

**SWEETCORN AND CRAB PUFFS RECIPE**

I have been persuaded by Lisa, our Estate Manager, to part with an incredibly easy to make, savoury treat which she had one morning when having a meeting with EXCOM member for finance (aka Kevin!).

**Ingredients:**

- 1 onion, finely chopped
- ¼ cup red pepper, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp. butter
- Salt & black pepper to taste
- 1 ½ cups cake flour
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp sugar
- ½ tsp each paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, salt
- 1 ½ cups grated white cheddar cheese
- 2 extra large eggs beaten
- ¾ cup cream style sweetcorn
- ¾ cup cream
- 1 ½ cups crab meat (I use crab flavoured sticks)



**Instructions:**

- Preheat oven to 200°C. Spray muffin tin with cooking spray.
- Saute the onion and red pepper with the butter until softened, season with salt and black pepper to taste.
- In a large mixing bowl sift together the dry ingredients and add the grated cheese. Mix thoroughly.
- In a separate bowl, whisk together the eggs, cream style sweetcorn and cream. Add to the dry ingredients along with the onion and pepper. Mix thoroughly until moistened.
- Add in the crab meat, gently mixing through the dough.
- Divide between the muffin cups, place in the oven, and bake for 20 minutes or until golden and puffed.
- Serve immediately and wait for the compliments!

*Niki Anderson*

**August  
2018  
Edition**

**NEWSLETTER  
THE ISLANDER**



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**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

Well, we're almost three quarters of the way through the year, we've had some good rains this winter (the dams are 63% full at the time of writing) and spring is around the corner. The flowers this year have been particularly good and the volumes of Cape Cormorants appears to be larger than last year. So really, all good! There are plenty of youngsters on and around the Island as well; goslings, ducklings, Francolin & Guineafowl chicks, but with youngsters come predators! In this issue, we've unfortunately had to forego the 'Meet the Neighbours' article as we have to keep the magazine to 24 pages and we're just chock 'o' block full of interesting information for older residents as well as newcomers. Enjoy the balmy Spring days to come and don't forget to let us know what you'd like to see in your magazine!

**The Excom consists of the following members**

| Name             | Portfolio                          |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Jan van Dijk     | Chairman and PR & Building matters |
| Kevin Munnik     | Finance                            |
| John de Villiers | Jetties                            |
| Marisha Gouws    | Gardens                            |
| David de Bruyn   | Security                           |
|                  |                                    |
| Lisa van Zyl     | Estate Manager—022 783 2195        |

**The Islander**

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bank account. Needless to say, after the person has made the deposit, his "win" evaporates into thin air.

The moratorium on the recruitment of police reservists has been lifted, and SAPS are keen to have reservists assist them. The criteria include an age limit of between 25 and 40 years, employment, a clean criminal record, at least a Grade 12 education, among others. Interested parties should contact the local SAPS.

SAPS are also keen to have increased participation in neighbourhood watches. As their efficacy has been proved in our area, there is no doubt that they do reduce crime. Anyone wanting to join one of the existing groups can contact the police station for more information. Any group wanting to start a new neighbourhood watch can also contact the station: information will be given about the training and support offered by the Department of Community Safety and the local Community Police Forum.

The not-so-good news is that our local SAPS has a shortage of staff and vehicles. Several personnel have been transferred away over the last year, and two more are leaving before the end of the year. Laaiplek SAPS looks after an area 1 070 km<sup>2</sup> in size, including Aurora (65 km away) and Dwarskersbos (11 km away), which also includes 110 farms.

Laaiplek SAPS are proud to report that in spite of their resource challenges, they have been able to reduce the crime rate during this reporting year. Please look after your own safety by being security-conscious!

*From the desk of:*  
**Captain P. L. Ackeer**  
**Station Commander**  
**SAPS LAAIPEK**



**POLICING UPDATE**

This policing update contains mainly good news, but there is some not-so-good news too.

Firstly: since 1 April 2018, the start of the police financial and reporting year, there has been a marked reduction in crime in the greater Velddrif area, compared with the same period last year. Housebreaking into business premises has halved, and into residences also. Most of the assaults have taken place in homes following liberal consumption of alcohol.

Thefts from residences and housebreakings used to be quite prevalent in Velddrif, but the neighbourhood watch, which has been fully organised for about 3 months, has provided visible crime deterrence to the extent that there has only been one housebreaking there since the beginning of July. The perpetrators of these crimes have now moved operations to Noordhoek and Port Owen.

