



In brief:

- Municipal meeting taking place 21 June 2018
- Outstanding membership fees
- The case of the talking cherry guava
- Vulnerable flower species spotted at Noetzie
- Update on sale of Pezula Castle
- Community news
- Rainfall

Chairman's Chat

Robby Robertson

Fern and I are presently in Canada enjoying a Rocky Mountain tour. Prior to that we spent time with our son Rowan & his wife Cara who now live in Slave Lake, Alberta. Their daughter Harriet who was born in Canada, and we were there for her first birthday on 24 May. Fern & I will be returning to South Africa on 09 June.

As regards Noetzie, we have at long last fixed a date for our next meeting with the Municipality.

This will be on the 21 June, and will probably be attended by Julie, Wendy, Margi, Richard & me. There are a

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number of previously raised issues which have not been attended to or finalised, and we hope that we can make some progress this time round. As the 2017 fires are now in the past, and the new

Municipal Manager should by now have got into the swing of things, and possibly worked out where Noetzie is located, maybe we will move forward on these matters.

We will keep you updated through the next news letter.

Outstanding NCOA membership fees

Richard Moultrie



As you may know, the Noetzie Conservancy Homeowners Association (“NCOA”) performs a variety of functions in relation to the preservation of the Noetzie Conservancy and the representation of homeowners at Noetzie. These functions include engagement with the Knysna Municipality on behalf of Noetzie property owners on matters such as planning and building approval, access and security, waste management and roads. The NCOA also maintains the “school site” and monitors the water health in the Noetzie River. At its meeting of February 2018, the NCOA executive committee identified the following matters that it would be seeking to address this year:

Municipal and spatial planning:

- Responding to public toilet re-siting and erf 20374 (previously portion 84) proposal
- Appointment of Noetzie member for Ward 9 Ward Committee
- Reinstatement of river / beach path on the thoroughfare / commonage
- Securing access via Pezula (Lagoon Drive)
- Monitoring riverside boardwalk extension to ensure continued public access
- Clarifying and correction of municipal map book (2017)
- Clarifying status of KLC Zoning Scheme (2000)
- Clarifying river/ beach frontage (thoroughfare and commonage) ownership
- Clarifying access rights via the parking lot and Old Wagon Rd
- Clarifying access and parking rights at the riverside
- Rationalisation and renewal of public signage
- Monitoring Pezula development plans for the “Infill” (erf 23533)
- Investigating new “passing” section on Old Wagon Road
- Maintenance of the Noetzie “General Site Plan”

We trust that you will agree that these are important matters that deserve to be supported by all Noetzie owners.

Environment:

- Adoption of Noetzie fire action plan
- Clarifying status of environmental management documents (EMP / EMMS / GEM / Duty of Care)
 - Clarifying, updating and rationalising building guidelines / rules
 - Securing and maintaining regular river water testing and reporting
- Adoption of general NCOA strategy for post-fire land rehabilitation
- Addressing invasive species
- Residential refuse management, including recycling protocols
- Securing and maintaining public litter bins

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Section 1 of the Noetzie Town Planning Scheme, as approved and gazetted, requires that every registered owner of an erf located within the Resort Zone II Zone within the area of the Noetzie Conservancy is required to be a member of the NCOA.

In terms of clause 3.1.1. of the NCOA Constitution:

“Every such person who is a natural person shall be an Owner Member. An owner who is a natural person and is the sole owner of the erf in question may nominate no more than one additional Owner Member over the age of 18 in writing to the secretary of the NCOA. Where the owner is a legal person, it shall nominate in writing to the secretary of the NCOA, at least one but no more than two person(s) over the age of 18 who shall be the Owner Member(s). Owner Members shall, subject to all other provisions of this Constitution, automatically be registered as members and each shall pay the membership

fees set from time to time by the NCOA. Upon payment of the membership fees, the Owner Member(s) shall then be considered a member(s) in good standing, and shall have the right to attend an AGM or any other general meeting and vote on all issues raised in such meetings.”

Clause 4.1.1 states that written reminders shall be sent out within 40 days of the AGM at which the annual membership fee is approved, and shall be payable within a further 30 days.

Clause 4.2 provides that:

“Any Owner Member failing to pay the annual membership fee by 31 October of the financial year in which it became due shall ipso facto cease to be a member in good standing and his or her membership and right to vote and to participate in (but not to attend) the proceedings of a general meeting or any committee of the NCOA shall be suspended for the duration of the time that his membership fee remains unpaid. Save for an Owner Member who is an Owner Member by virtue of the fact

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that he or she is a natural person and registered as an owner as envisaged in clause 3.1.1 above, the membership of an Owner Member who has outstanding membership fees for 2 (two) consecutive years shall automatically be terminated. Re-admission will be through the standard application process.”

