

NOETZIE CONSERVANCY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION



NOETZIE NEWS

JUNE 2026



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Chair's Chat

Nick Taylor



Those NCOA members who attended will recall that the 2025 NCOA AGM was held in two parts, the first on

3 January 2026 and the second on 3 March. The minutes are available on the Noetzie website. Splitting the meeting in this way enabled us to prepare the Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 31 October 2025 and submit them for examination to our accountants, Parker & Associates.

We were pleased to be able to report on 3 March that the auditors had examined and approved the accounts, a signed copy of which is available on the website. This smooth conclusion to the financial year is a tribute to the hard work of our Treasurer, Richard Robinson, who, despite a lack of experience with responsibilities of this kind, took on the role and has grown into it over the year. Well done, Richard, and thanks also to Sandi Braun who continues to give her time generously to assisting the committee.

The full committee with 4 new members elected on 3 January is: Nick Taylor, Chairman; Sabrina Gosling, Vice Chair and Municipal portfolio; Richard Robinson, Treasurer; Wendy Dewberry, Conservation; Simon van Gend, Newsletter; Alan Blem, Security; Carel van Gend, IT; and Alice Fabian-Williams, Secretary.

There was a strong push at the first meeting of the AGM from members to upgrade the NCOA security system. Through the expertise and hard work of Johann Oosthuizen, the committee prepared a plan to replace a number of cameras, and link them to an IT-enabled management system powered by a dedicated wi-fi link. This plan was approved by members

on 3 March, together with the necessary funding to be spread over two years. Alan Blem has taken charge of operationalising the plan and reports on progress to date in his contribution below. Thanks to Johann for his continuing technical support and also to Tim Everett for his watchful eye and sound advice.

Another task successfully completed by the AGM was the approval of a number of amendments to the NCOA Constitution: these had been in the pipeline for two years and were, by and large, of a typographical nature aimed at achieving textual consistency and improved readability.

Sad news of the passing of three Noetzie stalwarts was received between the two instalments of the AGM. Overlooking the Indian Ocean from his beachfront cottage, Neil Metelerkamp has been a feature of Noetzie life for all residents and visitors. My abiding memory of him will be his quiet but firmly projected presence at our meeting of 3 January: having expressed himself on a number of issues during proceedings, he excused himself and left after precisely two hours, because, in his own words, "... no meeting should last longer than two hours". A double dose of sad news was delivered to the community with the passing of Rob Shimmin, who had been a presence on the banks of the Noetzie river for over four decades. We were also deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Professor JP van Niekerk, a founding shareholder of the van Gend Noetzie Trust and one of the most distinguished figures in South African medicine, whose connection to Noetzie spanned many decades. We were also saddened by the passing of Louise Brown, daughter-in-law of Jan and Eion Brown. Our heartfelt condolences go to the families and friends of Neil, Rob, JP and Louise. Hamba Kahle, comrades!

Water Testing at Noetzie 2026

Water testing at Noetzie has been ongoing in various forms since around 2010. Over the years, a lot has been learned and quite a few homeowners have had to make repairs to their septic tank and soak away-systems, as a result of the findings. These things tend to require maintenance, particularly where the soil is wet and the water table is often high.

At present we understand a few basics appropriate to Noetzie.

1. Water quality of the river is determined by immediate issues. This includes toxic spills of chemicals that upset the balance of the natural systems and breaches of septic tank-soakaway systems over peak season.
2. All good rivers have E.coli from animals and birds, and a zero-test result likely indicates a faulty test.
3. E.coli only lives for 24 hours and tests done out of this window period are considered a waste of time and money for our purposes. Luckily, we have access to an onsite system called AQUAGENIX that allows us to
- test for E.coli load. Note this is a general load indicator and does not give numbers. However, for our purposes it is all we need.
4. E.coli is present in all our intestinal tracts and because it is relatively easily measured, the presence of it in water is used as an indicator of water quality. The presence of E.coli means that the probability of other pathogens exists - those causing tummy upsets to far more serious issues like urinary tract infections, hepatitis if it's going around, to severe systemic pathogens.
5. Because many Noetzie houses are built close to the water, it is the duty of care to ensure that all tanks and soak away systems have the capacity to carry the water usage of the people in the house at one time so that the water that finally reaches the river has had time to "clean" before it reaches the river.
6. It should be noted here that in terms of the current laws governing our coast and rivers which include the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act, right down to the locally

Water Quality Interpretation (E.coli count / 100ml)

IDEAL	E.coli range	0 –130
ACCEPTABLE	E.coli range	130 –200
POOR	E.coli range	200 –400
CRITICAL	E.coli range	> 400

This table is from a South African page and reflects the government parameters for recreational water use. Bear in mind that this interpretation is not for drinking water. If you drink the river water, it should be filtered or boiled first. Also bear in mind that a level as high as 200 MPN (most probable number) could be from birds and animals, especially after rains. The purpose and focus of our testing is to be alert to immediate spikes in E.coli levels and fix what's wrong as soon as possible. The spikes and dips are indicators that something is not right and, in our case, this usually refers to a problem with the black water management from the river houses. It stands to reason then that the best time to check is when everyone is in residence over season.

relevant Outeniqua Sensitive Coastal Area Environment Regulations OSCAER, we are not allowed to have soak aways within 30 meters of a river.

Septic tanks that do not drain into the watercourse – in other words contained tanks that get sucked out and the contents taken elsewhere, have a restriction to within 15 meters of the river. The historic issue at Noetzie with contained tanks which get sucked has been that the road tracks down to the beach and river have tare limits and obvious access limits. This made the “honey sucker” trucks impossible in the past.

According to the following government gazette, no activity to build, replace or repair a septic tank may be undertaken without authorisation. You can find that here in Chapter 3: [NEMA ; Protected Areas Act - Regs for Administration of the Knysna Protected Environment.](#)

If a tank system is faulty, the municipality must be consulted.

