

NOETZIE CONSERVANCY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION



NOETZIE NEWS

JUNE 2025



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Chair's Chat June 2025

Nick Taylor



The NCOA Committee elected at the AGM on 27 December 2024 is Nick Taylor, Sabrina Gosling, Wendy Dewberry, Johann Oosthuizen, Richard Robinson, Simon van Gend, Emily Taylor and Lola Moultrie. We wish the outgoing members all the best for their well-earned retirement from the seemingly endless task of reminding the Knysna Municipality of their duties regarding everything from sewage leaking from the township up the road to the perennially bad state of the Noetzie Road.

Eion Brown leaves particularly big shoes to fill in the role of Chair. His technical knowledge has been invaluable in guiding the work of the committee for many years, and his dedication to serving the community is an object lesson to us all. Sandi Braun brought a level of professionalism to the task of Treasurer which is going to be difficult to match, but Richard Robinson is working hard at learning the ropes. Sabrina Gosling assumes the role of Vice Chair and continues to hold the Municipal portfolio, undoubtedly the most difficult of all committee jobs given the dysfunction of the Municipality. Nevertheless, Sabrina's perseverance and knowledge of the workings of local government

is invaluable in securing attention to urgent tasks, such as persuading the Municipality to grade the Noetzie Road in April.

As holder of the Security portfolio in 2024, Catherine Suckling certainly kept the service providers on their toes; fortunately Johann Oosthuizen comes with a most impressive grasp of the technical issues involved in keeping the security cameras and other gadgets in good working order. Emily Taylor resigned shortly after being elected to the 2025 committee due to work pressure. It was decided not to coopt anyone to replace her, since Johann is equally at home with Security and IT and agreed to undertake both portfolios. While Emily leaves the Conservancy portfolio, which she held in 2024, in good shape, we could not have found a better fit to replace her than Wendy Dewberry with her unsurpassed knowledge and love of the environment. I am very happy to hand over the job of Secretary to Lola Moultrie, whose IT skills will certainly bring an improvement to the state of the committee filing system. Finally, Simon van Gend retains the role of Newsletter editor, a task he continues to fill with distinction, with strong support from Melanie Gosling.

The 2024 committee did a great job in repairing the public toilets and keeping them in a usable state, and one of our goals for 2025 is to keep them in good shape. Thanks to Blessings Chinere, who is employed to clean them four times a week, and to Wendy who ensures that the high standard is maintained. As part of its central role in maintaining high standards of conservation, the committee will continue to keep residents informed regarding environmental best practices.

It's a patchwork this edition, so lets get right down to it.



In March this year Julie Gosling told me about a tree in the Noetzie Conservancy that had been completely ringbarked. Tim Everett had seen it on his morning walk. The **Cheesewood tree** (*Pittosporum viridiflorum*) is listed as a protected species under South Africa's National Forests Act and people require special permits for cutting, transporting, or selling. It is an ecologically valuable tree, supporting wildlife and stabilising soil.

It was doomed to die because the trunk had been completely stripped all the way round. Usually, machinery or wild animals strip trees. Traditionally, herbalists use bark but know how to take bark in a conservative manner that is sustainable. Unfortunately, there is a market for the bark, but it is collected by people who do not see the value of conservation, or who have not had the wisdom passed down to them by elders.

I decided to do an experiment for the sake of curiosity with nothing to lose. I cut off a higher branch and carefully lifted the bark off in 2-meter long strips. I then cut dovetails into the bark at the foot of the tree and into the top

where the bark began again. I made two grafts or "lifelines" of bark up the tree and then taped it closed and wrapped the entire debarked and grafted section up with plastic to keep the insects off and to prevent the tree from drying or freezing. And now we wait.

