



NOETZIE CONSERVANCY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Summer 2011

Chairman's Chat 2011

Nick Taylor

THE AGM of the Association was held at the home of Julie Gosling and Wendy Dewberry at 9am on 27 December. As usual attendance was very good, with 42 members signing the register, easily constituting the 25% quorum required by the constitution. Apologies were received from a further 21 members. Chairman Nick Taylor extended a special welcome to Albert McLean of the Pezula Home Owners' Association, and to new Noetzie owners Eve Thompson and Richard Robinson.

Nick summarised proposed developments on the headland during 2010. The application by Dr Visser of erf 76 was approved by the NCOA on condition that the second story be designed as a loft area and the overall height does not exceed 8 metres. The Municipality requested a Geotechnical report which has been submitted by Dr Visser. Plans for house Thompson, Erf 80, have also been accepted provided the footprint of the house is confined to 15% of the stand and the height does not exceed 8 metres.

Keith Stewart's latest proposal for a 16 unit development on the existing car park was declined and the proposer requested to submit a new proposal under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA); hopefully this will require a full Environmental Impact Assessment. Albert McLean explained that the PHOA had joined the NCOA in opposing the proposal, with PHOA members contributing R2 500 each towards the legal bills and Julie Gosling meeting them on a 50/50 basis in her personal capacity. He mentioned that the most the PHOA would be prepared to accept would be a limited development over a maximum of 8 stands. NCOA members present were unanimous in their opposition to any development of this kind on the headland. Melanie Gosling noted that SANParks has also objected to development on that land and that the new Coastal Management Act will make the approval of plans unlikely.

Liz Wynne Jones raised a concern about current light pollution from new houses on the Pezula Estate. Albert McLean responded that light pollution control is in the Pezula guidelines and undertook to pursue the matter. Aubrey Wynne-Jones asked about a controlled burn in 2011. Albert explained that the burn will be organised

by Jessica Hayes, the Environmental Manager of Pezula Private Estate.

Illegal trading at Montrose has been a concern for the NCOA for a number of years. The latest development is that the Knysna Municipality has written to the owners of Montrose and the operators of Pezula Hotel warning that, should operations continue beyond 31 January 2011, both criminal and civil action will be taken against them. This is seen as a most positive development in that it is the first time that the Municipality has committed itself to action in writing.

The fact that Old Pezula Castle continues to suffer neglect by the owners is another ongoing concern of the NCOA. Here too the intentions of the Municipality are encouraging, with the announcement that tenders will be issued for the repair of the building during the first quarter of 2011. Aubrey Wynne-Jones asked where the responsibility for the old Pezula Castle began and ended. Julie Gosling responded that Heritage Western Cape is involved and that the Knysna Municipality has the right to restore the castle if it is becoming derelict and claim the money from the owner. This refers to any building over 60 years old.

Turning to riverside matters Nick explained that the Home Services Group is an informal association made up of members living on the river, which deals with maintenance of the access road and riverside properties. This is quite distinct from the NCOA which represents all home owners and acts in the best interests of the members in terms of the Town Planning regulations, the constitution and Conservancy Charter. Casper du Plessis requested a document explaining the powers and functions of the two bodies. Nick explained that the NCOA constitution is on the website.

Donald Fabian asked whether the canoes used by Pezula operate within the boundaries of Pezula property, and whether the Parks Board allows commercial activities on the river. Eion Brown responded that the NCOA committee are investigating the issue. Marylou Botha asked that canoe owners not leave canoes lying around as there has been a tragic incident where children took unattended canoes onto the river, resulting in a drowning.



treasurer's report

CATHY SHIMMIN thanked Neil Metelerkamp for auditing the NCOA books pro bono. The audit statement has been signed by herself and Chairman Nick Taylor. Levies and Payments came to about R17 000. Most monies went to consulting fees.

The report showed that the majority of the income derived came from Levies, Donations and Interest totalling R 17,068. Of the expenses totalling R29,295 the majority had been for Consulting fees totalling R25,247. Whilst in the 2009/2010 year, expenses exceeded income by just under R11,000, the NCOA still has funds of over R35,000 at its disposal.

Casper Du Plessis asked about the benefit of the website. Cathy responded that this is an invaluable communication tool between the NCOA Committee and members, with the minutes of meetings, notices, and a quarterly Newsletter all appearing on the website.