7. Maintenance includes monthly flushing or watering so that during periods of absence the solids don't build up and eventually cause blockages and incapacity which is a common cause for overflow in high season, according to Steve of Punctual Plumbers, a well known plumbing business based in Knysna. Here is an article that provides guidance to tank specs: [Mastering Efficient Septic Tank and Soakaway Design for Sustainable Wastewater Management - Septic Tank Cleaning](#)

Over December we did two tests following some reports of a bad septic tank smell and sick children. The first was a water sample test sent to Cape Town.

Test 1: BEMLAB

Two sites were sampled: the public toilet area and the river just to the east of the Brown house inlet. The total Coliform counts for the

toilet area was 310 CFU/100ml and the house was 130 CFU/100ml.

Test 2

Test 2 was the Aquagenx test undertaken by a water-specialising academic here at Noetzie.

The report confirmed the presence of E.coli in the Noetzie river on that day, where the houses were occupied. Of concern was site 1 and site 3 and the owners of those properties tested for proper functioning of their systems for cracks, blockages or capacity. It has come to light that one household needs a complete system overhaul and the members have made an emergency interim repair. They are in the process of making the application for a permit with the Knysna Municipality to find the best way forward within the physical parameters of the property and watercourses and the legal requirements. Until this repair is complete, it is advised to refrain from using the river for recreation.

Steve of Punctual Plumbers is familiar with septic tank and soak aways and has said that a common problem with houses that are left vacant for extended periods the sludge dries and reduces the capacity of the tank. Each new season has less space until it overflows the black water into the river. Another problem is sand and fat which build up in the tanks and reduce capacity.

Steve is able to check for blockages and general functioning and of course, perform any follow up that is required. He can be reached on +27 (0) 83 237 9132. In the interest of the river health, it is advisable for all Noetzie homeowners on the river, beach and headland to have their tanks checked every few years.

Camera Trap Programme

The Noetzie Conservancy plays an important ecological role as a buffer zone between wild and urban areas. Our camera trap programme, which operates on the fringes of the wilderness

area protected from human disturbance, shows that biodiversity is thriving. A clip from the latest camera footage is available via the link below – the URL is shared privately to protect the wildlife from unwanted attention.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8Zbd9ipCTE>

Outramps: First Outing for 2026

Nicky van Berkel

While shopping in Knysna, I regularly bump into Wendy Dewberry, who holds the environmental portfolio of the Noetzie Conservancy. As we stand in payout queues or in parking areas, a recurring topic of conversation is: 'When are you bringing your group to the Conservancy again?' Many years had passed since the Outramps' last visit. In December, Melanie Gosling also asked, so we finally made a plan to meet Julie – Melanie's sister – on site.

Although Melanie and Wendy were not available on Friday 16 January, Julie hosted eight members of the EFF (EastEnders Flower Friday) to a special morning on Knysna's Eastern Head.

On the day before our visit, the Garden Route received its first good rainfall for many months – not enough to break the drought or solve all the local water issues, but enough to fill water tanks, remove the dust from the plants, and comparing rain gauge readings provided an interesting topic of conversation. Although it was very tempting to spend the morning sitting around the outside table, catching up, birding and admiring the view of the Noetzie

River, we gathered our cameras and headed into the Outdoor Classroom. In 1913, this one-hectare piece of land was zoned for a non-denominational school. Clearing of aliens, easily accessible paths and places to sit to appreciate the natural beauty of our coastline surrounded by fynbos make this a worthwhile place to visit. In the information boxes you will find educational material worth reading. It was too soon after the rain for the recovery of the vegetation – only a few plants had flowers, but it is still a refuge for all creatures, people, animals and birds! We hope this area remains undeveloped, a place to enjoy nature.

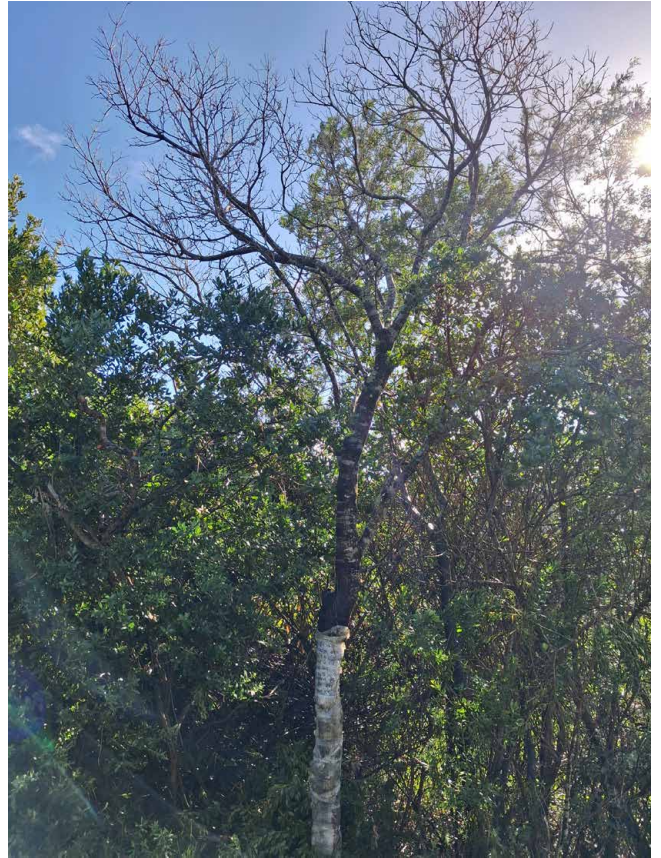
We then explored a piece of 'Noetzie infill', zoned as 'coastal protected property' where natural vegetation has been left to grow. A few garden escapees are trying their luck, but these can be controlled. It is important that these areas remain unfenced to provide a corridor for the wildlife in the area. We were horrified to hear accounts of animals that had been caught and died in fences surrounding the estate.

The slope became too steep for us so we backtracked and made our way down the road, through thicket, to the estuary and beach, where we had a chance to admire and learn about the history of the castles. Julie treated us to drinks on the balcony of their beach house which, now recently rebuilt, has been in the family for generations. We then made our





Dead Cheesewood tree (*Pittosporum viridiflorum*), April 2026.



way back up the hill and enjoyed our snacks before we headed home. Thank you to Julie for hosting us and for organising such a beautiful day. We are looking forward to taking you up on the offer to visit again, to explore other areas of the Noetzie estuary.

