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Sunset on Perdevlakte

NVT Trustees:

Chris van Melle Kamp: Chairman
Lindy Rodwell
James van Hasselt
Geoff McIlleron
Dries Lategan
Guy Hayward

Editorial

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

The implementation of the Environmental Conservation Act and the National Environmental Management Act of 1998 brought about a whole new concept of how South Africans in general should respect the natural environment within which we live and work. If everybody were law-abiding citizens, the two Acts would probably have sufficed as the proverbial bible or road map for environmental consciousness, and provided us with sound principles how to respect and behave when dealing with nature. But I suppose we should have anticipated that the regulations would be challenged.

It took only a few odd years for government to promulgate additional legislation, specifically aimed towards clarifying issues that had provided vagueness or ambiguity (which could be exploited by individuals who are continuously looking for loopholes within the Acts), and to amend regulations that could be contravened without appropriate or deterring punishment.

The National Environmental Management Amendment Act, the Second Amendment Act and the Amended EIA Regulations published on 14 January 2005 facilitate the transition between the "old" and "new" environmental impact assessment (EIA) regulations. The Acts now impose the requirements for prior consent and EIA obligations for specific types of development.

This is a positive change, since it eliminates the confusion that arose as a result of overlapping and conflicting provisions of the two Acts. The new provisions also enable the department to identify **existing activities** which may have a detrimental effect on the environment and for which an application for authorization must be submitted. This truly is a radical statutory provision, as **it could deprive citizens of existing rights that were obtained prior to the existence of environmental controls.**

Schedule 3 of the National Environmental Management Act contains a list of environmental laws in respect of which the

penalties apply. The significance of this is that contravention of regulations no longer imposes insignificant fines (in some instances as little as R50-00), but rather severe and draconian penalties imposed by the National Environmental Management Act. These penalties include damages, clean-up costs, remedial work, fines equal to the value of advantage gained by the offender, cost of litigation and personal liability of employees, etc.

The most important change brought about by the amendments to the Act deals with offences relating to the commencement or continuation of listed activities without the required consent. If convicted of the said offence, a maximum fine of R5,0 million or 10 years imprisonment may be imposed. Many companies take the risk of illegal commencement of listed activities simply because of the inefficiency with which these provisions are administered by our government, or the relatively light punishment. The possibility of a R5 million fine will probably make most of them think again!

The amendments now also provide an opportunity for offenders to avoid prosecution by applying for rectification of the unlawful commencement of a listed activity. This entails the submission of a report to the relevant authority, containing prescribed information, coupled with payment of a fine imposed up to R1,0 million.

So where does this leave the Nature's Valley Trust? In my opinion the NVT should focus on identifying environmental and nature issues which can be regarded and justified as worth conserving in the Nature's Valley area. It is our duty to identify non-compliance with statutory legislation, and to facilitate communication between environmental authorities and those who cause non-compliance, whether through ignorance or sheer defiance. The authorities should be pressurised to enforce legislation in the same manner as developers are forced to comply with the legislation.

When confrontation looms and the gloves come off, there are public and private

institutions, national and international, to do battle. The mission of the NVT is not to settle into the dust of the arena, but rather to act as a guardian over that which we regard as pristine and worth protecting.

There are three other notable environmental actions currently taking place :

- The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) together with the University of Pretoria and TRAFFIC has embarked on a project to train 450 Environmental Management Inspectors (EMI's or Green Scorpions). By December 2006 there will be 200 trained Superintendent Inspectors in the field (TRAFFIC is a joint programme between WWF and the World Conservation Union whose mission is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature).
- There is a 24-hour toll-free tip-off line to report environmental crimes. The number to dial is 0800 701 701.
- The Deputy Minister of DEAT, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi, recently announced a programme whereby all state prosecutors will be trained nationally to manage legal cases involving environmental legislation in lower courts. This is a tremendous step forward, as training of state prosecutors will assist to bring justice to environmental offences.

Let us hope our government can go from strength to strength!

Dries Lategan
Trustee

Status of Projects

We've had a really exciting first half of 2005, with new projects being implemented, new funding agencies coming on board, new partnerships and new friendships being formed. Developments along The Garden Route and in our area still pose an enormous challenge. However, the initiatives which Provincial and National Government are putting into place, we hope will address some concerns.