Many of the thefts from homes in Port Owen have taken place due to lack of adequate precautions by residents: windows left open at night, especially upper-story windows, and people leaving their garages open at night or while going to make a cup of coffee.

A very worrying crime in our area and our neighbouring towns, Vredenburg and Saldanha, is cash-in-transit robbery. We had our first one in Velddrif two weeks ago: Vredenburg has had four recently, the most recent being on 24 August. All the suspects (some have been arrested) are from Cape Town. It looks as though the criminals see us in the rural area as a soft target.

Drug trafficking is a huge challenge. Drugs are transported from Cape Town, and Velddrif is the hub from which they are moved further up the West Coast. Our local SAPS enlist assistance from Vredenburg and Saldanha to mount operations to confiscate drugs and make arrests.

There has been a spate of fraud reported, with senior citizens being targeted. One scam is the country-wide one, with a scammer phoning the person and asking for card details and PIN numbers. The other is informing the person that he has won a great deal of money, which he can access by depositing money into a certain

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**ADMIRAL ISLAND & PELICAN BAY HOME OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION****NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018**

Dear property owners,

Time is flying when you're having fun. I could not believe it when Niki and David asked me for a newsletter for the magazine as it felt like I wrote the previous one last week.

We are enduring the last bit of winter and I am getting the impression that everybody has had enough now and looking forward to a bit of warmth. There was even firewood delivered to the Munnik residence and that is a very clear indication that temperatures are still down in the evening...

Alright, let's get started.

**SECURITY**

There is not much news as far as security is concerned and that in itself is good news.

The CCTV camera system is working to our satisfaction but the cameras at the guard house that were installed in 2011 will need an upgrade. At the same time the IT equipment and cabling in the guardhouse that was installed over the past seven years will need to be upgraded as well. Pelican Bay will now be incorporated in the upgraded system.

During the past year it became clear that the take-over of ADT by the Fidelity Security Group did not work out as positively as we had hoped. On the administration side it was chaos and the high turnover of staff at management level made it very difficult to communicate with ADT. Our Estate Manager had a meeting with the Estate Manager of Shelly Point and found out that Shelley Point was in the process of moving away from ADT and awarding their contract to Excelerate Services.

Excom approached Excelerate Services and after a number of meetings decided to cancel the contract with ADT and change over to Excelerate Services from 1 September 2018.

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## DESIGN GUIDELINES AND BUILDING

There still is a healthy level of activity as far as the construction of new houses is concerned. New building plans are issued on a regular basis so we expect this to continue. Any building issues can be referred to the Chairman until we have the right person to handle the building portfolio.

## GARDENS AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Due to the recent rains and a lot of hard work from Marisha, Lisa and the garden staff who are watering the plants with any “second hand water” available the gardens have recovered well under the circumstances. Even the lawns are recovering.

The construction of the public toilet facility at the doggy park has started and should be finished in the near future.

As we have mentioned before in our newsletters, we welcome input from our members with regard to our gardens. Please contact Lisa van Zyl with any ideas.



## POMA

Excom has been informed that POMA plans to start dredging in September and we have had a meeting with the dredging committee to discuss the routing of the dredging pipe over the island. As the dredging period will be considerably longer than in the past and two-yearly maintenance dredging will have to take place, we have looked for a more permanent solution. The plan is that POMA will route the pipe underneath Admiral Island Boulevard and Private Open Spaces next to stands 3460 and 3397.

Excom wants to accommodate the dredging contractor as much as possible without compromising the security and privacy of our property owners. We have therefore agreed with POMA that the same rules and regulations will apply as for the building contractors and no access to private properties will be allowed without prior written permission by the property owner. The dredging committee will be in regular communication with Lisa van Zyl in order to have the process run as smooth as possible.

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aquaculture tank with Tilapia fish in, the nutrient rich water is used to water their veggie patch and in time they hope to expand their aquaponics system to the nursery. Most of the plants are propagated from cuttings, seeds and leaves – water-wise plants are very easy to propagate.

The flagship and special pride are their Aloes, particularly the Quiver trees. A special permit was obtained from Cape Nature to sell these very rare and beautiful trees. And if you see a Quiver tree in a West Coast garden, chances are that they are either from Van Rhynsdorp or our very own Bokmakierie situated in De Plaat area!