To see species found in the Outdoor Classroom, visit: Noetzie Conservancy Outdoor Classroom on iNaturalist.

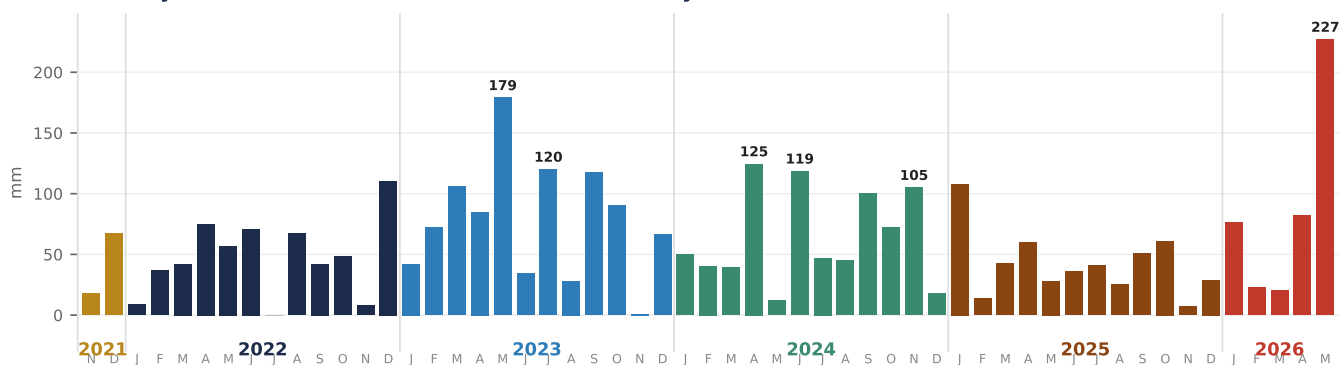
The Cheesewood

The cheesewood tree that was bark-stripped and that we tried to rescue has sadly died.

Rainfall Summary 2021–2026

Monthly rainfall totals recorded at Noetzie, November 2021 to May 2026, see next page.

Monthly Rainfall at Noetzie · November 2021 - May 2026



Monthly Rainfall Summary — Noetzie (mm)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2022	9	37	42	75	57	71	0	67	42	48	8	110.5	566.5
2023	42	72	106	85	179	34	120	28	117.5	90.5	1	66.5	941.5
2024	50	40.5	39.2	124.5	12	118.5	47	45	100	72	105	18	771.8
2025	108	14	42.5	60	28	36	41	25	50.5	61	7	29	502
2026*	76	23	20.5	82	227	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	428.5

* 2026 January-May only · Values in mm · Highlighted cells ≥ 100 mm

Treasurer’s Report

Richard Robinson

Following the approval of the AGM on 3 March, 2026 the approved security upgrades for the next two years are underway, with this year’s expenditure costing R47,425 and the balance of R35,519 to be incurred in 2027. A new pump to assure reliable supply of water for the municipal toilets was also purchased based on AGM approval as well, with total costs including fittings and security boxes costing R8000.

Routine expenditures are under way at this point in the year, and invoices for members to pay their subscriptions will be sent soon. Please be timely in making these payments this year, as the relatively large expenditure for security upgrades has required a transfer of funds from

our money market savings account, which the timely subscriptions can assist in replenishing.

The “Discretionary spend” line item is budgeted as in years past at R12,000, and over the last several years has covered storm damage, the roof of the car park guard hut and recycling bins. It is our experience that things often come along that are unplanned and this area remains open to all members for suggestions or needs, especially given recent storm damage.

All questions and inputs are welcome.

At the time of writing, Knysna Municipality's priority is dealing with the impact of the recent severe weather and storm damage repair. Their Joint Operations Centre, which includes other agencies and stakeholders, was activated at the onset of the bad weather to deal with the impact on municipal infrastructure, including water, power, sewerage, roads and stormwater.

Not so long ago, things were looking a bit rosier, with the Section 154 support plan and turnaround strategy involving the national Department of Water and Sanitation and the Western Cape Department of Local Government.

Noetzie Conservancy households are off-grid, they have rainwater tanks, photovoltaic power, septic tanks and soakaways. Fortunately for us, when we see what the residents of the greater Knysna area are going through. While they are struggling with water and power outages, access to Noetzie is one of the biggest problems Noetzie residents face. The Noetzie Road has been an ongoing problem for many, many years. For a while after grading it is better but soon deteriorates again. Rainy weather, construction trucks and equipment and, over some periods, just the sheer volume of traffic – they all have an impact. Pezula's silt traps make the problem much worse, not allowing adequate run-off and drainage. The road passes through three wards. The Hlalani section is particularly bad. The NCOA views access as a priority (for residents, locals, visitors and tourists) and will try to get the road some much-needed official attention, including the removal of the silt traps.

Wendy Dewberry is the official NCOA representative on the Ward 9 committee. See below for her report on Noetzie which she submitted to that committee.

During the year the NCOA will continue to liaise with KM about municipal services. We will be on the lookout for any other matters which could affect the Noetzie Conservancy and try to actively contribute where public participation is asked for. One of the NCOA's biggest roles is to review any plans for building projects at Noetzie and comment on them.

Building Projects

Erf 20372: First Bhyat/Ayair house on headland, has been completed and is awaiting the occupancy certificate.



Erf 20364: Building has started on the second Bhyat house on headland.

Erf 20333: Braun/Hunt beach property. Revised plans were submitted to KM Building Control but some changes were required. The owners have still not forwarded to the NCOA the letter from the national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment pertaining to this plot. It certainly will be good to see some movement on this project, after being a dormant building site for over two years.

Erf 20345: The Glen at the river. New owners (but old Noetzie people) Sean and Claire Henderson have plans to renovate the house.

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.