As of now June 2025, the leaves are still green and there is new growth. However, it may take a year or even longer for a tree to die off, if indeed it will die anyway. But so far, the branches look OK. Will keep you posted. If the tree survives enough to heal, this may give arborists some hope with trees that have been damaged and need saving. No harm in trying. Here is a little short [video Cheesewood experiment Noetzie Conservancy 2025](#) (Click on the link to open the video)

On the one hand we save trees and on the other we ringbark them. We had a chance to do some alien clearing. There was an ever-increasing copse of alien cedar wattle (*Acacia elata*) up the Noetzie Road that blended into the fynbos until Nanna Joubert alerted us to the fact that



it is a category 1 fynbos invader. The blue paint is a fabulous herbicide solution for sprouters called Kaput.

It has come to my attention that “invasive” categories include political aspects of forestry, and so a species like *Acacia mearnsii*, which is considered a most invasive species around the world is listed as a category 2. This does not mean that it is less invasive. The category is swayed by the timber industry for transport, propagation and permits.

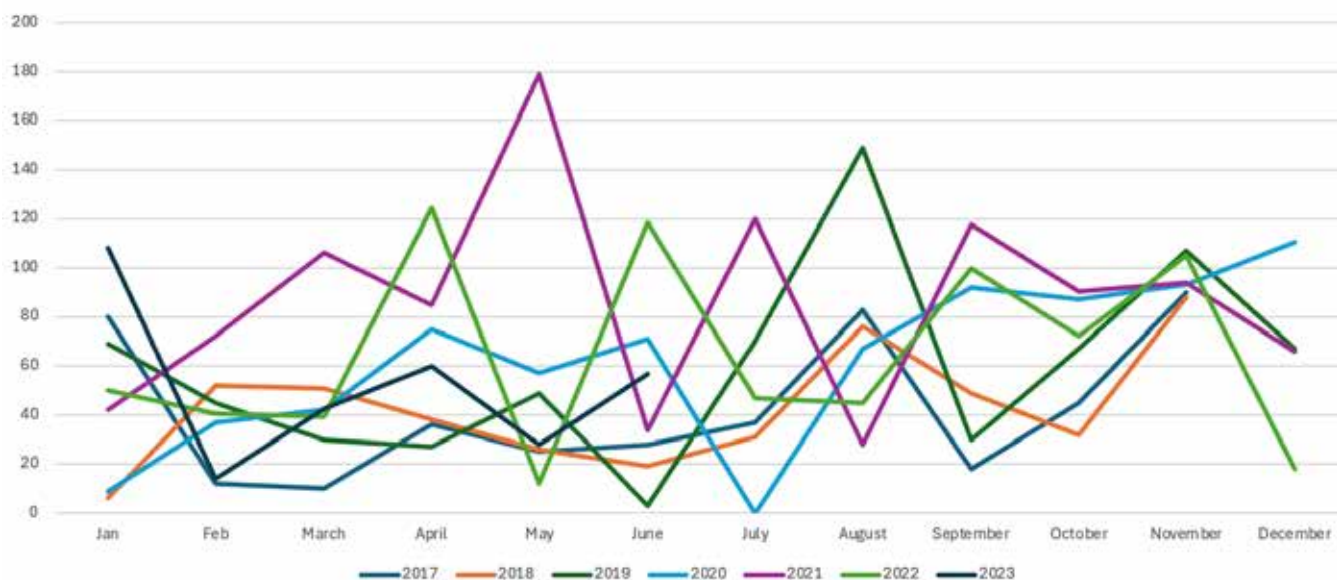
We have begun a programme of “frilling” black wattles along the Noetzie River. Here is a video of what we’ve done so far.

[Ringbarking black wattle at Noetzie with a panga](#) (Click on the link to open the video)

The rainfall figures

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan		80	6	69		9	42	50	108
Feb		12	52	45		37	72	40.5	14
Mar		10	51	30		42	106	39.2	42.5
Apr		36	38	27		75	85	124.5	60
May		25	26	49	8	57	179	12	28
Jun		28	19	3	15	71	34	118.5	56.6
Jul	37	31	70	32	92	0	120	47	
Aug	83	76		149	22	67	28	45	
Sep	18	49	30	92	50.5	42	117.5	100	
Oct	45	32	67	87	59	48	90.5	72	
Nov	90	88	107	93	94	8	1	105	
Dec					67	110.5	66	18	

Noetzie Rainfall



Melanie Gosling took this gorgeous video of the [Noetzie Otter family](#) (Click on the link to open the video).

