

SHELLEY POINT NEWS

A community newsletter
dedicated to fostering a sense of
community and the free flow of
information at Shelley Point



Autumn 2023

FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to a bumper edition of *Shelley Point News* this quarter. After reading all this, there is absolutely no way that any homeowner or Shelley Point resident can complain about lack of communication or can deny that information about all matters pertaining to Shelley Point are not forthcoming! It's all here in black and white (and some colour). The Chairperson's Brief has laid out important contact information which I recommend you print out for easy access. There are also several items under the Estate Managers report which you will need to take note of as it will affect most of us directly such as the need to re-register your vehicle for LPR, rules governing domestic workers, furniture removal trucks and so on. And if the environment and conservation are your thing, you are in for a treat. We have a very 'environmentally and conservation-laden' issue this quarter with reports and discussions on everything from pollution to itch mites to marine molluscs to feral cats to wildlife rescues. And, if it's social and sports activities you are after, we have something for everyone including a quiz night in March. So, there should be something interest or inspire everyone. Enjoy!



Terry

CHAIRPERSONS BRIEF: (Carlos Gomes):

Please accept my belated New Year best wishes to those I have not had the opportunity of greeting in person.

- SPHOA Trustees are elected volunteers whose primary function is to oversee estate management. All the trustees are property-owners / residents of SP and the future and well-being of SP is as important to them as any other property-owner.
- Following the election of Trustees at the AGM, the SPHOA Trustee Committee (TC) held it's Constituting Meeting on 27 January to designate Trustee portfolios.
- A Sports & Social Club Management Committee Meeting was held on 2 February. Members of this committee are volunteers elected to oversee the management of the S&SC.
- Details of the Office Bearers of both committees are available on the SPHOA website www.sphoa.co.za

Day-to-day Management of SP is delegated to the Estate Manager, as defined in the Constitution and detailed in the Delegation of Authority (documents available on the SPHOA website).

Below is a “road-map” that I hope will provide some guidance and assistance to Members on matters concerning SP:

- **Municipal Services:**

- Saldanha Bay Municipality (SBM) is responsible for, amongst other matters, providing SP with potable water, refuse collection, maintenance of street lights and operating of the sewage treatment plant.
- Members are encouraged to download the App available on; www.sbmsmartcity.co.za . It’s a user friendly and effective way of engaging with or obtaining information on SBM.

- **Electricity:**

- The provision of electricity as well as transformer and cable related maintenance within SP is the responsibility of Eskom.
- To report a fault, please contact the toll-free number 0800 112 722 or download the *MyEskom Customer App* onto your mobile device.

The Estate Manager reports failures in respect of the above services to the relevant authorities SBM & ESCOM. However, the contract for service delivery is between the service provider and the individual homeowner and it is therefore important for members to lodge complaints or reports of service failures as well.

Safety & Security

- The Security Control Room is manned 24/7 and is contactable:
 - Email: ShelleypointSecurity@servest.co.za
 - Phone: 022 742 1380 / 022 742 1888 (24/7).
 - WhatsApp: 066 399 6596 (Please refer to the Estate Manager’s Report in this Newsletter for further details).
- Security Manager (Mr. Daniel Plaatjies) is contactable via:
 - Email: ShelleypointSecurity@servest.co.za
 - Mobile: 082 615 4883
- SERVEST (Security Service Provider) has a dedicated Alarm Technician, coordinated by the Security Control Room and who is available to Members free of charge during office hours.
- SPHOA has a “first response” firefighting facility coordinated by the Security Control Room and staffed by volunteers.
- Members are requested to promptly report to the Security Control Room, any activity *within SP* concerning suspicious persons or activities, unruly behaviour, lost or unattended dogs etc.
- Please note that SERVEST has no jurisdiction over misdemeanours on the beach. These should be reported to the relevant authorities.

Air and Marine Pollution:

- The SPHOA Administration Office submits complaints in respect of air and marine pollution on behalf of its Members.





























- Feedback on the complaint, if and when provided by the authorities, is then given to the complainant(s).
- A *Complaints Submission Platform* is available on the SPHOA Website.

- **General Estate Matters:**

- Administrative queries should be directed to the SPHOA Administrator Ms. Deirdre de Lange
 - Email: admin@sphoa.co.za
 - Phone: 022 742 1309 (8:00 to 14:00 hrs Mon to Fri).
- Estate Manager Mr. Aldo Fourie is contactable via:
 - Email: manager@sphoa.co.za
 - Phone: 022 742 1309
 - Mobile: 066 529 5682

- The Estate Manger administers an *Official WhatsApp platform* (one way communication) open to Members and Long-Term Residents for the sole purpose of disseminating official notices. Should you wish to be a part of this platform, please contact the Estate Manger.

