



JULY 2026

Dear BBC Members

Last weekend I watched 'March of the Penguins' – a 2005 French documentary that portrays the incredible but harsh reality of the regal Emperor Penguin in Antarctica. To view a short trailer, you can use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RSxrusVknE>

Having featured the 'dad' Emperor Penguin in the May BBC newsletter for Father's Day, I think "mom" needs just as much credit for Women's Day.

After seeing the many threats they face individually, and as a pair, in order to breed successfully each season, it is a miracle that both parents and their chick survive.

They all walk 110 km in convoy, for 20 days and nights, to get to their breeding area. After pairing and mating, they wait in this icy environment for more than two months until mom produces their egg. They have to transfer the egg very carefully to dad's feet and brood pouch – if it lands on the ice, their breeding journey ends abruptly in a frozen egg.



March Of The Penguins, a movie narrated by Morgan Freeman and directed by Luc Jacquet (trailer)

The exhausted females then leave the males and walk the 110 km back to the ocean, another 20 days and nights, to fish for food to replenish themselves and build stores for feeding their chick. The males remain huddled together to survive through a winter of blizzards, incubating the egg.



March Of The Penguins, a movie narrated by Morgan Freeman and directed by Luc Jacquet (trailer)

Finally, the females walk the long journey back to the males. Mom has to return in time, well fed, to take over feeding and raising the chick. If not, the chick dies. A now starving and exhausted dad leaves mom in charge to raise their chick and he walks the long journey back to go and feed.

If that isn't enough, once mom has raised the chick, she leaves to go and find food, leaving the chicks with some adults, at the mercy of predators, until they are ready to head for the sea. By this time, the short summer has melted the ice near the breeding ground, and the sea is now nearby.

It is a phenomenal and harsh breeding journey!

I thought, being so isolated, that at least they don't have stress from people!

I was wrong.

A few days later, and 21 years after the documentary was produced, I saw an article on Antarctic tourism, the impact it is having and the guides who are leaving this job due to what they are seeing there. *'I can't work in the farce of climate change cruise tourism anymore': why Antarctic guides quit their dream jobs* <https://share.google/4EGE3GEQZpzd24XMw>

I thought of our African Penguin neighbours and all the threats and people interference they have faced over the last century that decimated their once abundant populations. Currently the colony at Stony Point faces additional threats.

Stepping back from the penguin scenario, what threats does Betty's Bay face – is the village at a tipping point of losing its wildlife, flora, habitat, wetland, biodiversity, peacefulness, dark starry nights and uniqueness - to “developers” to become another cemented suburb that some, maybe those who benefit financially, regard as ‘necessary or desired progress’?

Rooiels residents work proactively to maintain the character of their village and co-existence with wildlife.



Can Betty's Bay residents, in a 13 km long village of such diverse sections and people, achieve the same?

Best wishes from the BBC Team.

Carol, Ann, Barbara, Nina, Patrick, Pete, Jan and Tony

Thanks to everyone who contributed articles.

Compiled by Carol Clark and proofread by Patrick Boltler.

BBC 4th SATURDAY:

Annual General Meeting

Thanks so much to those BBC members who attended our fifth AGM, or who sent their proxy votes. Together we reached the required quorum for the AGM.

We reported back on BBC activities, events, conservation issues and networking over the past year. The financial report was presented and we voted for the two new nominees to join the BBC ExCo.

Thanks to Galia Manicom, Johan Steyn and Herman Mynhardt for their dedicated service on the BBC team. We welcome Nina Todd and Patrick Boltler to the team and look forward to the valuable contributions they bring with their enthusiasm, skills and experience.

This is the BBC team for the 2026/27 year.



Carol Clark

2026/27 BBC MEMBERSHIP FEES

At the AGM, the Executive Committee proposed a small increase in the annual fee from R120 to R130 for 2026/27. Those members who can and would like to give more than the R130 are encouraged to do so.

The members present accepted this proposal. Last year many of our members generously supported the work of the BBC by making payments above R130. We thank you for this. We also understand that there are members who may be unable to or may choose not to give more.

We thank you for your financial support and active participation that help the BBC to address the increasing conservation challenges and needs in Betty's Bay.

Those members who joined between January and July 2026 only need to renew their fees in 2027.

