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286th Edition

Wildfires - A Crisis without End

The article "Never -Ending Wildfires" in the Gans-Berg News of 9 January 2026 was published after the devastating fires that raged near Pearly Beach - little knowing that it would, in fact, be only the beginning of far worse and more destructive wildfires to come: Pearly Beach, Uilenkraalsmond, Baardskeedersbos, Stanford, Panthera and surrounding farms - as far as the eye could see, there were only flames and smoke clouds, with terrified wildlife fleeing in panic. It is a fair question to ask: "Will the 2025/2026 wildfires ever end?" Whether these fires have natural causes (a view widely doubted) or were the result of deliberate arson (a fact no longer seriously disputed), the situation is terrifying, leaving everyone filled with dread. Repeating the details in this report would be pointless - they have been shared countless times on every WhatsApp group, day after day.

Gans-Berg Nuus' Contribution

The owner/editor of Gans-Berg Nuus, Michelle van Zyl, was one of those who drove around personally, day after day, to keep the community informed (while her journalist was helplessly stuck at home, frustrated, with a broken foot in a moon boot and unable to accompany her!). She also stopped at various farms and institutions - wherever the flames allowed her to enter - to find out what essential supplies were needed. Her on-the-ground information was posted directly on the Gans-Berg Nuus WhatsApp channel.

At the same time, she launched a community project, Back-a-Buddy, for Panthera, with another initiative soon to follow that will benefit the entire region. "We appeal to the community to support these projects," she repeatedly said. "If there are other organisations that would like to get involved, everyone is welcome - it is all for a good cause, especially now with the traumatic aftermath of the devastating fires around us." The community was invited to contact her at info@gansberg.co.za or directly at 078 010 8286 for any enquiries regarding the community projects.

It is unfortunate that unpleasant, unsolicited, and damaging comments about which information is reliable and which is not were posted on WhatsApp groups - this in the midst of unprecedented chaos when people needed to stand together and support one another. Thank you to our Overstrand

Municipal Manager, Dr Dean O'Neill, and his staff for the accurate information released on a regular basis.

Questions and Suggestions from Gans-Berg Nuus

*SAPS Reservists - where do we go from here?

*Will there be reservists available during future fires in



Baardskeedersbos, Pearly Beach, Stanford, and Gansbaai - and how do we move forward from here?

*The Gans-Berg Nuus editorial team once again asks for the community's cooperation and support for our newspaper's community projects.

Overstrand Municipality information

At the time of going to print, the municipal report read as follows:

Overstrand Fire Update: Pearly Beach and Stanford fires, 13 January 2026 @ 06:00

There was limited fire activity overnight at both fire sites. All roads affected by the Pearly Beach and Stanford fires are open.

Article follows on page 3



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MEET the team

OFFICE: 028 205 0100

Whatsapp: 066 225 4282



Michella van Zyl: 078 010 8296

Owner / Advertising

michelle@gansberg.co.za



Melissa Van Rooyen

Graphic Designer

design@gansberg.co.za

Editorial Content

info@gansberg.co.za



Hardus Botha: 082 786 0494

Journalist

info2@gansberg.co.za



Tracy Hulme: 076 672 6283

Admin Assistant

tracy@gansberg.co.za



Freda Potgieter: 063 668 4577

Advert Representative

freda@gansberg.co.za



Janine Williams: 072 931 1431

Advert Representative

janine@gansberg.co.za

Clarabelle, jou doring!

Clarabelle Botha (15) van Vermont, 'n Gr 8-leerder van Curro Hermanus, het sedert middel Desember 2025, tot so kort voor die skole weer begin het, by haar oupa en ouma, Hardus en Anita Botha van De Kelders, gekuier - fiets-en-al. Wat 'n vreugdevolle kuier was dit nie? Maar die kuier is nie wat van haar 'n "doring" gemaak het nie - nee, dis die twee visse wat sy as 'n 'hengelaar-leek', gevang het. 'n Vriend van haar, Ewie Fourie van Pearly Beach, het haar een dag gedurende die vakansie genooi om saam met hom op 'n kajak te gaan visvang. Ewie is vanjaar 'n Gr 10 leerder van Caledon Hoërskool. Die twee vriende ken mekaar sedert hulle laerskooljare by Laerskool Gansbaai, voordat Clarabelle saam met haar ouers, Willem en Marelize Botha, na Vermont verhuis het.

