

NOETZIE CONSERVANCY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION



NOETZIE NEWS

DECEMBER 2025



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Annual General Meeting

The NCOA AGM will be held on Saturday 3 January 2026 at 14h00 at the house of Julie Gosling and Wendy Dewberry on the headland. It will be a hybrid meeting using Google Meet for those not able to be there physically. Note that only paid up owner members will be allowed to vote. Provisions are made for proxy votes and the details for voting by proxy will be sent to members shortly, along with the Notice of the AGM.

Chair's Chat

Nick Taylor

NCOA Executive Committee

Members of the NCOA Executive Committee are as follows:

Member	Portfolio	Status
Nick Taylor	Chair	Term expires Dec 2025
Johann Oosthuizen	Security and IT	Resigned as of Dec 2025
Vacant	IT or Security	
Lola Moultrie	Secretary	Resigned as of Dec 2025
Sabrina Gosling	Deputy Chair, Municipal portfolio	Term expires Dec 2026
Simon van Gend	Newsletter	Term expires Dec 2026
Richard Robinson	Treasurer	Term expires Dec 2027
Wendy Dewberry	Conservation	Term expires Dec 2027

Members are elected for three years, with the possibility of re-election for a further three-year period. Emily Taylor resigned at the end of 2024, and the 2025 Committee proceeded with 7 members rather than the usual 8. Replacements for four members need to be elected at the 2025 AGM due to be held on 3 January 2026.

Our Secretary, Lola Moultrie, was unable to participate in many meetings this year because of extensive travel commitments. She will take up full-time study in 2026 and her departure is a loss to the Committee, as she showed a real flair for producing minutes! Johann Oosthuizen has also resigned due to commitments to family and his professional career. The Committee will be hard-pressed to find a replacement who has anywhere near his technical knowledge and ability. Johann occupied two portfolios and we need to find two individuals to cover the work he took on. Seven meetings of the Committee were held over the course of 2025.

Storm damage repairs

The extensive damage resulting from severe storms in 2023 and 2024 has now largely been repaired, thanks to a combination of funding

from national government's disaster fund, the NCOA, Knysna Municipality and individual members, as well as activities undertaken by certain members, including Julie Gosling and Derek Devine. The details are provided in Melanie Gosling's report below.

Another great example of the kinds of public/private partnerships beginning to take place in our country is the Municipal Partnership Agreement between the Municipality, the Knysna Infrastructure Group and several other public and private entities. This is a R2m project aimed at cleaning up the Knysna Lagoon and rehabilitating the collapsing sewage system which is currently pouring effluent into the lagoon.

While the NCOA is not involved in this project, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the municipality some years ago, under which agreement the NCOA undertakes to repair public facilities at our own cost. It is this agreement that has enabled us to repair and maintain the public toilets and adjacent stairs, a major NCOA project in 2024. Speaking of which, I acknowledge the work of Blessings Chinere who is employed by the NCOA to keep the toilets in good condition. Thanks also to Wendy Dewberry for

supervising this work and to Tim Everett for assisting Wendy to keep the toilet tanks topped up.

Working with the municipality is a complex task, involving a number of issues such as the generally poor state of the Noetzie Road, sewage leaking constantly onto the road from an overloaded system in Hlalani, from repeated vandalism of repaired sewerage infrastructure, and constant changes of personnel in an unstable local government. What better Committee member to deal with this challenge than Sabrina Gosling who displays infinite patience and diplomacy in addressing these frustrations.

During the public participation process the NCOA submitted comments on three draft documents: Knysna Integrated Development Plan, Knysna Municipal Spatial Development Framework and Knysna MTREF Budget Report.

Building matters

As if she hasn't enough to do, Sabrina also manages our building portfolio with distinction. On this front, construction on Sandi Braun's property on the beach (Erf 20333) should begin again as the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment recently issued her with a letter detailing the way forward. On the headland, plans to proceed with building on the two properties owned by Ismael Bhyat have been approved. Construction has commenced on Erf 20372, and will shortly start on Erf 20364.

Finances

In the Finance department, I want to pay tribute to Richard Robinson for taking on the task of Committee Treasurer, a portfolio for which he is not trained. Sandi Braun has been very helpful in assisting Richard to master the intricacies of the NCOA accounts and his report below provides ample evidence of his success. I am pleased to confirm that the accounts are in good shape, to the extent that

we do not anticipate a fee increase for 2026. Members are paying their subs promptly, which I take as a sign of confidence in the work of the Committee, with generous support from many members.

Conservation

Turning to the main purpose of the NCOA, which is to protect our natural environment and to fight back the many threats to its unique condition. Here the efforts of individuals are too numerous to detail, but the wonderful work of Wendy Dewberry and Melanie Gosling does require special commendation, as shown in their detailed reports and beautiful photographs below.

Security

The Committee maintains a suite of CCTV cameras clustered around access to the beach and river properties. Keeping these in working order over the past year has been the work of Johann Oosthuizen, who has brought a very high level of technical expertise to this portfolio. He will be sorely missed.

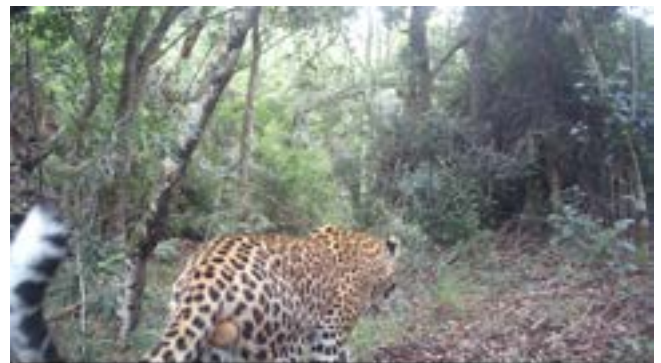
Newsletter

Finally, you are currently reading one of the products of the professional expertise of Simon van Gend, ably assisted by Melanie Gosling. I think you will agree with me that, together they have published two excellent editions of the Newsletter this year. Thank you Mel and Simon!