We have also recently moved into our new offices. We're still situated in the same building, but have moved into the next door room. Please feel free to pop in at any time.

• **Coastal Fynbos and the Brenton Blue Butterfly:** We are at last able to confirm that the long awaited Brenton Blue butterflies will be reintroduced on the Fynbos Reserve in November this year. The Brenton Blue committee and Cape Nature visited the reserve earlier in the year and have given us the 'green light'. Dave Edge assisted us in drawing up a proposal for the Green Trust who will be funding this project. Our grateful thanks to Rob Little and Theresa Brinkate from WWF-SA.

We have re-counted the *Indigofera erecta* (Brenton Blue host plants) on the Fynbos Reserve and were pleasantly surprised to discover that they have flourished even more, with long, sprawling stems and healthy green leaves.



Dave Edge visited the reserve during July and set up some pit fall traps for ants to determine whether we have the necessary species of ant/s which associate with the butterflies. He will be 'hand rearing' some butterfly larvae and, when they reach their second 'instar' phase, 30 of the caterpillars will be placed on specific plants on the reserve in November. Once done, these caterpillars will require intensive monitoring until they reach their flight stage.

Over the next few weeks, a path on erf 381 will be cleared of the small forest species which have encroached on this area over the years. Originally, this area was utilized as a flight path by the butterflies and we have been informed that this area is an important part of the butterflies' ecology. Permission is being sought from the Department of Forestry for this.

This is a really exciting, high profile project and we look forward to keeping you updated on developments.

Junald Swarts who assists the Open Spaces Committee continues his hard work on the Fynbos Reserve, in the Phyl Martin Park and working closely with Maaikie Murphy, Anne Haxton and Ina van Rooyen removing invasives throughout the Valley – an unenviable and ongoing task which they tackle with passion!

Partnerships: Cape Nature, Green Trust and WWF-SA, Dave Edge, Professor Roy Lubke, Bitou Municipality, South African National Parks (SANParks), Willing Workers in South Africa (WWISA)

• **The Phyl Martin Park:** The ladies of the Open Spaces Committee continue their wonderful work in the Park, as does Danie Muller in his nursery.

Martine Mouton is making wonderful progress with the challenging task of putting together a herbarium, to include those plants found on the Fynbos Reserve, forest species and invasive plants. If anyone is interested in becoming involved in this project and assisting with collecting specimens, please let us know and we can forward a list of the plants already collected and pressed to you.

Partnerships: Bitou Municipality, Nature's Valley Ratepayers' Association (Open Spaces Committee)

• **The Salt River** has again made its magic known through The media. The July edition of Africa Geographic included a wonderful article by Irene de Moor.

Several projects have been developed involving the Salt River and, through recently approved funding from the IUCN's Biodiversity and Tourism Micro Fund in the Netherlands (NC-IUCN/B&T) and the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the USA, these projects are now in the early stages of implementation.

o Research: Charles Cornwall, owner of Kurland Park, has generously agreed to donate funds towards further research on the Salt River. We will also be approaching other funding agencies for funding for this project.

Ferdy de Moor recently visited the area and has

installed six temperature monitors in the river.

These 'buttons' monitor temperature changes and the data from this can be downloaded onto a spreadsheet. This monitoring will continue, hopefully over a year period.

- o Through working with Rob Mofat and Emma Straker, volunteers from WWISA (Willing Workers in South Africa), an 'edutaining' booklet, route and activities have been produced, establishing the Salt River as another outdoor classroom in Nature's Valley. During the school holidays, the Adopt-a-Beach groups from Crags Primary and Coldstream Primary had an enormous amount of fun in the river, examining bugs and discovering the splendor of the Salt River.
- o The IUCN is funding the Eco-Guides project. Through the Coast Care Project, local community members will be identified to participate in a training programme focusing on small business management, guiding and marketing. Specific on-site training will then follow, covering fynbos, forests, birds, cultural history, rivers, our coast, etc and the guides will be established in their own small business, operating out of the SANParks infrastructure in Nature's Valley. Through this initiative, visitors to the Valley will be able to gain more insight into the joys of our area.
- o CEPF is funding the Stakeholder Engagement project, with the aim of engaging Salt River users and producing management guidelines and actions. A consultant will be employed to facilitate the workshops and discussions for this project.
- o The Redford Conservancy is carrying forward the draft proposal which the NVT facilitated for removing invasive plants in their area. Being situated in the vicinity of the Salt River catchment, this project could assist greatly in reducing the impact of invasive plants on the Salt River system.