The Noetzie camera trap project – we currently have six cameras up the river and all the usual characters appear. It’s interesting observing behaviour and trends. Here is a short **video** of [Noetzie camera snippets 2025](#) (Click on the link to open the video).

Bye for now. See you all at Noetzie xx.



We identified invasive aliens on the river path that need to be ringbarked or cut and treated with Kaput. The Kaput needs to be applied within a short time of the tree being cut.



This Western Natal green snake (*Philothamnus occidentalis*) was seen down at the beach. Julie explained that we do not get green venomous snakes in our area. So, if it is green, there is no danger to people.



This neonate dolphin was washed up on the Noetzie beach in January 2025. Cathy Shimmin alerted me, and I took flesh samples to Bayworld in Gqeberha (PE).

Dr Greg Hofmeyr from Bayworld explained that this happens a lot. This one looked like a propeller had hit it. Greg freezes the samples with its location and date data and revisits the sample if required. He said that “for any strandings of whales, dolphins, seals, turtles or sea snakes, alive or dead, please contact the Bayworld Stranding Hotline 071 724 2122”.



Sadly, someone stole the copper spout from the pump on the tank on the headland that Julie put there for the public. There is no drinking water at the beach, and this water is used daily mainly by fishermen and children who walk to Noetzie.



Finally, the Noetzie toilet saga has come to a happy solution. The NCOA pays Blessings Chinere to keep the toilets clean, and he is doing a splendid job. Catherine Suckling donated her pump that the NCOA has repaired to working order and which we now use to pump from the river up to the holding tanks.

Rare plants on Bhyat property

Melanie Gosling

On the Noetzie headland on the western side of the property you may have noticed 100 white sticks in the ground.

Each of these sticks represents one or more rare plants that must be saved from the bulldozers.



Saved: The KM ordered rehabilitation of part of the fynbos destroyed on the Bhyat property. Each stick represents one or a cluster of a species of orchid or oxalis that must be preserved.

If you do spot them there is nothing much to see now as they are not in bloom.

You may remember that Knysna Municipality instructed the Bhyats to rehabilitate a portion of land that they had stripped of vegetation. Well this small section, cordoned off from the building works, is the part that will be restored.

Local botanist Nanna Joubert, who has been commissioned to draw up the rehabilitation programme, said the rare plants were all a species of orchid and of oxalis.



Rare: the Hangleaf sorrel (*Oxalis pendulifolia*) is one of the rare plants that have been saved on the Bhyat property.

“There are approximately 250 to 300 of each species on this bit of ground, but I only had 100 sticks so some of them represent several plants clustered together,” Nanna said.

One of the rare plants is a little coral-red coloured oxalis – *Oxalis pendulifolia* - known as Hangleaf sorrel.

Interestingly, there are only 10 known locations where this plant grows – and I don’t even know if Noetzie has been recorded as one of them.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (Sanbi) lists the Hangleaf as threatened on its Red List of plants.

Sanbi says although there are only 10 known locations where it grows, the plant may occur

in another five to 10 locations that are so far unknown.

Its natural habitat is certain types of fynbos between Swellendam and Plettenberg Bay.

The biggest threats to its survival – no surprises here - are invasive alien plants and habitat loss through urban expansion.

The little orchid is from the genus *Satyrium* – and Nanna thinks the species is *acuminatum*.

It grows in rocky, sandy soil up to 35cm high and flowers in late spring to summer with white to pink flowers.

Its distribution is from Swellendam to the Eastern Cape.

I asked Nanna what type of fynbos grows on the Noetzie headland.

She said one of the problems was that the vegetation maps were not detailed enough. The closest fynbos type in the area is either Knysna Sand Fynbos or South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos.

The latter is found on soil from the Outeniqua Mountain sandstone, and contains a variety of fynbos species found nowhere else in the world. The plants like the nutrient-poor soil – so there is some concern about the Bhyat’s position of greywater outlet.