SD cards



Male leopard

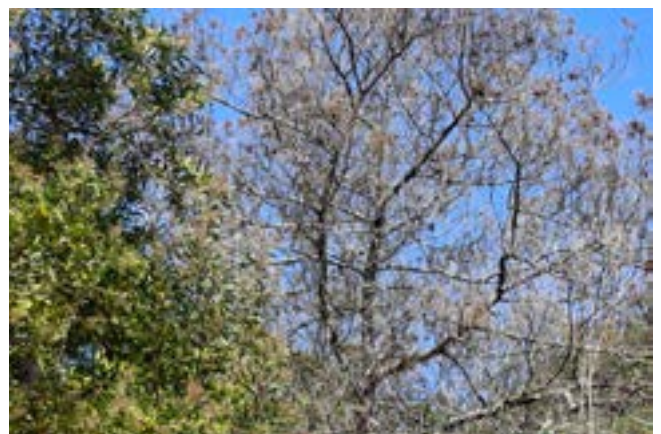
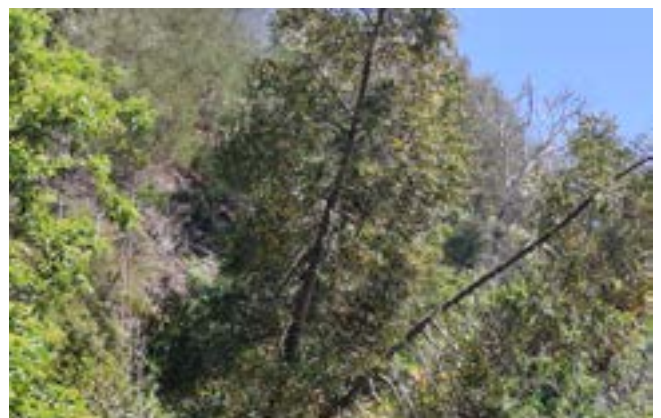
Down in the Forest Something Stirred

A trip up Noetzie River is balm for the soul and I must confess that these camera SD cards have the dopamine effect of a lottery card just before the draw – you never know what you’re going to get from those camera traps. There have been plenty of HUGE bushpigs and lots of honey badgers over the past six months. There’s a bushbuck with a lamb, and this young male leopard, above, was seen on two different dates.

Click on this link for some video footage
<https://youtu.be/Vz3penfDPz4>

Dead Aliens

Trips up the river are always so much more than merely retrieving the camera footage. One thing that gave me great satisfaction was to see *dead* invasive alien trees (black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) and blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*))



Ringbarked aliens up river now dead



Ringbarked aliens up river now dead

which we had ringbarked at the beginning of the year.

Fish Making a Comeback

For a while after the 2006 floods we noticed there were fewer fish in the Noetzie River. Then they seemed to come back slowly. Presently there are huge shoals of what I suspect may be flat-head mullet, and other species as well.



Fish up river Nov 2025

According to research, mullet are an indicator species of healthy estuarine systems, and some say they are likely to become an indicator species for climate change because of their sensitivity to temperature fluctuations.¹ I hope the photo is clear enough to show what I saw, and if you go up the river with a camera please try to get a good pic to share - especially if you have a waterproof camera or GoPro.

Close Encounters of the Reptilian Kind

Birds display varying degrees of shyness and it is quite noticeable how some species are shyer than others. For example the white-backed night heron and the red-chested cuckoo – the familiar “Piet-my-vrou” - are very shy birds so we hear them far more often than we see them.

Ornithologist Russ Greenberg explained that this was an intrinsic species-specific personality trait in birds called neophobia – a fear of new or unfamiliar things – that creates these differences. Read more about it in the link below.²

Meanwhile, I had the privilege of observing some bird behavior over the past while. The first story happened up the river.

I was setting up a seventh camera quite deep on the southern side of the river when I heard a cacophony of birds about ten metres away. I first thought it was a flock of loud red-billed wood hoopoes - now known as green wood hoopoes. I thought they had not seen me because they were unusually close - sunbirds, robins and flycatchers. Then suddenly I saw a very long boomslang leap into the air and realised why the birds were so noisy. (Yes – it leapt into the air out of the long grass, trying to catch a bird that was dive-bombing it).

Those birds were coming my way and I realised that the snake was also coming my way and so I started to clap my hand against my leg but my paltry noise was no match for the noise of the birds above. I realised that if I didn't make a big vibration that snake may even try to climb me!

That wouldn't have ended well so I stamped my foot hard and when it was about four metres away it veered off towards the river.

Wow that was scary.

Algal Bloom

There was a bit of green algae growth in the water upstream towards the rapids. The algae had bubbles just beneath the surface of the water and a very fine web-like glassiness on the surface in undisturbed patches. I thought this algal bloom could have been caused by an increased amount of nutrients in the river. Increased nutrients can come from various



Algal growth up river Nov 2025

sources, but is commonly from untreated sewage or fertilizer run-off.

Hope you can see in the photos and perhaps offer some information.