The NCOA Constitution also allows for the admission of ordinary members and student members.

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting held on 28 December 2017, the membership of the NCOA decided that the annual membership fee in respect of the financial year ending 31 October 2018 would remain unchanged at R550 per owner and ordinary member and R225 in respect of student members. As required by clause 4.1.1. written reminders for payment of membership fees were sent out during February 2018, and membership fees were thus payable within 30 days.

Thank you to owner members who have paid membership fees for 2018.

Conservation: The Cherry Guava

Laetitia Nienaber Oosthuisen



It is not that the cherry guava trees at Noetzie are a menace. For the past 70 years only a few crept into the forest. In fact, only about three. And asking them, they whispered that they have been there forever. They had a long story about mother tree being chopped down, and them finding a way to live again, because the monkeys and the baboons were so unhappy without them.

As an aside, I know why the monkeys and baboons love the trees. I used to climb one in my mom’s garden when I was a gazillion years younger. It was about six metres high with the sweetest fruit at the top. We used to pick them, just two hands full at a time. Cooking time five minutes flat in a microwave oven, and two hands full were just enough for one jar of the most awesome jam for our toast the next

morning. Packed with vitamin C, in addition to the seeds having many health benefits, including antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antimicrobial properties.

Psidium cattleianum (Myrtaceae) is easy to control in a city garden and make quite beautiful standard trees. Why then all the fuss, and a no-no in gardens these days? One could say the same about pine trees, they provide pine nuts, astringent for a beautiful skin, gum to chew on and pine cones as fire-starters for the fireplace, and planks for houses.



We really do not want to hunt the buck for their skins to make tents, do we? But pines also bring fires and hardly anything grows where the pine needles form carpets (except off course mushrooms if you know where to look).

I read somewhere that indigenous is if it has been growing there undisturbed for more than ten years. Surely, then the three cherry guavas should be listed as indigenous. Like the reeds for which we need a permit today, if we should dare to cut them.

The pips from the awesome fruit of the cherry guava, aka strawberry tree, is not really a problem, not at Noetzie, else we would have had hundreds of them in the forest by now. It is when they fall or are chopped down that the problem really starts.

But it is this very cloning ability that made the three trees survive here and it is said that the clonally-produced suckers tend to have a greater leaf area, which will shade out anything indigenous. (Can I plant some where the reeds grow?)

P. cattleianum is both very shade-tolerant and able to withstand soils with a moderate to high pH level. It is also capable of withstanding heavy leaf litter and responding to bending or breaking of its branches by generating vigorous shoots. So it loves Noetzie.

This means we must talk foreign, because we are a conservancy and our vision is heaven without aliens. It is just not cool to have declared invasive plants in our gardens at Noetzie.

In 2016 the Cherry Guava was listed as a Category 1b Listed Invasive Species. This means prohibited but exempted if in Possession or Under control). A person in control of a Category 1 b Listed Invasive Species must control the listed invasive species in compliance with sections 75(1), (2) and (3) of the Act. A person contemplated in sub-regulation (2) must allow an authorised official from the Department to enter onto the land to monitor, assist with or implement the control of the listed invasive species, or compliance with the Invasive Species Management Programme contemplated in section 75(4) of the Act.

This boils down to an invasive species that may not be owned, imported into South Africa, grown, moved, sold, given as a gift or dumped in a waterway.

There is no way we can control it at Noetzie, because we have no control over monkeys and baboons.

Quick facts

- Common name: Strawberry guava
- Scientific name: *Psidium cattleianum* (Myrtaceae)
- Alternative common names: Aarbeikoejawel (Afrikaans)
- Origin: South America (Brazil)
- Invasive status in South Africa: Existing legislation: CARA 2002 – Category 3 NEMBA – Category 1b (*this means do not plant them, but what if it has been growing there for more than ten years?*)
- Where in South Africa is it a problem? KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga (*thank heavens not Noetzie*)
- How does it spread? Sprouting and by seeds (*seriously, not at Noetzie, the tree says*)
- Why is it a problem? Competes with and has the potential to replace indigenous species (*their invasion did not do a good job at Noetzie over the past 70 years*)
- General description: Evergreen shrub or slender tree up to 8m high with smooth, cylindrical branchlets. Dark green, smooth, shiny, thick and leathery leaves. White flowers from October to December. Fruit/Seeds: Purplish-red fruit with white, sweet flesh (*awesomely sweet if picked from the top of tree*)
- Uses: Birds and probably monkeys eat the fruits, edible fruits, ornament (*may I keep one just as an ornament, I will eat all the fruit, there will be nothing left for monkeys or birds?*)
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Outdoor classroom update

Wendy Dewberry



The 2018 Committee agreed to allocate R2000 to the refurbishment of the Knoetzie Conservancy Outdoor Classroom project after the fires in June 2017. Previously, the tables, chairs, information stations (with all the printed and laminated information cards), the tree labels, owl box and path-bark chips were all paid for by Julie over the years. The Knysna Epilepsy Centre has remade the three information-station and visitor's book boxes. These were paid for by the committee (R1650) and are now ready for collection and will be installed in due course.