- **Useful miscellaneous contact numbers:**

	Mobile Emergency Number.....10177
	Ambulance.....022 713 4590
	Saldanha Bay Municipality Fire Services.....022 713 1815
	West Coast District Municipality Fire Services.....086 007 3473
	Vredenburg Fire Services.....022 433 8700
	Police.....10111
	Crime Stop.....086 00 10111
	Hopefield Police Station.....022 723 8000
	Langebaan Police Station.....022 707 5140
	Saldanha Police Station.....022 714 8333
	St Helena Bay Police Station.....022 736 8060
	Vredenburg Police Station.....022 703 6440
	Vredenburg Police Station.....022 703 6453
	Traffic.....022 701 6900
	After Hours.....022 701 6834
	NSRI.....082 990 5966
	Vredenburg Provincial.....022 709 7200
	West Coast Life.....022 719 1030
	Law Enforcement.....022 701 6912
	After Hours.....022 701 7061
	Emergency Control Room.....022 701 6834
	Tally Slade (24/7 Available).....082 566 4184
	Hendrik Kamoetoe (24/7 Available).....079 154 6518
	Adriaan Cronje (After Hours).....084 517 4201
	Stefan Cronje (After Hours).....084 616 8555
	Remove and release snakes in your area.
	Langebaanweg Military Police.....022 706 2413 / 2125
	Department of Correctional Services (Vredenburg).....022 713 3024

ESTATE MANAGERS REPORT:

Security:

Security WhatsApp number is **066 399 6596**

As alluded to in the Chairperson's brief, there is an additional number whereby the security can be reached via WhatsApp only. This is to enhance communication channels between the security control room and our Members. Members are encouraged to send through details regarding visitors or deliveries to this number which will be acknowledged and captured. Just a reminder of the following information required when sending in a request:

For Deliveries:

- Name and physical address of Member.
- Name of Courier Company.
- Expected delivery time and date.
- Instruction to let driver through or collect and keep the parcel at the gate.

For Visitors:

- Name and physical address of member being visited.
- Name and surname of visitor(s)
- Total number of visitors.
- Expected time and date of arrival.
- Expected time and date of departure.
- Vehicle Registration Number.

NB! The WhatsApp line will not replace any other channel of communication. All other methods of communication are still active.

Large Vehicles & Furniture Removal Trucks:

Members are reminded that due to the limitations related to the road surfacing, road widths and radii, the following restrictions will apply to vehicles entering the Estate:

Only non-articulated vehicles without trailers of the following specifications will be allowed:

- Maximum length: 9,1m
- Maximum width: 2,6m
- Maximum gross mass: 26,000kg
- Maximum axle weight: 8,000kg

Furniture Removal Trucks as indicated in the pictures below will also not be allowed to enter the Estate and will need to off-load outside the perimeter of the Estate and make use of smaller trucks or trailers to transport goods to the final-destination within the Estate:



Domestic Workers

Due to the drastic increase in the number of households on the Estate, it is more important than ever to ensure that we have procedures in place to protect the integrity of our Security Structures and Systems. Members are therefore encouraged to collect their domestic workers from the gate or nearest drop-off point in the morning and take them back to the gate or collection point in the afternoon. This is however not always possible due to a variety of reasons. And therefore, the following protocol should be followed:

Registered domestic workers will be allowed to enter the Estate between 07h30 and 09h00 in the morning and walk to their destination and again be allowed to walk to the nearest taxi collection point or nearest gate in the afternoon between 15h30 and 17h00. If these timeframes cannot be adhered to for whatsoever reason, Members should notify the control room to ensure that Security is aware of this.

Our security will always remain our top priority and constant evaluation of current procedures is necessary to ensure that we stay ahead of the curve.

License Plate Recognition System:

The license plate recognition system has worked relatively well over the past few years and most Members are aware of the procedure to be followed when requesting a vehicle to be loaded onto the system. To ensure that this system is not compromised, we have decided to clear all historical data older than one year and the **“delete button” will be pressed on 1 April 2023.**

This means that if any members vehicle was loaded onto the system prior to February 2022, they need to re-apply for the vehicle to be loaded. The LPR form is available at <https://sphoa.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Application-for-Shelley-Point-LPR-registration.pdf> and we encourage Members to complete and submit this form before 31 March 2023. If you are unsure whether you will be affected, rather re-submit the application form to avoid disappointment and frustration at the access gates.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused, but once again, we need to ensure that our security system is not compromised in any way.

