

COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER

Gans Berg

Nuus/News

PRICE
R15.00

28 November 2025

Distr. Areas: Gansbaai, Kleinbaai, Franskraal, Uilenkraalsmond,
Pearly Beach, Bredasdorp, Hermanus, Stanford

279th Edition

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Skaapkopete in Gansbaai... 'n Fees vir Skeptici én Smulpape



Gansbaai het die afgelope naweek weer gewys dat ons dorpie nie net bekend is vir walvisse en snoek nie, maar ook vir 'n kulinêre tradisie wat sommige mense laat watertand - en ander laat wens hulle het maar 'n toebroodjie gebring. (Ek sluit myself hierby in!) Hoewel die skaapkopete in Baardskeedersbos voorberei en gaargemaak is, het die smullekker fees op Saterdag, 22 November 2025 in die Pretoriussaal afgespeel, onder leiding van Annatjie van Zyl en haar gedugte span helpers.

Die tafels was skaars gedek of die borde was al vol 'beendere' - 20 skaapkopete se 'beendere' - met bykosse soos aartappel-, kool- en beetslaai, asook verskeie tuisgebakte brode en konfyte. Om skaapkopeters dop te hou is op sy eie 'n vertoning:

die nuwelinge begin versigtig met mes en vurk... maar die gesoute kenners arriveer met 'n behoorlike jagmes of selfs 'n kleinbyltjie.

Die skaapkopete is sorgvuldig voorberei en gebak deur Johan van Dyk van die plaas Nieuwedam. Hy sê die gaarmaakproses neem sowat 4½ uur. Baie dankie, Johan - jy het jou oortref, en die mense het heerlik gesmul!

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Vir die oningeligte: 'n skaapkop word eers gekruie, stadig gebak en dan met trots op 'n bord aangebied. Die oog kyk jou half uitdagend aan, die tande glimlag soos 'n ou vriend, en die tong lê daar soos 'n uitnodiging. Vir die liefhebbers is dit 'n delikatesse. Vir die res is dit... wel... 'n toets van karakter. "Toe ek my sitplek inneem, het ek die kop met dieselfde skeptisisme aangekyk as 'n tiener wat sy wiskunde-eksamen oopmaak - moet ek regtig?!" vertel 'n anonieme eter. Maar toe hy sien hoe sy buurman se lippe blink van die vet en hoe die wangvleis met 'n glimlag afgekrap word, het hy besef: hier wag 'n onbekende wêreld van smaak.

Die ete was ook 'n sosiale geleentheid: mense lag en gesels, en deel raad oor watter deel van die kop die beste is. Kenners sweer by die tong - sag en vol geur. Ander verkies die wangvleis, glo die ware maatstaf van 'n goeie skaapkopkok. En dan is daar die dapperes wat die oog aanpak. Een het na bewering geknipoo na die eerste hap!

Wat die meeste indruk gemaak het, was egter

nie net die kos nie, maar die atmosfeer. 'n Skaapkopete is *glad nie* 'n formele affêre nie – dit is 'n lawaaierige, vrolike byeenkoms waar stories vloei, kinders rondskarrel, en servette vinniger opraak as moed. En ja, daar is skeptici wat beslis nie die volgende oggend weer skaapkop vir ontbyt sal bestel nie. Maar niemand kan ontken dat daar iets besonder aan hierdie tradisie is nie. Dit herinner ons dat kos nie net oor smaak gaan nie, maar oor saamwees, lag en 'n gemeenskap wat op eie unieke maniere feesvier. Of jy nou jou lippe blink vryf van die vet, of stil-stil by die broodmandjie bly, die skaapkopete in Gansbaai was 'n ervaring wat nie maklik vergeet word nie. En wie weet - dalk knipoog daardie oog jou volgende keer net genoeg om jou te oortuig! Annatjie is baie tevrede dat die geleentheid 'n groot sukses was. Baie geluk aan haar en haar span vir die aanbieding van hierdie gesellige skaapkopete - 'n besonderse prestasie vir 'n eerste probeerslag.

Hardus Botha



Johan van Dyk het vir die smaaklike skaapkoppe gesorg.



