



THE PROBUS CLUB OF WEST COAST (CAPE)

YOUR WHALETALE NEWSLETTER

December 2006

Paul Stuyck recently gave me this notice which affects us all. This is only in Afrikaans, so for our English readers I would suggest that you contact either Paul or Spannie Spangenberg (783-0214) or the secretary of the Velddrif Bergriver Awareness Association, Mrs Nel at 783 1893. I know you will all find this very interesting. Dankie Paul.

'N VERKORTE NOTULE VAN DIE VERGADERING GEHOU MET DEPARTEMENT VERVOER EN OPENBARE WERKE OP 24 AUGUSTUS 2006 AANGAANDE DIE REHABILITASIE VAN DIE CARINUSBRUG EN TOEGANGSPAD TE VELDDRIF

Die rehabilitasie van die brug en toepaslike pad is goedgekeur en is geskeduleer vir Januarie 2007. Die pad sal tot so 'n mate opgradeer word dat 'n leeftyd van 10–15 jaar gewaarborg word.

Die tenders sluit reeds 8 September 2006 en streng maatreels is in plek om effektiewe beheer van die kontraktuele aspekte te verseker bv. Maksimum toelaatbare tyd vir voltooiing van projek; 2 rigting verkeer tydens Kersfees- en Paasfees seisoen. Maksimum projek tydperk van 11 maande is toegestaan ens.

2% van die plaaslike arbeid moet van gebruik gemaak word en dit sluit toepaslike opleiding in.

INLIGTING RONDOM BRUGOPGRADERING

- Lasse sal opgradeer word
- Asfalt op dekke word gedoen
- Handreeling sal vervan word, en sal aanpas by huidige struktuur
- Strukturele krake sal herstel word bv 'epoxy inject' proses
- Brug sal skoongespuite word en ook esteties verbeter word met beligting
- Erosie beskerming: Klip bestrating in trap vorm sal gebruik word om erosie te beperk.
- Die huidige sypaadjies word verleng met 45m om voetganger verkeer te verseker

- Huidige toegange word opgradeer en kan dien as aftrekpunte vir voelkykers
- Die toepaslike pad sal uiteraard opgradeer word en die ryvlak sal verbreed word

Dankie Paul vir hierdie interessante informasie. As jy enige iets anders kry wat vir ons belangrik is, gee net vir die Whaletale asseblief. (Verskoon my Afrikaans mense, maar ek wil dit self doen!!)

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The following information about your committee members falls under the heading of the well-known King and I song: "Getting to Know You"!!

Annette van der Sandt – President

Born in Bloemfontein (city of Roses) on July 4, 1943 where she matriculated. She then studied as a teacher in Bloemfontein and Freestate University.

Her first job as a teacher was a Vrede in the Freestate. She later specialised as a nursery teacher in Durban, Randburg and Cape Town.

She married Paul in December 1965 and moved to Port Owen during 1997 to retire.

She has two sons and four grandchildren which keep her busy apart from her hobbies such as walking, bowls, gardening, needlework and looking after Paul 24/7!

She has belonged to and served on the following organisations: Woman's Auxiliary, NG Churches in Welgelegen, Cape Town and Laaiplek, Deacon of the Church Council, Management Committee of 'Aan Oewer', Velddrif Bowls Club, and Founder Member of Probus West Coast (Cape).

Robin Dean – Vice-President

Born in Stanmore, Middlesex, UK in 1931.

Educated in East Anglia and the University of Edinburgh Hospital service for 2 years in Westminster and Bath while specialising in Oral Surgery. In Bath he occupied the same room as Dr. David Livingstone!

He emigrated to South Africa in 1969 and married Alice one year later. They lived in Rhodesia for 8 years and was a Police

Reservist Air Wing Pilot. They then moved to Hillcrest in Natal where they lived for 19 years where he obtained a Diploma in Health Services and became the Regional Director of Health and Welfare. He is presently the organist for Velddrif NGK. He is a Founder Member for both Probus Club of West Coast (Cape) as well as St Helena Sandveld Hospice. He has two sons, one daughter, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Charl du Plessis – Secretary

Born in Cape Town in 1937, and matriculated at Florida Hoerskool. He then studied at Potchefstroom University and Johannesburg College of Education where he met Toekie.

He started his teaching career at Klerksdorp and then later at Vanderbijlpark. He was Vice-principal at Ontdekkers High School on the West Rand.

In 1976 he joined the National Education and started Paarl College!

He and Toekie have 3 sons

He retired to Port Owen in 1995, and since then as served on various committees from time to time such as Tourism, POPOA, Church Council, Aan Oewer, Probus and Velddrif Bowling Club.