Not only can you get great plant advice, but at the Love Shack (their little shop) there are beautiful crystal pendants that Ted wraps in a unique silver setting. You can also buy crystals, clothing, shell work and other interesting gifts, all supporting local enterprise. Then there is the Tin Roof, the tea garden. Initially there was just *koffie en koek*, but Gené ‘imported’ her mom, Sandra, from Cape Town and there is now a meal of the day on Saturdays and Sundays – good, homemade food with veggies from their organic vegetable patch. On weekdays, there is still *koffie en koek* plus toasties.

*Niki Anderson*

Telephone: 022 783 0072

Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Friday – 09h00 to 16h00

Saturdays and Sundays – 10h00 to 14h00



The Team: (l to r) Lewis; Gené; Patera; Sandra; Frank; Ted

### SUPPORT LOCAL ENTERPRISE

Although Bokmakierie Nursery has been around for a while it has been expanded and now specialise in water-wise and indigenous plants. The owner, Gené Strauss, bought the small holding and nursery in June 2016, fulfilling her life-long dream of owning a piece of land in the countryside. After years of working as a business analyst in the corporate environment, she desperately needed a total lifestyle change. The Westcoast really wasn't on her list of areas in which she was looking as her preconceived notion was an arid wilderness! Plus, which, her dream included mountains and a river. After a year or so of searching, she heard via a friend that Bokmakierie was on the market and well, it had a *berg* and a *rivier*...

Gené and her partner, Ted Levin, quit their jobs, packed-up their belongings and made the move to the West Coast. The problem was, Gené had no clue about plants and it felt like jumping out of an aeroplane with no parachute! But, she was determined. Through reading and numerous courses and being mentored by the staff at Kirstenbosch Gardens Nursery she is now very knowledgeable in her specialised field. With her background in business analysis, she has developed a database of plants, including their medicinal properties, which she shares freely with like-minded nursery owners and customers, Kirstenbosch in fact, order plants from Bokmakierie every couple of weeks.



With the dreadful drought we have been experiencing, several changes have been made at Bokmakierie Nursery. Two new well points were sunk, and the nursery was totally re-arranged to ensure that plants with similar watering requirements are situated together. All the plants have been gradually weaned off of their 'water need' to the extent that at the height of summer, they only needed watering once a week. Thus, not only are the plants used to our weather and soil conditions here, but they are also hardy.

At Bokmakierie they use permaculture principles, no chemical insecticides are used, and in fact, when we visited, no weeding had been done as the snails and caterpillars prefer eating the weeds to the hard-skinned succulents. There is an

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We have been informed that POMA will inform the public comprehensively in their next newsletter.

### **AGM**

By the time you read this issue you will have received the invitation for the AGM which will be held on 15 September.

As reported in one of my previous newsletters, the need for proper office space for the Estate Manager as well as facilities for the garden staff, has become more urgent. Excom has drafted plans for the new building and during the AGM we will give you a comprehensive presentation. Our association can afford to build these offices but it will obviously cost a considerable amount of money. We would therefore like to have as many members present as possible at the AGM as we are of the opinion that we need broad consensus before proceeding with the project.

Excom was asked by Captain Ackeer, the station commander of Laaiplek SAPS, whether he could attend our meeting to introduce himself and to answer questions. The AGM will be the perfect occasion for this and we have been asked whether we could forward question to Captain Ackeer prior to the meeting so he can prepare himself. Can you please send any questions you might have to [lisa@admiralisland.co.za](mailto:lisa@admiralisland.co.za) so she can forward them to the captain? We will also make use of the AGM to introduce our controlling architects and our new security company to you.

Another new thing this year is that we will have the braai after the AGM at the Riviera Hotel. Our normal venue, David Lane's house, is in the process of being sold and we were not sure whether it would be available. We have therefore approached the Riviera Hotel and they have a nice venue available for us downstairs and the braai will be done for us by the hotel. All costs will be for the account of the HOA except for the drinks which can be obtained from the cash bar. All you have to bring is a good appetite, cash for drinks and a smiley face so please come and join us.

All in all there will be a lot exiting things happening at the AGM so please make sure you can attend.