Community Centre Update:

Since the last newsletter update, the following project milestones have been reached:

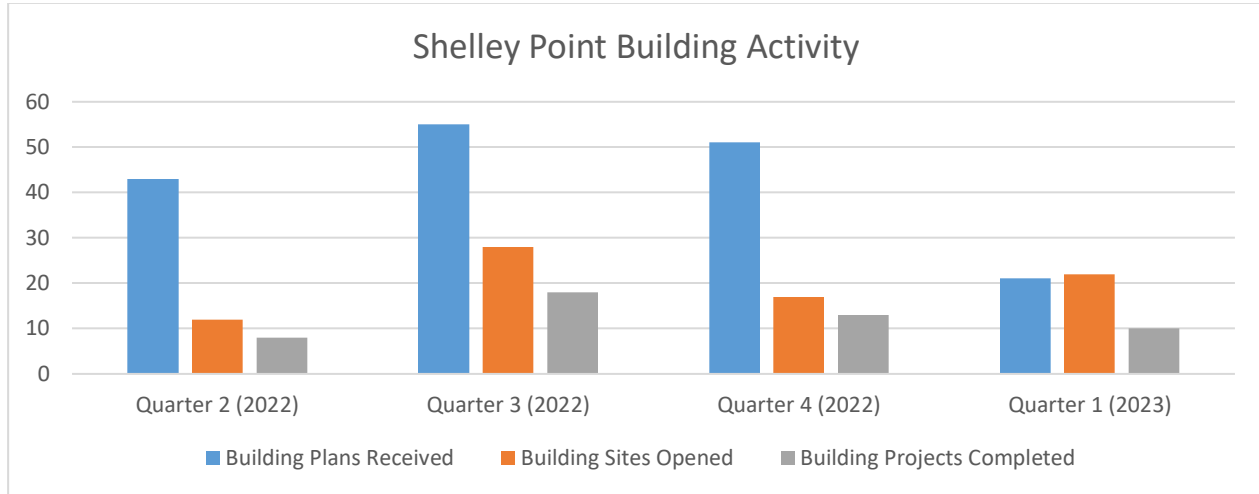
- The consolidated property was registered with the Deeds Office on 15 December 2022. This protracted process took the better part of eighteen months to complete.
- The building plans were submitted to SBM for approval on 6 February 2023.

Construction will commence after the approved building plans have been received from SBM.

Building activity:

We have hit the ground running in the new year with the builders rushing back from the December/January shut down period. This year we have implemented a new process whereby builders will have to re-apply for accreditation on an annual basis. Their performance and adherence to the rules set out in the Construction Agreement will be evaluated and form part of this accreditation renewal process. Our BCO will play a crucial part in ensuring that building sites are surveyed on a continuous basis and that we obtain the data required for evaluation purposes. A total of 147 building site surveys have been done since the beginning of the year.

As of 16 February 2023, a total of twenty-three new building sites have been opened suggesting that the construction of new houses is not slowing down. It is however worth noting that a lot of new projects waited for the new year to commence. There has been a downwards curve in the amount of new building plans received which may suggest that tougher market conditions will have an impact in the year ahead.



Quarter 4 figures are taken as of 15/02/2023. Building Plan Figures include Alterations to existing houses

Shelley Point Hotel is going Green

Due to the persisting load shedding and environmental benefits of using renewable energy, the Shelley Point Hotel has decided to invest in a R11 000 000 Battery Energy Storage System, powered by solar energy. This project will be completed in stages. The first stage will be reconstructing the carports to allow solar panels to be mounted on top of the new design. It is estimated that the reconstruction of carports will begin shortly after the Easter Weekend while the time for completion of the project is undetermined as it depends on the procurement of equipment.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Water Quality: It is evident that fish factories in the region routinely breach the terms and conditions of their Coastal Water Discharge Permits. This is frequently highlighted at mandatory Quarterly Permit Advisory Forums. Examples of this include the following:

- *Lucky Star's* fat/oil/grease (FOG) discharge in September 2022 exceeded their permitted limit by as much as 87 times.
- Their Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) limit is continuously being exceeded by as much as 14.8 times (COD is a standard in measurement of effluent pollution).

During the 4th quarter of 2022, the *Lucky Star* effluent pipeline developed a major leak near 'Simpsons Rocks'. The effluent contained a very high FOG content and the plant's processing system is, according to reports, unable to recover the FOG from the effluent before it is pumped out to sea. This limitation of the processing equipment, combined with persistent major leaks render the Stompneus Bay waters and adjacent beaches, from time-to-time, unfit for certain recreational activities. Shelley Point Estate is directly affected by any water pollution caused by the adjacent *Lucky Star* facility and it is important that members are informed of potential risks to health and safety.