Ward 9 Committee Report

NOETZIE Report back 21 April 2026

WARD 9 - Wendy Dewberry, Noetzie representative

1. Noetzie residents, through the Noetzie Conservancy Owners Association (NCOA) maintain the Noetzie public toilets. They are cleaned and supplied with lavatory paper and our latest acquisition of a pump for the reservoir tanks for flushing is in operation. We perform those duties at our own cost.
2. Rubbish removal once per week is undertaken by the municipality via a sub-contractor. Their duty is to clear all bins from houses, the public bins which have been provided by the NCOA on the beach and commonages and to clear the waste-aways in the car park. Mostly this is done thoroughly, sometimes with our encouragement.
3. The KM clears the foliage and cuts the verges periodically.
4. Eden District and KM grade the road periodically. This is welcome and very necessary.
5. THE STATE OF THE NOETZIE ROAD. Although the first 1 000 meters is in ward 3, the state of this access to Noetzie as a tourist attraction must be attended to.

Noetzie is in ward 9 which is a big ward with Leisure Island, the industrial area, the Heads, Hunters Home, Brackenhill and Pezula. It shares challenges with greater Knysna and these include the state of the main arterial road George Rex Drive and water and electricity infrastructure decay. For that reason, for the

We ask all NCOA members to alert the committee if there is something that you think needs our attention – calls for public participation we may have missed, infractions on building sites, etc.

6. Currently its state is as follows
 - i. Constant running water erodes the road. The waste of water is unacceptable.
 - ii. Constant running sewage lies in large puddles that extend across the entire road in large parts.
 - iii. Dangerous road attrition on the western sides that will eventually be too narrow for one vehicle
 - iv. Overgrown bush that takes vehicle space.
 - v. Increasing trash dumping due to lack of control.
 - vi. Illegal and dangerous electric cables.
 - vii. Occupation encroachment onto private land.
 - viii. Increased informal trading near the N2 that causes congestion with heavy trucks that operate on this road en-route to Pezula and Sparrebosch.

These issues include traffic safety, health and safety, land invasions, safety and security. Most importantly for the residents who live there it is appalling in terms of health and safety, and for guests to our tourist attraction it is an appalling sight.

This section of road should be prioritized on every level of lack.

past five years, lesser problems that face areas like Noetzie have suffered diminished funding and attention. This has forced the NCOA to attend to our own problems and the result is that we have spent quite a large portion of the budget on cleaning, bins, public toilet management and security. In the long run,



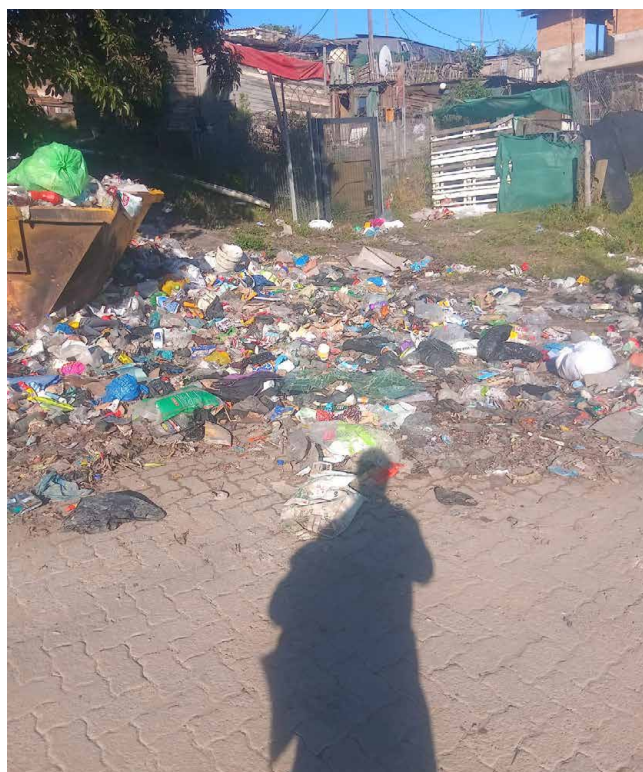
this is possibly for the best. I submitted a ward report for the record and include a copy here. You will notice that although the Noetzie road past the Pezula fence is in ward 3, it will remain the main gateway to Noetzie and so I have always kept Hlalani in my ward reports.

When the Knysna Municipality formalised the area of Hlalani around 2013, the Action Ads cleaning programme came to an end after about 15 years. It was painful to watch the well-maintained area decay into a public rubble and trash dumping ground. Today it is a cesspool of sewage and trash, and the road is dangerous for vehicles and pedestrians.

To give you an idea, the latest programme run by young Siyambonga and his soccer team had to deal with this overwhelming problem. Action Ads donated 80 black bags, 20 gloves and petrol money to have the bags taken to the transfer station. The cleanup is hardly noticeable and Siya has been encouraged to get his community on board for a long-term solution where residents report dumping,



broken sewers and taps and try to keep their individual locales clear of trash, after which the added outside assistance with bags and transport will have a more effective outcome.



We are privileged to be able to stay in a naturally beautiful and relatively remote part of the country and when we leave the city and its 'fortress mentality' behind and arrive at our little haven, we often forget that crime has not disappeared or taken a deserved holiday and that we still need to be mindful of the risks associated with living or holidaying where we do.

Since the commencement of the year, we have regrettably had two minor incidents of theft – the first involving a mobile phone from one of the houses and the other, the theft of tools from a vehicle, both crimes being opportunistic and without direct intent.

Security and the safety of our property and belongings should not be viewed as an infrequent consideration or something that we leave behind when we exit the city, but rather a frequent, habit-forming consideration that limits both opportunity and risk of loss. Here are some simple yet effective tips that cost nothing but can go a long way in preventing that unwarranted and remorseful loss, wherever you are and/or wherever you visit:

House Security

Beyond the front door, ensure all other doors and windows – especially that small bathroom window – are latched and closed. Don't leave "hidden" keys in classic spots like under the front door mat or in a pot adjacent to the front

door. Hide the tech and don't leave laptops, tablets, cash or car keys visible through windows.

Vehicle Security

Never leave anything visible on the seats or floor – even an empty bag or handful of loose change can prompt a smashed window. Check the doors and canopy and ensure that before you leave the vehicle, all doors including the canopy are physically locked and/or secured.