Knysna Sand Fynbos is critically endangered. It used to cover about 15,000ha on the Garden Route coast, from the Wilderness to Robberg Peninsula at Plett. Today only 9.6% of this fynbos remains.

A crying shame – but that is what happens when we have agriculture, timber plantations and urban development. The last confirmed bits on are the Western Heads.

What a find if some of this is at Noetzie.

We need a botanist to do some research.

In particular we need to know what fynbos type is on the Infill.

Silver-spotted Ghost Moth at Noetzie

Melanie Gosling

One evening in March I came across a beautiful moth on our balcony.

I had never seen one like it before so photographed it and posted it on iNaturalist. It is a Silver-spotted Ghost Moth (*Leto venus*) also known as the Phantom Moth.

I was lucky to see it because they emerge only in mid-March and live for just a few days.



Ephemeral: A beautiful Silver-spotted Ghost Moth, that lives for just a few days, seen at Noetzie in March.

They only fly at night, which must look beautiful with their white spotted wings in the dark.

This moth is quite special: it is found only in South Africa, mostly along the Garden Route. It is protected in the Western Cape.

Although it was first described by Pieter Cramer in 1780, not much was known about its life history for a very long time.

In fact it was a local family, the Newdigates of Forest Hall near Plettenberg Bay, who had studied the moth in the 1800s and were actually rearing them.

Forest Hall was built by William Henry Newdigate for his wife, Caroline Duthie, a granddaughter of George Rex.

I was intrigued to read a piece written in 1945 by prominent entomologist AJT Janse, author

of *The Moths of South Africa*, who wrote that when Miss EG Newdigate heard that nothing had been published on the life-history of this moth, set about putting this to rights.

“She kindly sent me a little bundle of letters on the subject, written by Mr R Trimen to her father between June 1869 and July 1882. These letters made most interesting reading and showed that Mr Newdigate was the first to send a specimen to the South African Museum collection in August 1869,” Janse wrote.

Her father also sent specimens of the moths and larvae to Trimen, who wanted to publish a paper on it.

I can only imagine how those specimens travelled in the mid 1800s, probably by post cart and then by ship. Inevitably some specimens arrived broken, so Trimen never wrote his paper.

After reading the letters, Janse asked Miss Newdigate if she would compile what she knew about the moth “so that her knowledge would not be lost and with it this elusive life-history of the Silver-spotted Ghost Moth”.

She complied and Janse published her account.

The moths lay their eggs around keurboom trees and the larvae bore their way into the tree.

“These holes are closed with a small cap of gummy sawdust just before pupation and it is by these that the tunnels can be located,” Miss Newdigate wrote. “About two or three inches of the tunnel near the cap is filled with a fine silky spinning, which is obviously intended to keep out ants, their enemy number one.”

If I am at Noetzie again around mid-March, I will make sure to be near some keurbooms at night. I may just be lucky to spot the elusive Silver-spotted Ghost Moth.

Citizen Science: Noetzie in the Nature Challenge

Melanie Gosling

It was fun taking part in the 2025 City Nature Challenge at Noetzie, but it would have been great to have more people out there snapping pix of all the wonderful nature.

The point is to get “citizen science” input from people around the world about the biodiversity in their areas, which helps cities and towns build databases of the nature occurring within their boundaries.

And what abundance at Noetzie!

All you have to do is take pictures over four specified days in April of plants, animals, fungi, birds, fish and other biodiversity you see in your designated area - apart from humans and pets.

Even if you don't know what species they are, you upload the photographs via the iNaturalist app and some expert will identify them.

The data contributes to various scientific endeavours and helps managers get a handle on the biodiversity in their municipalities for planning.

Here at Noetzie we don't have to go far to get a variety of species.

We started on the headland to get fynbos, then the beach, over the rocks to Shelly Beach to get life in rock pools and finally along the river to get forest species.

We did it with our phone cameras, which is no good for birds, so it would be excellent for keen birders with proper cameras to take part next year.