The following photos illustrate the leaking pipeline, the effluent discharged (left) and the resulting pollution of the beaches (right). The FOG drifts on the surface and ends up as sand-covered oil globules on the beach.



The Environmental Sub-Committee has been monitoring the pollution for the past four years, predominantly using aerial photography. Incidents are reported to the relevant authorities as well as the associated law enforcement agencies. It might seem as if this has had a negligible effect, but since mid-January 2023 the *Lucky Star* pipeline leaks have been repaired with a noticeable improvement of the local water quality. For the first time since the pipeline's mandatory inception in late 2018, the repairs have lasted more than a few weeks. However, the pipe is still drifting on the surface in some locations and, besides being a navigational hazard, it is vulnerable to rough sea conditions. *Lucky Star* management claims that new anchors will be deployed shortly.

The SPHOA Trustee Committee is to approach the Executive of Oceana Group Ltd (the owners of *Lucky Star*) directly, to discuss the persistent pollution. In support of this effort, residents are requested to diligently report water and beach pollution incidents via the link on the SPHOA website. Sixteen complaints regarding mal-odour incidents have been lodged by residents (period August 2022 till end of January 2023).

Clearance of erven: As per the Building Design and Construction Rules of the Estate, ninety-two Notices of Intention to clear erven have been received last year and sixteen this year (as of middle February). All these erven were inspected and reported on by the Person Designated by the Trustees Committee (PDC) with recommendations to mitigate environmental impacts. Plants and animals of conservation concern are rescued prior to site clearing and transferred to designated conservation areas or Communal Property. The Building Compliance Officer (BCO) formally monitors the impact of construction activities on the environment. Where incidents related to litter and damage to the environment beyond construction site boundaries are observed, warnings or fines are issued to builders.

The recently ratified (AGM 2022) Environmental Policy and Guidelines, compiled by the EC, will assist management to implement best environmental management practices, strengthening their endeavours to protect and enhance the natural biodiversity as per the SP Constitution.

SPORT AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

Golf (John Huxted): December was a very busy month for our golf club with two major events taking place and many visitors playing the course. The Captain's Charity Day was held on 3 December, the chosen charity being HP Williams school. The day started with tea, coffee and snacks and we had over forty players playing a 2-ball scramble. The day was a fantastic success with the final total reaching R17,000. The cheque was received by two of the teachers.



The annual Christmas competition was held on 17 December, the competition format being Pairs Match Play (Santa's vs. Elves) The day started with breakfast rolls, tea and coffee with mince pies at halfway. Twenty-six players took part and were joined by their families to enjoy a fantastic end of year spit braai. The whole day was sponsored by funds collected throughout the year from competition fees. I would like to welcome all our new members and am pleased to report that we now have eighty-eight members - an increase of seventeen new members in 2022/23. Looking forward to a fun packed 2023!

Lawn Bowls (Marius Jacobs): Our Lawn Bowling Club membership continues to grow and as of February 2023 we have twenty-seven members. The club organises regular competitions, assists visiting groups, offers coaching and twice weekly club days.

We hosted twenty-four UK players of the Weaving Tour Group in February 2023. Lots of fun and laughter was had, but the competitive mood soon appeared as the scores became close. The final score was a draw with 2.5 games each. We received praise for the conditions of the green as well as the facilities.

- Free training sessions can be arranged for beginners.
- Play takes place on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9h00.
- Please contact/WhatsApp the Club Captain Marius Jacobs at 060 975 4495 for more details.



Tennis: (Marquin Strauss): Weekly tennis sessions occur on Thursday/Friday mornings. Everyone is welcome to join the club irrespective of skill level and membership forms are available at the Pro-Shop. Plans are presently in progress to attract more players such as an Open Day and/or an event combining with other sports within the Estate. For more information, see contact details in directory on back page.

Bridge (Terry Mackintosh): Our bridge club that meets at the Shelley Point Sports & Social Club is in dire need of new members so that we can resume our weekly (or even, monthly) tournaments. Some of our former members have been lost due to illness or relocation and we desperately need to replace them. All levels of players are welcome – from complete novices to experts. Contact details available in the directory on the back page.

Poker (Angelique Dermit): The Poker Club continues to flourish. At the Final Shoot-Out Tournament held at the end of November 2022, Driekie Parker was declared the winner and crowned Poker Queen. Participation at Poker Nights is proving to be very popular and attendance has increased to 16-24 players



per event. Poker nights will be announced on the Shelley Point Social WhatsApp group so keep an eye out for those as booking is essential to secure a seat. Training for novices is available prior to each tournament. And it's not just about the play. A portion of the proceeds from Poker Nights is donated to charity. So far, R700 has been donated to The Owl Orphanage to assist with costs associated with the recovery of the baby duiker from Shelley Point.