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Lyndans is 'Terapie vir die Brein'



Die Happy Feet Lyndansers.

“Lyndans is terapie vir die brein,” vertel 'Langeraat' Lizette van der Merwe en 'Dwergie' Martie Butner tydens die Gansbaai Lyndansgroep, *Happy Feet*, se onlangse jaarafsluitingsfunksie in die Birkenhead Boothengelklub se saal. Dié opmerking sluit mooi aan by die groep se logo: 'Dans is ons



Die manne het nie teruggestaan nie.

terapie'!
Die gesellige groep Lyndansers, onder leiding van Margi Muller, het die afsluiting in karnavalstyl gevier. Die manne is ook uitgenooi, en daar was geen tekort aan kleurvolle karnaval-uitrustings nie. “Selfs die manne was behoorlik 'ge-dress' en het tot saam met ons gedans,” vertel Margi. Sy sê die spyseniering is deur Eileen's Takeaway van Gansbaai behartig, wat heerlike eetgoed voorsien het, terwyl Melanie Kroese haar pos in die kroeg volgestaan het om vir die drankies te sorg.

Die Happy Feet Lyndansers
“Ons groep, die *Happy Feet Lyndansers*, bestaan gemiddeld uit 20 dames,” vertel Margi. “Ek is al die jare die 'voordanser', met



Stella Koppel oorhandig 'n geskenk aan Margi Muller.



Langste en kortse lyndansers: Lizette van der Merwe en Martie Butner.

sowat 5 dames wat al lank saam met my dans.” Margi sê hulle is al baie jare aktief met lyndansery besig, waarvan die afgelope tien jaar by die Birkenhead Boothengelklub die beste was. Tydens die Covid-pandemie kon daar egter nie veel gebeur nie. Stella Koppel het 'n blyk van waardering namens die Happy Feet Lyndansgroep aan Margi oorhandig vir haar toewyding en die reëlings vir die funksie. “Ons gesellige funksies begin elke jaar met gebed, waarin ons almal se 'lief en leed' aan ons Hemelse Vader opdra,” sê Margi.

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OHG-Jaarafsluiting skop af met boomplanting



Die Overberg Houtwerkgilde (OHG) se jaarafsluitingsfunksie op 14 November 2025 het afgeskop met die plant van 'n paar Kusvaalbosbome, ook bekend as die Kus-silwerboom ('n inheemse spesie). Die geleentheid is in die NG Kerk se Kleinsaal aangebied, en die bome is op die kerkterrein geplant. Mooi so, Overberg Houtwerkgilde, julle sorg sommer vroegtydig vir toekomstige Houtwerkgildes se hout!

“Die funksie is goed deur die lede en hul gades bygewoon - en ná die boomplanterij is daar smaaklik aan varknek en hoender gesmul,” vertel De Wet Conradie, OHG se sekretaris. “Die gasbraaiery is deur Jakkals en Mariëtte behartig, terwyl die bykosse deur die manne se wederhelftes voorsien is.”

Die funksie het terselfdertyd as 'n Algemene Jaarvergadering gedien. Enkele hoogtepunte van 2025 is deur voorsitter



Dirk Staal uitgelig: *Maandelikse vergaderings is goed bygewoon, dikwels met 'n vleisie op die kole en 'n vloeibare versnapering daarby; *Ondersteuning van Elim Tehuis met boublokkies; *Die bou van 'n breekwarekas vir die Silwerjare Dienssentrum; *'n Interessante besoek aan Philip Rosenkrantz se CNC-masjien; *Geen lede wou hierdie jaar hul 80ste verjaarsdag herdenk nie, maar dit lyk of daar 'n paar in 2026 gaan wees,” het De Wet tong-in-die-kies bygevoeg.

“Die OHG wens die redaksie van die Gans-Berg Nuis, asook al hul lesers, 'n geseënde Kersfees en 'n voorspoedige 2026 toe,” het De Wet afgesluit. Die volgende vergadering vind plaas op die eerste Donderdag van Februarie 2026.