Also for the small insects that need a special lens.

(By the way, the path to Shelly Beach is so overgrown we kept on reaching dead-ends. Needs to be cut open again.)

iNaturalist tells you your individual score: mine was 237 observations from which the experts identified 142 species. I inevitably snapped some of the same species more than once because I don't know them.

There were 670 regions from 63 countries that took part this year, including 25 regions in South Africa.

The Garden Route came 4th in South Africa for total observations (10,578) and 3rd for species diversity (2,433 species) and 3rd for the number of people taking part (225).

And 53% of our pix were “research grade” which means that an observation (photograph) has met specific criteria to be considered reliable enough for use in scientific research. These observations are specifically designed for export to scientific databases like the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

I was chuffed that 127 of my observations were labeled research grade. Yay for Noetzie data!

This data is also good for guiding future development. I remember when Sparrebosch Golf Estate was being planned (now renamed Pezula Golf Estate) the developers disputed the faunal report that said leopard occurred there. Now there is photographic evidence from the camera trap programme.

We need to supplement this programme with our own pix on iNaturalist.

And you don't have to wait for the City Nature Challenge to do so. Once you register with iNaturalist, you can upload photographs any time.

Oh, remember to activate your location on your camera. You need to have the GPS and the date on each photograph. Find out more on

<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

In case anyone is at Noetzie next April you can take part in the 2026 challenge. Dates to be announced later.

See <https://www.citynaturechallenge.org>

Below are a few of the more unusual Noetzie species I recorded.



Beach Soutbos (*Chenolea diffusa*)



Porcupine potato (*Kedrostis nana*)



Dune Kokotree (*Maytenus procumbens*)



Sandrose Mallow (*Anisodonteia scabrosa*)



Smooth blood lilly (*Haemanthus sanguineus*)



Snow bush (*Eriocephalus africanus*)



Spiny starfish (*Marthasterias africana*)

Treasurer's Report (November 2024 – May 2025)

Richard Robinson

Please find below a financial preliminary summary for the NCOA covering the period from 1 November 2024 to 31 May 2025. This report tracks our spending in relation to our approved annual budget.

Budget Overview

- Annual Budget: R130,000
- Amount Spent (to date): R110,000
- Percentage of Budget Used: 85%
- Percentage of Year Elapsed: 58%

We are currently ahead of pace in spending relative to the time elapsed in the financial year.

Key Areas of Overspend which have been approved by the Committee include:

- “Municipality” where we are authorised to cover expenses Knysna Municipality can not cover. This includes repair of beach access due to the 2023 and 2024 storm surges and repairs related to the public toilets.
- Security. We have spent R31,000 of the R38,000 allocated to security for the full year. Further review with Johann Oosthuizen, (Security Portfolio) is underway to clarify the breakdown and allocation of these expenses and what the projected expenses will be for the balance of the year to October 2025.

Next steps:

1. Treasurer (Richard) will review with accounts the accuracy of these estimates and recommend options to the Committee, which could include:
 - a. Re-allocating budget surpluses from line items with a positive surplus
 - b. Capital Allocation, consistent with NCOA policy, which is separate from operating expenses, to cover storm repairs, toilet repair and security equipment.
 - c. Prudent access of the Money Market reserve funds which now stand at R96,000.
2. The Treasurer acknowledges the assistance of Nick Taylor, Chair, who is handling payments while Richard remains responsible for approving, filing, and accounting for all receipts and invoices. Special thanks to Wendy Dewberry for overseeing cleaning coordination and to Johann for managing security billing.
3. NCOA members are appreciated for paying subscriptions promptly. For those who have not received your invoice, you will be receiving it soon.

