



Nautilus News

April 2025



*Night sky over Fransmanshoek
Jaco Lötter*



Picture crédit: Rene Hodges



Fransmanshoek Conservancy, our local piece of paradise

About the conservancy

Fransmanshoek Conservancy, established in 1994, is the oldest conservancy within the Western Cape, and the first to appoint full-time rangers (since December 2004). The main objectives of the Conservancy are the conservation, protection and rehabilitation of the 14 km stretch of coastline from Baievis, Kanon, in the west to Springerbaai Eco-estate in the east, and associated inland sections.

Where does the name 'Fransmanshoek' come from?

On 11 September 1763, the French Warship *Le Fortune* was wrecked off the southern side of the Fransmanshoek Peninsula (near Vegkop). It is reported in entries from the Castle in Cape Town that the ship's crew survived and walked to Cape Town, with the assistance of local farmers. Along the way, locals wanted to know where this band of French people was coming from, and so the name 'Frenchman's Corner' or Fransmanshoek, came into being.

Things to do at Fransmanshoek

Four hiking trails wind their way through the conservancy: Oystercather (15km coastal trail), Grysbok (3km fynbos trail), Geoff Cowley (0.9km fynbos and coastal trail) and Snuifklip (0.4km fynbos and coastal trail). Access to all the trails is free of charge.

Fishing in Fransmanshoek is both rewarding and challenging, with famous spots like Die Saal and Verleëklip situated on the edge of deep water. These areas are known for substantial catches, including species such as shark, cob, garrick, and shad. However, these spots can be dangerous, especially when retrieving large fish, so caution is advised. Remember your fishing licence.

Braai and toilet facilities are available, while benches have been placed at various scenic points, should you simply wish to soak up the scenery. Visit the Fransmanshoek [website](http://www.fransmanshoek.co.za) for more information.

Sources:

www.fransmanshoek.co.za www.misgunstfarm.co.za



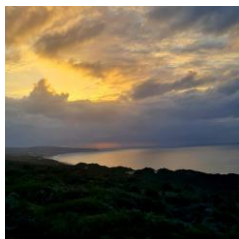
Reserve Manager's Report

1. Building Projects

- Units 16, 17, 25, 34 and 52 are under construction, while units 43, 45 and 31 are being upgraded.
- Units 48 and 82 are completed; we welcome the new residents to Nautilus Bay!
- The aesthetics committee met on 8 May; please note that the next meeting will take place on **23 May 2025**.
- Please ask all contractors to look out for animals, especially tortoises.

2. Water

- Water usage for the month of April was measured on the 25th.
- The bulk water reading was 29 574 kl; the reserve used 1 196 kl



More of Rene's beautiful nature photos

4. Estate Projects

- Once again, we have been very busy with the removal of alien vegetation this month; activities in this regard will continue for some time to come.
- Residents are requested to report alien vegetation in their gardens that need to be removed.
- The sewerage station has been upgraded.
- Problem areas on our roads have been identified and repairs on these areas will commence soon.



3. Environment

- Just a reminder that the beaches are cleaned on Fridays; residents are welcome to lend a hand.
- Remember to check out our beautiful walking trails; they are maintained for your safety, convenience and enjoyment. Do share photographs of the interesting or unusual things you encounter when exploring the walking trails.
- Please be on the lookout for small tortoises, which have been spotted on the beach recently.
- Earlier in April, two sick seagulls were collected from the beach and taken to the SAPREC Seabird and Penguin Rehabilitation Centre.

SAPREC is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping all seabirds that are brought into the centre; once rehabilitated, the penguins and seabirds are released into the wild. Species treated include the endangered African Penguin, endangered Cape Gannet, Cape Cormorant and Petrels. The organization relies on donations; visit the [SAPREC website](#) for more information.

Out and about during May

Midbrak Market

Brinkleys River Village

Every Saturday from 9:00

Wild Oats Farmers Market

Sedgefield, Every Saturday

16 & 17 May

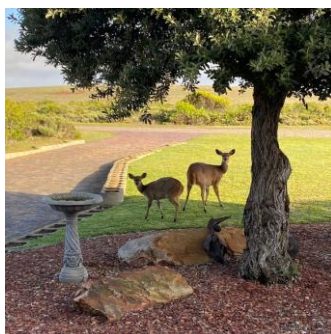
Book launch: SA Indigenous Garden

Plants by Elsa Pooley, Geoff Nichols & Andrew Hankey Botanical Gardens, George

31 May Hartenbos-Albertinia Rail and Safari Trip

5. Maintenance

- Maintenance was carried out on the lawnmower and all grass-cutting equipment; grass was cut where necessary.
- The perimeter fences were inspected; it is apparent that much work needs to be done. Residents will be kept informed.
- The water troughs at the pump stations are now cleaned every Monday and new ones have been installed.
- Regular cleaning of the viewing deck is ongoing.
- Weekly inspections of all the pump stations, the sewerage plant and internal firebreaks are ongoing.
- The sewerage plant is operating as expected. The plant was seeded twice during the month.



6. Security

- We have a problem with garbage being taken to the bin after Wednesdays. Please be on the lookout for the culprits.
- “My Estate Life” is up and running; if you need help, please contact Marcel.
- Please send all your visitors access control tags. Long-term builders can be uploaded as staff and sent for approval.
- Residents are requested to please report any security issues to Marcel or Markus Killian.
- Please check that you have updated the number for security: (079) 553 5208
- Security cameras are functioning correctly and are being maintained through monthly service visits.



7. General

- Residents and their contractors are reminded to please keep to our speed limit of **30km/h** and to be on the lookout for snakes, tortoises and other animals.
- Please ensure all refuse is placed on the pavement before **08h30 on Wednesdays**. Please use the blue bags for recycling purposes (paper, cardboard, tin, glass, and plastic items). Kindly do not include polystyrene or any household waste in the blue bags, as a single prohibited item will result in the entire bag being left behind.
- When leaving the estate for an extended period, homeowners are reminded to ensure that all doors are securely closed and locked, and that all lights are switched off.
- Homeowners are reminded to submit their approved, up-to-date building plans in accordance with Guidelines for the Conservation Levy.
- Please be on the lookout for fires. Teamwork, coupled with a fast response, is the best way to deal with this threat.

Share your news and photos

Owners/residents are encouraged to forward any news or photographs that may be of interest to the Nautilus Bay community to deidre.lotter@gmail.com



Nautilus Bay Exco expresses its gratitude to all owners for their timely levy payments, enabling Marcel and his team to carry out the necessary maintenance on our beautiful estate.