



*Editor – Iona Everett*

**Newsletter**

**AUGUST 2014**

# Chairman's Chat

*by E J (Robby) Robertson  
NCOA Chairman 2014*

There was an incident recently which involved a resident at Noetzie being attacked by dogs. This incident occurred along the river; with the dogs having been brought to Noetzie by persons who had rented one of the riverside homes. The owner of the house has expressed deep regret at the incident.

The message here is quite clear. Please keep your dogs under control, and please ensure that this holds for your guests and tenants.

But, possibly this is a good time to remind ourselves that;

- There are Knysna Council by-laws regulating the control of domestic animals (you have to keep them on your property).
- There are rules in place regarding taking dogs onto the beach.
- Noetzie prides itself on being a registered Conservancy, with the responsibility resting on the property owners to maintain standards.
- Some years ago the NCOA resisted appeals to prevent owners bringing dogs to Noetzie.

I would not wish to reopen the subject at the NCOA meetings, and would thus appeal to all property owners to consider this matter in a responsible manner.

Thank you for your co-operation.

# Knysna Hope Spot

*by Steve Gettliffe*

During May, the inaugural meeting took place chaired by Eden Municipality and Tony Ribbink of the Sustainable Sea Trust, with representatives from Knysna Municipality, SANParks, Cape Nature, environmental organisations, the media and some business owners. It was to start the planning and launch of Knysna Hope Spot on the 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.

A Hope Spot is defined as a special place that is critical to the health of the ocean. One needs to raise awareness by communicating with the public and sharing the knowledge, striving to empower people to take action towards leading a more sustainable lifestyle. A number of Hope Spots around the world have already been formally defined and protected - Knysna is one of only five international Hope Spots in South Africa.

A statement from Mission Blue is that about 12% of the land around the world is protected but that less than 3% of the oceans have been protected. Mission Blue has committed itself to change this with more protection on the oceans.

The Knysna area will stretch from Noetzie to Sedgefield - Wilderness. Of the 297 estuaries in the country, Knysna is ranked as one of the most important in terms of biodiversity significance. There are several clear benefits to having the Knysna area declared as a Hope Spot. Not only will the area obtain international recognition and support as a valuable marine area critical to the health of the ocean, but it will also be promoted internationally as an area to visit for its beauty and uniqueness. This will significantly benefit tourism, business, and sustainable development. The area's Floristic Kingdom will be proclaimed a national heritage site this year and Knysna has the largest continuous indigenous forest with over 14,000 hectares. The condition of the estuary and especially the seahorse population, our two Blue Flag beaches and the Blue Flag marina at Thesen's Island are some of the reasons to merit the area as a Hope Spot.

On Dec 7<sup>th</sup> Dr Sylvia Earle, who is the architect of the Hope Spot will visit the Knysna area. She has worked with National Geographic, is a TED award winner recipient and has 24 honorary degrees. A marine conservationist, author and arguably the world's most famous diver will be leading the Mission Blue Expedition, speaking to the public at special events, diving in the beautiful waters of South Africa and engaging with the people of South Africa to promote the idea and to get support from the public and especially to the school children. The message is "To save and restore the oceans which are the 'blue heart of the earth' for future generations".

The expedition will also launch the book, South African Coasts - A celebration of our seas and shores, for which the public submitted photographs to celebrate 20 Years of South Africa's democracy. Hope is the central theme of this book.

Networks of Hope Spots maintain biodiversity, provide a carbon sink, generate life-giving oxygen, preserve critical habitat and allow low-impact activities like ecotourism to thrive. They are good for the ocean, which means they are good for us. Engaging governments, businesses, schools, research organizations, universities, civil society and the media, will make everyone aware.

The establishment of this Hope Spot and that of Plettenberg Bay will, I hope, support the proposed linkage of a Marine Protected Area from Tsitsikamma to Robberg (which Plett is keen to do) and either continue to Noetzie or to the Goukamma Nature Reserve. With a more inclusive approach where science, tourism, education and sustainable development and utilisation are possible, this will to some extent allow us as Knysna-Noetzie residents to drive how we want our coast managed, without seeing it pillaged by outside influences.

