



# NOETZIE CONSERVANCY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

**Newsletter**

**June 2007**

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## **Chairman's chat – May 2007**

We have this year a committee with new members in Eion Brown, Nick Taylor, Rookan Podesta and Carl Metelerkamp and it has been an exciting time as they bring new ways of looking at the problems that Noetzie and the NCOA are facing. Thanks to the four of you for joining the committee and I hope that you will serve out your initial three years of office and also go on for longer periods. It is a bit strange to be part of a small group of people on a committee, many of whom have been going to Noetzie for years, yet some of us have never met face-to-face. I have the hope that we may be able to have a meeting, at some time during the year, at which we can all meet!

As you will recall, the AGM elects the members of the committee and the committee then elects its office-bearers and portfolio holders. I, Mike Dane, am chairman, Nick Taylor is secretary, Craig Gettliffe is treasurer, Julie Gosling is liaison with Knysna Municipality, Carl Metelerkamp is producing the newsletters, Natalie Jones is in control of the web site and Rookan Podesta is responsible for the environment. This leaves Eion Brown without portfolio, but working in all the spheres.

We have had telephonic committee meetings on 18 January, 8 March, 19 April and 16 May 2007 and these have all been productive, though the meeting on 19 April was through Skype and there were difficulties due to the lag times and so the meeting was less effective.

Plans for internal alterations of the Shimmin house on Erf 394/44 have been approved while plans for a garage for Neil Metelerkamp on Erf 394/29 are being reviewed.

Early in the year a great deal of effort, much of it by non-committee members was put into the NCOA's response to the Draft Scoping Report submitted by Pezula for the Noetzie Infill. There has been silence since this was submitted and we are in the process of following up. We are aware that many of you also submitted comments.

We have again followed up with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry about the status of the Pezula application to pump water from the Noetzie River, and have only received an acknowledgement of our letter and not yet receive a detailed response. You will recall that the original Pezula Environmental Report specifically stated in many places that water would not be abstracted from the Noetzie River.

The major issue that is being addressed by the committee is the question of the legal standing of the committee and its ability to sue and be sued. This issue was raised at the AGM and has also been raised with the Knysna Municipality by Pezula. This is currently occupying much of the committee's time. It may be necessary to call a special general meeting to discuss this and approve changes to the constitution.

I thank the committee for their input and look forward to a successful year for the NCOA.



### **Change in governance at Knysna Municipality yet again....**

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> time since the recent Municipal elections in 2006 there has been a change in power at Knysna Municipality. This time the ANC and alliance partners occupy the mayor's office. With no political party having a significant majority this may happen often until the next round of Municipal elections, which are not due for at least another 3 years.

The downside is that service delivery to the greater Knysna community may be adversely affected as the ongoing realignment of political parties will probably affect municipal expenditure priorities.

# Comments from the NCOA on the Unedited Draft Extended Scoping Report for the proposed Noetzie Development

## *In summary*

- The NCOA is **not opposed to development** of the Noetzie Infill Area but believe the current proposal needs considerable revision and reconsideration.
- The NCOA is **opposed to rezoning the area to Resort Zone 2**.
- The NCOA would like to see a **full EIA undertaken** as the development proposed is in a registered Conservancy where the ecology is acknowledged as extremely sensitive. Therefore it is the NCOA's view that a full EIA should be undertaken before formal application for permission is requested from the authorities.
- The proposed Eco-center was *welcomed with gratitude*.
- **Vehicular access to rear of beach plots** – the *proposal is not welcomed*. This would be extremely difficult through the forested areas behind the plots and would destroy the very things we are trying to protect.
- **Access to river plots and parking facility** – *proposal welcomed*. This route has many complications and needs to be discussed in detail with the affected parties.
- **Shuttle route along the beach front thoroughfare** – *proposal rejected*. Not only is this intrusive, it will be extremely costly to construct and should not receive RoD support. Such a route is regularly impacted on by tidal action during storms.
- **Shuttle Service from the parking area** – the proposed service is questionable in principle and would need further discussion as to detail.
- **Public Parking** – the planned public parking is on private land also designated private use. The number of cars indicated does not allow for peak demand for public parking (±100 vehicles). Issues of ownership and parking charges need to be clarified. The NCOA believes that **the public parking area** should be on **public land**.

*Current Status: The final report has not been completed as changes are being considered following comments received from Interested & Affected Parties, it will be submitted to Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.*

## Hlalani-Noetzie Road Clean-up

Wendy Dewberry

Since 2005 - Hlalani area is a model of a well-kept environment as far as litter is concerned. People who have been driving this road to Noetzie will surely have noticed the difference. In addition, Hlalani residents are seen to be contributing to the area's maintenance, have started growing mealies and generally are proud of their area. All welcomed this change in attitude regarding the processing of refuse in the area. The area now looks fresh, green, clean and happy.