In addition to Poker, the Game Club is excited to introduce Quiz Nights. The first Quiz Night will be held on Thursday 16 March and will be a fun-filled evening with teams of six competing in a General Knowledge Quiz. So, start forming your team,

come up with a Team Name and register your team. Prizes to be awarded to members of the winning team. Further details will be announced via the Social WhatsApp group. Don't miss out!

Ladies Fitness Classes: (Tanya Schilleman). The fitness group, *Women Making Moves*, is still going strong with sessions available Monday - Fridays 8 am to 6pm and Saturdays 8am to 10.30am. In addition to the various fitness disciplines discussed in the last newsletter, there are new sessions that are coming in March as follows:

- Circle Mobility - Unlocking your body's potential through flexibility, breathing and mobility exercises.
- Partner Yoga - Increases trust and communication, creates and boosts relationship satisfaction and builds positive memories and experiences.



A chair yoga session

- Rebounding - Supercharges energy levels, boosts lymphatic drainage and improves coordination.
- Chair Yoga - The chair is your tool, allowing poses while seated or using the chair for balance.
- Coffee sessions with your body - A series of conversations to explore and explain the many ways your body talks to you. A kinesiologist, Lynn Angel, will help you to interpret the signals so you can know how to respond to your body and help it heal.

For more information about these and other sessions, times, venues etc. contact Tanya on 076 287 7412

Kayaking: (Billy Fisher): Interested in a kayaking trip to see the Shelley Point coastline? See directory for contact details

LIFE AT SHELLEY POINT

Rainfall: According to rainfall recorder, Henri Roux a total of 57,0mm occurred over the quarterly period of 15 November 2022 to 14 February 2023. Interestingly, the bulk of this (53 mm), occurred during a 36-hour period in late December which, as you all know, is traditionally a very hot and dry month on the West Coast.

Of interest too, is the 2022 total rainfall at Shelley Point from 1 January to 31 December last year which came to a total of 280,5 mm.

SP Fire Team (SPN Team): On Tuesday 24 January, the Shelley Point Fire Team performed training drills at the thatch complex on 10th street. The Fire Team are specially trained to be first responders in the event of a fire breaking out anywhere on the estate. Their function is to attempt to control the fire until the fire brigade arrives. All team members are volunteers and the team, headed by Fire Chief John Huxted, consists of twelve firefighters (eleven men and one woman), a medic and then six reserves (nicknamed The Bomb Squad) to manage crowd control and



provide extra assistance when needed. For the past decade or longer, the team has been very ably managed and coordinated by Henry Edmunds who ensures that regular fire drills are held, volunteers receive the necessary PPE and training and that the team functions properly with each member being able to perform his/her assigned duty with confidence.

What to do if you spot a fire?

- Telephone Security who will then immediately notify and assemble the Fire Team
- Give exact location of the fire and if known, the type of fire - chemical, electrical etc.
- Do not under any circumstances, attempt to put out the fire yourself.

Shelley Point Stars and Stalwarts (SPN Team): This column was started in the last edition, the goal being to highlight or create awareness of some of the amazing accomplishments and achievements (past and present) of people in our Shelley Point community. If you know of anyone has achieved or accomplished

something that would interest or inspire, please send the details to shelleypointnews@gmail.com. We will then contact them to request an interview.

This quarter, we are highlighting the accomplishments of **Mariette Jearey**, renowned conchologist.

Editor: What encouraged you or inspired you to devote so much of your life to the study of conchology?

Mariette: Since before I could walk, I was noticeably gripped by two passions – the love of living creatures and the love of music. I indulged the latter passion when received a degree in music but as a ‘binnelander’ had little contact with the sea or the sciences until I moved to Port Elizabeth (now Gqeberha) in my early thirties. It was there on the PE shores, that I started finding seashells and from then on I was hooked! All I wanted to do was collect seashells and learn everything I could about them.



Mariette Jearey (left) and a tiny sample of her extensive shell collection

Editor: So, you progressed from collecting shells as an interesting hobby to becoming an international authority. Please tell us more about that.

Mariette: Yes, it became more than just a hobby. In my search to find different shells, I walked many miles, lifted many intertidal rocks and dived many hours, especially at night when molluscs are generally more active. I even had a marine tank for live studies and started working for a shell dealer as a researcher. While

I was studying, I met and travelled with some of the most amazing and knowledgeable conchologists from all over the world. These travels included dives in the Caribbean, dives all along the US coast from Florida in the south to Seattle in the north-west, some more dives with a group of conchologists along the coast of Senegal (starting in Dakar) and dives in Phuket where I was treated like a queen.

Editor: And then, we heard through the grapevine that you discovered shells that had never been seen before?