The news is quite depressing. The last six months have been horrible – municipal infrastructure breaking down, inadequate staffing, poor service delivery, and more. There was a vote of no confidence in the mayor. He and the Municipal Manager (MM) resigned. The speaker has just been removed. Recently the Hawks arrested an official for allegedly selling jobs. And then there's the water crisis – taps running dry, pipes bursting, sewage leaks, sewage flowing into the Knysna lagoon. The Knysna Infrastructure Group (KIG), a body formed and paid for by concerned citizens, has helped the municipality a great deal in dealing with these matters. In May Knysna Municipality (KM) declared a local disaster because of the water crisis and a Joint Operations Centre (JOC) was established. This included WC government, the district municipality, KIG, various law enforcement and rescue services, and Knysna Business Chamber.

We welcome the decisive leadership of the new mayor, Thando Matika, and new MM, Lulamile Mapholoba. They have inherited massive problems but already one can see a change. We really hope they can turn Knysna around.

Two big problems are the underspending of the municipal budget and the slow collection of the enormous amounts owed to KM. The NCOA raised both points in our comment on the **Draft 2025/2026 MTREF Budget Report**. We also requested that some funds be allocated to Noetzie - for various things but most urgently for the repair and upgrading of the Noetzie Road.

Unfortunately in the final budget funds for roads were reduced to allow more money for water and sewerage infrastructure. Earlier this year, former NCOA chairs, Eion Browne and Robby Robertson, had a meeting with KM



Tankers distributed water all over Knysna. Photographer unknown.

officials to discuss the Noetzie Road and we thought things may be looking up, but it seems the only chance of anything happening is if KM gets grant funding and technical support.

In May the NCOA also commented on the **Draft Knysna Integrated Development Plan (IDP) March 2025** (bringing up the Noetzie Road again) and the **Draft Knysna Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF) 2025**. Melanie Gosling wrote a detailed NCOA comment on the MSDF after we attended a public participation meeting held by Tshani Consultants. Although not clear on the MSDF maps, Tshani assured us that Noetzie remains outside the urban edge.

Municipal loos. Noetzie resident Wendy Dewberry has taken on responsibility for the public loos and after some setbacks all is running smoothly. The NCOA employs Blessings Chinere a few hours a week to clean, report problems and fill the tanks when necessary. An old pump was given to the NCOA, and once it had been serviced and new fittings bought, is now available. KM was ready to fill the tanks, but when the water crisis hit there was obviously no chance of that as all water tankers were needed to provide drinking water to Knysna. Blessings is doing a good job, as is Wendy. At the moment vandalism is our biggest worry.

Building matters

Erf 20333 House Braun/Hunt. New plans for a house were reviewed by the NCOA in December 2024, but so far the owners have not submitted them to KM Building Control.

Erf 20332. KM Environmental Dept. said the replacement of the vehicle ramp to Neil Metelerkamp's property does not require environmental authorisation.

Erf 20364 House Bhyat/Ayair 1. Another set of revised plans for this headland property has been submitted to the NCOA for review. They will be submitted to KM after the demolition of the existing outbuilding. Ismail Bhyat informed us that KM has no record of this building so he was given the option of applying for a departure or demolishing it. He has also informed us that no demolition permit is required.

Erf 20372. House Bhyat/Ayair 2. New plans for a single-storey dwelling were reviewed by the NCOA, found to comply with the Noetzie Overlay Zone for headland development, and approved by KM's Building Control. Work

started on the erf but we were extremely disappointed to see that they did not adhere to the conditions of their OSCAER Permit and Vegetation Rehabilitation Plan. Remember this was the erf that had been unlawfully cleared previously, so the conditions were very clearly set out. A KM Environmental officer visited the site and instructed the owner about what had to be done. Since then, another amended set of plans was sent to the NCOA, found to comply with the Noetzie Overlay Zone, and now the owners will submit these new plans to KM Building Control.

Rates and Valuation: Please check the new valuation roll <https://knysna.gov.za/live-here/rates-and-services-valuation-roll/#46733>

Rubbish collection is still on Tuesdays.



Work on headland erf 20372.

Keeping a Watchful Eye: An Update on Our Community Security

We wanted to give you a quick update on our ongoing efforts to keep Noetzie safe and secure for everyone. Here's a look at what's been happening with our CCTV system:

Smarter and Faster Alerts

We've upgraded our camera system to send instant alarms and notifications. This means we can spot and look into any potential issues much faster than before, helping to keep everyone safer.