Oupa en ouma het haar na Pearly Beach geneem, en waarmee kom Clarabelle terug? 'n Pragtige witstompneus (*Rhabdosargus globiceps*) en 'n kleiner witsteenbras (*Lithognathus lithognathus*) - met 'n kleindogter wat oorloop van trots! Ewie, wat vir sy ouderdom 'n gesoute hengelaar is en haar behoorlik touwys gemaak het, was net so trots op sy vriendinnetjie se twee visse. Hyself het 'n mooi steenbras en twee strepies gevang.

Wat nou gemaak met Clarabelle se visse? Oupa Hardus is allesbehalwe 'n gesoute hengelaar en het Clarabelle liever na Albert Potgieter geneem vir die skoonmaakproses. Clarabelle, wat baie lief is vir haar eie versameling messe, wou haar eie mes met alle geweld gebruik. Sy kon egter nie by Albert - 'n gesoute hengelaar en voormalige hengelrubriekskrywer vir die Gans-Berg Nuus - verbykom nie: "Nee-a meisie, hierdie oom gebruik eerder sy eie vismes!" So gesê, so gedaan, maar Clarabelle was vol vrae en het "oom" Albert



Clarabelle Botha.

stap vir stap soos 'n valk dopgehou. "Volgende keer sal ek nou weet hoe om 'n vis self oop te sny en skoon te maak," het sy vol selfvertroue gesê. Clarabelle se visse is gevries sodat sy dit tuis met groot genoegdoening kon gaan braai.

Voordat Clarabelle se kuiertjie in De Kelders egter behoorlik kon begin, het sy ewe fluks vir die volle tydperk van die Kersmark bedags daar gewerk - en só 'n hele paar rand verdien. Maar om so 'n ou ietsie by haar te kon leen, was taboe vir oupa! Tydens

haar vakansie het sy ook goed bevriend geraak met Su-Alèt Bason (11), 'n Gr 6-leerder van Curro Hermanus, waar haar ma, Carli Joubert, 'n onderwyser is. Die twee meisies se belangrikste tydverdryf was die bou van moderne Lego-items - waarna oupa en ouma net met verstomming na die eindprodukte kon staan en kyk! En moenie vergeet van Su-Alèt se jonger broer, Jan-Christiaan Basson (9), 'n Gr 4-leerder van Curro Hermanus, wat geensins vir die meisies teruggestaan het met die bou van sy uitstekende Lego-motor nie.

Hardus Botha



Ewie Fourie.



Clarabelle Botha se witstompneus en witsteenbras.

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Pearly Beach Fire

The fire line above Byeneskrans has become active again and is burning higher up the mountain. Fire crews will continue to follow the current operational plan. A change in wind direction is expected, which will place significant pressure on the existing long and hot containment lines. Flare-ups remain a strong possibility.

Stanford Fire

It is important to note that the area currently affected last burned through the Koudevlakte area in 2006. As a result, the veld is extremely old and dry, which significantly increases fire intensity and makes firefighting operations more challenging. Accessibility to the unburned area remains a major challenge. Fire crews currently only have access to the perimeter, where landowners have assisted by creating access routes along the fire line. Maximum resources will again be deployed for this operational period. Issued by: Overstrand Municipal Manager, Dean O'Neill.



*Maryna at 072 238 2355.

The Municipality is increasingly concerned that a number of these fires may not have occurred naturally and are suspected to have been started deliberately. In response, Overstrand Municipality has offered a reward to anyone who can provide information leading to the arrest and successful prosecution of those responsible.

Suspects Arrested

On Monday evening, 12 January 2026, at approximately 19:30, a member of the public noticed smoke near the Stanford graveyard and went to investigate. He saw a female suspect jumping over a fence and immediately called Law Enforcement while attempting to extinguish the fire until the Fire Department arrived. A Law Enforcement officer responded to the scene, where burning cables were found. Based on information from the witness, a suspect was located and arrested. The 23-year-old female was handed over to Stanford SAPS and charged

under the National Veld and Forest Fire Act (Act 101 of 1998). The cables were booked as evidence under CAS number 37/01/2026. The suspect later pointed out two male suspects, aged 15 and 20. Both were arrested and taken to Stanford SAPS. The case has been handed over to the Detective Branch (CID) for further investigation.

Overstrand Municipality appeals to the public to report any suspicious activity related to fires. Community vigilance plays a crucial role in protecting lives, property, and the environment." - Issued by: Overstrand Municipal Manager, Dean O'Neill.

Hardus Botha

The following was also released

Overstrand Municipality Acts Against Suspected Deliberate Fire-Setting.