Furthermore, on-going research and monitoring of our natural assets and resources are strongly encouraged by the initiative, and will be beneficial in promoting the area while ensuring sound management and informed decision making within the area. Together with this, Hope Spots are obligated to set geographical boundaries that will further guide future planning, development and management.

The structure of a Hope Spot is such that public participation and support plays an integral part in all activities and decisions made, which will greatly enhance the success of the initiative.

# Noetzie Conservancy Report

*by Wendy Dewberry*

## ISDF

A draft ISDF (Integrated Strategic Development Framework) for Knysna was circulated to all the members of KEF (Knysna Environment Forum) of which I am the representative for Noetzie. You may be aware that awarding of the tender for this 30 year plan for Knysna and surrounding area by the KM (Knysna Municipality) has, and still is, a matter of deep concern for many in Knysna. The concern is that a process of this nature represents a conflict of interest for the developer who was awarded the contract by the KM. The date for comment on the draft ISDF was to be 22 July 2014 but then the document was withdrawn. In that time I had the opportunity to peruse much of the content and view the maps. The plan was to circulate a comment to links for members who did not have the time to sift through everything and so could cherry-pick the aspects they wished to view.

There are some grand and wonderful things in the pipeline for Knysna. However, some concerns around Noetzie are worth contemplating. On Tuesday 29 July Julie and I met with Peet Joubert of the KCHC (Knysna Creative Heads Consortium) to discuss the two most salient aspects of concern – that Noetzie is not demarcated on the map as a Conservancy area and that Noetzie has been placed inside the Urban Edge. In terms of development this could be significant. He asked that we respond to him anyway in writing, despite the document being withdrawn, with motivation for excluding Noetzie from the Urban Edge and adding the vital corridor and buffer zones the area provides as neighbours with Sinclair on the South East and Pezula Private open space to the East of us. These were the aspects we submitted in the first submissions made for consideration, and included maps from SANParks, Noetzie Town Planning Documents, Municipal documents about the Urban Edge and so forth, all motivating against the possibility of the map looking like it now does. I think we should be very vigilant, if you know what I mean. We will keep you posted.

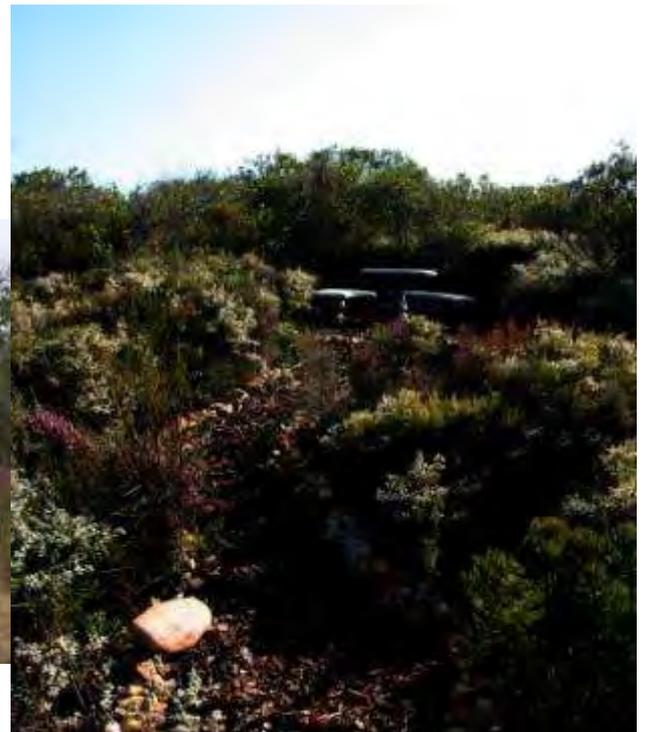
## OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



The Outdoor Classroom is still being maintained and is looking beautiful as the various *Ericas* - *formosa*, *sessiflora*, *discolor*, and *canaliculata* and the *Leucadendrons* - *salignum* and *eucalyptifolium* burst into bloom. Apart from raking which clears dead debris that would otherwise be burnt to allow new growth, there has been a new seating area added.

This is Jason's Way – a little table and chairs area snuck deeper into the fynbos for a contemplative moment of peace and tranquillity.