Marylou Botha expressed a concern over the cost of the Simon Nicks report used for the response to the proposed

headland development by Pezula. She asked whether the committee went through the correct process and a quote for the sum of R25 000 received prior to commissioning the work. She requested that this report be put onto the website. Cathy responded by explaining that due to Simon Nicks intimate knowledge of Noetzie and as he has supplied similar services to the NCOA for many years, the quote was therefore not considered necessary.

Regarding fees for 2012 Cathy explained that subscriptions for 2011 were set at R300 at the 2009 AGM, and that invoices would be sent out shortly. It was agreed to raise fees for 2012 to R500. Tim Everett raised the question as to whether Julie Gosling should be carrying so many costs in her personal capacity. All agreed this was wrong. Chris Everett reminded the meeting of the idea of a pledge fund set up for legal and other emergencies. The Committee undertook to investigate this possibility.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Iona Everett and seconded by Don Lindsay.

conservancy report

SANTI DEN BOESTERT reported that the NCOA is represented on the Khysna Environmental Forum, and the Garden Route Conservancy Forum. Environmental projects mounted by the NCOA in 2010 included alien clearing up the river. Half a kilometre of densely infested area remains and SANParks has committed to budget for this in 2011. If individuals are interested they can go up the river and hand pull alien saplings. Concerning the School site, it has been established that the land belongs to National Government. The NCOA will attempt to get the use of the land in order to maintain it as a pristine section of fynbos for educational purposes.

Julie and Wendy have been monitoring wildlife by camera with some very interesting results, including the sighting of a leopard near their house. Water testing of the River has been undertaken to keep tabs on health hazards that could arise from soak-aways. Some

success has been achieved regarding poaching and unauthorised driving on the beach. The interpretive signs in the car park have been maintained and new ones erected. The committee is in the process of creating an Environmental Management Plan for the Conservancy Area. Tree labelling was assisted by Jessica and Carmen of Pezula, with labels donated by Julie. Santie reminded the meeting that both fireworks and bonfires are not permitted on the beach.

An alien clearing exercise was proposed by Santi. It was decided to begin in the road reserve and the date was made for 29 December, 2010. She ended her report by thanking Julie, Wendy, Bruce and Marylou for their ongoing Conservation efforts.

Nick then announced that the Conservancy Award for 2010 goes to Bruce Botha for his continued passion and commitment to conservation.



election of committee for 2011

THE CHAIRMAN explained that, according to the constitution, 3 members of the present committee – Santi, Penny and Cathy – are up for re-election, having served a 3-year term. He noted the resignation of Carl Metelerkamp during 2010 due to pressure of work and thanked Carl for many years of service to the NCOA. The remaining 4 members – Nick, Eion, Wendy and Julie – will continue to serve in 2011. He called for

nominations for the 4 vacant posts. Six nominations were received and, after a vote, the 2011 committee was announced:

NEW MEMBERS : Catherine Suckling, Lauren Shimmin, Cathy Shimmin, Santi den Boestert,

ONGOING MEMBERS : Julie Gosling, Nick Taylor, Eion Brown, Wendy Dewberry

general

EION BROWN drew the attention of the meeting to a newspaper article reporting a court judgement regarding a suit brought against objectors to a development by the developers. The judgement was given in favour of the objectors, based on the constitutional right of each individual to have a say in the protection of the environment.

Concerning the illegal Pezula Fence bordering the school site on which a baby bushbuck had recently been electrocuted, Julie explained that the Pezula Environmental Liaison Committee undertook to switch the electric fence off.

Chris Everett has recently completed a history of the Everett family at Noetzie and has offered to write a more general history of Noetzie. He presented his plans to the meeting and appealed for submissions of photographs and stories from all property owners. He proposed that the book be produced in one of two formats. The first is a history, with plenty of photos, while the second is a larger format, coffee-table type production which focuses on photographs. While the meeting showed support for both options, the majority inclined toward the former.

Don Lindsay then presented an update of his plans for an access road to be built to his beach property. The NCOA has given its approval, provided that certain conditions aimed at minimizing damage to the vegetation during construction are met. Albert McLean reported that the PHOA supported the road, on condition that the illegal fence mentioned earlier remains in place for security reasons. He reported that the security fences and cameras are proving to be very effective, and gave examples of incidents where the would-be perpetrators were caught on camera and apprehended. Wendy asked about beach permits for Lindsay Castle once the road has been built. Julie explained that beach driving permits are controlled by Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Donald Fabian enquired whether the road would be a public right of way, to which Don replied in the negative. Concerning the proposed cattle grid, which will stop the animals wondering up the road, Albert assured the meeting that it will be done in 2011.