Helga Liebenberg – Treasurer

She was born and raised in Pretoria and graduated from Tukkies in 1971. She worked in advertising and for the Department of Information before joining the Southern African Forum in 1979 and moving to Johannesburg.

She was appointed Director of the SA Forum in 1985 and held this position until she resigned in 1993 when her husband Johann was transferred to Cape Town. She then joined

PriceWaterhouseCoopers

As Human Resources Manager. She resigned in 2004 to join Johann in retirement here in Port Owen.

They have holidayed in Port Owen for the last 20 odd years and built a home here in 2000 where they spent most weekends. They have been living here permanently since October 2004.

Helga and Johann are proud grandparents of two girls who live in Cape Town, and a grandson Jack, who lives in London.

Since this cv was written, we all know that Johan has undergone a huge operation, and is well on the road to recovery. We wish him further well-being with many healthy years ahead, and lots of patience and love to Helga. So very often it is the healthy partner who suffers deeply too.

Paul Hendrik van der Sandt – Speaker’s Steward

Matriculated in 1962 at Sentraal High School, Bloemfontein. He finished school on Friday 7 December and joined Total South Africa on Monday 10 December! No Christmas holidays for him as his position as Junior Clerk was kept open for him since October that year.

Studied part time at University of the Free State towards a B.Com. After several positions in the Free State and Northern Cape, he was promoted to Middle Management in Natal (Durban) in 1972. He held various Senior Management positions in Durban, transferred to Johannesburg in 1986 as Agricultural Sales Manager, Transvaal. He was then transferred to Cape Town in 1992 as Commercial and Industrial Manager and later Consumer Manager for the Cape Province (North, East and Western Cape). He then retired to Port Owen in 1997 – he must have been exhausted by then!!

He is a Founder Member of Probus, ex Chairman of POPOA, ex President of Velddrif Bowls Club and Founder Member of the Greater Velddrif Rate Payer Association. He has served on the Velddrif Tourist Board and is a member of the Church Council. He is married to Annette with 2 sons and 4 grandchildren.

Nic Mostert - Outings

Gebore: 20 /April 1942 te Melkplaas, Velddrif

Skool: Primere skool Melkplaas, Hoerskool Swartland, Malmesbury

Matrikuleer 1959

Universiteit: Stellenbosch 1960 – 1964 B.Sc Bosbou

Witwatersrand 1979 – Executive Development

Program

Loopbaan: Werk vir SAPPI Ltd vanaf April 1965 tot en met aftrede Desember 1998. Bestuur van Mynshout, Saagmeulens en Bosbou bedryf. Tree af as Bosbou Direkteur

Persoonlik: Trou met Erna du Preez Desember 1969 te Nelspruit (beste besluit in my lewe).

Twee seuns en twee dogters

Belangstellings: Natuurlewe, jag, geskiedenis, reis in Suider Afrika, sport

Verengings: SA Institute of Forestry
Botaniese Vereniging van SA
Natal Jagtersvereniging
Fly Fishers Association

Bev Furnell – PRO and Newsletter

I was born in Pretoria 56 years ago, the youngest of three children. We moved to the Cape in 1954 and stayed in Pinelands where I attended both junior and high schools, and never enjoyed any of it!!

I did a secretarial and receptionist course and worked both in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth where I stayed for two years after I was first married in 1970.

I had two children and an unhappy marriage so 7 years later I divorced and went back to live close to my parents in Pinelands where I worked at SA Philips for a number of happy years.

I met Neville in 1987 soon after his wife passed away. He and my dad played bowls so I joined them, rather than being a grass widow. We married in July 1988 and had 5 children between us. We moved here in October 1997 with absolutely no regrets between us. Sadly my son passed away in 1998 leaving a gaping hole but plenty of wonderful memories too.

We have 8 grandchildren with 4 families spread bewteen Cape Town, Johannesburg and the UK.

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I know that the following entry took place a long time ago, but I'm sure that you will find it interesting if you missed the outing like Nev and I did. For those who were there, maybe you will have your memory jogged!

Thanks to Ken Benade who handed this to me a long time ago while my computer was out of order. Since then it was *my* memory which went out of order!

PROBUS: Visit to Goegedacht Farm

The word "Goegedacht" loosely translated from Dutch / Afrikaans to English means "Good thoughts ". This relates closely to the activities at this wonderful place. The work on the farm gives real meaning to the words development, upliftment and self-respect.

Following a lecture to our PROBUS group at the Riviera Hotel by known personalities, Janet Perold and Jenny Hall, the PROBUS Club of The West Coast (Cape) visited Goegedacht farm on 16 May this year.

The trip started with the arrival of our group at the small Pre-primary School where our hostess, Annie Templeton, met us. She in turn introduced us to the Head of the School, Sussie Smit, who told us about the history of the school and also gave some background of the small children cared for at the

center. To many it was shocking to realize that deprivation is still rife in our country and that it was indeed so close to home.