Our banking details are as follows:

Betty's Bay Conservancy
Nedbank
Account 1211375850
Branch 183509 or 198765 (universal)

OUR NEW STOCK OF BBC T-SHIRTS HAS ARRIVED



BBC T-SHIRTS
"Every day do one small act for biodiversity"

Betty's Bay Conservancy

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

SIZES: small to extra large

COST: BBC members: R260
Non-members: R280

CONTACT: 079 7530166 or bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com

FRONT

BACK

STONY POINT NATURE RESERVE

A CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES – AFRICAN PENGUIN

Second community meeting hosted by CapeNature on 31 July at Harold Porter National Garden

Lisa Nupen of SANCCOB and Faroeshka Rodgers of CapeNature presented information regarding the status of the African Penguin at Stony Point, the increase in predation by caracal and the planned predator-mitigation fence.

This second engagement session was well attended. After the presentations, residents were given about an hour to ask questions of a panel including Pierre de Villiers of CapeNature, Christine Hagen of BirdLife SA and Lisa Nupen. The community had varying opinions on the matter, some vehemently expressing their anger and frustration at CapeNature.

Many residents felt this was not sufficient time for the community to pose their concerns and questions. CapeNature opened an email address for two weeks to allow residents to give their

comments, concerns and ask questions. They said they would compile and respond to those emails and then schedule another community session.

The common denominator is that people are concerned about the status of the penguins. They want to see the penguins survive and recover from their critically endangered status with the potential of extinction in the wild, looming on the horizon.

From that point, opinions diverge on how and what residents see as the solution, and on their personal views regarding the planned phased fence.



BBC SURVEY



Betty's Bay Conservancy (BBC) Survey for Betty's Bay residents on the planned predator-deterrent fence at Stony Point

Prior to the meeting on 31 July, and in response to BBC members saying there was no place to discuss the information they had heard at the first community engagement session on 9 June, the BBC published an informal survey. The open sections provided residents with space to submit their concerns and ideas.

This survey closed on Monday 10 August at 10 p.m.

Please note:

- The BBC is not building a structure or submitting a planning application. This was not a “required” Public Participations Process for a BBC building project.
- The BBC is not responsible for Public Participation for the planned fence – that is CapeNature’s responsibility.
- It was not to obtain a “yes/no” vote regarding the fence.
- It was to gather residents’ concerns and suggestions.
- Thank you to everyone who used the open sections of the survey for this purpose.
- We are compiling the responses into a constructive document.

Carol Clark

PERSPECTIVES ON BIOSPHERE LIVING

BETTY'S BAY – A COASTAL COMMUNITY AT A CROSSROADS

Betty's Bay has long been recognised as one of South Africa's ecological treasures. I was fortunate to serve on the editing team of *Betty's Bay: Between Mountain and Sea*, a project that unfolded over ten months of dedicated work. The result was a 639-page coffee-table book created with one purpose in mind: to honour this stunning place in all its splendour.



The book was dedicated to the Betty's Bay community, past and present. It does not claim to be the final word, but rather an invitation — to reflect, to engage, and to continue safeguarding the heritage of a landscape celebrated for its exceptional biodiversity and environmental significance within the Kogelberg Biosphere.

What emerged clearly through the project is that Betty's Bay is a place of great ecological importance. Its richness lies in the huge variety of flora and fauna: the African Penguin colony, the diverse fynbos species, wetlands, floodplains, vleilands, estuaries and rivers, marine ecosystems, dune systems, mountain slopes, night skies, the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden, archaeological sites, and the Cape chacma baboon troops. More than 270 bird species, along with amphibians, reptiles and small mammals, call this place home.



Protecting these natural assets are long-standing organisations such as the Botanical Society and the Hackers — whose collaboration dates back to 1974 — as well as the Betty's Bay Conservancy, established in 2005. The Overstrand Municipality and the Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association also commit, in their mandates, to sustainable development, service delivery and **environmental conservation**.

The book also traces the history of Betty's Bay: the pioneering families who shaped the early settlement from the 1930s, the development of homes and local businesses, and the growth of community initiatives such as the Pikkewyntjies Pre-School, the Parkrun, the Jukskei Club, the Hangklip Community Care Centre and the Wildlife Rescue and Training Centre.



Today, however, Betty's Bay stands at a crossroads. The pace of development has accelerated, placing increasing pressure on the environment. Many new residents arrive with a genuine desire to preserve the area's natural character, yet the cumulative impact of construction — particularly on wetlands and sensitive ecological zones — is becoming difficult to ignore. Large homes, extensive paving and infill in vulnerable areas can alter the landscape in ways that are not easily reversed.

This shift has consequences. Our baboon troops face growing challenges, the African Penguin colony remains under significant threat, and the fynbos, wetlands and associated fauna are increasingly vulnerable. These pressures highlight the need for thoughtful, responsible planning that balances community growth with ecological stewardship.