The Municipality has been battling an unprecedented number of fires since November last year, during which many thousands of hectares have burned. These fires have resulted in severe losses to farmers, businesses, and various organisations, placing many livelihoods under serious threat. A WhatsApp group was created. Should you be a farmer affected by the severe fires, please contact:

*Bianca at 076 105 0104;

*Greg at 060 966 8833;

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Fishermen's Humbling Service

25 January 2026

The Gansbaai Fishermen's Thanksgiving Service of 14 December 2025 was once again a truly special experience for our community. It was a wonderful evening together in front of the Boathouse Pub and Restaurant. Many fishermen - pelagic and others - attended, along with friends and families of the fishermen.

"We moved our starting time half an hour earlier to accommodate people coming from outside town," said organiser Floors Avenant. "It worked well, and we especially noticed many more children." He added that their loyal friends and partners were there again - "as one".

A long time has passed since the first fishermen's services were held in 1963 on the original 7 Ganse. Much effort went into spreading the word to the Greater Gansbaai Community. Overstrand Municipality, DFFE, Gansbaai Tourism, the Boathouse, and various platforms all played their part. The beauty of it all was how the community invited and encouraged one another. The different churches made their announcements from the pulpits, and once again the support from Gansbaai Marine to Gansbaai Pelagics was indispensable in making the event possible.

The congregational singing and individual contributions - from leadership and our preachers - turned the gathering into a moment of celebration for Pelagics, the broader fishing community, and everyone present, despite a challenging year. "Thank you to everyone who helped with parking, who provided chairs, brought chairs along, and shared them," Floors concluded. "Thank you to our ambulance service on standby, and to our various safety services for their support and presence."

And now 25 January 2026 lies ahead - the annual Fishermen's Humbling Service.

Floors says a stronger team has been assembled to assist with vehicle parking. The Mulder Street AGS congregation spontaneously offered their larger supply of chairs, but everyone is encouraged to bring chairs again to help cover any shortages. "We are sticking to starting the service half an hour earlier, while the service itself has been moved two weeks later," Floors explained. "This was arranged in advance with Gansbaai Marine and Gansbaai Pelagics, as the Factory opens in the first week of February." Just as 2025 ended in a fitting way, 2026 begins appropriately with a Humbling Service.



Programme and Information

*Date: 25 January 2026; *Venue: Gansbaai Harbour, in front of the Boathouse Pub and Restaurant; *In case of stormy weather, the Mulder Street AGS congregation will host us; *Pamphlet distribution: 17:00 at the gates; *Time: 18:00 for 18:30; *Singing begins at 18:15; *Preachers: Afrikaans - Rev Mauritius Pienaar and English - Dr Robert Johnson; *Sweets for the children after the service.

Hardus Botha



Navrae:

Floors Avenant
082 820 8966

Norman Sauls
066 028 3702

Gans-Berg

GANSBAAI VISSERMANSVEROOTMOEDIGINGSDIENS

Wanneer: 25 Januarie 2026.

Tyd: 18:00 vir 18:30.

Plek: Gansbaai Hawe, voor Boathouse Restaurant.
(Ingeval van stormweer: AGS Sentrum.)

Gedeeltelik befonds deur Gansbaai Marine, in noue samewerking met Gansbaai Pelagies vir laasgenoemde se spesifieke bydrae en vennootskap.

Organisasie van Vissermansdienste word histories uitgevoer in vennootskap deur die Netwerk van Gansbaai Kerke.

Predikers: Dr. Robert Johnson en Ds. Mauritius Pienaar

Oop uitnodiging aan die Groter Gansbaai Visindustrie, werkgewers, werknemers, families geraak, vriende en alle geïnteresseerde groepe en ondersteuners.

Gansbaai Vissermansdienste sedert 1963

Stoele word voorsien. Bring asseblief ook u eie stoele en laat ons deel.

Gansbaai Skietklub lê wapens neer... Kry groot kompliment van departement

Aan die einde van 2025 was dit weer tyd vir Gansbaai Skietklub om "wapens neer te lê". Hulle laaste skietoefening is gesellig met 'n smaaklike ete opgevolg. Wanneer hierdie manne en vroue sonder wapens is, lyk hulle nogal na aangename mense - vreedsaam en vriendelik - maar moenie hulle skietvermoë onderskat wanneer daar weer vuurwapens in hulle hande is nie, gewis nie.

