



BETTY'S BAY CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

This is our final newsletter of 2022 informing you of our recent activities. We hope it will encourage you to join in the Betty's Bay Conservancy (BBC) events next year.

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A: BBC EVENTS from AUGUST to DECEMBER 2022

❖ BBC "4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH" EVENTS

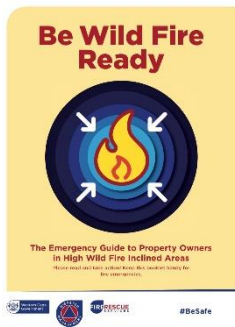
- **July : Our Auction on Facebook**

The BBC held a successful Facebook Auction to raise much-needed funds. Our grateful thanks to Mark and Wendy Lucas who donated the gorgeous artwork, "Flowering Plants of South Africa" by the well-known Joh Del, beautifully box framed in natural kias by [Multiwood Creations](#). A big thanks too to Lenore and Duncan Watermeyer for their generous bids on the auction and their winning bid. The money will be used towards awareness and education projects about the importance of BIOSPHERE LIVING - to conserve and preserve the precious biodiversity in Betty's Bay and the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve that we are so privileged to live in.



Photo credits: left Sandy Immelman and right Carol Clark

- **26 August: Are you wildfire ready?**



Rooiels, Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay were selected to be the first fire wise communities in South Africa. Liz Buncker and Jorika Rabie of the Betty's Bay Volunteer Community Fire Fighters provided guidelines and actions that property owners can take to reduce their fire risk. Here are a few of the basics:

We live in a high fire risk area and we need to be prepared! 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, do you have fire extinguishers that are serviced regularly and do you know how to use them correctly? Do you have a fire blanket? Are your extension cords of a high quality and safe?

- Do you have a "go bag" ready?
- Do you have an evacuation plan?
- You can access the booklet at

<https://bettysbayconservancy.co.za/be-wild-fire-ready/>

Photo credits: Carol Clark

Call 028 313 2400 to report a fire.

- **International Coastal Clean-up day on Saturday 17 September**

TURN THE TIDE ON TRASH

"The Ocean needs you: Trash travels. And whether you are inland or on the water, the ocean is always downstream. The ocean provides the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe. Ocean trash is a global problem but has local solutions. Be part of the solution." Ocean Conservancy



Barbara Jenman, the coordinator of the event in Betty's Bay, arranged clean-ups at Silversands and Main Beach. At Main Beach, sixteen people, mostly members from the Betty's Bay Conservancy, met Wilna Swart in the car park to get a bag supplied by Plastic SA for the clean-up. Residents cleaned up around the ablution block and car park as well as spreading out in both directions on the beach.

It was encouraging to see that Main Beach wasn't covered in loads of litter – a positive result of the many residents who daily walk the beach with a bag and pick up litter as they walk! The content of the bags of litter collected will be analyzed. Thanks to the organisers, coordinators and all those who helped clean the beaches and are part of the "local solution" for this global problem of ocean trash.



Photo credits: top Photo credit: Sandy Immelman; above Carol Clark

- **24 September: Street Clean-up**

Barbara Jenman of the BBC organised a clean-up of the verges at two places in Betty's Bay, with the help of Wilna Swart who coordinated the clean-up in Sunny Seas. Thanks to those residents who joined in at the meeting places, as well as those who helped clean the area near their homes.



Photo credit: Wilna Swart and Bev Green

❖ **GREAT SOUTHERN BIOBLITZ (GSB): 28 – 31 October 2022**

The Overstrand took part in the Great Southern Bioblitz for the second time in 2022 ... with amazing results! We came first in the entire southern hemisphere - thanks to our brilliant biodiversity and the amazing passion of the folk who participated.

The GSB 2022 saw cities and towns throughout the southern hemisphere participating for four days in October 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 the bioblitz people spent time uploading their observations and trying to assist with identifications. Sharing these observations helps create quality data for scientists

working to better understand and protect nature.



Over the four days the 171 observers in the Overstrand recorded 19 808 observations and a total of 2 623 different species – highlighting the magnificent biodiversity of our area. Thanks to everyone who assisted, organised outings, took photos and helped with the identifications.

Huge congratulations also go to:
Cape Town - 3rd place

Garden Route - 4th place

Overberg - 5th place (on their first attempt!).



"This truly is a special part of the world – and the Bioblitz proves that our biodiversity is unique and deserves our continuous protection!" said Sandy Immelman, BBC.



Photo credit: Sandy Immelman, Co-coordinator of Overstrand Bioblitz

- **26 November: Beauty of Butterflies**



Andrew Morton (*Chair of the Western Cape branch of Lepso Africa - Lepidopterists' Society of Africa*) delighted everyone with his passionate presentation about butterfly and moth conservation, butterfly life-cycles and the plants and creatures that they need to survive.

Did you know that there are more butterflies on the Table Mountain range than the whole of the Great British isles? Or that the Table Mountain Beauty (*Aerpetes tulbaghia*) is the only known pollinator of the red Disa Orchid (*Disa uniflora*)?