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Luisterryke Kerssangdiens 'Woord en Lied vertel die Kersverhaal'



NG-koor, met Linette J van Rensburg (afrigter, 3de ry links), tydens die laaste samesang.

onderbrekings of aankondigings.

Ds Willie Kotze het die Bybelse voorlesings oor die koms van die Jesuskind stapsgewys voorgelees, waarna die koor, na elke voorlesing, met relevante koorsang opgevolg het. Die koorsang is met gemeentesang afgewissel, wat 'n besondere gevoel van eenheid geskep het. Tydens beide koor- en gemeentesang is sommige liedere as beurtsang uitgevoer, waar mans en vroue om die beurt spesifieke verse gesing het - dit het nog meer bygedra tot 'n saamhorigheidsgevoel.



Annatjie Smit agter die orrel.

Sondagaand 23 November 2025 se Kerssangdiens in 'n stamp-stampvol kerk, was sonder twyfel luisterryk en gevoelvol - die naderende Kersfees en Christus se geboorte kon byna aangevoel word. Die program én uitvoering, onder leiding van die NG-gemeente se bekwame orrelis en koorafriiger, Linette Janse van Rensburg, het vlot en sonder haakplekke verloop - met 'n koor wat werklik kán sing en Annatjie Smit met orrelbegeleiding tydens die samesang. Die volledige program is sinvol en aaneenlopend deurgewerk, sonder

die gemeente ontspanne in die Pretoriussaal met smaaklike verversings saam verkeer - waarvoor die gedugte Gasvryheidsgroep se dames natuurlik gesorg het. Die berig word afgesluit met een van die verskeie 'Griekwa-psalm-taalgebruik-liedere' wat die koor uitgevoer het - elkeen uniek, suiwer en met só 'n egte taalgebruik, dat dit nie hier uitgelaat kan word nie.

"Geseënde Krismis"

**Op Krismis vra ons die seën-
Op Krismis vra ons die seën-
Mag die Jirre oor ons almal wees-
Die Liefde en Genade se Fees.
*Die boodskap ytie Jimmel yt-
Sif soos reën op die aarde neer-
Die boodskap wat sê dat ons mekaar
lief moet hê-
Maar ok my eige self so lief moet hê.
*Dis Krismis en ons kry die seën-
Dis Krismis en ons kry die seën-
Hierielike Seuntjie van God lat die
boodskap-
Van Liefde op ons reën-
Dis Krismis, dis Krismis, dis Krismis-
Geseënde Krismis.*

Hardus Botha



Ds Willie Kotze.

Voorbeelde van goed gekose koorliedere sluit in: *Kersfees kom vir jou; Die klokke lui vrolik; Hierdie Kind; Maria; Nachtegaal; Bokwagters; Hemelse Ster; Wyse Manne.* Elke lied is voorafgegaan met 'n gepaste voorlesing deur ds Kotze - só vloeiend, dat dit gevoel het asof die Christusverhaal met *Woord en Lied* reg voor almal ontvou.

Na afloop van die besondere diens het



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Gansveer - Trotse Kultuurgroep

Vier groei, gemeenskap en wenprestasies

Die Gansveer Dig- en Skrywersgroep, 'n trotse kultuurgroep onder leiding van Susan van Zyl, leef hul leuse voluit: om groei, gemeenskap en wenprestasies te vier. Tydens die groep se jaarafsluitingsfunksie in Die Bakhuis, is uitstaande, selfgeskepte hoede en kreatiwiteit met pryse vereer - geborg deur Esmé van Die Bakhuis én Natalie Dominique Louw, bekende skrywer en kunstenaar. Die eerste drie prysweners was Mari Weber (1ste plek), Arista Bouwer (2de plek) en Joey Gouws (3de plek).

“Elke lid dra positief by tot die groei en karakter van Gansveer en help om die groep as 'n gevestigde kultuurinstelling in die gemeenskap te bou,” vertel Susan van Zyl. Die groep is in 2023 deur haar begin en het intussen gegroei tot 'n trotse kultuurgroep waar woordkunstenaars van



Dis mos hoe 'n 'Gansveer-koek' moet lyk! (Die Bakhuis)



Arista Bouwer.



Mari Weber.