Daar word vertrou dat die klub vanjaar minder inbrake sal beleef. Hulle was al op moedverloor se vlaktes met die een inbraak na die ander. Die ironie is dat, indien daar na vuurwapens en ammunisie gesoek word, dit vir normaaldenkende mense logies behoort te wees dat só iets nie in die verlate klubhuis gestoor sal word nie - allermens. Die boewe steel dan maar toerusting en stoele, en rig met blatante vandalisme geweldige skade aan die struktuur van die klubhuis aan. Die bestuur was al só raadop dat 'n beloning van R10 000 aangebied is vir die inhegtenisneming en skuldigbevinding van die diewe.

"Kort voor die klub se jaarafsluiting het die bestuur en klublede 'n pragtige kompliment van die Departement Bosbou, Visserye en Omgewingsake se Sekuriteitsafdeling ontvang," vertel Deon Conradie. Hy het die Gans-Berg Nuus meegedeel dat die klub, op versoek, as gasheer vir die Departement se Sekuriteitsafdeling opgetree het. "Die doel van die geleentheid was om die personeellede 'n geleentheid te bied vir hulle roetine-onderhoud van vuurwapenbevoegdheid en dies meer," het Deon gesê.



"Al twee die dae het baie positief afgeloop, met professionele gedrag en dissipline wat deur die departement se personeellede geopenbaar is." Die span se professionele houding en entoesiasme was 'n ware toonvenster vir die Departement.

Die bestuur en betrokke klublede van Gansbaai Skietklub is amptelik per skrywe bedank vir hulle bydrae tot die vlot verloop van die twee dae se verrigtinge - dit dien hier vermeld te word:

"On behalf of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), the DFFE Security Services would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to the personnel of Gansbaai Shooting Club for the excellent and efficient service which was provided to the Department on Saturday, 27 September 2025, and Saturday, 4 October 2025, in Gansbaai. The way your team carried out your task is of a high standard. Your team

displayed excellent customer service and professionalism. We are looking forward to future engagements with your team." - signed by Director Vinesh Naidoo.

'n Kompliment soos hierdie verdien om gemeld te word - baie geluk aan Gansbaai se Skietklub.

Hardus Botha

*There is only
one name to remember*

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BARC rou oor geliefde winkelbestuurder, Renè Jacobs

“Saterdag, met my ma se afsterwe, het sy nog die oggend by die BARC-winkel gewerk en met haar tuiskoms was sy net weg, nadat sy 'n massiewe hartaanval gekry het,” het haar dogter, Tamara Jacobs, die Gans-Berg Nuus droewig meegedeel. “Agterna het ek die 'wonder' van voice notes eers ten diepste besef - ek is só dankbaar dat ek steeds na my ma se stem sal kan luister.” Renè Jacobs is op 3 Januarie 2026 in die jong ouderdom van 43 jaar oorlede. 'n Diens is op Sondag, 11 Januarie 2025, in 'n volgepakte AGS-kerk in Proteastraat, Blompark, deur pastoor David Davidson gehou - met talle diensgangers wat buite moes staan en luister. John Jacobs, 'n neef van Renè, het 'n pragtige huldeblyk gelewer, gevul met humoristiese staaltjies.



Renè Jacobs.

gekwyd, ondanks die moeilike omstandighede.

Renè was vir bykans sewentien jaar die winkelbestuurder van BARC (Birkenhead Animal Rescue Centre). “Ek het daar vasgebyt soos geen BARC-hond kan vasbyt nie, en was al lankal deel van die furniture,” het sy skertsend eens self gesê. BARC se hoofbestuurder, Annalie Jonker, was diep geraak deur Renè se afsterwe. “Ek en Renè het die BARC-winkel op 22 Augustus 2009 begin, nog in die ou Bathrooms 4 U op die hoek van Hoof- en Korporasiestraat, regoor Kekkel & Kraai,” het sy vertel. “Ek het van die begin af volle vertroue in Renè gehad en haar as winkelbestuurder

Pastoor Davidson het 2 Korintiërs 4:5-6 as teksvers gebruik: “*Ons verkondig nie onself nie, maar Jesus Christus as die Here, en onself as julle dienaars ter wille van Jesus...*” “Dit is vir my 'n voorreg om te kan sê dat Renè sowat twee jaar gelede tot bekering gekom het en dat haar lewe daarna 'n ommekeer was. Dit was 'n plesier om saam met haar te kon werk,” het hy gesê.

aangestel.”