Partnerships: South African National Parks, Albany Museum, Bitou Municipality, Salt River users, Cape Nature, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Willing Workers in South Africa, Redford Conservancy, River Health Programme, NC-IUCN, CEPF, Kurland Park, CoastCare, Storms River Adventures.

• **Community awareness projects:** 2 000 of our

Fisher's Friend resources have been packed and are ready for 'launch'. The packs are aimed at raising awareness of 'good angling practices' and include interesting marine information, useful tips and angling regulations. CoastCare workers will distribute them along our coastline and their 'worth' will be monitored to determine whether our goal of raising awareness can be partly met utilizing this tool. An official launch of this will take place during Marine Week later in the year.

The first draft of the booklet which Chris Sinclair has been working on about the **history of the Nature's Valley** has been completed. Chris has created a really colourful and beautiful picture of Nature's Valley's bygone eras and we thank those of you who have kindly contributed your stories and pictures. If you would like to add to this 'treasure box', please send us any old photographs or stories which can be included.

We have been extremely lucky in being an identified site for the placement of the new **interpretive boards** which CoastCare (Dept of Environmental Affairs and Tourism) have produced. These beautifully illustrated boards will be located at the estuary, lagoon parking and the shop and provide information about our coastal birds, Marine Protected Area, estuaries, rocky shores, sandy shores, dunes, otters and dolphins. We hope that you will take time to enjoy them when you're next in the Valley.

Partnerships: South African National Parks, Nature's Valley Ratepayers' Association, ORCA, CoastCare, Cape Nature, CoastCare.

• Our **environmental education projects** are developing from strength to strength, with our outdoor classrooms now including the Hobbit Trail, Salt River Trail, Brenton Blue Trail and coastal activities.

Grade 8's from Crags and Coldstream Primary schools continue their happy beach activities and projects each Monday and Friday afternoons, learning amidst much merriment, and taking home stories of their beach findings as part of the **Adopt-a-Beach** programme.

On the 17th May, we held the **Tsitsikamma Eco Schools** launch at Ingwe Forest Adventures. It was a truly inspiring programme, with Peter Berning sharing his experiences of his 600km hike across the North Pole where he planted the Eco Schools green flag. Since the launch, Susan Donald, the node coordinator has been working with the five schools in the Tsitsikamma area, assisting them with their projects, lesson plans and activities.

At very short notice, the NVT decided to present at this year's **C.A.P.E. conference**. What transpired was truly wonderful and there were...

WINNERS ALL ROUND!

The C.A.P.E (Cape Action Plan for People and the Environment) Partners' Conference 2005 held on 7 and 8 June and themed, "Fynbos Fynmense" literally set the stage for more than thirty organisations, ranging from Knysna Rastafarians to the communities protecting the Macassar dunes, who descended on the Conference Centre at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens to tell stories in the way they saw fit. Whether it was the captains of industry supporting the wine and biodiversity initiative, or the local community activists protesting against the destruction of coastal heritage by avaricious developers, it was the voices of people that were heard. From all walks of life, from political leaders to local communities, it is the people of the region that make a difference to conservation and development.

The C.A.P.E Conservation Awards Function was held on the evening of 7 June 2005 at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens. Tasneem Essop, Western Cape MEC for Environment Affairs and Development Planning presented Conservation Awards to a range of projects contributing to the C.A.P.E strategy in the Cape Floristic Region. **The Nature's Valley Trust was awarded a certificate for Raising Awareness of Conservation Issues in the Southern Cape.** Seven Gold Conservation Awards were also presented to individuals and organizations that have made exceptional contributions to conservation action in the Cape Floristic Region. Recipients included the CEO of CapeNature, Mr David Daitz, the Heiveld Rooibos Tea Co-op, and Guardians of the Garden Route.