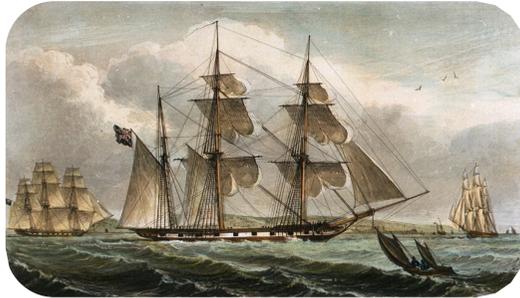
Well, that was a relatively short newsletter this time. I hope to see you all at the AGM as this will be an important one!!!

**Jan van Dijk**

## CAPE COLUMBINE LIGHTHOUSE

Cape Columbine, a majestic headland on the Cape's West coast, is a mere 40-minutes' drive from Admiral Island. It is situated in the Cape Columbine Nature Reserve, which also houses Tietiesbaai, a popular fishing spot for the locals, just 5 km from the picturesque village of Paternoster.

Paternoster is well known for its crayfish and other seafood delights and reputedly derives its name from the thanksgiving prayers of shipwrecked Portuguese mariners. Early maps consistently record the place name as 'St Martins Paternoster.' Cape Columbine owes its name to the British barque 'Columbine' which was wrecked in 1829, 1.5km north of the lighthouse.



Prior to the installation of the Cape Columbine lighthouse, the coastline was the burial ground of several ships. In 1876 the iron steam troopship SS Saint Lawrence was wrecked on Great Paternoster Point. Bound for Cape Town she was carrying the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Buffs. No lives were lost. Other ships to meet their demise in this region were: the Portuguese twin-screw mail-steamer SS Lisboa (1910), SS Haddon Hall (1913), SS Malmesbury (1930) and the SS Haleric which floundered off Cape St Martin (1932).

Urban legend has it that the SS Lisboa was laden with a large quantity of red wine, which stained the sea. Fortunately, a large number of unscathed barrels which washed ashore, were buried by the locals and retrieved much later after exasperated custom officials had finally returned home!

The provision of a lighthouse on this piece of coast lay in abeyance for many years. The Lighthouse commission of 1906 recognised that Cape Columbine would be a suitable location for a lighthouse. Dassen Island and Pelican Point at Walvis Bay, however, appeared at the time to be more urgent. It took thirty years

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So we had to have a few drinks to seal the deal so to speak. And thus I became a half owner in a racehorse, although unofficially, since first you have to apply for your colours and be thoroughly vetted and approved by the Jockey Club since it is well known that only those of sterling character may be racehorse owners.

So three days after being given the boot by the Limey Lizard I woke up in my fieldstone eyrie with a terrible head and wondering if I had really spent my severance pay on racing bloodstock. I had. I was unemployed and now had a horse to half feed, that ate, well, like a bloody horse. Then there were stabling fees, trainer's fees, vet's bills, farriers and so on. Perhaps not the most judicious investment of my life's savings.

Now at KMP from which I had received the boot, I had been writing EMI's radio spots. You remember EMI? They made records, sort of like big black CDs with which you played music. Now the wily Brit Bugger that had handed me the sack had taken over this duty, but EMI hated his offerings.

So I got a call from the account head asking if I would consider writing and producing the EMI radio spots on a freelance basis. Would I? Freelance rates, no PAYE, two spots a week and I was making more than when I was in full time employment. To add insult to injury I pulled a gorgeous Art Directress and we would ride around enjoying my new-found wealth after a day at the races and living the good life with a case of Tullamore Dew in the boot. I was in my Irish whiskey phase. Tullamahoochie Mick called it. Living on top of the world, swimming in Mick's heated indoor pool. I was having a terribly good time.

But all good things must come to an end. I was offered the opportunity of a lifetime and returned to Cape Town.

The Lord, they say, protects fools and drunkards. And uses strange tools. Sometimes Made in England, his purposes to achieve. Amen.

***Gideon Langart***

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Saldanha, Lucky Star and Redrick, which are manufactured not two kilometres from where I now reside on the river. Strange that.)

“Oh,” he says, “I didn’t know you were that kind of writer”.

It dawned on me he thought I would be wandering around his estate with a pipe clenched between my teeth; roll neck jersey on, writing the great South African novel so he could brag to his wealthy friends that he had the new Wilbur Smith residing on his premises. Perhaps even get a dedication - “To Mick, without whose inspirational views this work would not be possible.” Instead he had the guy who wrote “Do you know how many times Smirnoff Silver is filtered through activated charcoal?” The answer is seven, but don’t ask me how you activate charcoal, as far as I’m concerned it just bloody lies there!

