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Quarterly edition /Kwartaallikse uitgawe

Editorial / Redaksioneel:

What is B.R.E.F.?

B.R.E.F. is the acronym for Bot River Estuary Forum and because Kleinmond is situated at the “small mouth” of the Bot River, this forum is of vital importance to Kleinmond and Kleinmond Nature Conservation Society. The BREF is in the process of developing and implementing a overarching and far reaching management plan for the Bot/Kleinmond Estuary. The initiators and drivers of this action, which forms part of the C.A.P.E. Estuaries Programme, are: Cape Nature and Overstrand Municipality. In the back-ground there is the Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) operating under the auspices of the National Water Act. In other words the forum is a heavy - weight body with an important brief. The forum itself is made up of a large number of interested and affected parties (I&AP's) ranging, in geographical terms, from Hawston all along the shores of Bot Lake and down to Kleinmond with 35 communities and organizations on the attendance list at one time.



Kleinmond residents and visitors are only too aware of the fact that the spit of sand between our lagoon and the ocean has remained tightly closed for the past 20 months. The mouth remained “bot-toe” – a very unusual occurrence for which a number of reasons, including a lower than normal winter rainfall, can be given but which still boils down to the fact that the water level of our lagoon over the past 20 months never reached the critical overflow height and that in the past Summer season we had to contend with a stagnant pool at the beach. This highly unsatisfactory

situation for Kleinmond residents and visitors is but one example of why the envisaged Management Plan for the Bot/Kleinmond Estuary is of such vital importance for Kleinmond and hence for our Kleinmond Nature Conservation Society. I shall explain more fully why this is so.

An aerial view of the vlei, for example a photograph taken from the top of Jeans Hill, clearly shows that the Bot Lake, the Rooisand Flats, Lamloch Swamps and the estuary at Kleinmond form an integrated system which interact naturally according to season, precipitation and water levels. Cape Nature's first assessment of the situation which was presented to the forum in 2008 noted that: “The estuary of the Bot River, known also as *Die Vlei*, *Hawstonvlei* or *Botriviersvlei*, is the third largest in the Cape Floristic Bioregion.



The diversity of habitat types within the system and the expanse of the water body, make it unique in South Africa. The Situation Assessment is premised on the view that the Bot and Kleinmond estuaries and intermediate wetlands of Rooisand and Lamloch Swamps, **must be managed as one system on the basis that water flows between them.**

From 2008 until the most recent meeting of the Forum on January 2011 in Kleinmond Library Hall, wide ranging and in-depth discussions have taken place, much work have been done in committees and a draft constitution for the BREF has been tabled. The full management plan has not been completed but from what has been minuted and voiced in the corridors it is, in a sense, comfortable for us to know that there is an awareness of the very strong interaction between the Bot outlet at Hawston and the conditions at the Kleinmond estuary. Criteria has been drawn up for artificial

breaching at Hawston when necessary, but the after effects of this on the rest of the vleis and on the Kleinmond estuary is a very complicated matter which has not been resolved yet.

F J van der Merwe

News from the Society / Nuus van die Vereniging:

Nuwe lede/ new members.

Ons verwelkom die volgende nuwe lede by ons vereniging: Mnr en mev G Scheepers van Secunda, Me A van den Heever van Stellenbosch, mnr en mev H Janse van Rensburg van Kleinmond, mr and mrs V Jacobs of Kleinmond, mnr en mev R Mos van Kleinmond en mnr en mev D Kriel van Kleinmond.

Belangegroep:

Voëlkykgroep: Paul Bramhall 028 271 5170

Skulp en Mariene groep: Ian Cushny 028 273 8589

Uitkapgroep: Robbie Hill 028 271 5918

Interest groups: Contact person:

Bird watching: Paul Bramhall 028 271 5170

Shell and marine group: Ian Cushny 028 273 8589

Hack group: Robbie Hill 028 271 5918

Dyer Island Conservation Trust.

Ons hoop sommige van ons lede het al die vislynherwinningsbuis op die Kleinmondstrand en by die parkeerarea by Derde Straat gesien. Die Vereniging het twee van die buise gekoop met die hoop dat visermanne vislyn daarin sal gooi in plaas daarvan om dit op die strand te laat lê.

Indien u op die strand loop en vislyn sien lê, tel dit asseblief op en gaan gooi dit in die buis. Van herwinning van die vislyn sal daar vir eers seker nie veel gebeur nie aangesien baie lyn nodig is om die projek aan die gang te hou maar intussen kan voëls en robbe beskerm word teen die vislyn.



Brenda Walters van Dyer Island en Liaan Geldenhuys van die Overstrand Munisipaliteit besig om die buis te installeer.

The Dyer Island Conservation Trust (DICT) in association with Overstrand Municipality has established the Fishing Line Recovery and Recycling Program (FLRRP) with specially designed disposal bins. This innovative project aims to reduce the severe environmental damage caused by discarded fishing line on our coastline.

Monofilament fishing line is **non-biodegradable and can last for up to 600 years in the marine environment where it entangles wildlife**, is mistakenly ingested by birds and animals, resulting in injury or death, and is also hazardous to boaters and swimmers.

By increasing public awareness about the negative impacts that fishing line debris has on marine life, water quality, and human welfare, we hope to reduce the amount of fishing line entering and remaining in the marine environment, as well as to increase the amount of fishing line being recycled.

(The bins at the main beach have already been vandalised but the bins will be replaced!)

ONS BIBLIOTEEK / OUR LIBRARY

Peter Müller, chairman.