Short Life of Nestlings

The second bird story was in our Noetzie garden. Two sets of chicks hatched in nests in separate trees outside our bathroom window this spring: two little fiscal flycatchers and two Cape bulbuls. The parent birds were very cagey when we were observing them and now we know why. Predators. Within about 10 days both sets of nestlings had disappeared. We think either the southern boubou or the pied crow ate both the fiscal flycatcher and the bulbul chicks. A crow had been flying low above the garden for days, while the day the flycatcher chicks disappeared we heard a commotion near the tree with a boubou shouting the loudest.

Apparently, the average survival rate of young birds from hatching to fledging (leaving the nest) is only about 30-40%.



Flycatcher chicks

Hair of the Dog

I put the dog hair I had brushed off my dog in the fork of a tree and within days I noticed what I think was a type of cisticola taking beakfuls of the hair to a nest in the top branches of a Cape sumach tree. And then I observed something weird: a sunbird was chasing it and pecking at its vent. Many times! Does anyone have an explanation?



Birds taking dog hair for nesting material

On the tree trunk that holds a camera I saw what looked like a beautiful spider so I took a snap to identify it later. Turns out that it was a scorpion spider and here is a cut from Wikipedia:



Scorpion spider

Full Name: Scorpion Spider (Platyoides sp.)

Other names: Skerpioenspinnekop

Classification: HARMLESS

There are nine species of these strange-looking spiders in southern Africa. They are flattened in profile, usually black with orange to red legs, although pure black species occur.

They are wanderers and don't build webs. They can be found under the bark of trees or under stones and pot plants. They are secretive and escape as quickly as they can when encountered. They sometimes scuttle sideways much like crabs. They are harmless to humans and pets.

The photo at the top of the next page shows what looks like a pig's ear fungus seen up river. If it is, apparently its edible, but I wouldn't take a chance while I still have food in my fridge.

Outdoor Classroom

We made new information sheets for the Outdoor Classroom as the old ones were stolen. I'm still contemplating how I feel about the morality of stealing educational material.

Meanwhile, it is eight years since the 2017 fires incinerated the Outdoor Classroom, leaving



Pig's ear fungus

bare, black sand, and the fynbos has grown so much it is almost impenetrable in places.

Fynbos is dependent on fire to maintain its health and biodiversity. SANParks says fynbos needs to burn about every 15 years to stimulate new growth. If it does not burn for 20 to 30 years, it becomes moribund and some species can become extinct.

Mutilated Cheesewood Hanging On

In March this year a Cape cheesewood tree (*Pittosporum viridiflorum*) on the path to the municipal steps just beyond the gate, was ring barked, presumably by *muti* collectors. We made a hopeful attempt at rescuing it that we described in the last newsletter.

We are delighted to report that the tree appears to be surviving. Despite a sign we left on the tree saying please don't damage it, there has been another recent bark removal as you can see in this photo.



Mutilated cheesewood tree

Public Loos

The Noetzie public toilets have been kept in good working order this year. The NCOA has employed Blessings Chinere to clean twice weekly. Catherine Suckling generously donated her old water pump to the NCOA that is now used to fill the header tanks with water from



Tim with the pump

the river. Thank you Catherine. We have had challenges along the way of course but Tim Everett has been overseeing so much at Noetzie when he is in residence, and this project is really thanks to him, and also to Julie Gosling for supplying the fittings and incidentals. We have just purchased push button plastic taps we hope to install to save water.

Baboon-Proof Bins

Working from the pattern of the old wooden baboon proof bins, I made two new ones for the beach area and repaired the two damaged bins in the car park.



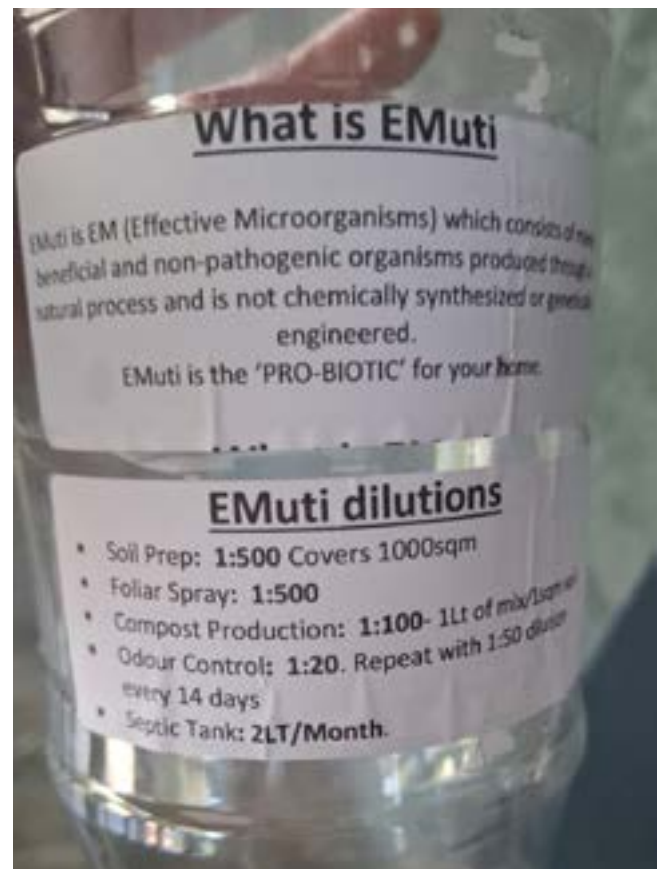
New and repaired baboon-proof bins

River Water Testing

There will be water tests done over season in the river. This is to check that all the septic tank and soakaways from the river houses are functioning as they should.