Annalie vertel dat Renè, hoewel sy aanvanklik 'n leek in winkelbestuur was, vinnig geleer het en bewys het dat sy oor die nodige verantwoordelikheid en intelligensie beskik om die winkel op haar eie te bestuur - iets wat sy sonder twyfel vir die daaropvolgende 17 jaar deeglik gedoen het. Ná 'n tydperk van “rondswerf” tussen geboue, is die BARC-winkel permanent na die C-Sig-gebou op die hoek van Dirkie Uys- en Markstrate verskuif, vanwaar dit steeds suksesvol bedryf word.

Renè is op 25 April 1983 in Hermanus gebore, maar het 'n volbloed Gansbaaier geword. Sy laat drie susters, twee broers, vyf kinders en 'n kleinseun, Ty-Shaun (4), agter - haar lewensmaat was Frederick Dyk. Renè het haar ma, Cornelia Jacobs, reeds sowat vyftien jaar gelede verloor. Haar afsterwe op die relatiewe jong ouderdom van 43 word hartseer as 'voortydig' beskou, maar die gesin en familie het die nodige berusting gevind. Sy word selfs deur haar bejaarde ouma, Sophie Jacobs (83), oorleef. Haar dogter Tamara (28), van die SAPD se Menslike Hulpbronbestuur-afdeling in Genadendal, het al die reëlins behartig en haarself uitstekend van haar taak

Die redaksiespan van die Gans-Berg Nuus, wat gedurende Renè se diensjare by die BARC-winkel baie met haar te doen gekry het, dra graag hul innige simpatie aan haar gesin en familie oor.

Hardus Botha

Links is Renè Jacobs se ouma, Sophie Jacobs (83) en 2de van regs haar dogter, Tamara Jacobs.



Past David Davidson.

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BARC-winkel steeds in bekwame hande



Regs is die BARC-winkel se nuwe bestuurder, Yolanda Pontak, met Jeanette (Bokkie) Noga as winkel-assistent links.

Die onverwagse afsterwe van die bekende BARC-winkel se bestuurder, Renè Jacobs op 3 Januarie 2025, het hartseer skokgolwe deur BARC-geledere gestuur. (Sien *berig elders in hierdie uitgawe*.)

“Die gemeenskap en ons kliënte kan egter kennis neem dat die bestuur van die winkel weer in bekwame en verantwoordelike hande is,” het BARC se hoofbestuurder, Annalie Jonker, aan *Gans-Berg Nuus* gesê. Yolanda Pontak is in Renè se plek as winkelbestuurder aangestel. Sy was die afgelope twee jaar winkelassistent en is deeglik deur Renè opgelei. “Die afgelope tyd was dit vir my byna asof tannie Renè ekstra moeite met my opleiding gedoen het - asof sy geweet het sy moes,” het 'n hartseer Yolanda aan die *Gans-Berg Nuus* vertel. As Yolanda se winkelassistent het Annalie vir Jeanette ('Bokkie') Noga aangestel. Sy het reeds op 'n gereelde aflosbasis in die winkel gewerk, maar sal nou in 'n permanente hoedanigheid daar werksaam wees.

Ná 'n tydperk van “rondswerf” tussen geboue is die BARC-winkel uiteindelik na die C-Sig-gebou op die hoek van Dirkie Uys- en Markstrate verskuif, vanwaar dit steeds suksesvol bedryf word. “Ons vertrou dat die getroue ondersteuning van die gemeenskap, asook die

sakelui, ten opsigte van donasies en bydraes, steeds sal voortgaan. Daarvoor is daar net 'n klein woordjie beskikbaar - DANKIE - maar dit kom diep uit die harte van die trustees en personeel van BARC,” het Annalie gesê. “Dit geld ook vir gemeenskapslede wat getrou tweedehandse goedere kom aflaai om verkoop te word.”

Vir enige winkelnavae, donasies of skenkings en/of algemene BARC-navrae kan Annalie Jonker by 082 826 0631 gekontak word, of per e-pos by barc.animalwelfare@gmail.com. Vir diere-navrae, honde-losies, aannemings of enige diereverwante probleme kan Nols Jonas (Bestuurder: BARC Hokke) by 083 742 3903 geskakel word.

Maak gerus 'n draai by die BARC-winkel in die C-Sig-gebou op die hoek van Dirkie Uys- en Markstrate - daar is iets vir almal teen bekostigbare pryse. Onthou ook om daardie “onnodige” items in motorhuise en huise na Yolanda Pontak by die winkel te bring: van linneware en klere tot ornamente of wat ook al - dit is wat BARC aan die gang hou!