Delegates at the C.A.P.E Partners' Conference were asked to vote for the five presentations that over the two days had contributed the most to their understanding of the theme 'Fynbos Fynmense'. The response was phenomenal, with a number of

projects in close contention for a position in the top five.

In joint first place were the young men and women who are undergoing training as Hoerikwaggo Trail Guides through the Table Mountain National Park, and the Nieuwoudtville Biodiversity Group for their play on Facilitating Learning Partnerships.

Second place went to grade 8 learners representing the Nature's Valley Trust, for their piece on the Brenton Blue Butterfly entitled 'Fynbos, Butterflies and Little People'.



Ashby Prins, Brigette Alexander, Ashleigh Solomons and Nathan Windvogel from Crags Primary were the winners of a local competition run by the Nature's Valley Trust to select presenters at the C.A.P.E Conference. Amidst much excitement, they arrived in Cape Town on the 6th June and presented their play on Billy the Brenton Blue Butterfly on the afternoon of the 7th June, to much applause. They were then 'set free' in Cape Town and taken to explore the Two Oceans Aquarium and MTN Sciencenter – not to mention the bright lights in general and the shopping centres!

Our grateful thanks to Mitchells Breweries, Terry Timson, James and Lindy van Hasselt and Geoff and Jill McIlleron for their kind contributions towards accommodation and travel costs. Our thanks too to Two Oceans Aquarium and the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Co for sponsoring the childrens' visits and, of course, to C.A.P.E. for making Cape Town a dream come true.

Partnerships: South African National Parks, WESSA, Eco-Schools, WWF-SA, Garden Route Environmental Education Network, Southern Cape Herbarium, Old Mutual, WWISA, C.A.P.E.

- The **Nature's Valley Urban Conservancy** has been officially registered and a draft management plan has been produced. This will be disseminated to all members shortly and it will now be possible to erect signage which demarcates Nature's Valley as an Urban Conservancy.

NVT News Bites

CREATURES FROM THE DEEP

NATURE'S VALLEY MYSTERY SOLVED

Beefy & Tish Mance

Whilst walking on the beach at the lagoon mouth in Nature's Valley, a lady on holiday told us about this horrible looking creature skeleton which she had nearly stepped on in the lagoon.



The following day at low tide we scoured the lagoon in the direction the lady had pointed. Eventually we came across the remains of what was indeed a strange looking creature skeleton.

Tish carefully extracted the bits and pieces trying not to break off any more bits. Eventually we had some 12 different bones and a fairly large piece of what looked like a shell of sorts with bony 8cm protrusions around the edges. All in all the main body so to speak was about 35cm long.

We then proceeded to ask various people who we thought would be able to tell us what the odd creature was, answers ranged from spider crabs to tortoises but no one knew for sure and none of the names seemed to fit.

With fame and fortune in mind for discovering some never before seen prehistoric fossil, we carted it off to Debbie Crockcroft at the Centre for Dolphin Studies. Debbie's answer was almost immediate. "Oh that's a sea turtle shell". Ping - there burst our bubble. She explained that being a juvenile sea turtle the bone structure was not fully developed and the reason why it looked so strange with the protruding ribs is that all the outer scales had already fallen off. Debbie also explained that it was not unusual to find such adult turtles in our waters. They breed in Mozambique and up the coast and then swim all the way down the east coast reaching as far as our oceans.

However, still extremely rare to find one so young on our beaches says Debbie.

So what other surprises will Nature's Valley beaches produce? So far has been found the very rare Megamouth shark, leopard spoor on the beach, an unusually large Paper Nautilus shell and a body.

A LITTLE BROWN DUCK, SWIMMING IN THE WATER, A LITTLE BROWN DUCK, DOIN' WHAT HE OUGHT'A ...

Towards the end of April, Dalene Heyns arrived at our office with a small feathered bundle in her hands which she had found in her garden. Thinking it to be injured or abandoned as it didn't seem to want to move off or to be particularly scared, she picked it up and brought it to the office.

We had a good look at it ... and it at us, appearing to be desperately in need of food as its little head darted this way and that. However, we called in our local expert, Geoff McIlleron, who took one look at it and pronounced it "a Dabchick or Little Grebe". Apparently its feet were a dead giveaway.