Please explain to staff and guests that the wastewater system at Noetzie relies on living bacteria to break down poo in septic tanks.

So using harsh chemicals (like Jik) in toilets, showers and sinks will kill the bacteria that decompose toilet waste, and this malfunction may eventually result in contamination of river water.



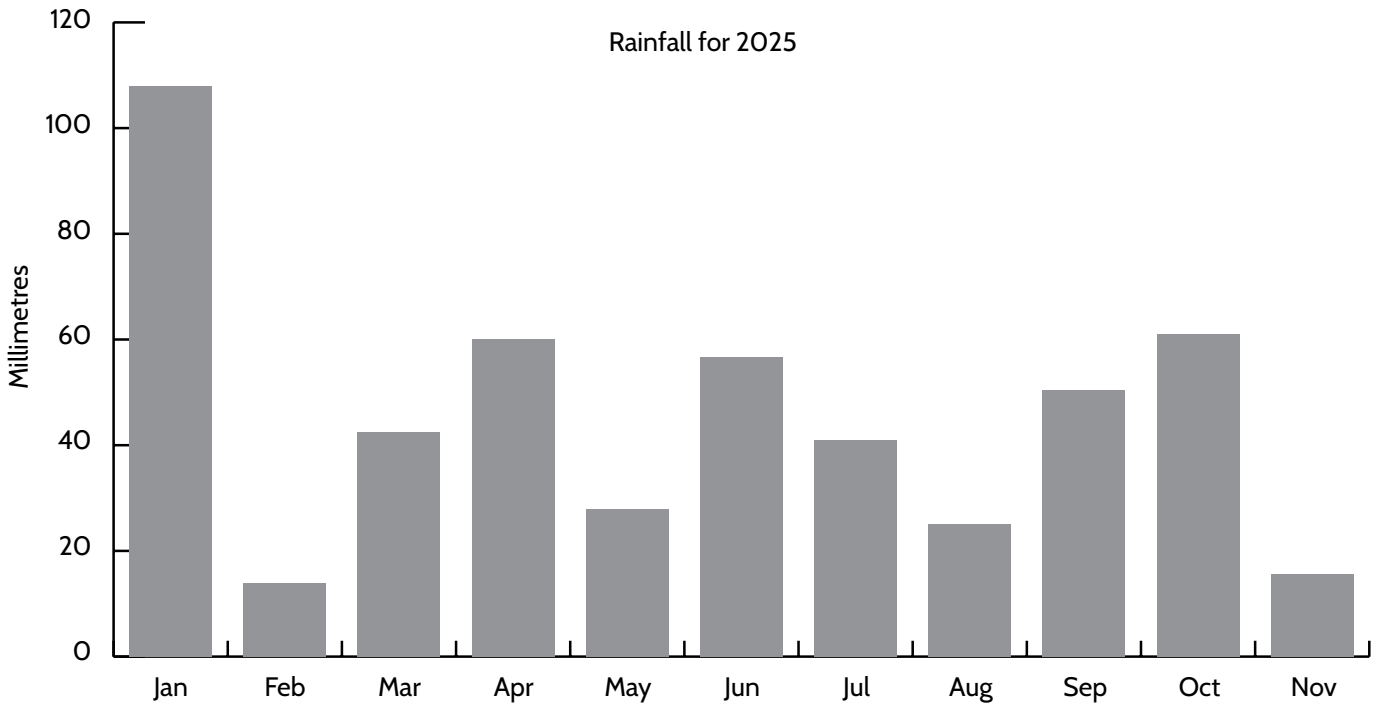
Effective Microorganisms for septic tanks R30 per bottle. Completely natural and effective at stopping smells

To give your septic tanks a boost, I have ordered 20 two-litre bottles of EMS from Sassenheim at R30 per two-litre bottle. Pouring the entire contents down one of your loos will kick your gogga system into full tilt and for the price and efficacy, it is recommended for all houses at Noetzie.

The bottles will be at the back door of the Gosberry house (where we park our vehicles) for collection. Please help yourself and give me the cash when you can.

For the sake of everyone else, please encourage guests who have dogs to pick up their own dog litter at Noetzie.

Rainfall Figures



Historical rainfall figures

	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	39.25	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	41
Aug	83	76		149	22	67	28	45	25
Sep	18	49	30	92	50.5	42	117.5	100	50.5
Oct	45	32	67	87	59	48	90.5	72	61
Nov	90	88	107	93	94	8	1	105	15
Dec					67	110.5	66	18	

1. James NC, Whitfield AK, Harrison TD. 2016. Grey mullet (*Mugilidae*) as possible indicators of global warming in South African estuaries and coastal waters. *Marine Environmental Research* 122: 188–195. doi: 10.1016/j.marenvres.2016.11.002)
2. *The Shy Bird Revolution: How Russ Greenberg Unlocked Nature's Secrets*

NCOA finances are in reasonable shape as we are at year end (financial year ends 31 October) and below are some highlights.

All NCOA Members are reminded to bring your subscription payments up to date as soon as possible, as unpaid members are not able to participate and vote in the upcoming AGM on 3 January. Reminders will be sent out shortly.

Revenue for the year will come in at R78,679 which is about R2000 over our budget, not taking into account that we may make up this shortfall if outstanding subscriptions are paid before the AGM.

- Expenses came in at R132,000, which is about R2000 over our budget, but the Committee deemed it reasonable, given the surplus of revenue over projected subscription income, as noted above.
- A number of unexpected and proactive investments were made towards the end of the financial year:
 - For security one of the poles for a video camera on the River Road had

to be replaced because it had collapsed due to rot. AllSound is finishing the quality repair work and our Outsurance insurance covered a new camera.