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that crime is limited, the NCOA is pleased to report that the committee has been granted approval to upgrade and enhance our current closed-circuit television camera system. The upgrade will be undertaken in a phased approach, and the first of the two phases will commence during the forthcoming weeks, with the latter planned for next year due to budgetary restraints. The upgrade will involve the replacement of our outdated cameras with newer, more capable cameras equipped with high-resolution and detailed imagery, as well as the replacement of the Digital Video Unit with a Network Video Recorder.

It must however still be borne in mind that the cameras are there not to prevent theft but to deter and aid in detection, and we still need to be vigilant and mindful of any suspicious persons or activities that seem out of place. Big Brother is watching.

Pezula Challenges Knysna Municipality Regarding the NCOA's Infill Appeal

Melanie Gosling



The area outlined in red is the “infill” – the land being subdivided by Pezula Private Estate from the rest of the Pezula land. Public access and parking is on this land. The NCOA's appeal is to secure parking and public access before the subdivision is finalised.

I have been asked to update members on the NCOA's appeal regarding the subdivision of what Noetzie residents call the “infill”.

To recap: the NCOA's appeal centres on ensuring the public's continued right of access and parking on the “infill” land once it has been subdivided – that is, cut off from the rest of the Pezula land. The “infill”, correctly called Portion A of the remainder of Farm 394 Noetzie, makes up just over 6ha of the 10ha Noetzie Conservancy.

This matter has dragged on for a long time with many postponements last year that were beyond our control.

More recently, Pezula Private Estate Pty Ltd, who applied for the subdivision, challenged the legal right of the Knysna Municipality to hold an appeal hearing on this matter. Pezula argued that it had been informed in October last year by the head of KM's land use planning that the NCOA appeal had been finalised – and that it was therefore not lawful for KM to hold a second appeal hearing. Pezula also argued that the head of land use planning had the delegated authority to decide on the validity of appeals, and had dismissed the NCOA's appeal as invalid.

Mayor Thando Matika replied to Pezula Private Estate that the decision to determine the validity of an appeal was vested exclusively in the Appeals Authority, not with the head of land use planning. The Appeal Authority had not yet made any decision about the NCOA's appeal.

In response to a further legal letter from Pezula, the KM's acting municipal manager obtained outside legal advice, which confirmed that the head of land use planning had no authority – delegated or otherwise – to dismiss the appeal, and that the NCOA would be permitted to attend the Appeal Authority hearing and make representations. That was on 4 March.

A new date was set for 21 May, but Pezula objected as they had been given only seven days for their legal team to prepare, saying they needed at least three weeks. Consequently the KM set a new date for the appeal hearing on 23 June 2026. We trust this time the matter will finally be heard – 16 months after the submission of the appeal. We have reminded the KM that a cornerstone of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act is the right to be heard timeously.

Neil Metelerkamp – An Appreciation

Chris Everett

While George Rex is described on his tombstone as ‘The Founder and Proprietor of Knysna’, the interconnected Metelerkamp and Gosling families – tracing their origins to George Rex – have contributed enormously to Noetzie, and Neil Metelerkamp is undoubtedly the true founder of the various organisations that followed in Noetzie. It therefore seems worthwhile to give a little of the history in which he was so deeply involved.

We had our first family holiday in Noetzie in December 1959 and my dad John bought Nou en Dan in 1960. We met Neil and Norma on many occasions over the next decades, including at St George’s Church, where they were regular members, but my real contact and close working relationship with Neil only started in 1989, with the first moves to establish some form of local government for Noetzie.

In 1989 Neil had realised that there would be a void when the Outeniqua Divisional Council ceased to exist on 30 June of that year and was replaced by the Southern Cape Regional Services Council. Accordingly, Noetzie would no longer have any official body to look after its interests. A meeting was held in Johannesburg on 29 May 1989, attended by Neil and Norma, Bill Hedding, Donald and Anita Fabian, John and Pat Everett and myself. Following meetings with government and provincial authorities, Neil lodged an application for Noetzie to become a Local Area on 5 June 1989, which was approved by the Outeniqua Divisional Council in the nick of time – at their very last meeting two days before the Council ceased to exist.

The first General Meeting of Property Owners was held at Neil’s house on 18 December 1989 and a convening committee of Bill Hedding,



Neil & Norma Metelerkamp returning from church, 1 December 2024, after the sea had washed away access to their home.

George Parkes, Nimmo Reid, Ian Henderson and Jan van Gend was elected under Neil's chairmanship, to confirm the application for Local Area status, to be followed by becoming a Local Council. The first four provisional Local Councillors were elected at the December 1990 General Meeting and were Neil, Bill, Nimmo and George, with Henry Loubser later taking Bill Hedding's place. The name Knoetzie Property Owners Association was first used at the 1991 AGM. Kathy Sass (nee Metelerkamp) and I were co-opted as Councillors after Nimmo's death in February 1992. The Knoetzie Local Council was formally gazetted on 4 December 1992 and the boundaries of the Local Area were fixed by Proclamation 40/1992. The first Councillors were Kathy, Henry, Neil, George and myself.

The KPOA was later registered as a political party to contest the first Local Council Elections. Its two candidates, Neil and I, were elected unopposed as the proportional

roll representatives to the KLC in 1995, with George and Hub Sandberg as the other two ward councillors. In 1995, when the new democratic Government of South Africa reviewed the municipal situation in the country, we persuaded the Government to allow Noetzie to become a Municipality, with four elected councillors – Neil and I being the proportionally elected councillors, George representing the Beach Ward and Hub the River Ward – elected by the 44 registered voters. We were the smallest Municipality in South Africa. Formal meetings were held and Charles Erasmus was employed as part-time secretary, fulfilling the mandatory legal role of Town Clerk.

The KLC administered Noetzie from the first democratic local elections in 1995 as a separate and autonomous Municipality. The four Councillors each served consecutively as Chairman, and I was the last Chairman (Mayor) of Noetzie. Following the 5 December



Familiar scene: Neil and Norma Metelerkamp on their balcony at Noetzie, engrossed in books. Both were keen readers and supporters of the Knysna and George libraries.

2000 Local Government Elections, and despite considerable attempts to retain our unique status as an independent Municipality, Noetzie fell into Ward 5 of the new Knysna Municipality.