Mariette: Yes, I was very fortunate to find two shells that I was unable to identify. As such, I sent them to specialists for further analysis. Since they had never been identified before, they were named after me. The first one, pictured alongside, was named *Callochiton jeareyae* and the second one (not pictured) *Marginella jeareyae*.



Editor: Well, we are indeed privileged to have someone with your knowledge and expertise in the conchology field living here on the Estate. So, as a final question, please let us amateurs know if there are any particularly interesting or rare shells that we can look out for on the beaches around Shelley Point.

Mariette: Unfortunately, in contrast to the East Coast of South Africa which is species rich, the West Coast is species poor although the few species that do exist here are very abundant. Some of the species that are found here are discussed in the article featured in Conservation Corner. However, there are the beautiful *Argonauta nodosa* (Lightfoot 1786) that are worth looking out for. These are the egg cases of an octopus and can be found October-December.

Good Samaritans feed hungry dogs in Steenbergs Cove (SPN Team):

It was brought to our notice that a woman by the name of Shani and her son were asking for pet food donations as they had undertaken to feed numerous dogs in the area called Windhoek - basically an extension of Steenbergs Cove. Many of the families in the area are living below the breadline and as such, battle to feed themselves, their families and their dogs. In most cases, the dogs are not purposely neglected or starved. It is more a case of simply not having the funds or any kind of steady income to enable them to provide food for their families and pets. Some people say, 'But why do they have animals then?' Yes, it's a valid question but this still doesn't help the situation of the animal who is not in this situation by choice.

Once Shani and her son began seeing to the dogs, more dogs came and now there are currently a total of eleven dogs that Shani's son is presently feeding. *The Hairy Dog* has provided a dog feeding bin which was

sponsored by somebody in the community while a huge plastic container cut in half, provides drinking water. Feeding eleven dogs is proving to be a big drain on their pockets (they are currently going through about eight bags of food a month!) and SPN is therefore imploring our homeowner and resident community to assist with any kind of pet food donations – tins, dry pellets, mealie meal, rice – whatever you can spare. So far, one member of the Shelley Point community has undertaken to donate one large bag of dog food every month and we are hoping that more people on the Estate will be able to add to that.

Ever since their dog feeding scheme began towards the end of last year, they have not only seen a change in the appearance of the dogs but also a change in their demeanors. These dogs that were once very thin, depressed and scared, are now happy, lively and friendly dogs.

But these good Samaritans don't just assist the dogs. Their kind heartedness has also extended to some of the underprivileged and less fortunate families themselves. More details of this will be provided in the next edition of SPN but for now, any food donations such as fruit, vegetables, frozen chicken portions, milk, toilet paper, washing powder etc. would also be hugely appreciated by them and would help to give these families a little bit of hope and dignity.

If you can help in ANY way possible, please contact Shani on 076 306 6414. As a largely privileged community here at Shelley Point, let's do what we can to assist a community which is less fortunate than we are – whether it is by helping to feed their animals or by helping to feed the families themselves.

CONSERVATION CORNER:

As our featured personality under the *Shelley Point Stars and stalwarts* section, Mariette has kindly agreed to tell us about the marine molluscs that can be found here at Shelley Point. Since this subject is too big for one article, this edition will cover some of the bivalves (mussels and clams) that are found here while the next edition of Shelley Point News will feature the gastropods (sea snails).

Marine molluscs at Shelley Point (Mariette Jearey):

Upon my arrival at Shelley Point two years ago, my first impression was “what an abundance of seashells”. However, although there are many shells along the shore, the variety here is limited to only a few species - contrary to the species rich east coast of South Africa.

Black mussels attach themselves tightly to the substratum by byssal threads or “beards”. These are produced as a liquid, which sets in contact with seawater. The threads are very adhesive - reportedly they can even cling to Teflon! Black mussels form clusters or beds on rocks in the intertidal zone, creating a habitat for a multitude of organisms. Mussels are the pantry or bread bin for many creatures of the sea (e.g. crayfish), land (e.g. humans) and sky (e.g. Black Oystercatchers and Seagulls). Marine pollution and over-exploitation will impact severely on all organisms reliant on them as a food source. They are sedentary filter feeders, feeding on phytoplankton and bits of algae. Millions of mussel shells are washed up onto the beach and on dry land we see fossilised clams (*Venerupis* sp.) densely packed in sedimentary calcareous rocks. At Shell Bay Point, a 3m high shell terrace, created over centuries by dead, “spooned-in” mussels, can be found. At Shelley Point we have four frequently observed species of bivalves – three mussels and a clam species:

- The **Black mussel** (*Choromytilus meridionalis*) – occurs intertidally on rocks. It has a shiny blue-black colour, growing up to 150mm in length.