Joey Gouws en Natalie Dominique Louw.

uiteenlopende agtergronde gereeld bymekaarkom. Tans bestaan die groep uit 'n verskeidenheid lede - van gevestigde digters met bundels, tot novelle-skrywers en liefhebbers van die woordkuns wat bloot die kuns van taal waardeer.

Gansveer het aanvanklik by Art4Heart bymekaargekom, daarna by Afrikanos, en later selfs in wonings. Deur al hierdie fases het Die Bakhuis 'n onmisbare deel van Gansveer geword - met borgskappe, ruimte en 'n warm gasvryheid wat soos 'n tweede huis voel.

Belangstellendes wat graag wil aansluit, kan vir Susan van Zyl via WhatsApp by 071 671 8513 kontak. Nuwe lede is altyd welkom.

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PIZZA	XXXXXXXL	8170c
PIZZA	XXXXXXXL	8220c
PIZZA	XXXXXXXL	8270c
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One of the Conservation Team members noticed a tortoise with two ticks on its shell. "We learnt that there is circulation between the shell and the bone, and ticks can access the blood system between the scutes (tortoise scales)."



This is a male boomslang. His colour is much darker than that of a female. Boomslange have incredible eyesight, both for hunting and for avoiding predators.



This is a rhombic skaapesteker, which poses no threat to humans but certainly puts on a show. Reserve Manager Mike Fabricius observed this one flattening its neck almost like a cobra. He had not seen this behaviour in skaapestekers before, but believes it serves the same purpose - to appear larger and ward off potential threats.

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Employment Type: Permanent
Place of Work: Hermanus

Requirements: • Grade 12 Certificate • Computer literacy in MS Office (MS Word, MS Excel)
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• (Two–five) 2–5 years' Debtors, Journals and Reconciliation experience.

To view detailed advertisements with all relevant information for the above vacancy please visit Overstrand Municipality's website at: www.overstrand.gov.za

For any enquiries in this regard, please contact Mr. Davy Louw on 028 313 5090.

Closing date: 10 December 2025

Dr DGI O'Neill
Municipal Manager / Munisipale Bestuurder / Umphathi Kamasipala
P.O. Box / Posbus / Ibhokisi yePosi 20 HERMANUS 7200
Notice No / Kennisgewing nr / Inombolo yesaziso: 240/2025



The DA's inaugural Catalyst Leadership Programme recently concluded with its final retreat, marking the end of a transformative year. Candidates from across the Western Cape were equipped and mentored for leadership roles within the party.

Kathryn Gardiner-Marshall from the Overstrand proudly graduated from the programme, gaining valuable skills and connections. She looks forward to applying this growth as the 2026 Local Government Election approaches.

Hardus Botha

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 Bredasdorp: Crystal Life Water, Pavilion Mall @ 10am
End point : Birkenhead Brewery

For more info contact:
 Eddie Noble: 083 261 5675
 info@overbergtoyrun.co.za

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Gebaretaal is die moedertaal van Dowes

Deel II

In Deel I van hierdie reeks is daar verwys na die orale- en lipleesmetodes (spraaklees), asook na gebaretaal. (Gans-Berg Nuis, 21 November 2025)

In Deel II kyk ons na die praktiese toepassing van gebaretaal, tesame met relevante foto-demonstrasies. Martin du Plessis van Franskraal het verkleinde fotostate van die eenhand-vingeralfabet gemaak, wat hy so akkuraat as moontlik beskryf het. Martin se hoofbron is die handboek *Talking to the Deaf / Praat met die Dowes*, geskryf deur Norman Nieder-Heitmann.

Deel II sal oor meer as een uitgawe voortgesit word, aangesien die hoeveelheid demonstrasies te veel is vir een uitgawe. Dit sal onder die opskrif: Sekere gebare om met Dowes wat jy raakloop te kan *praat / kommunikeer*, geplaas word. Ons begin hierdie week met die 'getal-gebare', wat later met 'taal-gebare' opgevolg sal word.