In its fairly brief life the KLC achieved quite a lot: the Noetzie Town Planning Scheme (still a binding legal framework for any development at Noetzie); a survey of encroachments; a successful objection to the establishment of a regional rubbish dump in the valley to the left of the Noetzie Road just after Hornlee; regular refuse removal, beach cleaning and river water quality monitoring; signage; improvements to the strip roads; and the building of the lagoon-side boardwalk.

The Noetzie Conservancy Committee was formed in December 1998. This was successful and The Noetzie Conservancy was registered in May 1999 and officially gazetted in early 2000. In December 2000, the Conservancy and the KPOA merged to form the Noetzie Conservancy Owners' Association (NCOA). Neil's legacy remains intact 36 years later.

Neil was a great character – idiosyncratic and interesting, not always very sociable, very principled, often autocratic and he could be extremely stubborn – but he worked hard, often behind the scenes, on Noetzie's politics, administration and in defence of the place he greatly loved. He and I had our run-ins over some issues, but generally worked well together on the KLC. It was perhaps a quixotic quest ever to think that we could survive as an independent Municipality, but it was great fun while it lasted, and I'm proud of the part I played with Neil.

Neil was born in Bulawayo in April 1937 and the Hendersons Senior were his god-parents. His parents left Rhodesia for South Africa in December 1937 and this was Neil's first Christmas at Noetzie, his grandfather, John Rex Metelerkamp, having first bought the plot where Wegkruip stood in 1925. His



Four generations: Neil at Wegkruip, Noetzie in 1939 held by his grandmother, Katie Metelerkamp, with his great-grandmother "Granny Sharp" and his mother Eileen behind her.

parents separated at an early age and Neil's mother Eileen died in 1948 on the Noetzie Road on her way to hospital, when he was only eleven, so he was adopted and brought up by his grandparents and thus reverted to the name Metelerkamp. He attended the English Primary School in Knysna, matriculated at Union High in Graaff Reinet in 1954 and attended UCT from 1955 to 1957 and the University of Stellenbosch from 1958 to 1960, writing his final CA exams in 1963 after doing articles in Cape Town. He worked in the accounting field in the Southern Cape ever since and was an Honorary Member of the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants. Following his grandfather and great-grandfather he also worked for Geo. Parkes and Sons, being Financial Director from 1993 to 1996.

Iona and I express our most sincere sympathy to Norma and the wider family.

Rob Shimmin (March 1950 – March 2026)

Cathy Shimmin

Robin came to Noetzie for the first time in 1973, soon after marrying into the Everett clan. He spent almost every Christmas since at Noetzie – first in Nou en Dan, the Everett family home, then sharing with Tim for a few years, and finally in the Shimmin home he and Cathy built together in 2000.

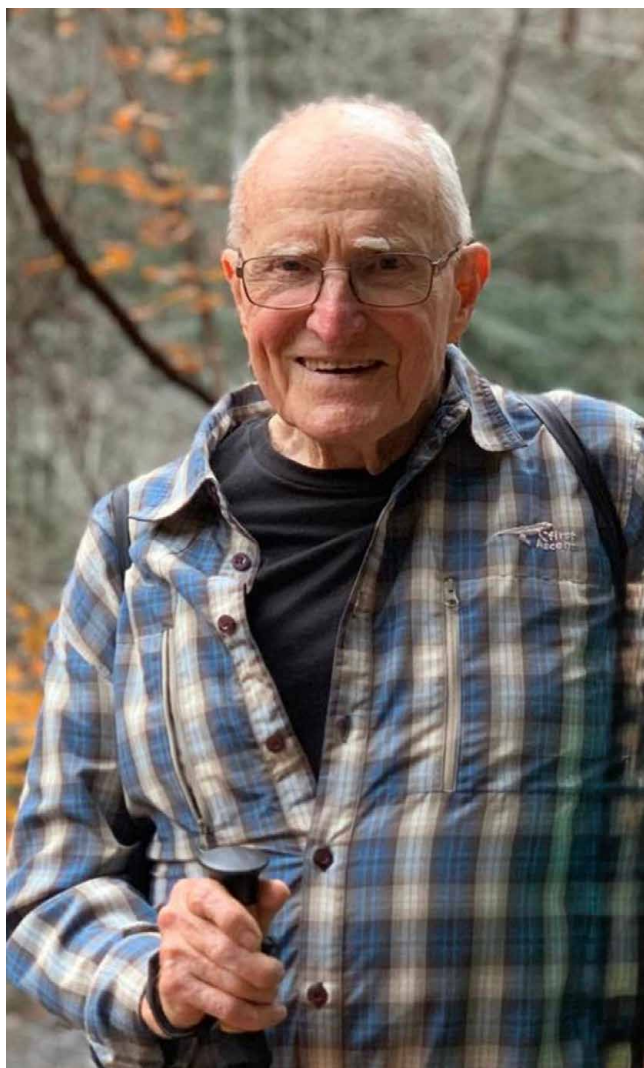
Rob was an engaging personality, a great raconteur with a special, wicked sense of humour and a turn of phrase that made people laugh out loud. He was a sports fanatic and

incredibly knowledgeable on all sporting disciplines, always available to discuss the latest results and goings on in the sporting world on the beach, making many friends across Noetzie.

He leaves his wife Cathy, his children Jacqui, Nick and Lauren, and – pictured here with him, all in Arsenal kit – his six grandchildren, Dominic, Daniel, Ben, Alexandra, Aidan and Ella.



Professor JP van Niekerk (29 December 1936 – 12 December 2025)



Johannes Philippus van Niekerk – JP to almost everyone who knew him – died on 12 December 2025, just short of his 89th birthday, following complications from emergency heart surgery. A long-standing member of the Noetzie community, he was also one of the most distinguished figures in South African medicine, and those who knew him in both worlds were fortunate indeed.