- The Committee approved an upgrade to hardware and software of the security system to make it more reliable and reduce call-outs with AllSound.
- The materials for four new baboon-proof rubbish bins for the parking area were sourced by Wendy Dewberry.
- The roof of the guard house was repaired ahead of the upcoming festive season.
- After careful analysis, the Committee approved AllSound's proposal for a guard during the December-January period that will be allocated to the proposed 2026 budget for AGM review.
- The services of Blessings Chinere in regularly cleaning the Municipal Toilets is fully budgeted for and represents an improvement in quality and security.

All questions are welcome.

My municipal reports all seem to begin with commenting on the sorry state of the Knysna Municipality (KM). By now most of you will know that it was not put under administration. The Provincial Minister for Local Government MEC Anton Bredell issued a notice to dissolve the Knysna Council but this was dismissed by the National Council of Provinces.

Opinions in Knysna were divided about whether this was a good or bad thing. As an administrator would be appointed for only 90 days, some questioned what could possibly be achieved in such a short time, and felt that having an election for a new council during the festive season would be inefficient as many residents would be away. Some suggested it would have been better had Province used an alternative Constitutional intervention whereby the Council stayed in place and Province sent in management teams to take over the running of municipal functions where necessary for as long as needed.

Municipal Challenges

The KM faces huge challenges in delivering basic services. Water and wastewater management are the biggest problems now, but power outages, streetlights, refuse management, and potholed roads are not far behind. No matter how hard the municipality works, the existing infrastructure is inadequate. And the population is ever growing. The Mayor, Thando Matika, recognised the need for public/private partnerships and now, recently, Knysna Council approved the new Policy of Community Partnerships. The first partnership signed was with the resident-based and funded Knysna Infrastructure Group and their partners.

Many people, including former NCOA Chair, Robby Robertson, feel that public/private

and public/corporate partnerships are the only way to go in South Africa – for all tiers of government - but particularly at local municipal level. As you know, the NCOA has our own Memorandum of Agreement with the Knysna Municipality, signed way back in 2017.

Municipal Services over Season

Lifeguards will be on duty at Noetzie every day.

Although the NCOA employs Blessings Chinere for a few hours a week to clean the public loos, more is needed to cope with the increased usage over season, so there will be a municipal cleaner working there in December and January.

The NCOA recently had the guard hut at the boom repaired - in time for the festive season when we need a boom operator to prevent traffic jams at the bottom of the Wagon Road. KM employs seasonal staff to assist with law enforcement and traffic over season and, at our request, someone to operate the boom at Noetzie was included in their plans, but unfortunately could not be confirmed as staffing and duties had not yet been finalised. With this uncertainty, the NCOA decided rather to employ an AllSound security guard to man the boom.

The “Infill” Update: Subdivision of Portion A from Pezula

You will remember that the NCOA lodged an appeal against part of the approval of the subdivision of the 6ha Portion A from Pezula Private Estate on the grounds that public access and public parking had not been secured.

The NCOA's appeal has still not been heard. Several dates set for the hearing have been postponed.

When the NCOA was set to attend the last Appeal Authority hearing scheduled for 20th October, a KM official told the NCOA at short notice that our appeal would not be on the agenda as he had found it to be invalid. Yet in March the same official had found our appeal to be valid.

The NOCA has had an uphill battle with the municipality in the matter, and we have lodged a formal complaint regarding the way in which the NCOA's appeal has been dealt with.

It is particularly puzzling as the main thrust of our appeal is to secure in perpetuity public access and public parking - both of which are municipal duties.

The NCOA has asked Mayor Thando Matika (the Appeal Authority) please to put the NCOA appeal back on the agenda. He has agreed to look into the matter.

Building Matters

Please remember to send copies of KM-approved plans, all permits and reports, and

any written instructions from the authorities pertaining to an erf/building project, to the NCOA for our records. We wish you all success with your building.

Erf 20372. House Bhyat/Ayair 2. Plans were approved and construction had already begun on this headland property, when the owner decided to make changes. The new revised plans, which complied with the Noetzie Overlay Zone, were rejected by KM Building Control. They were amended as instructed, resubmitted and approved by KM. KM informed the NCOA that there was no need to stamp, sign or comment on them. The Vegetation Rehabilitation plan is underway. Plants, some endangered, have been dug up, re-potted and taken off site to be replanted later.

Erf 20364. House Bhyat/Ayair 1. KM Building Control rejected the revised plans for this headland property too. They had to be amended and resubmitted. The changes were more substantial. KM Building Control told the NCOA that we needed to review and stamp/sign these amended plans, which we did. KM



Bhyat house under construction on Noetzie headland.