So, what is required? Quite simply, broad community commitment. Preserving Betty's Bay depends on collective effort — on residents, organisations and authorities **working together to ensure that development aligns with the long-term wellbeing of the biosphere**. When more voices champion conservation, the path forward becomes clearer: a future in which this beautiful landscape is protected, respected and sustained for generations to come.

By Patrick Boltler

WETLANDS

Betty's Bay's Seasonal Wetlands

A simple pleasure on a quiet winter's evening in Betty's Bay's flat coastal plain is the sound of rain and numerous frog calls – if the wind isn't roaring! The cacophony of clicks from Clicking Stream frogs, *Strongylopus grayii*, compete with the tapping and groaning *kua-kua* calls of the Cape River frog, *Amieta fuscigula*, rising in volume with increasing competition. A keen listener will make out the low-pitched scratching *tshk-tshk* of the endangered Cape Microfrog, *Microbatrachella capensis* and the creaking sound of the Cape Caco, *Cacosternum capense*.

Of course, these sounds are made by male frogs hoping to attract a female for nocturnal shenanigans, resulting, in due time, in scores of tadpoles.

But these sounds not only denote romantic froggy *affaires de coeur*, but also the health of the ecosystem from which they emanate. Frogs will only breed and flourish in fully functioning environments. Frogs don't know that, but we humans do. If we hear frogs calling in numbers, we can rest assured that in those particular locales, all is right with the world – for the time being.

The locale in question is Hangklip Sand Fynbos, a vegetation type that is characterised by seasonal wetlands, under water only in winter, where restios, mainly *Elegia tectorum*, predominate. As we pass into summer, these same wetlands host exquisite purple-pink flowered Sea Roses, *Orphium frutescens*, with their twisted yellow axils, which only release their pollen when their carpenter bee pollinators buzz close to them at a frequency which approximates to middle C on a piano.



Surrounding these seasonal wetlands are cone-bushes, in the Protea family, of the genus *Leucadendron*, which provide splashes of sunshine yellow to the landscape in winter. *Erica* species, notably *E. coccinea*, with their yellow but sometimes red 'hangertjie' flowers, Buchu species, Rutaceae, such as Confetti bush or Aasbos, *Coleonema album*, release a distinctive scent when brushed, add to the abundance of the environment. Orchids in the genus *Satyrium* appear in Spring, orange *S. coriifolium* and pink *S. carneum* and occasionally the endangered *S. hallackii*. Taller shrubs such as Fonteimbos, *Psoralea pinnata*, provide blue pea-flowers as the drier months of summer set in. Those of us who live in these parts may have become over familiar with this landscape and take it for granted, seldom looking at it closely.



The flatness of the area provides prime real estate close to the sea for the erection of houses, bringing the need to alter the land, filling in hollows with rubble in order to raise our houses above the underlying and seasonally overlying water. This replaces the existing plant and animal communities with gardens of our own design and interrupting the natural movement of water, plants and wildlife. Erven, which have been bought in anticipation of later building operations, are sometimes left to invasive alien plants such as Rooikrans, *Acacia cyclops*, Port Jackson Willow, *Acacia saligna*,

Australian myrtle, *Leptospermum laevigatum* and Spider Gum, *Eucalyptus conferruminata*, among others.

Public open spaces, some zoned for conservation and others for public use, are precious remnants in our area, where the integrity of the ecosystems that make Hangklip Sand Fynbos what it is has to be used with the utmost care. The integrity and efficacy of these areas depend on their

interconnectedness. The fragmentation of the ecosystem into isolated pockets inevitably diminishes their functionality and biodiversity.

One of the fathers of modern ecology, Aldo Leopold, wrote in his book 'A Sand County Almanac.' (1949), "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see it as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect,"

Leopold's plea is made especially relevant in the latest (4th of August 2026) report of the South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI's) National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA) dealing with Ecosystem Threat Status. Just as organisms are listed as Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered and Extinct, so are ecosystems, except that ecosystems aren't categorised as Extinct, but as 'Collapsed'.

In this report, Hangklip Sand Fynbos is 'Critically Endangered.' That's one step away from 'Collapsed,' when the frogs will be silent.

Tim Attwell

ERF 2648, 97 CLARENCE DRIVE, BETTYS BAY: APPLICATION FOR SIGNAGE DEPARTURE

The Overstrand Municipality has received and distributed an application from Outdoor Network for a departure for signage on Erf 2648:

MOTIVATION FOR A PROPOSED BILLBOARD WITHIN A HERITAGE OVERLAY ZONE ALONG A ROUTE OF REGIONAL SCENIC SIGNIFICANCE AND BYLAW DEPARTURE

The proposed Billboard site is included in Telkom's National Project to roll out Billboard structures as a source of revenue to the state-owned enterprise. They claim that this is a highly visible site, making it ideal for impactful communication.