In the meantime, Julie paid for a truckload of stones (R1300), which has been used to demarcate the pathways to make it easier for visitors to keep footprints to one path and prevent unnecessary disturbance. The pond has been repaired and is nearly full from the lovely rains.

If the committee agrees to a little more funding, we have chosen to replace the burned wooden benches with cast concrete.

As part of the monitoring process of the Noetzie Outdoor Classroom Project I asked Outramps Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers CREW member Nicki van Berkel to visit the site, which she did with her Geologist husband Fred.

This took place on Monday 14 May. She has agreed to create a Knoetzie Conservancy Outdoor Classroom project on what was iSpot and which has migrated to iNaturalist. She took many photos of plants currently on the property. She also indicated which should be removed which is also very helpful.

A particularly exciting discovery was the *Oxalis pendulifolium* as it is listed as Near Vulnerable on the Red List of South African Plants. More later – perhaps on the Facebook page.



Nikki von Berkel and her husband Fred at the outdoor classroom site.



Oxalis pendulifolium.

Municipal Matters

Wendy Dewberry



I have been appointed as the Knoetzie Ward 9 representative and will be responsible for taking all municipal and local concerns forward to the meetings on behalf of our members through the NCOA committee. Therefore, if you have any ideas or concerns about Noetzie within Ward 9, please email me whistle@agnet.co.za.

The current list we will submit this period looks something like this:

1. Signage in the carpark needs to be replaced or upgraded. The carpark looks tatty because of all the developments that have been ongoing over the past year.
2. Bins for beach and carpark must be replaced and monkey-proofed to ensure the vervets and baboons don't develop bad manners.
3. Path from beach to river access – the path has been professionally surveyed by Mark de Bruin and it needs to be ensured that access is safe and viable.
4. Security – we would like cameras in the car park. The municipality has a budget and intention to install cameras in all tourist and crime hotspots. So far, reports from the previous ward committee meeting are that in areas where cameras have been installed, crime has dropped significantly.
5. Bollard at the end of the runway - the potentially dangerous “runway in the sky” needs some attention, for now we have placed a rubbish bin in situ to prevent an accident.
6. Rexford Access issue – the ongoing issue of access to and from Knoetzie via the Rexford/Pezula area will be added to this list on the Ward 9 platform, although the NCOA committee will also continue into the 4th year of liaison around this with the municipality and Pezula.
7. Fire hydrant – as demonstrated, Knoetzie needs a fire hydrant and this will be added to our list of requests.

Update on Noetzie Castle

Ambre Nicolson



Recent media reports that the castle was sold by auction in Johannesburg on 15 March 2018 have turned out to be untrue. However, according to owner Keith Stewart an additional sale is pending.

In a recent phone interview Keith Stewart confirmed that the property was not sold at the auction. “The reserve price was not met and therefore the property was not sold,” he said. However, reports from those who watched the auction take place confirmed that the gavel slammed down at R27 million.

According to Stewart there has been a subsequent offer to purchase that expires at the end of June 2018. “Should this sale not go through we will be happy to hold on to the property,” he said.

Bronwyn Eyre, of Dream Knysna Properties, confirmed that the castle was up for auction on 15

March 2018 by High Street Auctions, off site in Johannesburg. “Noetzie Castle, currently registered as Pezula Private Castle, was auctioned together with less than half a dozen Knysna properties on the same day; the last of which was Noetzie Castle. Bidding started at R22 million,” she said.

Prior to the auction High Street lead auctioneer, Joff van Reenen was quoted in Business Tech saying, “The castles last changed hands more than seven years ago for in excess of R35 million, and have in recent years again sporadically appeared on the market through traditional real estate brokerages.”

The castles also appeared on the market in 2015 for an asking price of R56 million.

Community news

A new member of the Noetzie community

The Wynne-Jones clan recently celebrated the birth of Phoebe, daughter to Catherine and Gareth Duggan and little sister to Sophie. Pictured here is a delighted looking Sophie meeting her little sister for the first time. Congratulations to all.



Phoebe with big sister Sophie.

John Derek Bond-Smith, 1959 - 2018



John skippering a yacht with his uncle, Charles Bond-Smith, during a Transatlantic crossing.

John Derek Bond-Smith died on 5 January 2018.

In the words of his brother Greg: "John loved poetry, reading, gardening and the great outdoors. He spent many happy childhood holidays at Noetzie."
Our condolences to friends and family.

Rainfall for the last six months

