

Pearly Beach Village Newsletter November 2015

Website: www.pearlybeachratepayers.co.za

Welcome to the November edition of our newsletter for homeowners of Pearly Beach. The contents of this newsletter have been compiled and written by members of both the Ratepayers' Association and the Conservancy. Their aim is to bring you village-related matters, events, local Municipal issues, and various articles of interest and informative views that are pertinent to our Village. We hope you find it interesting to read!

Word in Edgeways.....From the Chairperson

It is almost time to bid 2015 a fond farewell! The Pearly Beach Ratepayers' Association had hoped to reach their target of 80 members by the end of this year. Sadly, this goal has not been attained. Our membership currently stands at 39 paid up members. We would like to extend an invitation to all homeowners in Pearly Beach to join our Association. According to the Constitution of 1983, the entrance fee required to join the PBRPA then was R10 per member with an annual subscription of the princely sum of R2 per member!

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at the Angling Club on Tuesday, 22 December at 10h30. We encourage you to attend!

Your 2015 management committee would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our residents, homeowners and holiday makers alike "Happy Holidays!"

For those who acknowledge the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, we invite you to join us on the Village Green, for a joyous commemoration in Scripture and Song of His birth and coming to earth, **on the evening of Tuesday, 22 December, 2015.**

Carols on the Green will commence at **19h30**. A blanket or chair, a candle and strong voice are all that is needed for this hour long celebration. **Hope to see you there!**



The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His*
presence

Shalom Shirley

Heilie's Herbarium

In 1991 Pearly Beach was granted Conservational status by Cape Nature and a committee was formed to run, develop and make aware the issues that it stood for. Part of this development was the gaining of permission to open and run our own Herbarium

The committee wanted a place where not only could plants be identified, dried, pressed and records kept but also somewhere that we could display the vast expanse of Fynbos that is in our village. Therefore the wooden Wendy house was purchased in 1999 and placed just off the Main Rd next to the Angling Club. Many of you will have visited this place and enjoyed the display and gained knowledge of the plants around you in the village.

But like a lot of successful projects it needs a passionate and dedicated leader, so up stepped Heilie Mostert. She volunteered to run the Herbarium side of things, collect the plants, organize the volunteer licensed pickers, submit the findings to Cape Nature and organize and clean the display area.

Heilie looked after the little wooden hut for 13yrs, until the village through the Ratepayers' Association and the Municipality in 2012 developed the village green and garden, and had a brand new brick building built to house an up to date herbarium and display area now called the Fynbos Centre.

Heilie then organized the move across with her volunteers and over saw the smooth transition to the Centre of the contents and records of the Herbarium. She then set about with her group of coastal volunteers to plan the Fynbos garden and oversaw its construction and development. From the planning of paths and positioning of seats to getting a water supply into it were all driven by her. She organized the right plants to be planted, many coming from her own garden others she organized from friends and from local garden centres.

At least once a week for the last 3 years Heilie could be found in the garden..gardening!

Some of the Herbariums highlights can be summarized as follows:

- Many of the indigenous plants in our area have now been identified and catalogued.
- Heilie Mostert, the Co-coordinator of the Herbarium, was one of the finalists of the Overstrands Mayor's award for conservation in the Overstrand
- The successful propagation of one precious bulb of a rare white Brunsvigia with the help of Jim Homes of Cape Seed and Bulb. He started this project during November 2004 and during 2010 6 bulbs were given back to us and so far all are doing well.

However Heilie has now decided its time to take a back seat and unfortunately for us has called time on her gardening days and will be retiring at the end of this year!

She has given over 20 years to the Conservancy and in particular the Herbarium and lately the village Fynbos garden, and we (the villagers) are so grateful that she did, as we now have a fine example of an indigenous Fynbos garden along with contributing to the important records of Cape Nature.

So we wish Heilie good luck in the future and we all thank you for your dedication and help in creating a fantastic attribute for the village.





What is MyBirdPatch

MyBirdPatch is a web-based platform for birders and citizen scientists to collect and collate their bird lists, for any area they define.