Anyway this disappointment aside we became buddies and I enjoyed living there.

But this idyllic life was spoiled, as always there is a snake in Paradise. Colin retired to write his book Kimberley, which I recommend to anyone wanting a historical adventure. In his place were appointed two joint Creative Directors, since his were large shoes to fill, one of which was a rotten Pommie Bastard who hated my guts since I pointed out to him that I had also read the British magazines from which he plagiarised much of his material. So his first action was to fire me! Bastard!

So off I went home in the middle of the afternoon to be met by landlord who heard my tale of woe over a bottle of two of Scotch and said, “Never mind one of my horses is running tomorrow, you can come to races.” So we did. Extremely scintillating sitting in the Owners and Trainers Enclosure with all the big shots, nice lunch, waiters on call. Better than sitting in a bloody office.

Mick’s horse, Blanco its name was, ran fourth. So we had a drink to commiserate. In fact there was a fair whack of commiserating. So much so that at 3 ‘o’ clock in the morning I was expounding on why Blanco had not won and Mick said “You know so much about horses, why don’t you buy a half share in Blanco?”

“How much?”

“Five grand!”

“Right, here’s a cheque!”

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and much debate before the construction of a lighthouse at Cape Columbine got the nod - much to the relief of the local fishing community.

Around the turn of the twentieth century Harry Claude Lee Cooper was appointed as engineer in charge of lighthouses. Columbine was the last lighthouse H.C. Cooper designed. In total, Cooper was involved in the building of more than 30 South African lighthouses.

He decided on the site known to the locals as Castle Rock, a massive granite outcrop a few hundred metres from the sea. The design of Cape Columbine lighthouse was quite different from the conventional tapered circular tower. His design was a slightly tapered square tower 15 metres high with the outer faces of the walls recessed, thereby forming heavy buttresses on the four corners. The building is painted white while the lantern is red.



Columbine was the first lighthouse to receive all three navigational safety features, i.e., a light, a fog signal and a radio beacon. The optical apparatus, supplied by Messrs Chance Brothers, was the first lens system designed for use with a 4kW incandescent electric lamp on the South African Coast. All prior installations had been designed for wick or petroleum vapour burners. It was the last manned lighthouse constructed in South Africa and is still manned by lightkeepers.

Thirty years had elapsed since the lighthouse commissions’ report and navigators and every person from the Berg River mouth, Vredenburg, and Saldanha Bay, waited anxiously for the Columbine light to become a reality. They watched with

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anticipation as machinery and equipment were transported over rough countryside to the rocky prominence.

The moment of glory eventually arrived on the 1st October 1936. As the sun extinguished itself on the Atlantic horizon, Mrs H.C. Cooper set in motion the impressive lens. Two brilliant white beams penetrated the evening air over the formidable Britannia reef.



The spiral staircase within the lighthouse takes one high enough for incredible views out over the Britannia reef and the Atlantic. The lighthouse is open to visitors Monday to Friday, 10h00 to 15h00, and is well worth a visit. Why not take a picnic with you, and after climbing up to the top, reward yourselves by sitting on the rocks in Tietiesbaai with a glass of something cold!

**Information:** From an article in *The Cape Odyssey*.

Our intrepid Chairman, Jan van Dijk, almost at the top of the lighthouse!



Seen around the Island—Egyptian Geese and goslings

### HOW I BOUGHT HALF A RACEHORSE

After years of labouring as an advertising copywriter in Cape Town, I thought my career would be enhanced by moving to Johannesburg, where the big bucks were.

I touted my portfolio around the agencies and got two positive responses. The one was from a wonderful Creative Director called Colin Burke, lovely man, but I decided to go with another agency which had more glamorous accounts. This turned out to be a bad decision, and I ended up working together with Colin Burke, but more about that next issue.

Now regarding accommodation, I had placed an ad in the classified section of the Rand Daily Mail which said: "Writer requires cottage with view". Views have always been important to me, I currently have the best view on the South African coast, living as I do in the first house built in Port Owen, on the river, even Bill Gates doesn't have a better view, nor does he deserve one.

A bloke called Mick Marais called and told me he had a cottage on his property that would suit a writer and I should come have a look. "Find Northcliff Ridge and go up till you could go no further." was the instruction. Swipe me the ou owned the whole top of the mountain! And above his mansion, on the very pinnacle of the ridge was a tiny fieldstone cottage with a 360° view over the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Suburbs.