Nick closed the meeting and thanked Julie and Wendy for their hospitality.



alien clearing

Santie den Boestert

an ongoing battle

Another round of alien vegetation clearing took place at Noetzie on 22, 23 and 24 November 2010, when SANParks and Pezula again sent teams up the Noetzie River. The event was organised by the NCOA.

Pezula kindly allowed everybody access over their property and the teams gathered at the Boma from where they used the walkway down to the river. No regrowth had taken place on the trees treated during last year's clearing.



New members Eve Thompson and Richard Robinson were part of the alien clearing team on the Headland

The teams used chainsaws to take down a lot of the bigger trees but also ringbarked some and pulled up the smaller trees and saplings. The stumps and ringbarked trees were sprayed with Garlon and dye, to enable the workers to see which trees had already been treated.

A distance of approximately 1,5km was covered and it is estimated that only about half a kilometre of very densely infested bush remains. This is close to the Brackenhill Falls and as this area calls for specialist treatment, SANParks promised to get funds to finish the work in 2011. It will be necessary, however, to constantly remind them and to keep them to their promise!

At the NCOA AGM on 27 December, it was decided that the residents would also like to do their bit and from the show of hands it seemed as if we would have a lot of enthusiastic people to help with the clearing of the road reserve on the Old Wagon Road.

When the morning of 29 December dawned however, it was a bleak day with a fine but constant drizzle coming down and at 7 o'clock as arranged, only four brave warriors arrived to do battle! Later on more people arrived to help and eventually a lot was achieved, as could be seen from the stacks of vegetation piled up next to the road.

We mainly removed Wattles, Blackwood and Port Jackson trees, but could not get them all – so the little seeds will fall down and grow... and next year we will have to do the same again!



Proposed Environmental Management Plan

Cathy Shimmin

NOETZIE IS a place worth conserving. As a Conservancy with particular and sensitive ecosystems we believe that guidance is needed to deal with the after effects of mankind's living within or meddling with nature. To assist, the committee has decided to document this.

In general terms this is covered by an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

The EMP is a long-term action plan that identifies, prioritizes and sets specific objectives and targets for key environmental issues for both the Noetzie community as well as visitors to our beautiful but delicate place.

The EMP is the strategic document that will be the basis for future environmental plans and initiatives that will set standards, give guidance and build awareness to the end goal of improving its overall environmental performance.

The Committee will initially provide a terms of reference where goals and targeted areas will be identified for inclusion into an EMP. We have always believed in the participation of the Noetzie community as a whole and welcome any comments or assistance that you as a Noetzie community can provide.



dying Yellowwoods up river

Wendy Dewberry

Last year we discovered that many of the very old 100 year old yellowwood trees growing up the river were dying. After many queries and discussions, the cause for this is still a mystery. Some thought it could be a saline wedge, but then someone commented that surely there must have been more than one occurrence of this over the past 100 years ?. If you can shed any light on the matter, please let us know.



rainfall at Noetzie

AFTER A dry spell early 2010, June 2011 saw the rainfall over the Noetzie area increase. Thankfully the water tanks were filled to capacity. As it stands now in February 2011, we again await good rains to replenish the water used by the higher occupancy over December. We will keep you updated.