Ensuring Quick and Easy System Support

To make sure any technical issues with our security system can be resolved as quickly as possible, we have created extensive support guides. This helps our technical team to troubleshoot and maintain the system effectively, ensuring it's always running as it should be.

Quick Support from Anywhere

We can now securely access our camera network remotely. This is a fancy way of saying we can fix issues and make improvements to the system much more quickly and efficiently, without needing to be on-site for every little thing.

Constantly Improving Our System

We are committed to keeping our security system in top shape. This includes regular maintenance and replacing any parts that are getting old or worn out to ensure everything is running smoothly and reliably.

Planning for the Future

A significant portion of our current CCTV equipment is scheduled for a planned upgrade in 2026-2027. This means we will need to start budgeting soon for new and improved technology to ensure our security remains state-of-the-art.

A Peaceful Noetzie

We are happy to report that Noetzie has been mostly peaceful, with no major incidents to speak of. A big thank you to everyone for helping to keep our community safe.

Play Your Part: Register Your Vehicle!

To help us make our security even smarter, we kindly ask that you register your vehicle(s) with us using the link below. Once your vehicle is registered, our system can automatically recognise it, which helps us to quickly clear any security alerts from residents' cars.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/FNpgxTK7JLoKpEER9>

The “Infill” subdivision application, submitted by Pezula Private Company in 2021, was finally approved earlier this year.

The 6ha piece of land is big, and forms the largest chunk of the 10ha Noetzie Conservancy.

What we call “the infill” is officially known as “Portion A” of the Farm 394.

As most will remember, the NCOA and many individual residents lodged objections to the subdivision back in 2021.

Some of the main reasons were that the historic public parking and access routes to the beach must be secured, particularly access via the private road and steps and also via the Wagon Road.

At first glance it appeared that the Knysna Municipality had accepted this, as it wrote that one of the reasons it had approved subdivision was that: “The subdivision shall not compromise public access to amenities such as the beach, parking and related open spaces at Noetzie, provided that suitable access arrangements are in place.”

Sounds good, but when you look at the condition of approval that is meant to give effect to securing public access and parking, it is weak.

In South Africa the only legally enforceable way the public can secure access to private land is by the registration of public servitudes with the Registrar of Deeds.

The NCOA has not seen any evidence that these required public servitudes have been registered and so our objection to the subdivision still stands – which meant we lodged an appeal against the subdivision approval.

There were other reasons; one regarding a stream servitude and another regarding fire management plans.

We submitted the NCOA appeal by the required date, 11th February.

KM emailed us on 22nd May to say the Appeal would take the form of oral submissions at Knysna on 4th June. NCOA asked Robby Robertson and me to attend.

Then on 2nd June KM changed its mind and told us that there would be no oral hearings and that the meeting was closed.

The Appeal Authority is within its rights to have closed hearings, but I was really peeved at the late notification as I had already driven to Knysna to attend.

A wasted round trip of 1,000km because of KM’s slackness – or in-house disagreements – who knows what.

Anyway, the upshot is that the Appeal Hearing has been postponed, but we don’t know the date or whether it is a closed or open meeting.

Will keep members posted.

Disaster Funding Repairs

Melanie Gosling

Two things I have learned recently: getting hold of money from the national disaster fund is a lot of work, and if you do get money it is not enough.

That sounds ungrateful, but we are not, just frustrated.

The NCOA put in a request for disaster funding through the Knysna Municipality to repair some of the public property damaged in the last storm surge in July 2024.

The beach footpath had been badly damaged in the storm surge of September 2023, and made worse by last year's storm and was unsafe to use.

It was KM's head of environmental management

Pam Booth who suggested we apply for disaster funding – and a big thank you to Pam for guiding us through the process.

Noetzie asked for R300 000 for repairs, but were allocated R113,000.



Repairs: The beach path repairs have stopped as the Disaster Fund money allocated to the municipality for repairs has run out.

