

BETTY'S BAY CONSERVANCY : 27 AUGUST

ARE YOU WILD FIRE READY?

Now is the time to prepare before the fire season!

The Betty's Bay Conservancy (BBC) hosted an "Are you fire ready" presentation at Crassula Hall on 27 August. Liz Buncker and Jorika Rabie of the Betty's Bay Volunteer Fire Fighters provided guidelines and actions that property owners can take to reduce their fire risk. Here are few of the basics:

- We live in a high fire risk area and we need to be prepared!
- Rooiels, Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay were selected to be the first fire wise communities in South Africa.
- It is good to do an annual fire risk assessment of your property – both inside and outside.
- Is your home easily accessible for emergency vehicles?
- Increased risks outside include combustible material in your gutters, firewood stacks next to your house and trees that touch or are very close to your house. "Firescape" your garden with smaller plants closer to your house and taller vegetation further away. There is no need to strip the plot of all vegetation to firescape it.
- Remember to dispose of braai coals safely – the wind can pick up and ignite them again.
- Inside, are your extension cords of a high quality and safe?
- Do you have fire extinguishers that are serviced regularly? Do you know how to use them correctly?
- Do you have a fire blanket?
- Do you have a "go bag" ready?
- Do you have an evacuation plan?
- Call 028 313 2400 to report a fire.

Our thanks to Liz and Jorika for their informative talk. They are available for presentations to the community. Call Liz Buncker on 074 141 7600 or Jorika Rabie on 072 616 8418.