"I thought the view would suit a writer."

"Yes, views are very important for us writing chaps."

And I was in. The most stunning possie you could hope for, the Staffie and I were very comfortable. This cottage was so high that on occasion light aircraft flew beneath it! And this was at the peak of the Citizens Band Radio craze so I had reception second to none. Pretty cool.

So come Monday and I am leaving for the office, Mick asks me where I'm off to so early, I explain to him I have to write copy for ads, radio spots, even TV spots. (Do you know I wrote the TV spot for Federal Marine Pilchards –

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The tragedy of this regular occurrence is that these nets don't just catch fish; the birds try to get to the easy pickings and get caught up in the nets. The seals then go for the birds as they helplessly thrash around. This is not natural selection, this is a man-made tragedy. Normally, by the time the net is retrieved the fish are dead and half eaten, plus the net is damaged. Ewald estimated that a net of that length would cost in the region of R8,000.00.



Fortunately, in this instance, there were no dead birds found in the net. A huge shout out to all the parties involved who help to save our precious piece of estuary.

*Lisa van Zyl [photos]  
& Niki Anderson*

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

|                           |              |                             |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Police                    | 022 783 8020 | Ewald van Wyk (Cape Nature) |              |
| Ambulance (Vredenburg)    | 022 713 4590 |                             | 082 414 3160 |
| Hospital Private (V'burg) | 022 719 1030 | NSRI Port Control           | 022 714 1726 |
| Hospital Provincial       | 022 709 7200 | NSRI Direct Emergency       | 082 990 5966 |
| Dr N Vermeulen            | 022 783 0027 | Municipality Velddrif       | 022 783 1112 |
| Mobile                    | 083 658 4056 | Municipality Piketberg      | 022 913 6000 |
| Dr S Annandale            | 022 783 0040 | Municipality Electricity    | 083 272 4117 |
| Mobile                    | 083 233 1098 | Municipality Water          | 083 272 4136 |
| Dr Raubenheimer (dentist) | 022 783 0289 | Municipality Sewage         | 083 272 4135 |

**WHY DID I KEEP THAT?**

Most of you living on Admiral Island or in Pelican Bay will have had the experience of packing some (all?) of your personal and household items to make the move. You may have found the process tedious, have undertaken the task methodically, or simply jammed everything into boxes in a last minute panic. When I packed away our worldly goods in May 2007, it simply did not occur to me that I wouldn't see any of it again for eleven years. As a consequence, the unpacking of the boxes was an exciting event, prolonged by trips down Memory Lane as I held treasured items, reflected on times enjoyed and dipped into books I'd forgotten about.

The hoard could be roughly divided into three categories: clothes, household goods and books - box upon box of books! Husband Andy's books contained such exciting topics as "Engineering Mathematics" and "Laplace Transforms", while I spent time looking through such titles as "Celtic Quilting" and "Welsh Samplers". In a rash moment I said to Andy, "I'll never need to buy another embroidery or quilting book again, or any more fabric!" Of course all I need now are the bookshelves to put them on.



One of the first clothing items I found on opening my 17th century oak coffer was Andy's dinner jacket. A dinner jacket? What were we thinking? And my wedding dress; not quite so odd as it's really a cocktail dress of ivory brocade and crepe georgette, worn several times for dinner parties, Yacht Club dinners, christenings, etc. There is a huge box of climbing gear: ropes, two racks of rock nuts, rock boots, harnesses, ice axes and crampons. Another box contains the old deeds to family houses and which show that my great-grandfather, Benjamin Naylor, could neither read nor write: "Benjamin Naylor - His Mark" followed by a rather wavering "X". In the same box are photographs of my mother and father on their wedding day in March 1940, oddly two separate portraits, not one of them together.

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Then there's the china. When Andy and I were married, my mother-in-law gave me two tea services of the Royal Albert "Sweet Pea" pattern, 12 cups, saucers and side plates in fine English bone china. But there are also the 12 cups, saucers and side plates of Royal Albert "Old English Roses" inherited from Mother. So that's 24, plus associated milk jugs, sugar bowls, teapots and cake plates. Best start having Afternoon Tea!