Disaster funding can only be spent on government property, and can only be allocated to a government organisation. Both the beach path and the Wagon Road are municipal property.

The money came from National government through provincial government to the Knysna Municipality.

The NCOA cannot do any of the spending.

The KM used the money to buy rocks and gabion baskets and to employ a company to erect the gabions in two places: the first to restore the badly eroded public footpath at the beach and the second on the river side to protect the end of the Old Wagon Road from being undercut by storm surges.

The first repair job was obvious, but the second was recommended by the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (Misa)

engineers who inspected the site as part of the funding allocation. They said if we left the land as it was, it would gradually erode and the end of the Wagon Road would collapse.

It's looking pretty good so far, but as of June, work has stopped because the contractors need more rock to fill the gabions and to backfill behind the gabions.

NCOA hopes this happens soon, as the winter season with high seas is upon us.



Work halted on building gabions next to the Wagon Road to protect it from erosion by the river and storm surges from the sea. The NCOA sincerely hopes the municipality will make up the disaster funding shortfall soon.

Photo Gallery



Shaft of gold through dark rain clouds: 5.33pm on 23/12/24



Pink clouds catching the sunset: 7.44pm on 10/12/24



Rainbow spans Noetzie River. 6.43pm on 26/12/24



Beach games on Old Year's Night. 7.37pm on 31/12/24



Mammatus or mammary clouds, breast-like protrusions that are formed when cold air descends from the base of a cloud, creating pockets that condense and form these pouches. Often associated with thunderclouds, as these were on 28/3/25



Clearing: Wendy Dewberry at work clearing reeds from the old picnic site; 18/4/25



Rock patterns.



What better place to celebrate a collection of 50th birthdays? Raising a glass - or even a tankard - are the half-a-century Noetzie collection, left to right Peter Suckling, Sean Henderson, Richard Moultrie and Joanna Taylor. 22/12/24



Shelley Beach 27/4/25



Flotsam: steps from a boat washed up at Shelley Beach: 27/4/25



Noetzie residents join in the 50th birthday drinks on the beach.



Craig, Lauren, Jacqui and Claire "havin' a larf" with the Fabulous Four @ Fifty.



Marine life in Shelly Beach rock pools has been depleted, perhaps by foraging baboons displaced from their traditional foraging areas around fenced Pezula. Prickly sea urchins were the only species in abundance. 27/4/25



The "Russian's House" eerie in a late afternoon mist: 9/5/25



Wendy De Garry

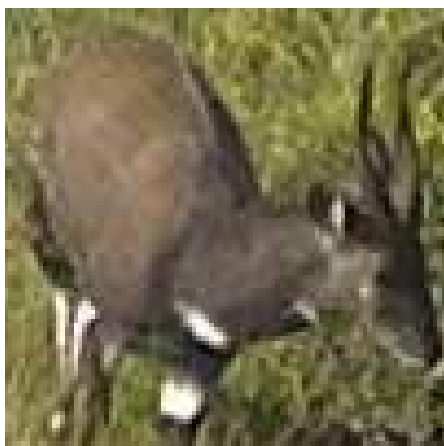
Dogs' eye-view: Cubby and Copper contemplating yet another change in the meandering of the Noetzie River estuary.



There's a troop on my stoop. Curious baboons peer in to the Browne's living room, but spied no easy pickings.



Stinky: This anemone stinkhorn fungus (*Aseroe rubra*) smells like rotting meat so attracts flies that get covered in spores and then shed them at new locations. Spotted along the Noetzie River boardwalk 25/4/25



Johann Oosthuizen did some software magic to extract these animal sightings from the security camera footage.

2025 NCOA committee members

The 2025 NCOA Committee

To contact the committee, please email: committee@noetzie.co.za.

Nick Taylor: Chair	(chairperson@noetzie.co.za)
Richard Robinson: Treasurer	(treasurer@noetzie.co.za)
Lola Moultrie: Secretary	(secretary@noetzie.co.za)
Sabrina Gosling: Municipal Liaison	(municipal@noetzie.co.za)
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