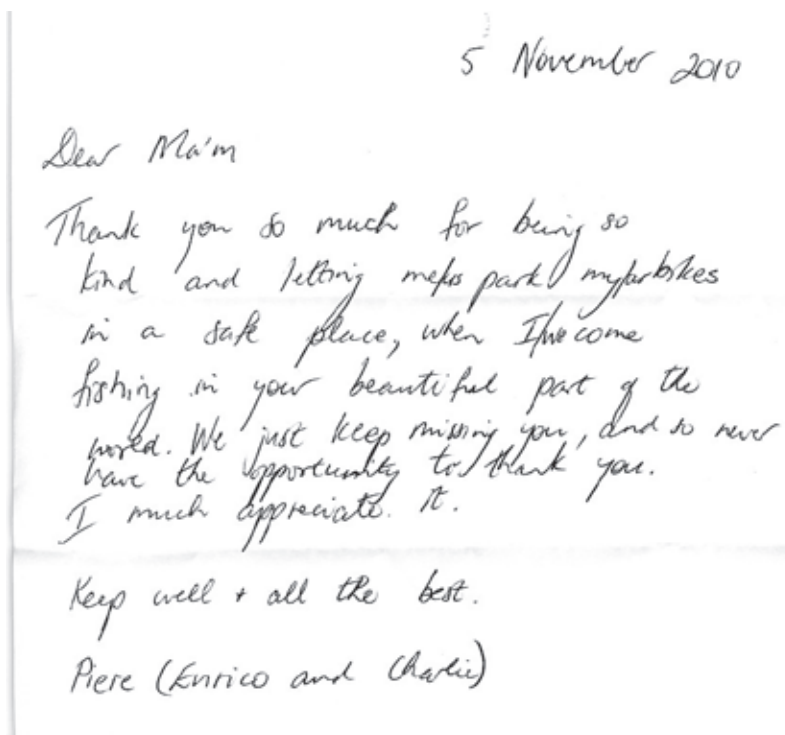
2010

Jan.....	24 mm
Feb.....	63 mm
Mar.....	12 mm
April.....	72 mm
May.....	30,5 mm
June.....	124 mm
July.....	114 mm
August.....	89 mm
September.....	18 mm
October.....	140,5 mm
November.....	22 mm
December.....	108 mm

2011

January 2011.....	30,5 mm
February 2011.....	52 mm

Julie provides a safe place for the fishermen to park their bicycles at her home. This is a letter she received from one of them late last year.





THIS CERTIFICATE was awarded by Cape Nature at the last Conservancy Forum meeting to the NCOA for the best newsletter. Big thanks go to Cali Dewberry who kindly does a professional job of laying it out so beautifully.



Special Award

*Issued in recognition and appreciation of
effective communication provided to Conservancy members
in the Garden Route area*

Presented to

Noetzie Conservancy

on

2 October 2010

B & Roux

BAREND LE ROUX
Conservation Services Manager: Garden Route





Noetzie River water tests

AFTER SEASON, the Noetzie Conservancy once again had the river water tested for e.coli count. This is to monitor the septic tank and soak away efficiency at the river houses. We are pleased to report that all statistics are below what is deemed safe for recreational use.

Below are the comparative results:

100 cfu per 100ml is deemed the recreational level

Location	2009	2010	2011
Harbour	12	11	40
Gillio mee Reeds	6	25	20
Middle of the River	9		74
River Mouth		107	47
Lavatries			53

The e.coli has increased over the past 3 years therefor we urge all Noetzie residents to be aware of safe septic tank practice.



This photograph was taken by Christo Gillio mee at Noetzie. It is a time-delay shot of the stars moving across the sky. This circular effect can be achieved by pointing the camera to the South.



NOETZIE CONSERVANCY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Conservancies should be like a meerkat colony: animals with a well developed sense of community, that look after each other, that take turns to do guard duty for the common good, are on the ground, know exactly what is going on around them, cooperatively oppose threats to the colony and yet go about their daily business with the emphasis on family and household.