There is a pair of Eagle owls and we are hoping that they may take up residence in the new owl box being placed on a pole in the middle of the O.C. We have heard that this is the way to go for Eagle owls as they feel safe away from the clutches of Baboons. We will keep you posted.



## CAMERA TRAPS

We have been re-issued with a permit by SANParks to place our cameras on the Sinclair side of the river. SANPark's Maretha Alant asked whether we were still seeing the blue duiker. I undertook to put a camera back in the area where we were getting the footage and after 2 months there it was, still in the same place. It would seem that not only are they secretive but very territorial and area specific. We have purchased 2 more cameras, had one repaired and been given one to use by Marylou. This brings the total up to eleven and quite an arsenal for such a small area. I have developed a method of saving meta-data to enable specific retrieval of information and am sharing this with other camera trap users.

## WATER TESTS

Apart from the usual monthly water monitoring, an E.coli test (requiring laboratory services) was performed in May. A copy of these results is attached.

## KNOETZIE FACEBOOK PAGE

We now have 75 members in this secret group, all family related to Noetzie. It is continuing to be a good platform for sharing information of all things environmental and educational in an instant. It also serves to keep records of Noetzie “up in the cloud” which will be there for ever.

# Peeps into the Past

Chris Everett tells me that he has various items of interest that did not make it into the Noetzie History and he has offered to provide an occasional Peep into the Past. Here’s the next one – Ed.

*by Chris Everett*

## Redwings in the sunset

At the time my father John Everett had bought our house in February 1960, what later became the Old Waggon Road was still a rocky track and the precarious track down to the river erven had not yet been constructed. We therefore had to park our car at the top and Dad used to rent one of the four old corrugated iron garages that stood where Aubrey Wynne-Jones house now lies. The partitions between the garages were just wire mesh and in one of the garages lay a boat.

It had clearly been there for some time and was somewhat neglected, with cracked paint and covered in dust. The five Everett children speculated wildly on its ownership and origins and imagined it going out to sea through the Noetzie breakers.

In due course the old garages were demolished and the boat disappeared from Noetzie and from our memories. There were some clues while I was compiling my Illustrated Noetzie History, for example Allan Henderson’s memoir included the comment that:

Other than doing a lot of fishing we made full use of the Yacht Club. There was always great competition between the Fraser’s “Red Jacket” and our “Noetzie” – Margaret Parkes (nee Fraser) often crewed on the Noetzie. The yachts were known as clinker-built Redwings.

I had also recorded that:

The opening cruise of the Knysna Yacht Club in 2010 - its Centenary Year - was a major occasion, with over 100 boats on the water. Leading the fleet for the sail-past was the NSRI followed by a 1930s canvas canoe and the restored Henderson’s 1937 Redwing “Noetzie”, still owned by Ian.

However in January 2014 as I came through Woodmill Lane, I passed a little shop with some lovely boats in it. Out of curiosity I went in and was fascinated that one boat stirred memories, but it was

pristine, not tattered and dusty. Looking more closely I found the name **KNOETZE** in brass letters on the bow.

Here was a find indeed and after various attempts, I made contact with Dudley Isaac, who told me that it was indeed the Henderson Redwing, and that it had been stored in a factory in Knysna for many years.

*Knoetze before restoration*



*After restoration*

Ian Henderson had wanted to have it on the water for the Knysna Yacht Club Centenary Opening Cruise. Dudley restored the hull to sailing condition and Patrick Wilson made the mast and boom, while North Sails make a new set of sails.

The boat was ready for the Centenary and Dudley reported that it fantastic when she was launched.



*The Launch - L to R - Ian Henderson Jnr, (Allan's son), Pat Henderson, Alastair Fraser (grandson of the Royal Hotel Frasers), Ian Henderson, Roger Clancy and Dudley Isaac*



On the day, the sail-past, scheduled for 14:30 was postponed until 15:45 to allow the wind to die down a little. Owners of historic boats were reluctant to expose 80 year old sails to the brisk wind blowing at lunch time, but finally the historic Knoetze, crewed by Alistair Fraser and Colin Mathieson, was the first to sail past and salute Commodore Jim Parkes. After the sail-past, Ian donated her to the Wooden Boat Group in Knysna.