JP graduated from UCT's medical school and spent much of his career at the Faculty of Health Sciences, where he served as the Faculty's first Deputy Dean in the early 1970s

before becoming Dean of Medicine from 1990 to 1998. He was the driving force behind the Barnard Fuller Building – conceived as a postgraduate medical centre dedicated to continuing education – which stands at Grootte Schuur today as a lasting monument to his vision. He served as President of the South African Medical Association in 2006–2007, and founded several journals, including the South African Journal of Bioethics and Law, a field that mattered deeply to him. His sense of ethics was, by all accounts, flawless – his moral compass fixed reliably to true north in everything he did.

Away from medicine he was a formidable squash player, serving the Western Province Squash Association and UCT Squash Club for many years and eventually becoming Honorary President. And those who walked the mountains with him will know that a family stroll was rarely just a stroll – JP possessed what his son Jo describes as 'an absolute, lifelong inability to not educate', and a simple walk had a way of becoming an impromptu field lesson, frequently punctuated by a pop quiz on the taxonomy of restios.

JP was one of the founding shareholders in the van Gend Noetzie Trust, which facilitated the building of the van Gend family home here – and in doing so brought the wider van Niekerk clan, and the Blems, into the Noetzie community.

To his family, Jo writes, he gave his heart in the only ways he knew. To the rest of us, he gave his brilliance – and Noetzie was richer for having him as one of its own.

He is survived by his wife Annette and their children. The Noetzie community extends its deepest condolences to them all.

Louise Brown (7 November 1969 – 14 April 2026)



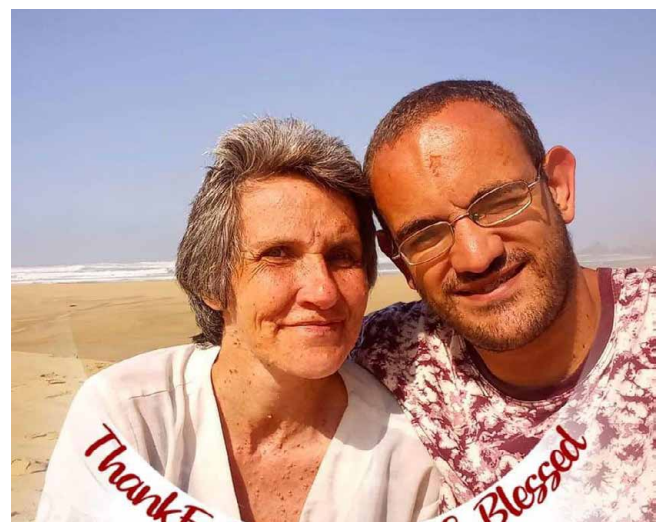
Louise Brown, wife of Danny and mother of Nicholas, passed away suddenly on 14 April 2026.

The news came as a total shock to all who knew her. She was 56 years old.

Louise and Danny were married on 14 February 2015 near Johannesburg. Together they had two sons — Blake, who died at the age of six, and Nicholas, now eight. The family were regular visitors to Noetzie, and those who knew Louise there speak of a woman whose constant, clear, very positive attitude to life enriched everyone around her — a spirit that held firm no matter what challenges she faced, and that quietly strengthened others too.

Danny writes: “Louise was a kind, loving, and strong woman who touched the lives of everyone around her. She had a warm heart, a gentle spirit, and a way of making people feel cared for and valued. To me, she was not only my wife, but my best friend, my partner, and my strength. She was an incredible mother, and her love will always live on in our son.”

She is survived by Danny and Nicholas, and by Jan and Eion Brown, in whose hearts she will always hold her special place.



2026 NCOA committee members

The 2026 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)
Alice Fabian-Williams: 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)
Alan Blem: Security	(security@noetzie.co.za)
Carel van Gend: IT	(it@noetzie.co.za)