Hardus Botha



Die BARC-winkel op die hoek van Dirkie Uys- en Markstrate.



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History Lesson - Siphokazi Jonas

The following remarkable poem about our environment was written by Siphokazi Jonas. She recited it to guests during the prestigious opening of the Grootbos Foundation's Chelsea Flowers in Stanford on 10 September 2025. The poem is published with the necessary permission of the poet, Siphokazi Jonas, as well as Grootbos Foundation. Due to limited space, the poem is presented in 'paragraphs' rather than in the form in which it was originally written, without any alteration to its content.

Hardus Botha

History Lesson

By Siphokazi Jonas



Rollplayers at the official opening of the Stanford Chelsea in September 2025, with Siphokazi Jonas left.

I thought I would find the history of this place between the words of historians and other collectors of stories and names, or scribed in dusty archives haunted by the ramblings of ghosts. Instead, it called to me on the ancient floors of Klipgat Caves, watching the sea through rocky windows - and the sea watched us back, retreating and returning in tides, with evidence of other witnesses who traversed this land for millennia, even as it shifted under their feet.

History is a language carried by a place and its people. I arrived tongue-tied in the platteland to meet her people, whose passion, as wild as fields of fynbos, translating and transcribing between systems of knowledge. They invited me to deep listening. In the slow stillness, we recognise a history alive between the gnarled joints of flower harvesters; generations born and named in these mountains - cartographers of memory who mapped large forests with their feet - learning which plant is good for food, which can ease a troubled chest, and which can separate body and breath. Descendants of coastal watchmen and watchwomen, now shifted out of their home by the quicksand of time and economy.

I am here still, history said to me in the unique dialect of *Erica irregularis*, whispered in these wilds and nowhere else in the world. On the wings of hummingbird hawkmoths, carpenter bees, and Cape Sugarbirds flittering from branch to petal. Swaggering across the veld in pincushion pinks, I am leopard trail, unrestricted by fences, deep in the veins of milkwood trees, passing 800 years of gossip from root to root.

An archive lies in wait - bulbous mouths full of secrets waiting for fire to break them open. But some fires flame too often, or are extinguished before their time, or a patchwork of greens blanketing the landscape is stripped bare and cultivated beyond repair, and history is silenced, leaving the present with nowhere to root itself.

The mountains, the sea, and the rocks watch us. So do the buchu, the weevils, and grysbokke, eager to remember old tongues and share hidden worlds with us. They invite us to stop and listen - hearts full of curious attention. To preserve what remains for the future, to protect the smallest of these, even that which does not serve us. To be humbled by our belonging in an ecosystem defined by inherent value, where even the smallest blade and peskiest fly are worthy of existing, together.

Written for Grootbos Foundation to highlight conservation, community, and culture in the Walker Bay Region.

September 2025 - Siphokazi Jonas



Grootbos Foundation's Chelsea Flowers in Stanford on 10 September 2025.



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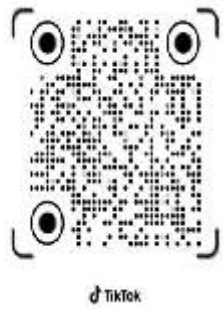
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- Overstrand Municipality: 24hour control room 028 313 8111 / 028 313 8000 / 028 313 8013
- Law Enforcement: 028 313 8996 / 028 313 8111
- Disaster Risk Management: 028 313 8980 / 028 312 2400 / 028 313 8122
- Fire Department: 028 313 8980 / 028 312 2400
- Marine & Coastal Management: 028 313 2703
- Ambulans Service Toll free number: 10177
- 1LifeRescue: Mark Robson - 082 414 9335 / 0861 13 13 11
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4					

Colour me in....



ANSWERS

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

V D D T D G K O X J Q D E S O O M
 U O R L B A R R A C U D A T T T O
 J N A C I L E P A C Y E Y A F T A
 T K P P A E V N H L B L A O D E R
 G E O I Y K U I R I W A I G R R B
 M Y E F S D N O S B M O M A L A G
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 V O O B H A N T O J E I M A L Q T
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 H Z L I E J K R D Z A C N L N M V
 E L L K T F U R F B D U K D Q K Z
 A L R D S Z W E I J Q Q C A E C F
 A U T F D D N E S F U X L V L E J
 T O R R A P M S H B D C O U G A R

Toe 'n Sonsondergang 'n Storie word

Ek is in 'n bevoorregte posisie om die sonsondergang vanaf my huis te aanskou, wanneer dit ook al gebeur. My oog val op die sakkende son en die prentjiemooi toneel wat hom afspeel soos die son sy strale agter die bergreeks inlei - 'n kalm see strek voor my uit en die prentjie word voltooi deur die seemeue wat sierlik deur die lug klief. Die toneel het my totaal oorweldig.



volg - wat ek toe gedoen het. Ek het besef dat, indien 'n leser aan my versoek kon voldoen, slegs die persoon met die nodige talent dit sou kon vermag. Sou die resultaat nie oneindig mooi gewees het nie?