*Dudley Isaac, Patrick Wilson and Ian Henderson on the first sail.  
The last time Ian had sailed her was in 1943*

Charles Gosling provided some additional facts, noting that both his grandfather, John Rex Metelkamp, and Herbert Henderson, (Allan and Ian's father) sailed Redwings at KYC, his grandfather's being "Inyoni", and the Henderson' named "Knoetze". Charles also learnt the ropes on a Redwing – on Swartvlei back in 1966. It had been donated to the Veld & Vlei operation together with the Goodricke class dinghy "Joan Edel" originally owned by Cyril Noble and later sold to Halvar Mathieson.

## Financial Matters

*From Margi Dane, NCOA Treasurer*

Thank you to all the members who have paid subscriptions for 2013/14.

We appeal to those who have not yet done so, to please pay up before the end of the financial year 31 October 2014. We wish to encourage members to support the NCOA as our Conservancy is very active and we need your tacit approval in the form of fees. Membership through fees is also a legal pre-requisite.

Some of the Committee's functions are:

- To function as a legal entity in preventing bad development decisions and therefore to protect the Noetzie Conservancy.
- Water testing: We are particularly concerned with polluted runoff from fertilized fields and also from the informal settlements in the Noetzie River catchment area. Thus, testing of lagoon and river water for E.coli, other pathogens and excessive chemicals that may make the water unsafe for swimming, needs to take place.
- On-going communication with Knysna Municipality concerning:
  - upgrading and maintaining access roads to and within Noetzie
  - property development
  - refuse removal

- Enabling regular Committee meetings so that members can perform their duties as a group.
- The Outdoor Classroom has become a Noetzie asset and a part of the Township layout that is being considered in the ISDF for a corridor area. Currently we are installing an owl box for the pair of Spotted Eagle-owls in the area.
- We also need to have money available to allow us to pay attorneys and environmental specialists whom we may have to make use of from time to time.

Please pay your subs.

# Municipal Matters

*by Julie Gosling*

On 18th June 2014 a meeting between NCOA Committee members Julie Gosling, Marylou Newdigate and Knysna Municipality (KM) was attended by Lauren Waring - Municipal Manager, Mike Maughan-Brown - Director Planning and Development, Michael Rhode – Director Technical Services and Neil Metelerkamp - Ward 3 Committee member.

The following matters were discussed:

## **Noetzie Road**

Lauren W confirmed that she had requested Knysna co-ordinate with Eden Municipality regarding the maintenance of the Municipal section of the Noetzie road. KM has undertaken to furnish the NCOA with a schedule for future road maintenance and costs of hiring a grader and roller.

## **Public Access as prescribed by the ICMA**

In accordance with the Integrated Coastal Management Act (ICMA), the Knysna Municipality is in the process of compiling a Coastal Management Programme which will be available for public comment in September 2014. We were assured by Mr Mike Maughan-Brown that new legislation would protect and ensure unfettered public access from the Noetzie parking area to the Municipal steps. Mike added that because the public already had a prescriptive right of way over private property there was no reason to register a public servitude.

## **Emergency vehicular access to the Beach**

Mike Rhode has undertaken to liaise with Jonathan Mabula, Knysna's Manager of Environmental Management, to issue a Maintenance Management Plan for the 'soft' repair of vehicular access onto Noetzie beach.