JANUARY 2011		FEBRUARY 2011		MARCH 2011		APRIL 2011		MAY 2011		JUNE 2011	
LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
1	07H45	08N13	03H17	08N26	02H47	08N55	02H58	08N52	03N51	10N97	03N27
2	08H05	02H42	08N18	08N66	02H58	08N55	02H58	08N52	03N51	10N97	03N27
3	09H17	03N55	21H36	08N66	02H58	08N55	02H58	08N52	03N51	10N97	03N27
4	08H54	03N55	21H36	08N66	02H58	08N55	02H58	08N52	03N51	10N97	03N27
5	08H54	03N55	21H36	08N66	02H58	08N55	02H58	08N52	03N51	10N97	03N27
6	08H54	03N55	21H36	08N66	02H58	08N55	02H58	08N52	03N51	10N97	03N27
7	11N40	09N43	02H46	11N37	02H43	11N37	02H43	11N37	02H43	11N37	02H43
8	11N40	09N43	02H46	11N37	02H43	11N37	02H43	11N37	02H43	11N37	02H43
9	09H10	09N43	12H36	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27
10	09H38	07H10	12H10	09H36	07H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27
11	07H10	07H52	12H35	08H36	07H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27
12	07H47	09H38	14H49	08H36	07H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27
13	02H39	09H45	14H06	08H36	07H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27
14	06H57	09H45	14H06	08H36	07H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27
15	06H57	09H45	14H06	08H36	07H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27
16	06H57	09H45	14H06	08H36	07H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27	12H66	08H27
17	07H26	01H26	20H23	07H26	01H26	20H23	07H26	01H26	20H23	07H26	01H26
18	08H47	02H59	21H23	08H47	02H59	21H23	08H47	02H59	21H23	08H47	02H59
19	08H47	02H59	21H23	08H47	02H59	21H23	08H47	02H59	21H23	08H47	02H59
20	10H18	04H20	22H27	10H18	04H20	22H27	10H18	04H20	22H27	10H18	04H20
21	11H38	04H20	22H27	11H38	04H20	22H27	11H38	04H20	22H27	11H38	04H20
22	11H38	04H20	22H27	11H38	04H20	22H27	11H38	04H20	22H27	11H38	04H20
23	09H27	07H44	12H03	09H27	07H44	12H03	09H27	07H44	12H03	09H27	07H44
24	09H27	07H44	12H03	09H27	07H44	12H03	09H27	07H44	12H03	09H27	07H44
25	09H27	07H44	12H03	09H27	07H44	12H03	09H27	07H44	12H03	09H27	07H44
26	07H45	09H38	16H42	07H45	09H38	16H42	07H45	09H38	16H42	07H45	09H38
27	04H18	11N21	18H30	04H18	11N21	18H30	04H18	11N21	18H30	04H18	11N21
28	08H44	01H50	19H44	08H44	01H50	19H44	08H44	01H50	19H44	08H44	01H50
29	08H44	01H50	19H44	08H44	01H50	19H44	08H44	01H50	19H44	08H44	01H50
30	07H45	02H38	21H23	07H45	02H38	21H23	07H45	02H38	21H23	07H45	02H38
31	08H27	02H38	21H23	08H27	02H38	21H23	08H27	02H38	21H23	08H27	02H38

JULY 2011		AUGUST 2011		SEPTEMBER 2011		OCTOBER 2011		NOVEMBER 2011		DECEMBER 2011	
LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
1	06H55	03H53	23H11	06H55	03H53	23H11	06H55	03H53	23H11	06H55	03H53
2	11N08	09H10	23H30	11N08	09H10	23H30	11N08	09H10	23H30	11N08	09H10
3	11N45	09H50	23H30	11N45	09H50	23H30	11N45	09H50	23H30	11N45	09H50
4	06H57	07H13	12H35	06H57	07H13	12H35	06H57	07H13	12H35	06H57	07H13
5	06H57	07H13	12H35	06H57	07H13	12H35	06H57	07H13	12H35	06H57	07H13
6	02H42	08H25	14H15	02H42	08H25	14H15	02H42	08H25	14H15	02H42	08H25
7	02H42	08H25	14H15	02H42	08H25	14H15	02H42	08H25	14H15	02H42	08H25
8	02H42	08H25	14H15	02H42	08H25	14H15	02H42	08H25	14H15	02H42	08H25
9	02H42	08H25	14H15	02H42	08H25	14H15	02H42	08H25	14H15	02H42	08H25
10	08H20	11H48	17H46	08H20	11H48	17H46	08H20	11H48	17H46	08H20	11H48
11	07H60	09H17	18H14	07H60	09H17	18H14	07H60	09H17	18H14	07H60	09H17
12	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30
13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30
14	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30
15	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30
16	11N40	09H14	23H25	11N40	09H14	23H25	11N40	09H14	23H25	11N40	09H14
17	11N40	09H14	23H25	11N40	09H14	23H25	11N40	09H14	23H25	11N40	09H14
18	11N40	09H14	23H25	11N40	09H14	23H25	11N40	09H14	23H25	11N40	09H14
19	11N40	09H14	23H25	11N40	09H14	23H25	11N40	09H14	23H25	11N40	09H14
20	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30
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27	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30
28	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30
29	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30
30	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30	20H13	08H42	01H30
31	08H27	02H38	21H23	08H27	02H38	21H23	08H27	02H38	21H23	08H27	02H38



NOETZIE CONSERVANCY has three wildlife infrared cameras which can record both videos and snaps. They are placed at various locations within the 10.2ha of the Noetzie conservancy area. Over the last few months we have recorded baboon, male and female bushbuck, large spotted genet, cape clawless otter, bushpig and blue duiker.