Dit behoort teen die tyd bekend te wees dat u vereniging 'n biblioteek bou. Ons in Kleinmond is bevoordeel met 'n provinsiale biblioteek met 'n wye verskeidenheid boeke wat alle voorkeure grotendeels bevredig. Ons hoor dikwels baie positiewe kommentaar op ons biblioteek en veral ook die vriendlike behulpzaamheid van die personeel. Groter dorpe in die provinsie en selfs stede beny ons dié bate.

U vereniging het 'n paar jaar gelede begin om sy eie versameling van natuur-verwante boeke, tydskrifte en verslae bymekaar te maak. Die boeke is by wyse van donasies van lede en ander bekom. Indien u sodanige boeke op u rak het en om een of ander rede nie meer wil hou nie, skenk hulle gerus vir ons. Oor die laaste paar maande is hierdie dokumente almal deur Wilma Honeberg, die plaaslike hoofbibliotekaresse, gekatalogiseer, geklassifiseer en met plakkers voorsien wat hulle as ons eiendom identifiseer. Die versameling is in die kas onder ons permanente Fynbos-blomuistalling gehuisves. Wat ons nou in die besonder onder u aandig wil bring, is dat hulle, net soos enige ander boek of tydskrif, deur die publiek uitgeneem kan word om te lees, te bestudeer of te gebruik vir skooltake en dies meer. Uiteraard verwag ons dat die leesstof met respek gebruik sal word en ongeskonde teruggebring sal word.

Hopefully you are aware that your Society has initiated a project to build a library. The idea is that any member or other person who has books, journals or other documents on any aspect of nature and no longer wishes to keep them, can donate them to us for safekeeping. Many of these documents stand on our shelves and are under-utilized or get lost when the owner passes on. We in turn do not wish to lock them away, but want to make them available to our members and the public of Kleinmond so that they may continue to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of nature.

Therefore we are fortunate in having a provincial library that serves the general public's needs so excellently with its friendly and helpful staff. They have been willing to house our growing collection in the cabinet below our permanent exhibition of Fynbos flowers. And over the past months, Wilma Honeberg, the chief librarian, has classified and catalogued all our books and labeled them as our property. What we wish in particular, to bring to your attention is that the books and documents may be taken out on loan by any member of the public. Please avail yourself of this opportunity to increase your knowledge of nature and, in the case of school children to access material for tasks, etc. It is taken for granted that they will be treated with respect and returned in good condition.



ANOTHER YEAR IN KLEINMOND BIRD CLUB

By Margie Wilson

Thinking back over all our outings and events during 2010, we certainly covered a lot of ground. It is hard to select the special highlights, as each outing brought its own gems. The infinite variety of each outing too was commendable, and thanks to the dedication of Chairman Paul and his secretary Pauline, we were treated to some fine venues. The Overberg Meander led us to the wonderful farm of the, where we saw an infinite variety of birds, experienced run-away sheep and had lunch as we gazed over the beautiful newly harvested fields,



A very different view was that which we encountered on our visit to the Helderberg Nature reserve, where although we saw fewer birds than on a previous visit, we were entranced by the bontebok who strolled around the reserve, quite at home with the many visitors.

At Elgin, Jessie Walters arranged for us to watch the birds from a hide next to one of the dams, and we also visited the school, where the children have become keen birders and conservationists, thanks to their zealous principal who has done wonders to encourage the children to take stewardship of their environment.

Our old friend Jan Hofmeyr was once again on hand, first to take us to Macassar sewage works where he found so many birds for us, we did not know which way to look, and then on another occasion gave us a

wonderful slide show of his life long passion on storks. The pictures were astounding and his commentary informative and full of passion.

A second visit to Rondevlei and the Strandfontein sewage works provided numerous sightings of the flamingos and some lovely kelp gull chicks stole our hearts. Rondevlie is such an oasis in the midst of the bustle of the city, and offers refuge to a large variety of birds. Here we spotted a red knobbed coot's nest that was tucked neatly into the reeds and found the baby coot wading around close by.

Closer to home, the appearance of the open-billed stork so far from his normal habitat had us all agog, and ensured plenty of discussion and telephone calls amongst members.

Regular discussions were held about our gymnogene which roosted in the trees, and great was the excitement when we realised that a pair had actually raised their baby in our town. Seeing the three soaring overhead was really thrilling.

The weather gave us a run for our money, and although we complained that winter had been abnormally dry, it seemed each time we had an outing planned the rain came down! On one such occasion when most birders had turned over and gone back to sleep, a few hardy souls were treated to some wonderful bird pictures and calls from the Kruger National Park at Paul's home. We had bird quizzes in various forms and a lot of easy camaraderie and fellowship.

The coming year is full of promise of more local visits, to find rockjumpers and discover what gems are in Harold Porter Gardens as well as a visit to the Caledon Nature Reserve, Rooisand, and Onrus, Dick Dent Reserve and hopefully a glimpse of black eagles. For those rainy wet cold days in the middle of the year we have a few indoor activities lined up, including birds from foreign climes, quizzes and visiting authorities on birdlife. Chairman Paul has put a lot of effort in compiling the packed programme.

**AJV
AGM**

**Woensdag / Wednesday
20 April 2011**

18:00 vir 18:30

**Kleinmond Biblioteeksaal
Kleinmond Library Hall**

**Besoekers welkom
Visitors welcome**

**There will be a guest speaker
Daar sal 'n gasspreker wees.**

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Die opinie van die outeurs is nie noodwendig die opinie van die Vereniging nie.

The opinion of the authors is not necessarily the opinion of the Society.

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