Hardus Botha



Weather Forecast / Weer Voorspelling

Friday 28/11/2025	Saturday 29/11/2025	Sunday 30/11/2025	Monday 01/12/2025	Tuesday 02/12/2025	Wednesday 03/12/2025
18°	19°	22°	22°	21°	22°
Fresh Breeze 8 m/s from west 0 mm precipitation.	Gentle Breeze 5 m/s from south 0 mm precipitation.	Fresh Breeze 9 m/s from south-east 0 mm precipitation.	Fresh Breeze 8 m/s from south-east 0 mm precipitation.	Fresh Breeze 8 m/s from south-east 0 mm precipitation.	Fresh Breeze 9 m/s from south-east 0 mm precipitation.

Getytafels / Tide Tables

Dag / Day	High	High	Low	Low
28 November	0849	2130	0214	1531
29 November	1003	2249	0337	1645
30 November	1110	2353	0449	1745
1 December	1207	0047	0550	1837
2 December	1259	0135	0644	1924
3 December	1347	0200	0734	2010
4 December	0222	1434	0822	2054
5 December	0308	1521	0910	2138
6 December	0354	1607	0958	2223
7 December	0440	1655	1047	2308
8 December	0528	1744	1140	2355
9 December	0619	1837	1238	0047
10 December	0714	1938	1344	0147
11 December	0817	2050	1458	0200

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Three weeks ago, Reserve Manager Mike photographed these blue cranes as they danced and displayed their courtship rituals. Blue cranes are a conservation success story in the Overberg region, with their numbers stabilizing after years of collaborative conservation efforts across the landscape.

Reserve Manager Mike photographed an egg near the same area as the blue cranes - it's the egg of a blue crane.

Our Conservation Team was amazed to see the fire lily (Cyranthus) emerging after the recent fire.

Gladiators in miniature.

Beautiful spears of blue in the fynbos: Aristeia spiralis.

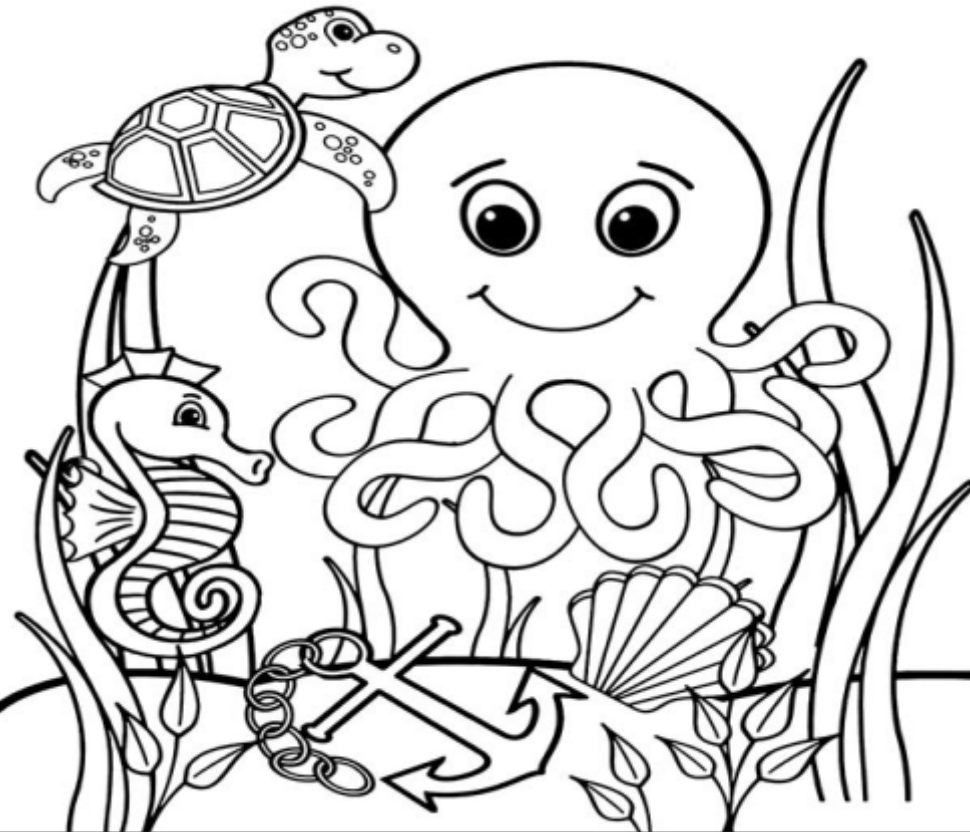


BRAIN TEASERS / KOPKRAPPERS

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

106248 236462 496963 563824 662735
 154259 479158 496974 564237 751951
 162261 489238 532137 605271 908469
 225479 494114 546183 653921