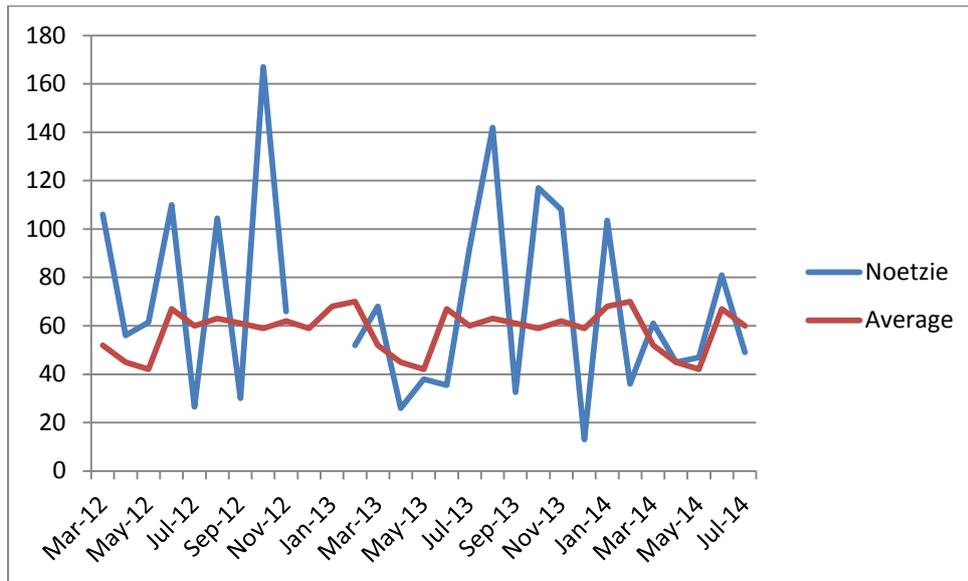
## **Emergency access through Pezula Estate**

Julie pointed out that in the Deed of Transfer for Remainder Farm 394 clause B reads: *Subject Further to Expropriation No. EX 136/98 in extent approx. 15,400 square metres in favour of the Municipality of Knysna* and believes that this could be the section of road through the Estate.

Mike Maughan-Brown has been unable to trace the expropriation document. If any of our members can help please let us know by email to [knoetzie@mweb.co.za](mailto:knoetzie@mweb.co.za).

The NCOA requested that the Municipality inform Pezula Estate in writing that, in accordance with condition 3.32 of the Record of Decision for Pezula Private Estate, there is a servitude through PPE registered in favour of KM and that all emergency vehicles must be allowed through without delay. *A copy of the letter sent by the Municipality can be read at the end of this newsletter. Ed*

## Rainfall Graph



## Giant Kingfisher

*Megaceryle gigantea*

*By Iona Everett*

Rowing across the lagoon to the beach you frequently see the Giant Kingfisher perched on the right bank of the river below the Marriott house. He will fly low over the water with a squawk if he feels you are interrupting his fishing. We in South Africa are lucky to have such a variety of Kingfishers and these lovely birds are very much part of our river scene at Noetzie.

The Giant Kingfisher is the largest kingfisher in Africa, where it is a resident breeding bird over most of the continent south of the Sahara Desert other than the arid southwest. In southern Africa it is restricted to the moister eastern and south-western parts, except where suitable bodies of water are present in more arid westerly areas, e.g. the Okavango Delta and the Orange and Kunene Rivers.



It is solitary as a rule, pairs maintaining territories of about 4 km in length on suitable rivers, particularly those with well-wooded steep banks.

The Giant Kingfisher is 42–48 cm long. They have black upperparts, spotted with white, and the male has a rufous breast and black-spotted belly, while the female has a rufous belly and black-spotted breast. Both sexes have large black bills and black feet. The under-tail of the female is also rufous.



They utter a loud, harsh cackling when disturbed, giving a single “kek” or repeated “kek-kek-kek”. They also utter a softer “kah-kah-kah” as greeting calls, but a rattle “keriririri” can be heard too. In flight, the bird gives loud, sharp “kakh” and a “kee-ou, kee-kee-ou”.

They feed mainly on crabs, with fish dominating the rest of their diet and normally hunt in the typical kingfisher way by a dive from a perch in tree canopies, from where they search for prey. Once the prey is located the kingfisher dives into the water, sometimes immersing itself completely.

Both sexes excavate the nest in about a week, consisting of a burrow dug into a vertical sandbank, close to the waterline. It consists of a 0.9 - 8.5 m long tunnel, ending in a 20 - 60 cm wide unlined chamber. Amazing that they can excavate tunnels as long as 8.5m! Egg-laying season is normally from July - January, peaking from August - October. The female lays 3 - 5 eggs, which are incubated for 25 - 27 days by both sexes. The nestlings are fed mainly by the male every one to four hours. They probably stay in the nest for about 37 days, after which they are still dependent on their parents for at least a further 21 days.