Who can use it

Any birders, or citizen scientist, who wants to contribute their lists to the growing knowledge-base of bird distribution and counts in Africa,

Why do we do it

To allow the Animal Demographic Unit of CTU to monitor the distribution changes over time, and attempt to track hotspots of bird populations in Africa.

The village Fynbos garden has been a designated bird patch for over 2years, and weekly the species of birds found in it are recorded and the data submitted. To date 49 different species of birds have been recorded in and over the garden alone. To see the list go and visit the Fynbos Centre where its displayed.

If you are interested in starting your own patch (you can use your own garden, window box or even just your stoep) then go to www.mybirdpatch.adu.org.za

Its fun, it's free and it's a worth while cause!

House Numbers

This is just a gentle reminder to all home owners in the village to display your house number on your property as opposed to just the Erf number. It's alright to have both, but the Municipality and other services, i.e., couriers and emergency services rely solely on house numbers to locate your premises.

If you are unsure of your actual number please contact the Municipality or check your monthly account from them as this will have both the house number and the Erf number on it.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 3 2 4 5 7 6 8 9 0 1 2

The Octopus

While hiking at Quoin point I came across the same octopus in the same hole I saw two weeks before! I recognised him by his missing arm that had started to grow back, because when attacked by predators octopus can detach an arm to deter the attacker. They also detach their penis during mating which when not in use for reproduction acts as an arm!

He may have recognised me also because octopuses are the most intelligent invertebrate. They are solitary, territorial hunters and the offspring do not have a learning process based on direct transmission. The speed of learning is astonishing, comparable with that of the apes. An octopus can detect a solution to a problem by itself, displaying "conceptual thinking". Besides mammals and birds, octopuses are the only animals that play!

So when I picked up my new friend for a closer look, I knew I was safe from his bite, although all Octopus have venom his is not harmful to humans. While looking into his eyes, which are the most sophisticated amongst invertebrates but still unable to see in colour!, I could not help wonder at this evolutionary masterpiece, unfortunately they only live for 3-5 years which limits their time for accumulation of information. Some researchers say that if octopus had lived longer, they, and not humans, would have been the dominant intelligence on Earth!

Imagine a creature able not only to change colour but skin texture to resemble its surroundings, intelligently stalking its prey, 3 hearts beating blue blood, able to pass through small cracks and holes, with the ability to solve complex problems using two memories one cerebral (brain) and one tactile, connected to their cups or suckers, able to lay clusters of eggs, usually 100-500,000 that are tentatively guarded by the female until she dies of starvation.

What an amazing creature to behold!

Jason Stonehewer Beachcomber Guide



Conservancy Projects

This year the village Conservancy started 3 exciting projects, all of which anyone can contribute towards when ever they are in the village, even if it's for a short time or on a holiday break.

Firstly there is the **Black Oystercatcher count**. The coastline at Pearly Beach has been divided into four areas for ease of recording. All you have to do is count the number of birds you see in any given area and send the info to Steve Peck via SMS or email.

The areas (zones) are 1) The river mouth on Afsaal beach to the car park at the resort. 2) from this car park to the car park at Harbour St. 3) from Harbour St to the car park of Espande Rd, and lastly 4) from there to Blue Water Bay.

The second project is studying the territories of our **Angulate tortoises**.

To achieve this, 50 tortoises have been identified and marked with a white number on their shell. All you have to do if you see one of these numbered tortoises is just record which Erf / plot you see it on and send in the details to Jason Stonehewer. He is collating when and where they are seen to determine how far individual ones move and so working out their territories and moving patterns.

This project is currently being submitted to a University for sponsoring on behalf of Cape Nature

The third project is even simpler for you to help with; it's the village **Otter Watch**.

Pearly Beach has a number of Cape Clawless Otters, but unfortunately these can be shy and elusive creatures, so all we want from you is a sighting area and if possible a photo!!

We already have some sightings and even some great photos taken of otters on our village coastline. Again your info can be sent to Jason.