We then needed to decide what to do with it and, as it seemed strong and hungry, decided it would be best to pop it back into its usual habitat – on the lagoon. We drove to a quiet area and Dalene very carefully lowered her charge to the water Hey presto! He (or she) took off, its little feet paddling madly, bottom fluffed out, and the Dabchick was gone. A happy ending.



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

***"THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS FOR THE TRUST TO BE SUPPORTED BY A
REGULAR, ANNUAL COMMITMENT FROM THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WHO
LOVE NATURE'S VALLEY"***

Please note that NVTrust t-shirts (for children and adults), golf shirts, caps, phases of the moon posters, tidal posters, gift tags and special days calendars are available from the Nature's Valley Trading Store.

As you will note below, our list of sponsors/donors is growing. This is extremely encouraging for us and, obviously, good news for the Valley's environment. Probably our most challenging funding issue, is trying to access funds for our core running costs. Most of the environmental funding agencies will not cover such costs, but prefer to sponsor specific projects. Thus we are extremely appreciative of your ongoing support as many of these donations enable the Nature's Valley Trust to keep functioning, while others permit us to undertake our various projects.

THANK YOU: 2001/2002/2003/2004/2005 SPONSORS

Mr Albertyn, Anderson family, Antrobus Family, Aveng, Barker family, Barnes family, CEPF, CM Bath, GE Bath, Mr Bekker, Biesenbach family, John Blaine and family, Tonie and Tersia Bouwer, Braatvedt family, Mrs Brand, Cape Mohair International, Paolo Cavaleri, GW Cottage, Coetzer family, Coulson family, De Muelenaere family, H. de Clercq, JP & BA Daffue, LW Dekker, Wynn and Tacy Dedwith, Jan and Leni du Plessis & family, M du Toit, Ellison family, Engelbrecht family, Ina Faber & Francette le Roux, Face Adrenalin, Findlay family, Prof & Mrs Firth, Gibson family, P Gilbert, Ginn family, Girdwood family, Mr & Mrs Goeller, HA Graham, Di Grant & family, Grobicki family, Greg Grobler, Alf Gunderson, A J Hamman, Harmse family, Mr and Mrs Harris, RJ Harris, Harry Shires Will Trust, Dalene Heynes, Gordon Hayward, Guy Hayward, M. Hepburn, G Heyns, H. Hover, Ian Hunter, Inkwazi Trust, H Isherwood, IUCN, Jensen family, Peter Jackson, Johan Johannson, Judy Johnston, k Kamp, Bob Keeble, Francois and Rachelle Kirsten, Klein family, Mr & Mrs Koekemoor, Kotze family, Kriegler Family, Kroon family, Krone Family, Mr W. Kruger, Mr & Mrs A. Kruger, C. Kruyshaar, Kurland Estates, Langton family, Lategan family, Liversidge family, Lyell Family Trust, Johan Malan family, Beefy & Tish Mance, Marchand family, Martin Family, D. Mason-Jones, Di Mackenzie & family, Geoff and Jill McIlleron, Mermaid's Slipper Restaurant, Mitchells Brewery, Mr Mohr, Montgomery family, Mossienes, Mouton family, Mudge family, Myburgh family, Nature's Valley Ratepayer's Association, Nichol family, Patrick and Marina Niven, Jenni Noble, Clive and Colleen Noble, Ochse family, Ocean Blue Adventures, P Oliver, Dr CP Oosthuizen, D Oscroft, Janet O'Sullivan, Roy Parkhurst family, Gordon and Chrystal Paterson, Perlman family, The Peter Vichos Trust, A. Pienaar, A Powrie, G Pretorius, Mr Prinsloo, Quarmbly family, Rae family, Ratray family, Read family, Marty Reddering, Mo Richards, Jane Rosenthal, Dr Smith and family, Staples family, Storms River Adventures, PE Streider, Sturgess family, Taylor family, Thalassa Trust, JB Theron, Le Roex and Timson family, Valentine Family, HJ van der Hoven, Kobus van der Walt, J van Dyk, M L van Niekerk, Ds van Niekerk, Mr Barry Venter, Visser family, van De Pijpekam family, PH van der Merwe, Van Hasselt family, Andrew and Leonie van Hasselt, Greta van Hasselt, van Heyningen family, Van Melle Kamp family, MS van Tonder, Mr van Wyk; P R van Zyl, R H Venter, J B Venter, SF Viljoen, von Holten family, Frans & Marie Wagener, Watt family, Bob Whall & Embroidery Master, Whyte family, Wiswe family, Mr & Mrs Withers, Woode family, MS Woolf, Whitesides family, WWF-SA and the Green Trust