To view some video footage see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oM-QVgynv7s>

Surprises from the STEALTH Cam http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SU_Ja6oJK4

Contact numbers to keep handy

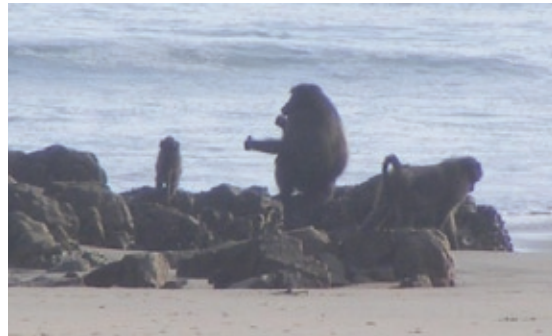
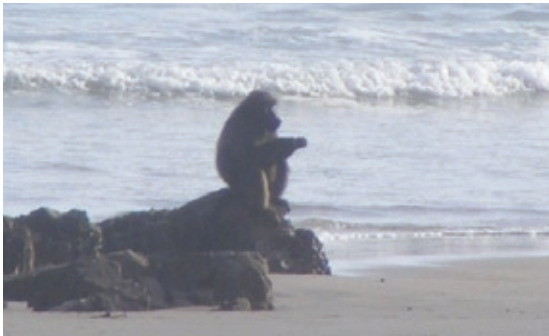
Biodiversity Crime – 044 8025300

Illegal Driving on the beach – 0800 205 005

Illegal Trading – 082 922 8605 (Richard Meyer of KM)

SANParks- 076 191 5628 (Shamley)

Fire – 044 382 7214 (Eden District)



Noetzie self-service seafood platter



Christmas 2010 at Hlalani by Wendy Dewberry

EVERY CHRISTMAS or the past 5 years, members of the NCOA have collected and donated funds to give a little Christmas cheer to the children of Hlalani. Hlalani is the name of the area from the N2 along the Noetzie road.

With the money I set off to toy shops along the Garden Route in search of suitable educational items. This year I came back from the shops laden with puzzles, drawing kits, activity books, kites, balls and soft toys for the babies. Akhona and Lusanda, two teenagers living in the area, each received a basic computer skills course at Creative Minds.

Akhona and Lusanda, two teenagers living in the area, each received a basic computer skills course at Creative Minds. Christmas day came and our larger than usual group comprising the Wynne-Jones family, Julie and Wendy's family congregated at 9 am. We set off for Hlalani. Fiona Wynne -Jones elected to fit into the Father Christmas suit which had strangely shrunk year by year since it was first purchased. The Wynne-Jones also had bags of balloons for the children which brightened up the day. The traditional brass bell was rung along the Noetzie road at Hlalani and we all congregated on the open field on the right hand side of the road. After some singing, the pressies were handed out to the children. There will soon be a link to a video on youtube. We will keep you posted.



A big thank you to all our 2010 donors-

The Wynne-Jones family
 Sharon and Charles Gosling
 Rose and Mike Spearpoint
 Julie Gosling
 Hugh of Creative Minds who donated 2 for the price of 1.

This is a letter from Alison, who accompanied us on the morning:

When Wendy asked us to participate with the Christmas celebration at Hlalani I was a bit nervous. Were we going to be swamped? Was it going to be a stampede? How were the people going to react? But I was in for a surprise. As soon as we arrived, ringing the brass bell, people poured out into the street with such excitement and anticipation. We all moved onto a grassed area where moms, dads and children sat down and started singing carols in English and Xhosa. How moving it was to hear such beautiful voices and to see such well behaved children who sat quietly and patiently. I was just humbled by what was happening. As the gifts were being handed out, there was not a dry eye among my family as we saw the excitement and appreciation. Even the wrapping paper was being carefully picked up by everyone. It was a great experience. I hope that my children will grow up realising that the gift of giving is greater than the gift of receiving



We welcome Daria Barnes Roelofse to the world



SHE WAS born 6 September 2010 at 11h20 Stellenbosch Medi. Her Doctors were absolutely fantastic. She's gorgeous and Jan Willem thinks she is very advanced. We like advanced at Noetzie, we eagerly await her presence on the NCOA committee. Congratulations Michelle and Jan Willem !!!

Welcome to our new Monkey Monitor – Bocello.

AS YOU can see from his picture he is ferocious and Catherine Suckling is particularly pleased.