The Giant Kingfisher is locally common and widespread, but their status uncertain. Its population seems to be decreasing in certain areas, probably due to loss of potential nest sites. It may also be threatened by pesticides in water near farmland. The species is evaluated as **Least Concern** by Birdlife International, although it is fairly common in protected regions.



# GEORGE MUNICIPALITY LABORATORY SERVICES

## CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

12 - May - 14

| KNOETZIE CONSERVANCY (WENDY DEWBERRY)                   |                                     |                         |                       |          |         |         |        |        |       | REF: P04:12/05/14 |        |        |       |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|-------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| DWA WATER QUALITY GUIDELINE VOL 7<br>AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS | TARGET<br>WATER<br>QUALITY<br>RANGE | Chronic Effect<br>Value | Acute Effect<br>Value | Stream   |         |         |        |        |       | Latory            |        |        |       |
|   |                                     |                         |                       | Nienaber |         | Harbour |        | Taylor |       | Middle            |        | Brown  |       |
|   |                                     |                         |                       | Tree     | Harbour | Taylor  | Middle | Brown  | Tree  | Harbour           | Taylor | Middle | Brown |
|   |                                     |                         |                       | 0.00     | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00   | 0.00   | 0.00  | 0.00              | 0.00   | 0.00   |       |
| MICROBIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS                                |                                     |                         |                       |          |         |         |        |        |       |                   |        |        |       |
|   |                                     |                         |                       | >2420    | >2420   | >2420   | >2420  | >2420  | >2420 | >2420             | >2420  | 1733   |       |
| Nitrate (mg/L)  |                                     |                         |                       | 46       | 55      | 15      | 74     | 52     | 55    | 64                | 45     | 1000   |       |
| Total Coliforms (count/100 ml)                          |                                     |                         |                       |          |         |         |        |        |       |                   |        |        |       |
| E. Coli (count/100 ml)                                  |                                     |                         |                       |          |         |         |        |        |       |                   |        |        |       |

Reviewed by:

*E. Bagirathi*

**E. Bagirathi**

**Acting Manager: Laboratory Services**

Prepared by: *R. Julies*

**R. JULIES**

**Acting Senior Laboratory Technician**

This certificate only relates to the samples actually received and analysed by the Municipal Water Pollution Control Laboratory. It does not accept responsibility for any matter arising from further use of these results.



M. MAUGHAN-BROWN  
Collab:.....

**KNYSNA**  
Municipality  
Munisipaliteit  
uMasipala

TEL: 044-302 6348

2014-07-22

estatemanager@pezulaprivateestate.co.za

The Estate Manager  
Pezula Private Estate  
Lagoon View Drive  
Knysna  
6570

Dear Henk,

**EMERGENCY ACCESS THROUGH PEZULA PRIVATE ESTATE**

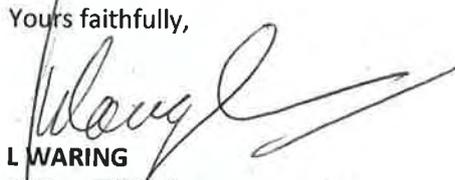
Thank you for coming to our offices to meet with the Director: Planning and Development and the Manager: Town Planning and Building Control on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

For the record I confirm our understanding that in terms of Condition 3.32 of town planning approval for the development of Pezula, granted by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2003, access across the estate will automatically be allowed for any emergency vehicle, including an ambulance, a fire engine, a police vehicle, a sea rescue vehicle or a vehicle carrying life savers, if such vehicle is attending to an emergency. The statement of the driver of the vehicle will be sufficient for the vehicle to be allowed entrance. If your security staff are concerned that the vehicle might not be attending to an emergency this can be followed up afterwards.

In addition I confirm that, in the event that the Noetzie Road is unavoidably blocked at any point between the entrance to the Private Estate and the N2, for reasons outside the reasonable control of the municipality you will, on request from the municipality, allow the residents of Noetzie to gain access and egress to and from their homes through the Private Estate.

Thank you for your assistance in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

  
L. WARING  
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

/adj

CC Director: Community Services  
Director: Corporate Services  
Director: Technical Services  
Noetzie Conservancy Owners' Association.