Please contact us if you would like detailed project proposals for the projects listed below

<u>Reprinting of Eco-Guidelines</u> : Welcome brochure	R3 000
Green Living Guidelines	R4 500
Tide Tables	R1 500
Bird Checklists	R1 000
Indigenous Gardening Booklets	R3 000
Tree Checklist	R1 000
Fynbos Reserve brochure	R2 500
Baboons of Nature's Valley	R2 500
<u>Research Projects/Monitoring Programmes</u> : Estuary and Sensitive areas research in collaboration with SANParks	R8 000
Fynbos Reserve & Phyl Martin Park maintenance	R4 500
<u>Signage</u> : Fynbos Reserve, Phyl Martin Park Updates	R1 000
<u>Environmental Education</u> : EE / Urban Conservancy student (to work with school groups and carry out conservancy duties)	R18 000
Resource development for schools and teachers (Hobbit Trail, Salt River Antiquity Trail, Billy the Brenton Blue's Trail, Treasure Route	R7 000
Transport costs for teachers and learners (@R150 per visit to Nature's Valley for transport)	R3 000
Maintenance & furnishing of the interpretive hut	R5 000
<u>Urban Conservancy</u> : Environmental Interpretation Officer (to work with school groups and carry out conservancy duties)	R18 000
TOTAL	R83 500

List of office furniture and other equipment needs:

Display cabinets, scanner, bookshelves, chairs

Cheques & Internet Banking:

Please make out cheques to the **Nature's Valley Trust**,

Post to: Box 230, The Crags, 6602

Direct Deposits or internet banking : PLEASE EMAIL OR FAX INTERNET PROOF OF DEPOSIT TO nvalley@worldonline.co.za OR FAX DEPOSIT SLIPS TO 044 534 8344

Account Name: Nature's Valley Trust, **Bank:** Standard Bank, **Account number:** 001913859

Branch: Jan Smuts, **Branch code for internet banking** 004205, **Branch code for cheques:** 420512

Funder Details / Change of Detail

Name: _____	Postal address: _____	

Address in Nature's Valley: _____		
Tel:_(_____)_____	Fax:_(_____)_____	Cell:_____
Email: _____	Language preference:_____	Profession: _____
Donated funds to be allocated to (Project preference): _____		
Annual donation or a 'once off'?: _____		
Do you wish us to send you a payment reminder? _____		

Land Matters

KURLAND VILLAGE HOUSING EXTENSION

The NVT has been taking part in the processes which have been initiated for the Kurland housing extension project being undertaken by the Bitou Municipality. We have been concerned about possible impacts on the Salt River which provides water to most properties in The Craggs and which is home to the unique aquatic insects which have been discovered in the system. With the various projects being initiated by the NVT around the Salt River and our funding of the survey undertaken by Dr Ferdy de Moor, we are providing inputs into these processes as an 'Interested and Affected Party'.

The first phase of the Kurland Village housing extension of 480 houses is almost complete. This involves the installation of services for the first half of the development.

Prior to construction beginning, an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was produced by consultants and, following concern being expressed that the EMP was too non-specific, an Environmental Liaison Committee was established to include stakeholders. The NVT is part of this committee and regular meetings and site visits have taken place.

Very sadly, despite valuable contribution from all the stakeholders, it is becoming increasingly clear that an Environmental Management Plan is inadequate when dealing with a sensitive system such as the Salt River. Our main observations to date are:

- The EMP is too non-specific;
- Too much decision-making is left to the Environmental Site Officer (ESO);
- The ESO who has been appointed is an Engineer with the company appointed for the development and, by his own admission, feels that this is conflict of interest and that he does not have the adequate environmental background;
- Bitou Municipality have queried the validity of the EMP and are uncertain whether it has been accepted by Council.