For this reason, the model is being looked at by the Knysna Municipality as a possible way of managing all the informal settlement waste. The Knysna Waste Forum, of which I am a member, had the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting on 24 April and the proposal has been put forward to the decision makers.

Hlalani on the Noetzie road area is maintained by Ezekial Mahlangu, who is paid a weekly wage sponsored by Julie Gosling's company Action Ads. If you see him with his wheelbarrow on the road, please feel free to stop and chat to him. He has been kitted out with a wheelbarrow, rake, spade, litter spike, gloves, overalls, boots and rain gear. In addition, swing bins were put up along his route at his request. The area has been provided with a huge cage, which can take about 40 to 50 black bags to prevent pigs and dogs from opening the bags. Municipal contractors clear this "depot" twice a week. Action Ads and Noetzie homeowners jointly sponsored the sundries.

Thanks to all those who have donated money or given encouragement. The residents continually express their gratitude, and so I pass this on to you.



On a broader scale, the Knysna Municipality is rethinking their approach to waste and recycling, since the infrastructure for recycling is inadequate. Glass recycling, toxic waste disposal, battery disposal and garden refuse chipping are all issues in the pipeline for Knysna - long overdue. If you have any ideas that I can take back to the forum, please send them to me at [whistle@agnet.co.za](mailto:whistle@agnet.co.za).

Noetzie from yesteryear – pictures from the Metelerkamp family's collection



Not sure who she is, notice the campers with their ox wagons across the river



A light airplane on the beach, in the background you will see that the castle had not been built yet



## **The use of 4 x 4's on the beach**

Permission granted to NCOA members for the use of 4 x 4's to access their properties by Marine and Coastal Management is subject to the following condition

**No more than 2 (two) vehicles are permitted per household**

**Please adhere to this condition.**

The NCOA would also recommend to members that;

- The use of vehicles is minimized to no more than 4 trips per day
- Please drive slowly
- Be considerate and respectful to people on the beach
- Try (if possible) to utilise one set of tracks
- That tenants renting your properties be made aware of these conditions



### **NCOA 2007 Membership Fees**

Membership fees for 2007 are R200.00 per member.

Please pay your contributions into the following bank account

Account Name: Noetzie Conservancy Owners Association  
Bank: Standard Bank  
Account: 00 189 849 3  
Branch : Sandton 019205

*Any donations to the NCOA are most welcome*

## Otters seen on Noetzie beach in December



The otters are normally only spotted at dusk and dawn and we are rarely able to get up close to them and see them clearly at those times. These 2 otters appeared on the beach at about 5 in the afternoon in December. Robin Carpenter-Frank took these great shots of them in the gully in front of Lindsay's castle.

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**NCOA On-Line – have you visited [www.noetzie.co.za](http://www.noetzie.co.za) ?**

The NCOA will be posting the minutes of NCOA committee meetings on [www.noetzie.co.za](http://www.noetzie.co.za), which has been live for just over a year now. This will allow all our NCOA members to be kept up to date with our current activities.

To date there have been 2,738 people who have visited our website on 130,219 different occasions. 42% of our visitors are based here in South Africa.

The majority of our visitors come to us directly using [www.noetzie.co.za](http://www.noetzie.co.za). The others find us using various search engines such as Google, using the search words “Noetzie”; “Knysna”; “Castles”; “Beach” & “Pezula”. Once people have found our site, more than 50% of them go beyond our home page.

If you would like to advertise on our site, please contact Natalie Ashman. [natalie@nataliejones.co.za](mailto:natalie@nataliejones.co.za)



# CapeNature

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Tel: 044 302 6300



NOETZIE CONSERVANCY  
OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Tel: 082 413 0703

## Vervet Monkeys

### Do's and Don'ts

This is a combined conservation effort between residents in Noetzie area of Knysna, the Knysna Municipality and CapeNature, to solve the issue of nuisance monkeys in the area. Please co-operate and comply with the guidelines below.

Vervet monkeys are wild animals which can become a nuisance, and even dangerous, if they become tame. This happens when humans feed them. The result is that they cause problems, and the people want the problem removed. *A TAME MONKEY IS A DEAD MONKEY.*

#### PLEASE DO:

- Chase monkeys away from houses and yards – they belong in the wild.
- Keep all food items (*including pet's food*) out of sight and reach of monkeys.
- Dispose of all waste properly.
- Be tolerant of wildlife you chose to live in a natural area.

#### PLEASE DON'T:

- Do not encourage monkeys to enter living areas.
- Do not ever feed monkeys.
- Do not leave doors and windows wide open if monkeys have become problematic.
- Do not plant fruit trees which are likely to attract monkeys.