These are just a couple of amazing facts Andrew shared about the wonderful world of Lepidoptera.

Photo credits: Sandy Immelmann

- **3 December: BBC participated in the Kogelberg Coastal Clean-up**



The BBC was one of the participants in the 2nd annual Kogelberg Festive Coastal Clean-up. It was a good turn out by those who care about our oceans. 21 locals and visitors helped at Silversands beach. Betty's Bay coordinator, Barbara Jenman, thanked those who helped, many of them are regulars who clean up the beaches in this area constantly, and Robert Kyzer for his excellent leadership. A small group met at Main Beach under the wing of WWF's Kopanang and Lilitha, two members of Robert's Kleinmond team. Not much litter

was found but they appreciated the watermelon and prizes at the end. CapeNature oversaw the Stony Point clean-up and had a very successful day too. The Marine and Coastal Community Monitors (MCCM) spread out to the different locations cleaning up and taking videos for reporting back. The plastic collected was delivered to CRDC at Blackheath for processing.

We are excited to launch our “Welcome to the coastal conservancy villages of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve” leaflet.



This new leaflet was a joint initiative of some members of the Betty's Bay Conservancy and the Kogelberg Garden Circle. It highlights some of the special features of our unique area, supports the call to clear just the vegetation for the footprint of a house when a new house is being built and encourages creating a fire wise vacant erf without stripping off all the vegetation. It has a very useful list of contact numbers of the conservation organisations in the three villages, links to websites, Facebook pages and resources. It has been distributed via social media and hardcopy and is also being added to the planning applications received at the Building Control Office in Kleinmond. It can be downloaded from the Biosphere Living section of the BBC website, together with the accompanying leaflet on eight alien invasive species.

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

<https://bettysbayconservancy.co.za/alien-invasive-species/>

B: SHORT BBC UPDATES

- **Fee renewal 2022/3:** Thanks to all those members who renewed in 2022 and welcome to our new members. The membership fee remains at R100 for Betty's Bay residents and R50 for an associate member and we invite residents to join us
- **BBC signs:** If you would like to put a sign on your property to indicate that you are a member of the Conservancy and thereby also assist with raising awareness, please consider purchasing one of our BBC signs. There are over 30 signs up and 6 plot signs.

1. **Members Biosphere Living sign @ R100:** 200 x 300mm on chromadek with UV glaze
2. **Plot Purchased for Preservation sign @ R200:** 300 x 420mm on chromadek with UV glaze [self-mounting required]: if you have specifically bought an erf in order to preserve it.

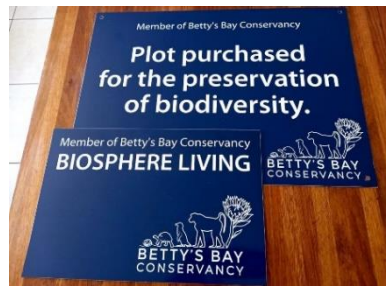


Photo credit: BBC members

- **BBC Facebook page:** Our colorful BBC Facebook page now has 1600 followers. Thanks to Sandy and all the contributors who keep this page up to date with interesting local conservation related information and wildlife sightings. Join in on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/188173089692496>.
- **BBC “Info and Alert” WhatsApp group:** This is a *not* chat group but an “admins only” group. It is the easiest means to notify our paid up BBC members of activities such as BBC events and other important information. Use this link to join the WhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FpaDalMmPjv5O6yzz61MOo>
- **BBC website:** We have added a Biosphere Living and a News tab to our website bettysbayconservancy.co.za. Thanks to Liam for helping the BBC with this and adding the content.
- **BIOSPHERE LIVING PROJECT with Betty’s Bay Baboon Action Group (BBBAG):** It now costs R1800 to fit the baboon-proof locking device made by Marco from Betty’s Bay onto an OM provided green bin. **If you would like to sponsor a bin or part of a bin, please contact the bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com**
- **The Milkwoods:** No further update on the destruction of Milkwood trees on a private property in Marine Drive and on the coastal public property opposite it.
- **Recent Meetings and Issues:** BBC reps attended the public meeting on baboon management in Betty’s Bay, the meeting in Kleinmond on the proposed offshore exploration drilling by Total Energies and the meeting regarding the Stony Point penguin colony hosted by CapeNature.
- **Input on the Fire Wise Vacant erven policy:** We were informed that the Fire Policy was passed by Council. Conservation organizations from the three Villages are very concerned about some of the specifications and the impact it will have on our fynbos. We have joined together to appeal this policy.
- **WILD MAGAZINES:** If you have missed getting copies of the three WILD magazines from Rooiels, Betty’s Bay and Pringle Bay, there are still copies available. The idea is to continue the series with a joint edition.

C: WHAT’S AHEAD in 2023?

Betty’s Bay Conservancy: “4th Saturday of the month”

We will be organizing more of these with a mixture of interesting talks and hands on practical events and we hope to see you there! Please contact us to share any ideas you have for activities, events or proactive projects for the BBC and its members to undertake.

Thank you for supporting the BBC in 2022.

We wish you and your families a very safe and restful holiday season.

Best wishes

From the BBC Team

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