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ANSWERS

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

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

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Gansbaai Gholfklub

Adriaan Kloppers & Walter Wallace palm Family Church 4BBB Stableford in

Die Family Church 4BBB Stableford is deur Adriaan Kloppers & Walter Wallace op Saterdag, 22 November 2025 gewen, met die Langste Dryf deur Marie Fourie en Pieter Smal.

Woensdag, 19 November:

Hugo Groenewald wen die Sloegers Enkel Stableford kompetisie met 36 punte, gevolg deur John Wellman 35, Dawie Viljoen 35, Jacques Louw 34, Solly Wessels 34, Johan Coetzee 34, D Bam 33, Rene Myburgh 31, Deon Oosthuizen 31 en Cobus Dippenaar 31. Spog Twee: Jacques Louw op no 11.

Donderdag, 20 November:

John Smith wen die 9-putjie Enkel Stableford kompetisie met 18 punte, gevolg deur Callie Lourens 18, Johan du Preez 17, Pieter Smal 16, Faan Havenga 15, Pieter Uys 14, Lionel Kemm 14, Sakkie van der Merwe 12, Jacques Louw 12 Jacobus Bothma 12.

Saterdag, 22 November:

Adriaan Kloppers & Walter Wallace, wen die Family Church 4BBB Stableford kompetisie met 41 punte, gevolg deur Jeff Lotter & Walter Wallace 39, Cobus Dippenaar & Hugo Groenewald 38, Joe Cesare & Melvin Tobias 38, Jacques Louw & Solly Wessels 37, Marie Fourie & Rene Myburgh 36, Coetzee Neethling & Deon Momberg 36, Pieter Loubser & Willem Germishuys 35, Johan Coetzee & Clive Bailey 34 en Neil Harrison & Stephen Brown 34.

Naaste aan die pen op no 2 was JP Laubscher (geel bof) en op no 15 Petro Marais (rooi bof). Meeste gholf gespeel: J Pelser & P Marais (30).

Saterdag 29 November:

L & L Invitation Golf en die formaat is 'n 4Ball Alliance Scramble.

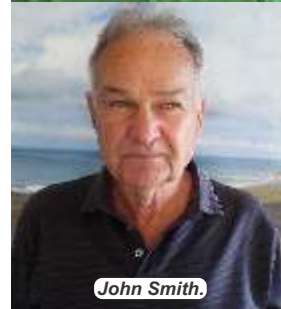
Verjaarsdae:

Mark Burger (1ste) en Koos Myburgh (10de).

Groete, Johan Coetzee 082 878 0534



Hugo Groenewald.

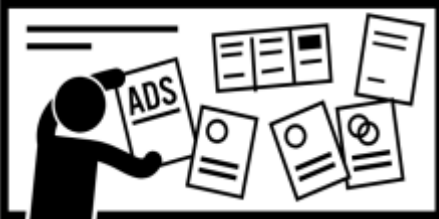


John Smith.



Jack Ross, Walter Wallace en Adriaan Kloppers.

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 Kleinbaai NHW: Maryna Basson - 073 439 1979
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 Pearly Beach Resort NHW: Maggie Coetzee - 083 245 1207
 Perlemoenbaai NHW: Stuart Hayman - 072 749 1510
 Baardskeerdersbos Plaasweg: Flippie Groenewald - 072 413 9718
 Masakhane NHW: Mziwenkosi (Magic) Ngewu - 071 355 3555
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Western Cape expands conservation estate... Mount David Nature Reserve



The Western Cape has officially declared Mount David Nature Reserve its newest Provincial Nature Reserve - an 800-hectare haven for threatened ecosystems and endangered species. Previously known as Diepgat, the property was purchased in 2008 by Antony van Hoogstraten, who has spent 17 years restoring it. Once used for livestock and grain farming, the land has undergone extensive alien clearing. Today, it boasts thriving wetlands, seeps, and pristine fynbos. Its conservation value rose further in 2010 when post-fire surveys revealed a Critically Endangered Erica species once thought nearly extinct.