Die dag ná die verskyning in die koerantjie, en sommer nog vroeg die oggend, ontvang ek 'n oproep van 'n vreemdeling. Hy vertel my dit is al wat hy ooit doen - hy bewonder hierdie sonsondergange; dis sy stokperdjie. Hy het my beskrywing van die toneel baie geniet en het die beeld wat hy daarvan gevorm het as asemrowend beskryf - die beste ooit, sê hy! Ons

Ek het besef dat ek iets baie besonder aanskou, en 'n idee het by my posgevat. Pen in die hand het ek gaan sit en die toneel wat voor my afgespeel het, probeer vaspen - elke asemrowende kleur, elke sonstraal en elke kombinasie daarvan. Ek het gesorg dat ek alles wat ek kan, waarneem en elke gevoel wat daarmee verband hou, so volledig moontlik beskryf.

bedank mekaar en hy lui af. Ek het besef dat daar geen skildery gaan wees nie - maar wel 'n asemrowende sonsondergang wat 'n storie geword het! Sy oproep het ek egter baie waardeer.

My voorneme was om hierdie beskrywing van my in die hengelrubriek van ons plaaslike gemeenskapskoerant, Die Gans-Berg Nuis, te plaas en lesers dan te vra om dit te lees en later die prentjie wat hulle vorm, met 'n skildery daarvan op te

(Verwerk met goedkeuring - Hardus Botha)
Albert Potgieter

Weather Forecast / Weer Voorspelling

Friday 16/1/2026	Saturday 17/1/2026	Sunday 18/1/2026	Monday 19/1/2026	Tuesday 20/1/2026	Wednesday 21/1/2026
20°	20°	19°	20°	22°	24°
Fresh Breeze 9 m/s from south 0.1 mm precipitation.	Moderate Breeze 7 m/s from west 0.3 mm precipitation.	Gentle Breeze 5 m/s from south - west 0.2 mm precipitation.	Moderate Breeze 6 m/s from south 0 mm precipitation.	Fresh Breeze 9 m/s from south east 0 mm precipitation.	Fresh Breeze 10 m/s from south-east 0 mm precipitation.

Getyafels / Tide Tables

Dag / Day	High	High	Low	Low
16 January	0209	1407	0804	2023
17 January	0243	1443	0840	2056
18 January	0314	1517	0914	2126
19 January	0344	1549	0946	2157
20 January	0414	1622	1019	2227
21 January	0445	1656	1052	2259
22 January	0518	1731	1128	2333
23 January	0553	1811	1207	0010

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Wilton Jansen van Rensburg (Director) wilson@coetzeeandco.co.za
Ariani Potgieter (Legal Advisor) ariani@coetzeeandco.co.za
Lizette van der Merwe (Legal Advisor) lizette@coetzeeandco.co.za
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Fire Season Update...

What to do if you encounter wildlife affected by fire

As the Western Cape continues to experience an intense and extended wildfire season, CapeNature urges the public to act responsibly and lawfully when encountering wildlife affected by fires. We remind members of the public that our unique fynbos ecosystem is adapted to fire, and that fire is a natural and necessary ecological process for fynbos. Without fire, these plants would simply grow old, stop reproducing, and die. Even fynbos-dwelling animals have adaptations, such as rapid reproduction in the Cape dwarf chameleon, or tortoises burrowing deep into the soil when they smell smoke.

To date, the Western Cape has already authorised 38 aerial firefighting missions this season, with approximately 90 000 hectares burnt by the recent fires. According to the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, R15 million has already been spent on aerial firefighting support, with further funding being considered, as hot and dry conditions are expected to persist beyond March. CapeNature reminds the public that wildlife displaced or affected by fire must not be touched, captured, fed, or removed. Although animals may appear injured or disoriented, many can move away and recover without intervention. Unnecessary handling can cause severe stress, injury, or death, and may place both people and wildlife at risk. Importantly, only trained and authorised individuals and/or facilities are permitted to handle, transport, or rehabilitate wild animals, in line with environmental legislation and with the required permits in place. Removing wildlife without authorisation is unlawful, even when done with good intentions.