We are working with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on this issue, as well as Bitou Municipality, to try and turn the current situation into a workable one which will satisfy all our concerns, provide the necessary houses and protect the Salt River as a unique system, as well as a healthy source of water for the Kurland community and others.



PROVINCIAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The following extract from the Plettenberg Bay Community Environmental Forum Minutes (May 2005) gives some insight into the Provincial Spatial Development Framework. This initiative has implications for our own planning and development in the Bitou area as all Municipalities are also required to draw up a Spatial Development Framework for their areas. The NVT has been participating in this process and giving inputs. A draft framework has been prepared for Bitou and, once the Provincial SDF has been finalized, and the Bitou SDF brought into alignment with this, our local SDF will be submitted to Council for approval.

The new and far reaching Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) is now in its final draft form and available on www.capegateway.gov.za for viewing.

The document has been widely welcomed by those who agree that the time has come to break away from the "negative consequences" of the "historic development paths". It aims to set the Province on a path of sustainable development and aims to prevent the following to continue among others the destruction of bio-diversity, the abuse of scarce water sources and apartheid like settling patterns.

In essence, the whole Province will be divided up into a number of broad spatial planning categories viz : core areas, buffer areas, intensive agricultural areas and urban areas. The latter will be defined through "urban edges", mostly wrapping close to existing urban areas. The policy encourages densification of the existing urban areas in an effort to protect the core, buffer and intensive agricultural areas from large residential development and to "address apartheid spatial patterns". The final draft document states that in the core, buffer and agric categories, only resort and chalet type accommodation will be considered but no freehold, sectional title, share block and the like. It is only in "exceptional circumstances", which means compliance with very stringent set of tests, that alienable units in the non-urban areas will be looked at.

The document also refers to the fact that it will have to engage with "vested interest who are anxious to keep the status quo to the greatest extent possible" in order to indicate the high level of political will behind the proposals while at the same time give "due warning" to industrialist and developers to examine how their business models can "change in response".

Predictably, many of the large developers in the area have come together to oppose the final draft under various guises.

The document also has other far reaching goals and objectives and should be studied on the web as it has the potential to impact on "almost every aspect of social, environmental and economic activities in the Province".

The minister made her budget speech this month wherein she reinforced this new path for the province.

Our thanks for your ongoing support.

**Please feel free to contact us with any comments,
suggestions or queries.**



*In support of
conservation*

Nature's Valley Trust

PO Box 230, The Craggs, 6602

Tel/ Fax: 044 531 6820

E-mail: nvalley@worldonline.co.za

MESSAGE FROM THE 'KIDS OF KURLAND'

Through funds obtained from the TSITSIKAMA TOLLGATE, we have now been able to appoint a remedial teacher for Craggs Primary.

JESSIE FRANZSEN joined the Staff on the 1st March this year to take up the position of 'Learning Support Co-ordinator' (Remedial Teacher) at Craggs Primary. She has had many years of experience in a Junior Primary and later in remedial teaching.

Employing Jessie has been a steep learning curve for all. She has now joined the local Learning Support Group on the Garden Route, working closely with others in her field. They receive the assistance of the Dept. and follow a methodology program designed to uplift children who struggle in the classroom situation.

Many of the children in Jessie's groups are bright with a lot of potential but for a number of reasons (often social) have fallen behind their peer group. Learners are selected from Grades 2, 3 and 4 to attend hour-long sessions in sounds, reading and writing. 30 children are now in the program. Helping young children to reach their potential is a passion for Jessie. She smiles as she describes the excitement of a child who realizes he can read the contents of a magazine.

Our thanks to those who have donated towards this project and made it possible.



NATURE'S VALLEY URBAN CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP FORM



Name: _____

Erf: _____

Postal Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail address: _____

Property Inclusion:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please send me a copy of the Constitution	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature: _____

Return to: PO Box 230, The Craggs, 6602 / Fax: 044 531 6668 / E-mail: nvalley@worldonline.co.za



With thanks to our partners:



"The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is a joint initiative of Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation."