“This declaration strengthens the Western Cape’s growing network of protected areas, helping conserve biodiversity, restore degraded landscapes, and safeguard vital ecological services - from clean water and healthy soils to climate regulation and ecological corridors,” said Anton Bredell, Western Cape Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.



Moonlight Mountain Toadlet.

CapeNature facilitated the legal process under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act. The reserve was officially declared on 7 November 2025. Bionerds, on behalf of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), led the negotiations and compiled the Protected Area Management Plan, signed off in 2023. In 2020, following lockdown, Bionerds surveyed the neighbouring Maanschynkop Nature Reserve in the Overstrand for the elusive Moonlight Mountain Toadlet (*Capensibufo selenophos*), a species listed as Data Deficient. While none were found there, a chance exploration of Diepgat’s upper slopes revealed a healthy, breeding population.

Alouise Lynch, Director of Bionerds, said: “Our project with the EWT aimed to help landowners secure properties where target frog species occur. We assessed Diepgat and presented its biodiversity and landscape value to CapeNature. Discovering a new breeding site for the



Moonlight Mountain Toadlet was a major ecological win and working with a landowner so committed to conservation is the ultimate reward.”

The discovery underscored the success of the site’s restoration and paved the way for formal protection. Other species recorded on the property include Leopard, Klipspringer, Grey Rhebok, Black Harrier, Verreaux’s Eagle, and Blue Crane. Following the toadlet discovery, Bionerds met with the Van Hoogstraten family in Hermanus to discuss formal protection. The family chose the name Mount David Nature Reserve. Landowners interested in formally protecting their land can contact CapeNature’s Stewardship Team at wcpaes2025@capenature.co.za.

(Article shortened by Hardus Botha: Gans-Berg News)

Communications Office Luke Folb



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Green Coast Award for Walker Bay Nature Reserve

“CapeNature has once again been recognised for its commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable coastal management, receiving a Green Coast Award from the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) for the 2025/26 season,” said Luke Folb, CapeNature Communications Officer. The announcement was made at the national Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards ceremony in Port Alfred, co-hosted by WESSA and the Ndlambe Municipality on 31 October 2025.

Walker Bay, situated between Hermanus and Gansbaai (Die Plaat, next to De Kelders), is both pristine and historically significant. Archaeological records show Middle Stone Age people lived in Klipgat Cave 65 000-85 000 years ago, with Khoi and San communities settling in the area about 2 000 years ago. Today, the reserve is renowned for its rich coastal and marine life and is considered one of the best land-based whale-watching spots in South Africa, where southern right whales gather annually to breed and calve.

The reserve’s inclusion in the national Green Coast network highlights CapeNature’s efforts to balance conservation with responsible visitor access and education. The programme, developed by WESSA, recognises natural, less-developed coastal sites that

uphold environmental integrity while promoting eco-tourism and community involvement.

“Walker Bay remains one of our flagship provincial reserves, and this award builds on the recognition Die Plaat Beach received last year when it was named on Condé Nast Traveler’s list of Best Beaches in the World,” said Dr Ashley Naidoo, CEO of CapeNature. “It reflects the dedication of our staff and partners in conserving one of the Western Cape’s most ecologically diverse coastlines, while ensuring local communities benefit from nature-based tourism.”



Die Plaat

WESSA’s Green Coast network has more than doubled this season, underscoring South Africa’s growing commitment to protecting coastal heritage through collaboration between government, conservation agencies, and communities. “As WESSA marks 99 years of ‘People Caring for the Earth’, CapeNature’s recognition is both an honour and a call to

continue connecting people with nature through stewardship, learning, and shared responsibility,” added Folb.

(Recognition: Luke Folb, CapeNature Communications Officer)

Hardus Botha



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