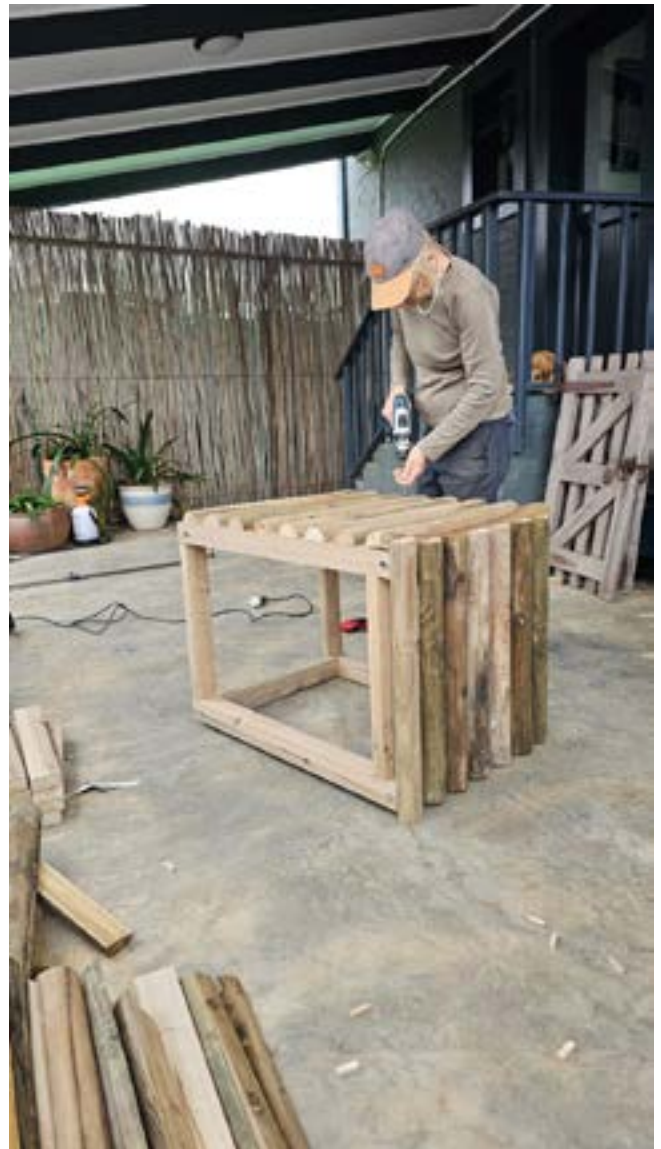
has approved these amended plans. Trenches will be built after Christmas.

Erf 20333: House Braun/Hunt. New plans for a house were reviewed, stamped and signed by the NCOA a year ago but have not yet been submitted to KM Building Control. This beachfront erf has been a dormant building site for over 2 years now, so the NCOA contacted the owners to find out what the hold-up was and to offer any assistance. The owners recently received a letter from the national Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment outlining “the way forward” on the site. To date the NCOA has not seen the letter, but we hope it means there soon will be some progress in this building project.

Waste

Weekly rubbish collection is on Tuesdays. Please continue to separate ordinary household rubbish (in black bags) from CLEAN recycling (in clear bags). Free wheelie bins are available from the KM on application, so they are no longer providing black bags. The terrain and difficult access at Noetzie precludes the truck from getting close to the properties, so the wheelie bins will function just as ordinary household dustbins and we will still need black bags but will have to buy our own. The Rotary Club of Knysna has an e-waste collection day 4 times a year for unwanted or broken electronic and electrical goods. The next is 6th December from 8.30-12.00 at Loerie Park. Monetary donations are welcomed.

Thank you to Wendy Dewberry for repairing the old baboon-proof wooden cages for the public dustbins, and making two new ones from scratch. A lot of hard work! These bins were first made many years ago and have stood the test of time, foiling many a baboon. And thanks to Tim Everett for helping transport them.



Wendy Dewberry building new cages to make beach bins baboon-proof.

Status Overview:

We are pleased to report that Noetzie has remained relatively peaceful recently, with security incidents kept to an absolute minimum.

Incident Report & Community Vigilance

We did experience an isolated incident involving an individual behaving aggressively to a resident on the Wagon Road. Thanks to the quick thinking of residents who provided photographic evidence, AllSound was promptly dispatched to the scene. The individual was apprehended and handed over to SAPS.

This outcome serves as a reminder that our collective security awareness and CCTV vigilance are paying off.

A special note of gratitude goes to Julie Gosling, Wendy Dewberry and Catherine Suckling for their sharp eyes and proactive assistance, and to Tim Everett for his security work on the riverside's Home Services Group and for assisting with the camera pole replacement.

🔧 Infrastructure & Maintenance

We are continually working to maintain the reliability of our surveillance network:

- **Riverside Camera:** After the recent collapse of the camera pole, a new pole was installed. We are currently awaiting the delivery of the necessary mounting equipment to complete the rewiring and installation.
- **Wagon Road Upgrades:** The switching equipment on the River Road, that supplies network and power to three cameras, has been replaced to improve the stability and reliability of our camera feeds.

🌲 Festive Season Readiness

As we approach the holidays, we are increasing our visible presence to ensure a safe season for all.

- **Boom Access Control:** An AllSound guard will be stationed at the boom to manage access to the Wagon Road and to provide visible policing from **15th December to 15th January**.
- **Procedures:** Please keep an eye on your inbox: detailed access procedures for the holiday period will be emailed to you shortly.

📅 Member Reminders

To help us maintain a safe environment, we ask for your cooperation on the following:

1. **Radio Communication:** We encourage all members to keep their radios turned **ON and tuned to Channel 16** throughout the holiday season. This is vital for rapid communication during any security events.
2. **Armed Response:** Residents with active subscriptions are encouraged to dispatch AllSound immediately for *any* security concerns or public disturbances.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping Noetzie safe.

We are about a truckload of quarry stones away from completing the gabions along the beach front area where two storm surges in as many years ravaged the Noetzie coastline.

Knysna Municipality managed to find money to pay for the completion of these gabion walls when the R113,000 disaster funding from national government, earmarked for Noetzie, ran out .

Kate Southey, senior environment officer from the KM, said in late November that as soon as the quarry could supply more stone the Noetzie gabion project would be completed.