Then there are the quilts - five of them: two early 20th century wholecloth quilts, my sampler quilt (used once before it got packed away), my winter quilt of fine wool hexagons, and my Jerusalem Star summer quilt. Now that we have a bed, I have draped it over - and it's difficult to express the pleasure I feel looking at it.

And the quilting and embroidery stuff! Scraps from old quilting projects, lengths bought to undertake projects that never quite came to fruition, 120 copies of a cross-stitch magazine to which I used to subscribe, lengths of fabric given to me by Andy's aunt, purchased in Singapore when she worked there in the late 1940s, cotton, silk, crystal gauze, batiks and block prints. A whole afternoon was whiled away going through it all and reminiscing about when and where I bought it, who I was with and what it was for, a process brought to a sharp close by Andy's return and demand to know why his supper wasn't ready and just what had I been doing all afternoon? Phooey! I'd been enjoying myself!

*Linda Lane Thornton*

### *Limerick Time!*

There was a young lady from Niger,  
Who smiled as she rode on a tiger.  
They came back from the ride  
With the lady inside,  
And the smile on the face of the tiger.



## PROTECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

We are so fortunate to live in this beautiful area. The nature that surrounds us is awe inspiring. From the sight of the multitude of Cape Cormorants flying in to roost on the salt pans every evening with the sunset behind them to the thousands of baby harders jumping in the canal, their breeding ground.

But we do have a scourge that affects both of these two glorious natural events – gill net poaching. Gill nets are known as "walls of death" because of the destruction they wreak.

On Wednesday 11 July one of our residents phoned Lisa, our Estate Manager, to say that she suspected there were nets just off the wetland area.



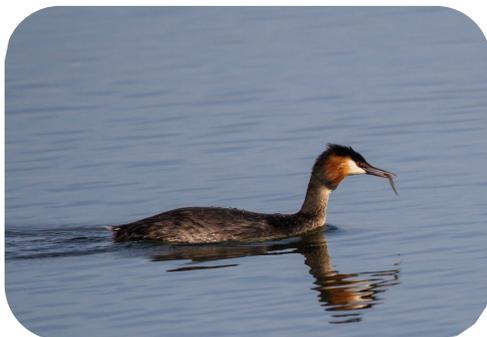
Lisa went to investigate and after establishing that there were fishing nets in the river, she contacted Ewald van Wyk from Cape Nature to take action. He came out to assess what needed to be done.



He contacted the necessary parties to assist in removing the net and DAFF (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) came to the rescue. After the net was removed they identified the different species caught in the net (which are all normally dead) the specimens were weighed and the net was then destroyed.

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**NEW ANIMAL SIGHTINGS ON THE ISLAND**



Great Crested Grebe

The Great Crested Grebe is not a common sight in the region and there was much excitement in trying to identify it. It dives like a cormorant and also eats small fish, but we were finally able to work out what this gorgeous bird is! Hopefully they'll nest here and lay eggs, which usually takes place between and December.

A pair of Rock Kestrel appear to have taken up resident in the area. They're fairly easily identified by their black spotted (as opposed to streaked) rufous chest. They feed predominantly on invertebrates, but have been known to eat rodents, reptiles and birds. They have two primary forms of hunting: hover hunting and perch hunting. I have seen the male hovering above a nest of field mice in the plot next door to us, he went away hungry though.



Rock Kestrel [photo: Bernard Dupont]



Cape Grey Mongoose

Three of our residents have spotted a Cape Grey Mongoose, predominantly around the Compass area, and when there is one, there will most certainly be two! Litters are born between August and December, so hopefully we'll hear the patter of litter mongoose feet in the not too distant future.

*Niki Anderson*

**DAY TRIPS**

As a number of owners on the Island are not from the area, we thought it a good idea to have a quarterly feature on places to go for a day trip, all not more than an hour or two's drive away.

This issue, we're going wine tasting!

First stop will be Org de Rac. Travel on the R399 (Piketberg road), but don't take the Piketberg turnoff, continue until just before you reach the N7 and you'll see the signpost on the right hand side.

Org de Rac is much more than organic farming. It is more than vineyards, wine, lavender, rosemary, olives, fantastic views and beautiful surroundings; up close you'll discover a true green heartbeat at the foot of the Piketberg. Their focus is a one on organic and sustainable farming and their name symbolises creating, conserving and respecting the virgin soil.