The departures include:

- Section 1.8.2- Limitation to On-Site Business *"Signs on a property may only relate to the business operated thereon and the products processed, produced or sold thereon."*
Departure Application in terms of item 1.8.2 of the By-Law to advertise businesses not related to the property that the business operated on and the products processed, produced or sold thereon.
- Schedule A- Class 1 d-Medium Billboards 2. Schedule A – Class 1d *"Billboards will only be permitted on a temporary basis not exceeding six months, and shall only be utilised for the advertising of specific events of a civic, cultural, religious, social, sporting, welfare or fundraising-related nature; will have a maximum sign size of 12m², subject to approval of environmental impact assessments for signs exceeding 12m² in area; and may only be located in a position approved by the Municipality."*
Application in terms of Schedule A Class 1d of the By-Law to **erect an advertisement board on a permanent basis** and not only a temporary basis **as well as to increase the size of the billboard from 12m² to 18m²** by submitting an EIA motivation as required.



Any written comments must be submitted to the Municipality (16B Paterson Street, Hermanus / (f) 028 313 2822 / (e) bcadmin@overstrand.gov.za) **on or before 3 September 2026**, quoting your name, address and contact details, interest in the application and reasons for comment.

Carol Clark

WILDLIFE

ILLEGAL HUNTING OF WILDLIFE WITH DOGS

THE CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION WITH ABANDONED DOGS NOW HUNTING TO SURVIVE

The illegal hunting of wildlife with dogs in the mountainous area between the Kleinmond transfer station and Kasteelkop has been ongoing for several years. The neighbouring village of Betty's Bay has also experienced isolated incidents of dogs hunting in the mountains above Mooiutsig, High Level Road near the Harold Porter Garden, and Sunny Seas.

However, the focus to address this escalating issue in the Kleinmond area came about when on 3 January 2026, a group of teenagers with dogs, chased a baboon down the mountain and into the neighbouring Palmiet residential area. A private security company was alerted and succeeded in

chasing the group of teenagers away. They abandoned the dogs who managed to escape and return to the informal settlement of Overhills. SAPS and municipal law enforcement officers were also alerted and arrived soon thereafter. Video footage of the teenagers and the dogs was handed over to law enforcement, in order to assist in their investigation to identify the hunters and confiscate the dogs but this was not done. The Overstrand Herald has since published four articles on the issue to create awareness on this silent killer.

"We will all wake up one morning and find everything gone - from the apex predator to the smallest creature in the food chain".

CapeNature, Overstrand Law Enforcement and local Councillors were notified in order to address the issue of illegal hunting and the ecological threat it posed. Nothing was done. Small antelope, tortoises, porcupines, reptiles and baboons are targeted, ripped apart by the dogs whilst still alive and the hunters armed with knopkieries, deal the final blow. The dogs used for hunting are victims too. They are kept in inhumane conditions, often starved before a hunt, and then forced to chase wildlife over rocky terrain and vegetation. They suffer broken bones, deep wounds, torn muscles and other serious injuries. Once they are no longer useful, many are simply abandoned without veterinary treatment and left to suffer.

A more sophisticated form of hunting, known as "taxi hunts", is organised by criminal syndicates, where groups of ten or twelve dogs are transported to farms and nature reserves for illegal hunts. Thousands of rands are usually wagered on the outcome of each hunt; money is wagered on the dog that will be first to kill its prey, and the species that will be killed first. The "winning" dog is allegedly sold for between R10,000.00 and R24,000.00 after the hunt.

In recent months, a family of otters was attacked by a pack of dogs on a coastal smallholding on the outskirts of Betty's Bay. Hunters tend to remain hidden, and one whistle will alert the dogs and they return with or without the hunt.

In early June, another article appeared in the Herald with footage of a pack of five dogs along the R44 near Kasteelkop and heading to the river. Four of which were identified as being the pack accompanying the teenagers and seen hunting the baboon in Palmiet area in January. These dogs were now free ranging and appeared to have been abandoned. This could have been the trigger for events that followed. Since then, more free-range dogs have been seen, and KAWS has reported that they have identified approximately fifteen dogs on the mountain, hunting to survive. Another eight unidentified dogs were seen adjacent to the Palmiet residential area last week. Due to the sudden increase in free ranging dogs in the Kasteelkop area, the assumption is that many of them were hunting dogs, abandoned by foreign nationals who were forced to leave the country at the end of July 2026. These dogs are now hunting wildlife around the clock in order to survive - so called "feral" dogs. If KAWS cannot catch them, they will be destroyed. It is imperative that a veterinarian be in attendance to humanely euthanize any dogs that are wounded as a result of action that is taken.