There was a long discussion at the last AGM as to why a gabion wall was being built on the riverside of the Wagon Road. In case it is still not clear, the provincial engineers who came to inspect the storm damage at Noetzie in early 2024, strongly suggested we build a gabion wall in that spot in front of the Brymer plot to protect the end of the Wagon Road. They said further erosion could undercut the bank and

the end of the Wagon Road could collapse, and the link between the vehicle ramp and the Wagon Road would be gone.

Chairman Nick suggested we do a final update on the storm repairs, so I thought before and after photographs from the two major storm surges would show this best.

- The first storm surge in September 2023 did most of the damage, right across to the boardwalk at the river.
- The second storm surge in July 2024 exacerbated much of the damage which had not yet been repaired. Luckily the repaired vehicle ramp to the beach stood firm.

These storm surges are global climate change in action. As the ocean heats up, scientists say we are likely to experience stronger and more frequent storm surges. We are also experiencing, in a microcosm, the high cost of repairing coastal damage.

So here are the before and after photographs:



GOING, GOING...:The bank between the vehicle ramp and Wagon Road was badly eroded by both storm surges. Provincial engineers said further erosion could undercut the end of Wagon Road and prevent vehicles from reaching the beach.



GONE: The ramp from Old Wagon Road to the beach was washed away in the September 2023 storm surge, leaving exposed bedrock.



STRONGER: The vehicle ramp, which was originally just sand and sandbags, was rebuilt with two tiers of gabions to protect it against high seas and the flooding river. Beach vegetation was later planted on top to help it blend in. The new ramp stood up well to the 2024 storm surge. The NCOA applied for and was granted emergency environmental authorisation by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). This rebuild was paid for by beach residents Neil and Carl Metelerkamp, Sandi Braun, the Gosling family and Derek Cockcroft - who also paid for Buccara's portion.



PROTECTION: A gabion wall, still under construction, will hopefully prevent further erosion of the bank adjacent to the old Wagon Road. This was paid for by national government disaster funding, topped up by Knysna Municipality.



SLIP-SLIDING AWAY: The 2023 storm surge took away much of the public footpath, which had been built by NCOA in 2013 to give pedestrians using the Wagon Road access to the beach when the river flooded the end of the road that year. Visitors and residents had to wade through thigh-deep water. The path has its own management plan approved by the municipality.



NEW END: Julie Gosling employed a local man to build pedestrian access steps and a protective wall at the end of the beach footpath, and NCOA later refunded her. This fell under the DFFE authorisation.



ROCKY: The 2024 storm surge scoured out the beach sand below the Municipal Steps, forcing visitors and residents to scramble over the rocks to get to the beach.



STEP EASY: The NCOA got permission from KM to repair the steps in terms of the MOA. The NCOA paid and Julie helped the builder to design them.



SCOURED AWAY: The 2023 storm surge did the most damage to the public footpath on the beach.



GABION PROTECTION: This gabion wall allows high seas to move through the gaps between the stones, reducing the force of the water. Stones are packed behind the gabions, giving another layer of protection to the footpath. This was paid for with national disaster funds, topped up by the Knysna Municipality.



SANDBAGS: The 2023 storm surge swept away sand, leaving the steps from the footpath below Montrose about a metre above the beach.



REPAIRED: Julie also employed a man to repair these steps, so that people could reach the beach, because the ramp from Wagon Road was washed away. The Steyns refunded Julie.



RIPPED OFF: The newly built steps the NCOA had built from the public loos to the beach broke loose in the 2023 storm surge.



ANCHORED: The NCOA had the wooden steps reattached with more secure fittings.



WHERE TO NOW?: The force of the 2023 storm surge waves was dissipated somewhat by the wide river estuary, but still had enough force to lift the boardwalk and move it about a metre inland.



BOER MAAK 'N PLAN: It took Derek Devine and a couple of labourers just a few hours to fix the damaged boardwalk.



BEFORE: This is Noetzie beach before the 2023 and 2024 storm surges. Note the higher sand level, the intact end of the footpath and the whale skull on the sand. The skull disappeared in the 2023 storm surge.



RAGING SEA: On 16 September 2023 the storm surge turned Noetzie beach into a wild sea. For long periods that day, not a spot of beach was visible as the waves crashed up and over the beach house property walls.

2025 NCOA committee members

The 2025 NCOA Committee

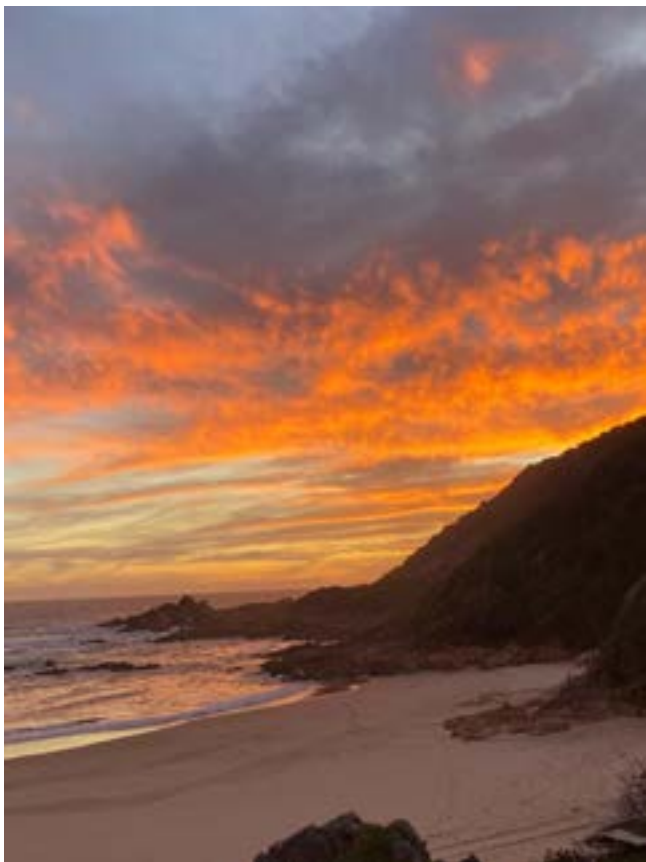
To contact the committee, please email: committee@noetzie.co.za.