What to do if you encounter wildlife affected by fire

If you encounter wildlife that is injured, trapped, or in immediate danger because of a wildfire:

Keep a safe distance and ensure people and pets do not interfere;

Unless the animal is in danger, do not attempt to feed or move

the animal;

Observe and note the location - the exact locality where the injured animal has been found or spotted (GPS/pin location if possible);

Correct species identification;

A brief description of the animal's injuries;

Report the incident immediately through the correct channels.

Who to call

CapeNature Regional Offices:

*Cederberg - 082 455 5569; *Cape Peninsula - 072 592 3517 until 14 January and 076 103 4615 onwards; *Boland and Kogelberg - 082 785 1045; *Witzenberg - 082 784 7173; *Overstrand - 087 087 3841 / 071 999 5348; *Langeberg - 087 087 3895 / 082 496 2449; *Paarl - 087 087 4170; *Garden Route - 044 802 5300 / 087 087 3037; *Karoo - 087 087 3002.

SPCA Offices:

*Beaufort West - 072 847 7312; *Cape of Good Hope - 021 700 4140 / 083 261 604; *Franschhoek - 083 745 5344; *Garden Route (George, Mossel Bay) - 044 878 1990/3 / 082 378 7384; *Paarl - 021 863 2720 / 082 510 6387; Swartland (Darling, Vredenburg) - 022 492 2781 / 082 414 7153; *Swellendam - 028 514 2083 / 084 737 1948; *Wellington - 021 864 3726 / 082 905 9184; *Winelands - 023 615 2241 / 071 025 7805.

CapeNature calls on all residents, landowners, and visitors to remain vigilant during the wildfire season and to work together to keep the Western Cape's people, properties, and wildlife safe.

(Photo: Duyneveld)

Luke Folb

CapeNature Communications Officer



Gansbaai Golfklub

Clive Bailey palm Houespel in

Clive Bailey het Saterdag, 10 Januarie 2026 se Houespel met 73net ingepalm en teken ook 'n Spog Twee aan op no 2, met Willem Germishuys wat 'n Arend op no 14 aanteken.

Marietjie de Villiers wen die 9-putjie Enkel Stableford van Vrydag, 9 Januarie 2026, met Nico Jones wat Woensdag, 31 Desember 2025 se Sloegters Enkel Stableford inpalm.

Woensdag, 31 Desember:

Nico Jones wen die Sloegters Enkel Stableford kompetisie met 38 punte, gevolg deur Johan Coetzee 36, Corrie Avenant 35, Clive Bailey 35, Marietjie de Villiers 35, Johan du Preez 33, John Wellman 33, Joe Cesare 33, Cecil Galloway 32 en Rene Lambrecht 31.

Naaste aan pen no 17 (Rooi) - Rene Myburgh; (Geel) - JP Laubscher.

Vrydag, 9 Januarie:

Marietjie de Villiers wen die 9-putjie Enkel Stableford kompetisie met 19 punte, gevolg deur Sakkie van der Merwe 19, Edmund Halse 19, Jacobus Bothma 17, Owen Huxham 16, Deon Momberg 16, JP Laubscher 15,



Clive Bailey.



Marietjie de Villiers.



Nico Jones.

Barbara Halse 15, Callie Lourens 14 en John Smith 14.

Saterdag, 10 Januarie:

Clive Bailey wen die Houespel kompetisie met 73 net, gevolg deur Stephen Brown 74, Willem Germishuys 78, Hugo Groenewald 79, Peet Pretorius 80, Leon Lombaard 80, Faan Havenga 81, Jean le Roux 81, Jacques Louw 82 en Marietjie de Villiers 82.

Spog Twee op no 2 - Clive Bailey; Arend op no 14 - Willem Germishuys.

Vrydag, 16 Januarie:

Maandelikse steakaand.

Saterdag, 17 Januarie:

Kompetisie is 'n Enkel Stableford.

Verjaarsdae:

Stephen Brown 12de, Lyden Peterson 13de, Wium Venter 15de, Monique Scheepers 15de, Lionel Kemm 17de, Mike Germishuys 18de en Chris Muller 19de.

Groete, Johan Coetzee 082 878 0534