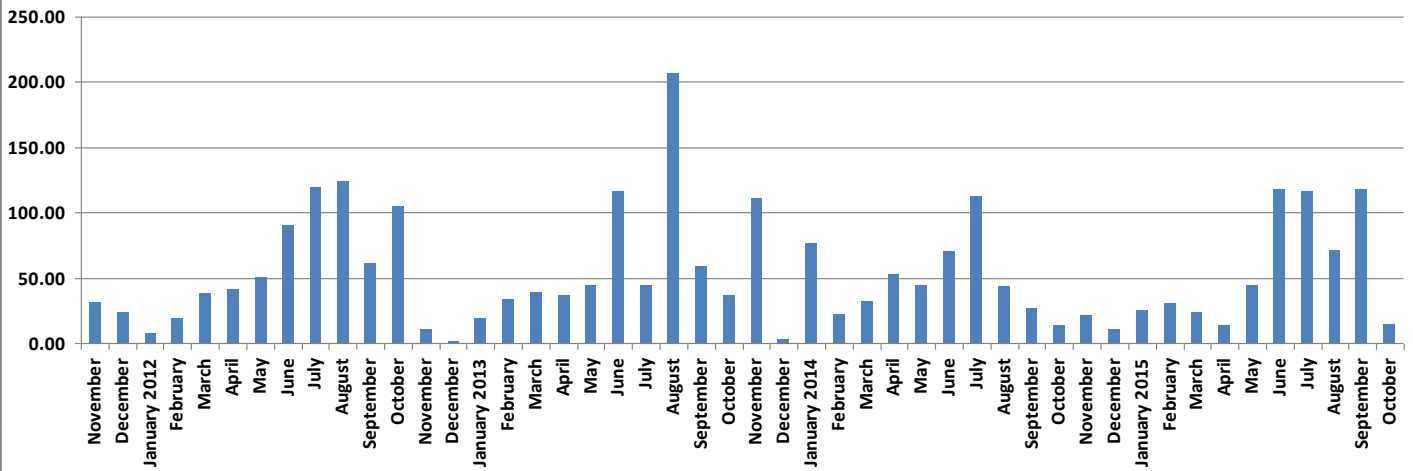
Contact Details

Steve Peck...082 663 6143 / stevepeck49@gmail.com

Jason Stonehewer ...072 890 4317 / stonehewerj@gmail.com



Monthly Rainfall (mm) from November 2011 - October 2015



Rainfall in Pearly Beach

Above is a graph of the monthly rainfall in Pearly Beach from the year November 2011 to date. This has been compiled from daily readings taken by me purely for my personal interest.

I hope you find it interesting and informative, and that it might help you plan your next visit!

- Statistics compiled by Steve Peck

Angling Club News

The Club have in general had a very good year. Our big fundraising effort came to an end on Saturday 10 October when the Draw for the "Big Draw" Competition took place at The Club.

The winner of the Weekend for 4 at Kambaku River Sands in the Timbavati was Willem Matthews. The second Prize of R12 500.00 went to Martin Reinke and the third prize of R7 500.00 went to Arlene Halkett. A further 27 lucky draw prizes were won. A big thank you to everybody who supported this event by buying a ticket and we thank all our sponsors, as without them this event would not have been possible.



Photographed left:
Phillip Fourie, the club captain
seen receiving a lucky draw prize
from Mike Lamb.

Right: Kallie Reinke receiving the
2nd place prize cheque on behalf
of his son Martin.



2015 is rapidly nearing its end and so too the term of the present Municipal Council. 2016 will again be an election year during which we will all be going to the polls in a Local Government election to elect a new Municipal Council as well as a new District Council.

At this stage it is still only the State President who knows when the election will take place, but in terms of legislation it must be between 20 May and 20 August next year. The early indications are that the election may well be called to take place on 25 May and because it is a Local Government election, voters may only vote at the polling station where they are registered.

It is therefore important that every voter ensures that they are registered at the correct polling station and in the case of Pearly Beach this will again be at the Angling Club and the polling station number is 97930031. The voter registration sticker in your ID book must reflect this number as the Voting District Number. There will be two registration weekends next year, the first will take place on the 6th and 7th February and the second on 5th and 6th March. If you are not sure that you are registered to vote in Pearly Beach, the Electoral Commission staff will be at the Angling Club on both of those weekends where you can check your registration and correct this if necessary.