- The **Ribbed mussel**, (*Aulacomya ater*) – occurs sub-tidally (up to 40 m deep), often attached to the root-like holdfasts of Sea Bamboo. It has a brown to black colour with a ribbed bivalve shell growing up to 90mm in length. It is an important food source for the Cape Rock Lobster (*Jasus lalandii*).
- The **Mediterranean mussel**, (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) – an alien invasive mussel from Europe that was first seen in South Africa during the late 1970s. It is now abundant along the West Coast and outcompetes the indigenous Black mussel for space. It occurs intertidally, higher on the rocky shore and away from sand. It is broader and more pitted than the indigenous Black mussel. It has a black-violet shell, shading to light brown and grows to 120mm in length.
- The **White (Sand) mussel** (*Donax serra*) – this burrowing bivalve is a clam and is found along the intertidal zone of exposed sandy beaches. It has a wedge-shaped, coarsely ridged white shell.

It is important to keep in mind that all these molluscan bivalves are tainted by **red tide** because they are filter feeders. Thus, toxins from some types of microscopic red algae (dinoflagellates) are concentrated in their digestive systems. On the West Coast of SA, harmful algal concentrations (known as blooms) occur during late summer to autumn when pulses of upwelling driven by the south and south-easterly winds blow the surface waters offshore.

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning is caused in humans when affected shellfish is consumed. The neurotoxins are concentrated in the mussels and eating only one can cause death. These toxins can remain in the mussels for weeks after the red tide has dissipated, until the mussels have filter-rinsed the toxins out. If the red tide remains in low concentrations, the mussels may remain poisonous for months. These paralyzing toxins are heat stable and therefore not destroyed by boiling the mussels.



Camera Trap Initiative (Pieter Viljoen):

August 2022 saw the start of a Shelley Point crowd-funded initiative to purchase a good quality trail-camera to monitor the local wildlife. The main objective being fun, but also to learn more about what animals are active during the night/day and habitat utilisation. The focus area is the undeveloped dune area on the south-eastern part of the estate. The initiative carries the TC's approval and care is taken not to place the camera where residents' privacy is compromised. Despite the difficulties caused by windy conditions that trigger the camera, interesting and useful information has been collected. By frequently moving the camera throughout the area, the following observations have been made:

- Two African Wild Cats and a solitary Cape grey mongoose.
- The intensive utilisation of the dune habitat by three antelope species - in space and time.
- The dominant antelopes, with overlapping home ranges in this area were the Common Duiker and Cape Grysbok. Steenbok less abundant.
- The abundance of Helmeted Guinea Fowl, Cape Spurfowl and a variety of passerine birds such as the Bokmakierie, Grey Tit, Karoo Scrub Robin and Cape Bulbul were also observed.
- Once, a stray dog and some stray cats.

- The amazing difference between camera-recorded summer and winter temperatures 30cm above the ground. For example, a February maximum of 47°C and an August minimum of 2°C were recorded.
- The camera is not sensitive enough to pick up tortoises – they must be too slow!



The placement of a 10cm deep waterhole in the dunes has proved to be a magnet for birds and mammals during the summer season. It may be well worth investing in a few well-designed waterholes (drown-proof) in our designated conservation zones on the Estate.

Wildlife rescue and WhatsApp group (SPN Team): Several volunteers have been instrumental in rescuing injured wildlife on the Estate. A big shout out goes to Rou, Marcus and Fiona who successfully rescued several penguins, two which were severely injured. Additionally, two seal pups were also rescued and thankfully survived the trip to HBSRC and our rescue team here will continue to support and assist them. The duiker calf which was rescued and sent to The Owl Orphanage is apparently also recovering well. Rou has now started a wildlife WhatsApp group called *St Helena Wildlife Spotters* which will allow rescue parties to quickly and efficiently assist injured or threatened wildlife. One of the main goals of the group is to get all the animal rescue groups onto one group. This will avoid duplicate call-outs to multiple respondents. If you would like to join the group, please contact Rou on 0833752526 to receive the link. The group is for wildlife matters only. Please remember, when reporting an animal in distress, send a pin drop of the location so that the rescue team can easily find the injured animal. Also, if you see anyone harming any of our wildlife, take a photo and send it to the group so that the person concerned can be identified and reported to the appropriate authorities. Sadly, yet another bokkie was killed on 10 February due to the actions of a reckless and speeding driver!

Straw Itch mites a cause of severe itching February/March (SPN Team): For those of you who are new to Shelley Point, brace yourselves! This is the time of the year when most of us suffer the most unbearable itching and unsightly rashes. No, it's not bedbugs so no need to throw out or sterilize your bedding! Interestingly, it only seems to plague residents living in Shelley Point while people living outside the Estate remain largely unaffected.