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)
Wendy Dewberry: Environment	(conservation@noetzie.co.za)
Simon van Gend: Newsletter	(newsletter@noetzie.co.za)
Johann Oosthuizen: Security	(security@noetzie.co.za)
Johann Oosthuizen: IT	(it@noetzie.co.za)

Photo gallery



Painted reed frog



Fiery September



Gentle pink reflections of September sunset



Lichen up the river



Castles from the air



Vygie brightens the rocks at Noetzie



Bird's eye view of Noetzie in August



Can anyone identify this fungus?



Not the only pebble on the beach. Shelly Beach



Moss growing on a whale vertebra near Shelly Beach



Anemone jamboree



Narina Trogan



Dynamic Noetzie River estuary, always changing



Noetzie's two Castle Rocks to some, Pixie Rocks to others



Slow regeneration of Noetzie's forest burned in the devastating 2017 fires



Half-collared kingfisher



Little grebe



Reed cormorant



Half-collared kingfisher



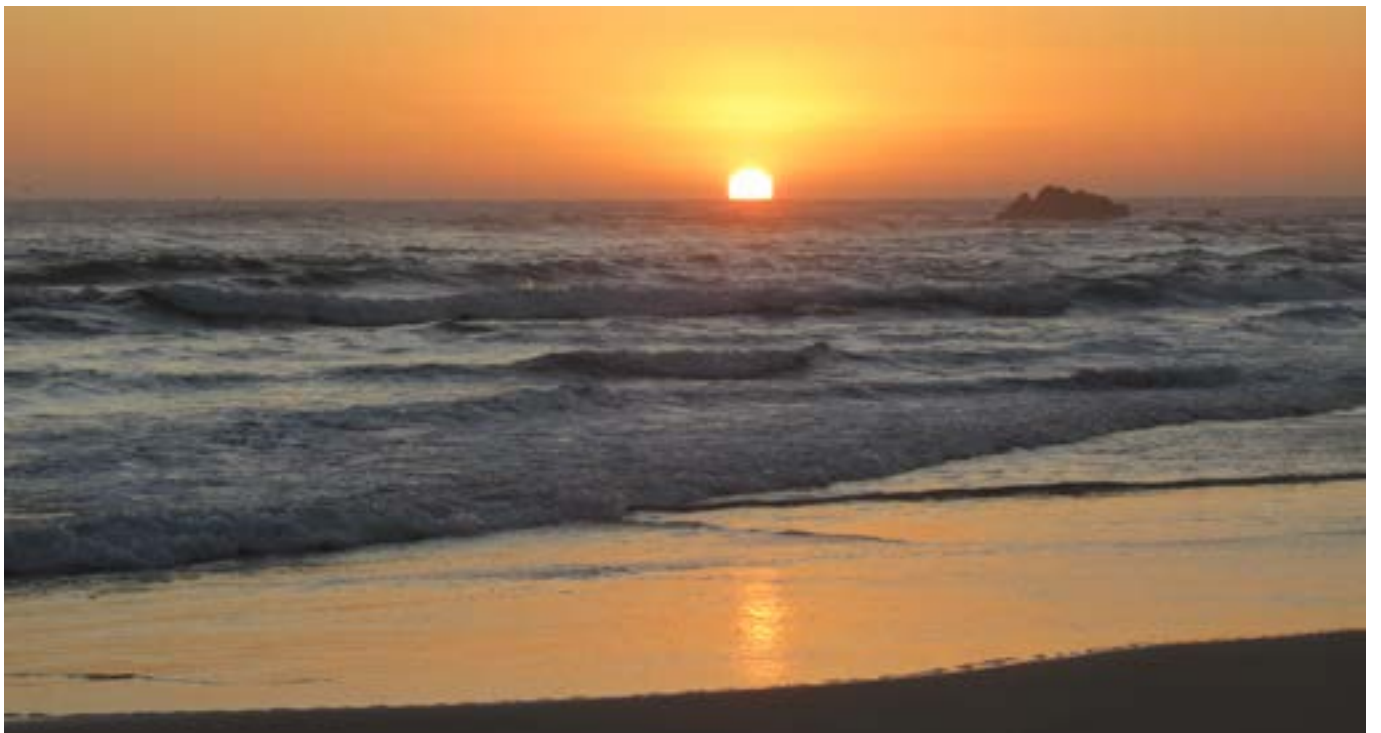
Grey heron



White breasted cormorant



Dragonflies mating



Noetzie sunset



BEACHSCAPE: These doggies have Noetzie all to themselves on a beautiful spring day in September



SPLENDID: October brought king proteas into bloom on the Outdoor Classroom site.



SNACKING: We thought the weed-eater had nicked the agapanthus leaves, but later found this bushbuck was the culprit.



SPIDER: found in a Noetzie compost bin. Is it is wolf spider?



Noetzie's dark skies made the 7th September eclipse wonderful, and even the Blood Moon was visible.



The September eclipse moon reflected in the Noetzie River.