



Nautilus News

June 2025



Deidre Lotter

In this issue

*Blooming
wonderful: The
Cape aloe*

*Reserve
Manager's Report*

*Out and About in
July/August*



Paul Lubbinge

Blooming wonderful: The Cape aloe

This time of year, we are fortunate to witness the glorious sight of the deep, orange-red flowers of the Cape aloe (aloe ferox) scattered across the landscape. We are so used to seeing these beauties all around us that we hardly ever stop to think about the value they add to our lives, both practically and aesthetically.

To encounter Aloe ferox is to witness a paradox: a plant that is both fierce and nurturing, austere yet abundant in its gifts.

Each leaf, thick and fleshy, is a reservoir of life, storing water to endure months of drought. When the plant blooms, it transforms into a spectacle of fiery elegance, sending up tall, candelabra-like spikes adorned with tubular orange-red flowers. These vibrant blossoms attract sunbirds and bees, turning the aloe into a hub of life amid the starkness of its surroundings.

Beyond its aesthetic allure, Aloe ferox is a cornerstone of utility, its properties harnessed for centuries by indigenous peoples and modern industries alike.



Jaco Lotter

The plant's bitter sap, extracted from its leaves, is a treasure trove of medicinal and cosmetic potential. The Khoisan, among the earliest inhabitants of southern Africa, used the gel to soothe burns, heal wounds, and alleviate skin irritations.

From ointments that calm sunburned skin to supplements that aid digestion, Aloe ferox has found its way into pharmacies and homes worldwide.

The plant's deep root system stabilizes soil, preventing erosion in fragile landscapes, while its nectar-rich flowers provide sustenance for pollinators, supporting biodiversity in regions where every drop of resources counts.

The Cape aloe is more than a survivor of arid climes; it is a botanical marvel, weaving together beauty, utility, and a quiet wisdom that speaks to both nature and humanity.



Deidre Lotter

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.
- The aesthetics committee will meet on Friday 11 July and Friday 25 July, at 08:30.

2. Water

- Water usage for the month was measured on 28 June.
- The bulk water reading was 31 921 kl.

3. Estate Projects

- The beach deck has been upgraded by the addition of retaining planks to keep the deck clear of sand. It has also been varnished.
- The removal of alien vegetation is ongoing.
- After many complaints of speeding, the installation of speedhumps will begin this month. Please be on the lookout for them.
- We now get daily water reports from the reservoir.
- Repairs to the road leading to the main gate have started. Please watch your speed, and drive carefully.

Nautilus Bay: Reservoir

Water flow measured flowing into the reservoir (kLitres - please use the controls above to select the period)



Repairs to the road leading to the main gate have started. Please watch your speed, and drive carefully.



Out and about during July & August

Midbrak Market

Brinkleys River Village
Every Saturday from
9:00

Wild Oats Farmers
Market Sedgefield,
Every Saturday

4 – 13 July
Knysna Oyster
Festival

4 – 13 July
Plett Ocean Festival

8-10 August
Klein Karoo
Klassique,
Oudtshoorn

16 August
Winter Wine Festival
Fancourt, George

28-30 August
George Landbouskou

Important reminder

*Homeowners who
have not yet
complied are
requested to submit
their approved, up-
to-date building
plans in accordance
with Guidelines for
the Conservation
Levy.*

4. Environment

■ Residents are invited to join us on Fridays when the beach is cleaned. Thank you to those who regularly lend a hand, and to everyone who picks up litter when walking/fishing on the beach.

5. Maintenance

- Maintenance was carried out on the lawnmower and all grass-cutting equipment; grass was cut where necessary.
- New water troughs have been installed at the pump stations and are cleaned every Monday.
- 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

- No incidents were reported during the past month
- Residents are requested to please report any security issues to Marcel or Markus Killian.

Wildlife spotted on the reserve in the past month

Thanks to Gavin Shear for sharing these amazing photographs of a rock kestrel (kransvalk) after a successful hunt.

The rock kestrel is often confused with the red kestrel, but the head of the red kestrel is lighter grey in colour, and it is less common in the Nautilus Bay area. Thanks for clarifying the difference, Marcel!

Remember to send any interesting photos of our fauna and flora to deidre.lotter@gmail.com.



Gavin Shear



Gavin Shear



Nautilus Bay Exco expresses its gratitude to all owners for their timely levy payments, enabling Marcel and his team to keep our beautiful reserve in pristine condition.