Kayla Liebenberg, a postgraduate student from Stellenbosch University has been studying this phenomenon for the last few years as part of her research on insect fauna associated with galls found on Rooikrans trees. In 2021, she collected data from three locations – Shelley Point, Fransmanshoek Conservancy and Melkbosstrand to assess what creatures could be linked to the galls. The findings have very recently been published and the report is an extremely interesting read.

Basically, Kayla and her associates retrieved Pyemotes 'straw-itch mites' from the Rooikrans galls. These are known to incidentally fall on humans who encounter the host plant (while gardening, walking through the estate etc.). The mites then bite and this causes the itchy skin rashes. Because the rashes and bites often only appear the next morning, people assume that they have been bitten during the night while sleeping (hence the bed-bug concern).

Interestingly, Kayla's research has also uncovered three new mite species which were retrieved across all three study locations with itch mite incidences also found at Fransmanshoek Conservancy. The research report is entitled, *Itching for an answer: Gall-forming biological control agent contains an itch-mite species found at locations known for periodic bite outbreaks*. If you would like to read the report, please email shelleypointnews@gmail.com and a copy will be forwarded to you.

Feral Cat Update (SPN Team): It's been a busy quarter for the feral cat team with numerous male and female cats being taken to the animal clinic for sterilization. Unfortunately, there are still cats being taken in only to find they have already been sterilized and that their ears were not clipped previously. This leads to a lot of wasted effort and time as well as a lot of stress on the cat who is trapped and transported to Vredenburg for nothing. Please ensure that any cats taken for sterilization have their ears clipped or if they are domestic cats, are collared upon return. Fiona MacDuff has been a real stalwart regarding the sterilization programme here at Shelley Point. One particularly distressing case involved a male cat which was taken in for neutering during which the veterinary surgeon discovered a snare deeply embedded in its abdomen. This was successfully removed and the cat sterilized and returned to the Estate.

In addition to trapping and transporting for sterilization (including a particularly devious mother cat who kept moving her babies so that Fiona couldn't find them), she has also successfully tamed and homed five feral kittens. So, it was with a great deal of sadness that we learned that Fiona has resigned as feral cat coordinator. With her knowledge and expertise of wildlife coupled with her passion and love of animals, she will be sorely missed. We have several volunteers like Fiona who work tirelessly to preserve and protect our wildlife. Homeowners and residents need to be mindful of the fact that our volunteers sacrifice a great deal of time and effort in looking after the fauna and flora of the Estate and they receive no remuneration for this. However, they must often deal with complaints and abuse instead of the support and assistance they should be given.



SPHOA DIRECTORY			
Position	Name	E Mail	Telephone
Estate Manager	Aldo Fourie	manager@sphoa.co.za	066 529 5682
Administrator	Deirdre de Lange	admin@sphoa.co.za	022 742 1309
Security Manager	Daniel Plaatjies	ShelleyPointSecurity@servest.co.za	082 615 4883
Security Control Room	Controllers	NA	022 742 1380 022 742 1888 066 359 4273
Pro shop /Club house	Ilse Lawrence	shelleypcc@gmail.com	022 742 1037
Golf captain	John Huxted	john.huxted1@btinternet.com	063 762 8034
Bowls captain	Marius Jacobs	Marius.jacobs020@gmail.com	060 975 4495
Tennis captain	Marquin Strauss	marquinstrauss@hotmail.com	073 203 2411
Bridge captain	Terry Mackintosh	didge28@gmail.com	076 600 4641
Poker / Gaming	Angelique Dermit	Office.dermotech@gmail.com	0824821741
Yoga	Derri Crockett	derri@sailing.co.za	083 303 1546
Ladies Fitness Group	Tanya Schilleman	azzurrablubijoux@gmail.com	076 2877412
Kayaking	Billy Fisher		082 8055363
Water Safety Initiative	Adrian Oelofse		084 2409909
Community notice board	Chris Roberts	chezroberts@mweb.co.za	076 783 2035
SA Police Service	St Helena Bay		022 736 8060
SA Police Service	National		10111
Ambulance	National		10177
Cell phone emergency	Universal		112
WHATSAPP GROUPS			
	Administrators		
Shelley Point Info	Karen Crooks		082 823 0919
	Karin Board		082 215 8423
Shelley Point Social Mob	Pieter Swanepoel		079 607 2127
	Charmaine Swanepoel		082 757 1761
Fauna and Flora WhatsApp group	Pieter Swanepoel		079 607 2127
	Charmaine Swanepoel		082 757 1761