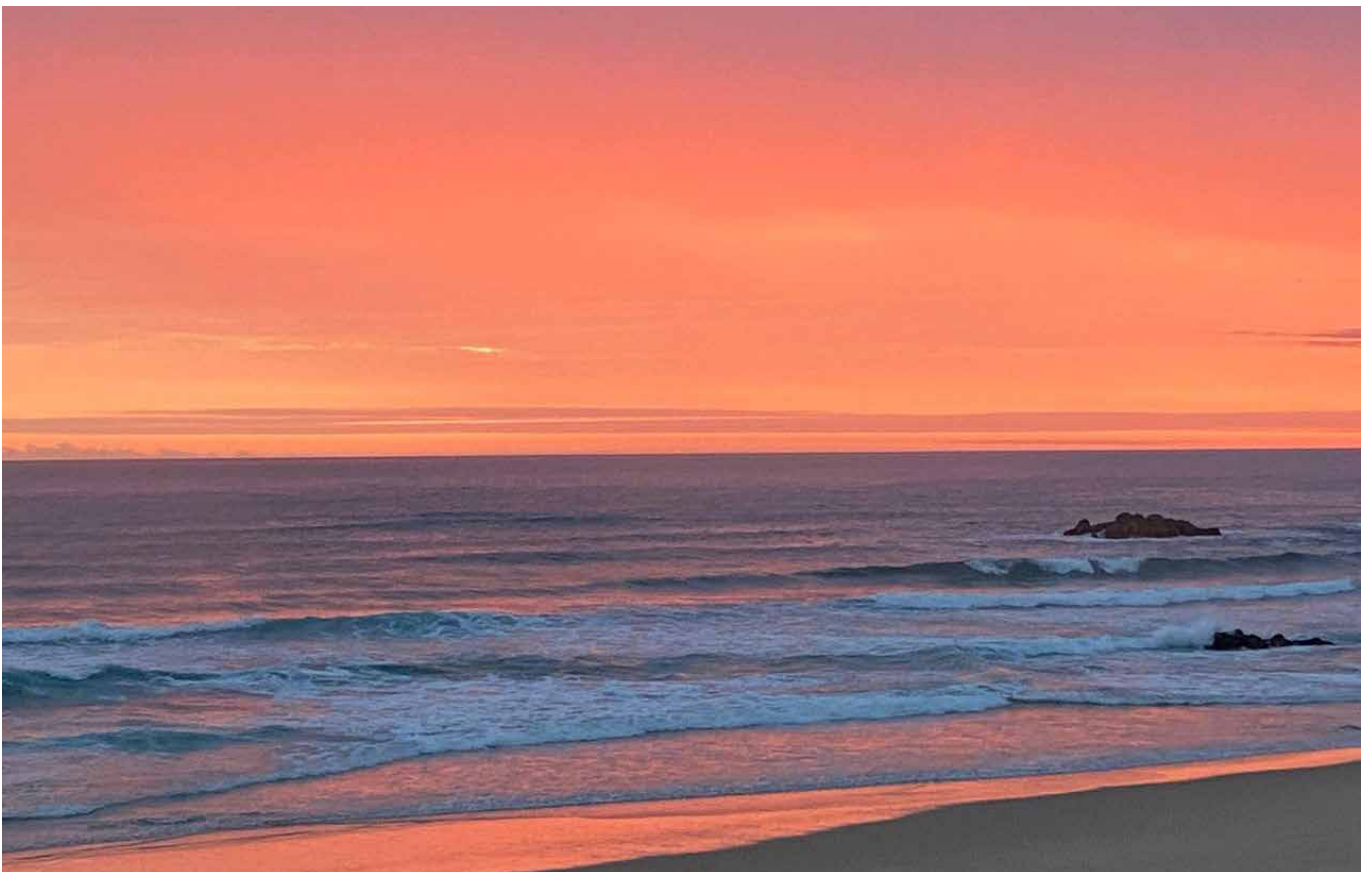
Gallery



There was a mysterious and fairly large die-off of mussels on the Oyster Rocks. (19 December 2025) - photos by Melanie Gosling



Full moon over Noetzie lights up the clouds (April 2026) – photos by Melanie Gosling



Sunset colours reflected on the wet sand (4 February 2026) – photos by Melanie Gosling



Otters in the sea (27 January 2026) – photos by Melanie Gosling



Otters on the beach before dawn (27 January 2026) – photos by Melanie Gosling



Stormy afternoon (January 2026) – photos by Melanie Gosling



Noetzie hills in the late afternoon - and a summer braai (December 2025) – photos by Melanie Gosling



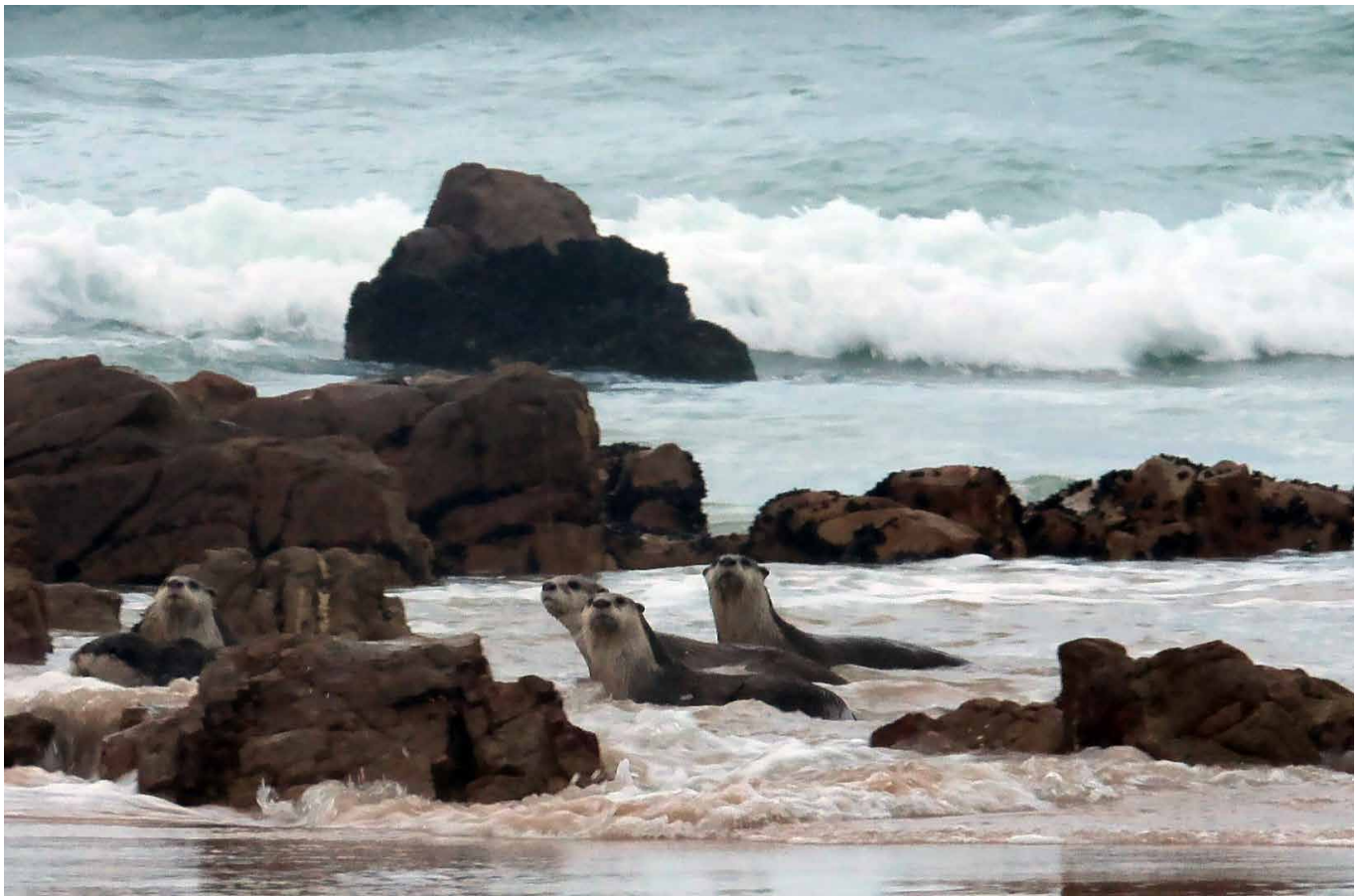
Sun sets on New Year's Day (2026) – photos by Melanie Gosling



Fires sunset (7 February 2026) – photos by Melanie Gosling



Otters, photo by Mary Nicolson



Otters, photo by Mary Nicolson



Otters, photo by Mary Nicolson