When leaving Pearly Beach after visiting our beautiful village, please place your household refuse in the bin provided at the Municipal Drop-Off Site. A wheelie bin is placed at the gate of the Drop-Off should you leave after normal operating hours. We make this request because we prefer our village **NOT** to look like this after you have returned home:



I wish to thank you for allowing me to represent you as your Ward Councilor for the past five years. Shirley and I wish you all a prosperous 2016.

- Dudley

Forthcoming Events

Friday, 18 December

10:00 *Conservancy AGM – NG Church Hall, Pearly Beach*

Saturday, 19 December

09:00 *Conservancy Craft Market on the Village Green*

19:30 *Pearly Beach Angling Club Prize Giving – Pearly Beach Club*

Tuesday, 22 December

10:30 *Pearly Beach Ratepayers AGM – Pearly Beach Club*

19:30 *Christmas Celebration on the Village Green*

Friday, 25 December

12:30 *Christmas Lunch at Pearly Beach Club - Booking essential*

12:30 *Christmas Lunch at Pearly Gate Diner – Booking essential*

Tuesday, 29 December

10:00 *Pearly Beach Club AGM – Pearly Beach Club*

Wednesday, 30 December

11:00 *Pearly Beach Affaire on the Village Green*

Thursday, 31 December

19:30 *New Year's Eve Dance – Pearly Beach Club*

Pearly Beach

Ratepayers' Association
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P O Box, 1610 Gansbaai, 7220
Email: shirdu@vodamail.co.za

Cell: 082 778 8665
Secretary

Fax: 028 3819867
admin@pearlybeachratepayers.co.za

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of members of the Pearly Beach Ratepayers' Association will take place on Tuesday, 22 December, 2015 at 10h30, in the Pearly Beach Club hall.

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Devotions
2. Apologies
3. Approval of 2014 AGM minutes
4. Chairperson's Report
5. Ward Councillor's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Election of new Management Committee
8. General

For Payment of Subscriptions:

R40-00 – single membership
R60-00 - family membership

(i.e. two people occupying same property)

Pearly Beach Ratepayers' Association,
ABSA, Gansbaai, Branch code 632005, a/c no 3228149534
Please send proof of payment to
admin@pearlybeachratepayers.co.za (email)

**NB Please include your name and Erf no
as a reference on your deposit**

Ratepayers' website

www.pearlybeachratepayers.co.za

Secretary admin@pearlybeachratepayers.co.za

Chairperson shirdu@vodamail.com

Conservancy

Secretary smfuchs@hermanus.co.za

Chairman stonehewerj@gmail.com

Snippets of village info...

The Municipality have erected "Dogs on leashes" signs at all the main entrances to the beach in the village. This is due to complaints being made to them of unruly dog owners letting their animals run free and approach/attack other beach users.

We have been informed that Law enforcement officers will be patrolling the beaches to enforce this matter especially during peak holiday times.

The Environmental Agency has also erected "No driving on the beach" signs at all the vehicular accesses.

There is a number to call if you find cars being driven on the beach and we urge you call it and report people. Vehicles on the beach are destroying nesting sites, eroding the dunes and are a hazard to other beach users, it must be stopped!

Also the African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary (Kleinbaai) have put signs with an emergency number to call if you find an **injured or distressed seabird on the beach**.

Please do not touch the birds just call the number and report the location, if in any doubt call Jason Stonehewer (Conservancy Chairman in the village) and he will attend or advise straight away..
072 890 4317

...and don't forget the Affaire!

This year's Affaire will be held on the village green on Wednesday 30 December 2015 between 11-3pm

There will be live music, local crafts, drinks and home made foodstuffs, plus children's entertainment!

Please come and support your village!

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of the village newsletter for you, the homeowners of the village - compiled by the Ratepayers' Association and the Village Conservancy Committees.

As before, we have tried to keep you updated with current events within the village, and forthcoming attractions that are planned for the rest of this year.

As always, we welcome comments on items to include in further newsletters, and suggestions can be e-mailed to our Secretary at the e-mail addresses above left.

Lastly, we urge everyone reading this to ensure you are up-to-date with your membership subscriptions. We really need your support in this way, and it will mean that we can continue to improve our Village in a gentle and caring manner. - Thank you.