan to develop our Penguin-Pals Projects in partnership with CapeNature, produce more educational Biosphere Living leaflets on important issues, address conservation issues that impact Betty's Bay and plan projects that members and residents can be involved in and support financially.

We look forward to your participation and we encourage more BBC members to be active in the community.

Thank you for supporting the BBC.

Best wishes for 2024 to you and your families.

From the BBC Team

bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com



Graham Clark – view from Rods Trail