Their commitment to the earth and deep respect for the environment drives them in a direction so that whilst producing fine wines, their footprint is a green one. They offer cheese platters to be enjoyed and the price includes a wine tasting. These need to be ordered and paid for in advance.



Org de Rac is now the Cape wine industry's number one address for oysters and Méthode Cape Classique, the bottle-fermented sparkling wine made to the traditional Champagne method. They've sourced the finest cold-water Saldanha oysters and six of these plus a glass of Org de Rac's La Verne Cape Classic are available to enjoy before or after your wine-tasting. No booking necessary, six oysters and a glass of La Verne for only R90.00. Open Monday to Friday 09h00 - 17h00, Saturdays & public holidays 09h30 - 14h00. [www.orgderac.co.za](http://www.orgderac.co.za). GPS Coordinates: 32°57'43.6"S, 18°45'0.2"E

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Carry on until you reach the N7 and turn right. After 3kms you'll see the sign on the left to Nieuwedrift. A family who have been in the wine grape farming business since 1965 is the Mostert family. Before you meet Johan and Karin Mostert, you will be greeted by the wine god Bacchus who decorates the front door of the tasting room. Johan's first attempt at making his own wine was in 2001. A great friend of Johan's, Marais de Villiers supported and mentored him throughout his first year and with his help he produced his first Chenin Blanc and Shiraz.



There are about 400 tonnes of grapes harvested here, but most of it goes to the Tulbagh cellar and only finest grapes are selected to be used in their boutique cellar. Nieuwedrift also produces a a Méthod Cap Classique and a Shiraz Blanc de Noir. Not only does the tasting room house wine, but also serves as a art gallery for Karin's paintings.

All their wines are worth tasting especially when Johan is guiding you through the tasting. His passion for his wines and the Swartland is infectious. Through their love of wine, the Mostert family started cultivating grapes in 1996. It was in 2001 when winemaker, Johan Mostert, decided to live out his dream by starting his own winery. And now you can enjoy Nieuwedrift's Boutique wines with a delicious wood fired pizza in their restaurant that re-opened on the 17 August 2018. Open Monday to Friday from 09h00 to 17h00. Saturday from 09h00 to 14h00. Tel: 022 913-1966



www.nieuwedrift.co.za GPS co-ordinates: 32°58'28.1"S 18°45'10.6"E  
Source: SA-Venues.com

Your next port of call can be Winkelshoek along the N7 on the northern outskirts of Piketberg. Here you can taste and buy any of the wines from the Swartland Wine of Origin Region. Sample Winkelshoek's own Weskus range. They also sell fortified wines and brandies. It's a great place to stop off to buy locally made goods, imported beers. Open Monday to Friday from 09h00 to 16h00. Saturday from 09h00 to 12h00. Tel: 022 913-1092.

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Time now to meander back home. If you decide to take the scenic route along the Piket-bo-Berg, you can stop off and visit FruitLips!

FruitLips is a fruit manufacturing company of delicious jams, marmalades, chutneys and fruit in syrup. Based at Achtervelei, a family-owned farm with the third generation of the Eigelaar family, farming with deciduous fruit. FruitLips uses fruit that isn't to high export standards and turns them into mouthwatering jams and preserves. FruitLips is an ecologically full-circle company by recycling water to use in their processes. The peels and pips of the fruit used and the fruit off cuts are turned into biological fertilizer by using red earthworms. The artisan products of FruitLips are for the refined foodies and "lekkerbekke".



There is a small factory shop where you can buy quality products such as Strawberry and Rose Jam, Persimmons in Syrup and Spicy Plum Braai Sauce, to name but a few of the more unusual products created. Telephone: 022 914 5050. Trading hours: Monday to Friday 08h00—15h00. www.fruitlips.co.za

Should you decide to make more than a day of your wine tasting trip, there are numerous wine estates further up the N7 and then branching off onto the R362. A number of the wine estates offer spectacular accommodation. The Olifants River wine route starts at Citrusdal, and meanders along the river for 120 km until it reaches Lutzville and the country's most westerly vineyards. A few of the wine estates that are open to the public are:

- Stellar
- Klawer Co-op
- Spruitdrift/Namaqua
- Stoumann's
- Melkboomsdrift
- Seal Breeze
- Lutzville

You can then travel home via Doringbaai (Fryer's Cove wine Estate) and Lambert's Bay (Sir Lambert Wine Estate).

*Niki Anderson*