There were some lighter moments when the little ones entertained us with bright smiles and friendliness. They also sang songs, which caused many a Grandmother to blink away some tears. Some of the gentlemen became all 'misty eyed" but this was probably caused by some "dust" in the air!

From the school everybody proceeded to the Youth Centre where various speakers gave us a close insight into the fine work done at Goedgedacht. Most impressive were the very youthful organizers who, although still at school, were handling responsible tasks with maturity and competence.

Following this we visited the small factory where olive oil and by-products are produced. This proved to be very interesting as manager, Robert Templeton, gave a thorough insight into the olive oil industry. He proved to be a master of his subject and he was inundated with many questions. Each of us left this little factory much wiser and appreciative of the magic qualities of better grades of olive oil. (Judging by the bottles of olive oil later purchased at the shop healthy cooking and eating would be on the cards for later).

The group then followed hostess, Jenny Hall, to the Olive Orchard and the Wall of Remembrance filled with plaques. Each plaque depicted the name of a person or organization that had made donations towards the planting of Olive Trees on the farm.

The lunch that was prepared by Goedgedacht staff proved to be excellent and was enjoyed on the "stoep" of the Main building with some of the local wine. Time was spent talking to old friends whilst others visited the beautiful little Chapel. Too soon the day was over and we all left for home.

What a touching and yet wonderful experience this proved to be. The Goedgedacht Rural Community Development project is working well with all sorts of Agricultural activities taking place. It is a great success story where people have taken destiny into their own hands and are working hard at achieving success.

The visit to Goedgedacht came to a final conclusion at the next formal PROBUS luncheon when it was announced that there had been an unaccountable over-collection of R200-00 paid for the lunch at Goedgedacht and, by popular vote, the Members decided to make it a donation to Goedgedacht for Olive trees to be planted on behalf of our group.

It was indeed "Good" to visit Goedgedacht!

Yours in Probus,

Ken Benade.

Once again, thanks Ken and Anserie for these memories.

Gardening tips and disasters

I was recently advised to use a nitrogen solution on our plants as some of them were showing brown patches on the leaves due to our poor soil. I duly bought the packet which required being added to a quantity of water and then poured on the plant or surrounding area. Not more than two weeks later and we noticed that some of our plants started to die off and/or burn. We had no idea what the problem was.

It is only today whilst reading our latest South African Gardening magazine that I read all about 'burning', and to my horror I realised that I was the culprit. Not on purpose, as I had read the instructions on the container and did what I was told to do, but the instructions didn't tell me that once the nitrogen had been administered, a lot of watering had to take place thereafter. What apparently happens is that "when not enough water is available after the fertiliser is applied, the fertiliser will absorb water from the plant cells to dissolve the nitrogen. This results in brown leaf edges and wilted soft shoots, or, in severe cases, whole sections of the plant drying out or dying. Always remember to water in fertiliser well straight after application." Maybe I am still too new at the gardening game to have realised this, but it now makes enormous sense. (I suppose it's a bit like taking a tablet with a small amount of water only, instead of a lot more water, and wondering why you have this burning feeling). Let's hope I can save the rest of the plants, and by having admitted to my ignorance, perhaps I have saved you from having a similar problem!

Fertiliser ratio: a typical example of a fertiliser ratio is **3:1:5 (26) SR**

3 represents NITROGEN and means that 3 parts of the fertiliser is nitrogen
1 represents PHOSPHOROUS with 1 part phosphorous to 3 parts nitrogen
5 represents POTASSIUM with 5 parts potassium to 3 parts of nitrogen and 1 part phosphorous.

(26) is the percentage value of the whole product that is pure fertiliser with the balance of 74% being the filler.

SR tells you what type of fertiliser it is. In this case it is Slow Release

Now for the tip: This easy rhyme will help you remember what the numbers in the fertiliser ratio stand for:

Leaves and shoots (3)
Stems and roots (1)
Flowers and fruits (5)

Did you know?

South Africa is likely to be the only country in the world that can pinpoint the exact day on which the very first rose was picked from a rosebush growing in its sown soil. On November 1 1659, Jan van Riebeeck noted in his diary: "This day has been picked the first Dutch rose at the Cape."

In her book *Roses at the Cape of Good Hope*, Gwen Fagan explains that he was unquestionably referring to the the *Rosa centifolia* or the Provence rose of 17th century Dutch and Flemish flower paintings.

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I would like to take this time in wishing every one of you a very merry Christmas, a happy new year, and a wonderful friendship lunch that is filled with the real meaning of ' friendship'.
To all other travellers like Nev and myself this holiday season, travel carefully, absorb it all, and share it with us via this newsletter on your return!!

Hugs and kisses all round,
Bev