Nevertheless, there are still hunters in the area. Towards the end of June 2026, a pack of nine Beagles and Bloodhounds were seen along a hiking trail in the Kasteelkop area. They were accompanied by a hunter who remained hidden, but who communicated with the dogs. No free-ranging pedigree hunting dogs have been identified by KAWS on the mountain. The authorities need to do a sweep of the informal settlement, and at the same time close down the puppy factories.

Coastal Rewilding has been collaborating with CapeNature who has conducted two lessons on Biodiversity and Biodiversity crimes, as part of its outreach programme for ten- to thirteen-year-olds at Kleinmond Primary. Every child who is educated is a win for the environment.

28 | BIOSFEER NUUS

Jaghonde weer los

KLEINMOND — Hernude kommer oor onwettige hondjag in die Kleinmond-omgewing het ontstaan nadat verskeie inwoners oor die naweek 'n trop loslopende honde naby Palmietbrug en die Fairy Glen-piekniekplek opgemerk het.

Verskeie waarnemings is Saterdag gemaak, met honde wat na Palmietbrug beweeg en later weer na die dorp terugkeer. 'n Inwoner het vertel sy het vyf jaghonde op die pad tussen Kleinmond en Fairy Glen teëgekom.

Haar eerste bekommernis was vir wild soos otters en bokkies, maar sy was ook bekommerd dat die honde deur verkeer raakgery kon word. "Iets moet gedoen word — ook ter wille van die honde. Maar mens moet die jagters kry. As die honde gekonfiskeer word, vervang hulle dit net," het sy gesê.

Sy het geen hanteerders gesien nie, maar sommige van die honde herken van 'n voorval in Januarie toe 'n trop 'n bobbejaan in die Palmiet-woonbuurt ingejaag het.

Later Saterdag is berig dat drie mans met 'n trop honde na die Palmiet-dagkamp gestap en kort daarna teruggekeer het. Op Sondag is dieselfde honde weer sonder begeleiding opgemerk.

Die voorvalle volg op toenemende kommer oor onwettige hondjag in die Kogelberg-biosfeer. Die saak is reeds deur die Wykskomitee bespreek en sal na relevante rolspelers verwys word. Die naweek se voorvalle is ook onder die aandag van munisipale wetstoepassers gebring.

Fanie Krige



One of many articles in the Overstrand Herald over the last six months. It is thought that this pack was the first to be abandoned.

Dorrienne Maes

SPEEDING ON THE R44

UPDATE ON THE R44 PETITION

ATTENTION BETTY'S BAY RESIDENTS!



PETITION TO THE WESTERN CAPE
PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

End the lawless speeding on the R44 through Betty's Bay

UPDATE FOUR

We are happy to report that having petitioned the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP) on 27 March 2026, our petition was tabled in Parliament on 22 May 2026. It was approved by the Office of the Speaker, and referred to the relevant committee. The Procedural Officer has notified us that we have been invited to brief the Standing Committee on Mobility, together with the relevant authorities, representatives of the Provincial Traffic Department, Caledon Provincial Traffic Services and the Overstrand Traffic Department.

The Petition Steering Committee has engaged with the Overstrand Chief Traffic Officer, and a strong enforcement presence was evident along the R44 on Sunday 16 August.

THANKS TO ALL THE SIGNATORIES WHO SUPPORTED THIS PETITION!

WILDLIFE SIGNS FOR BETTY'S BAY



Sponsor a sign for R1255 per sign. Deadline Friday 28 August.

An exciting moment to add wildlife signs of our animals to the streets of our village. The municipality agreed to plant them if we provide them.

A BBRA initiative. Money will be paid into the BBRA account with reference "wildlife".

WhatsApp Marelize on 0826833228 with

1. Your name
2. Your animal choice
3. Should you have a preferred location

(please note that Clarence Drive is not a municipal road and therefore excluded. Planting locations subject to municipal approval and road safety laws)

Marelize Smith

COMING EVENTS

BBC 4th Saturday

EAST TO WEST

the fish don't rest
Marine compliance challenges from Tanzania to Congo
- and home to Betty's Bay.



Presenter: Mike Markovina — a life-long resident of Betty's Bay and a fisheries biologist.

Date: 29 May
Venue: Stony Point Eco Venue
Time: 2:00 – 3:30 pm
ALL WELCOME
Please RSVP to:-
bettybayconservancy@gmail.com
or WhatsApp 079 7530166

No charge; donations to support the BBC are welcomed



A reminder: Our BBC4thSaturday is on the 5th Saturday this month

CLOSING THOUGHT

