



In this issue

What is light pollution, and why
is it a problem?

Reserve Manager's Report

Out and About in June & July

Nautilus News

May 2025



PC: Deidre Lotter



PC: Rene Hodges



PC: Jacques Lotter

What is light pollution, and why is it a problem?

Light pollution is the excessive or misdirected artificial light that brightens the night sky, disrupting natural darkness. It comes from sources like streetlights, buildings, and billboards, often spreading far beyond where it's needed.

Here in Nautilus Bay, the main culprits are bright, upward-directed outside lights on the walls and in the gardens of properties. Between 20%-50% of outdoor residential lighting goes directly into the sky and contributes to light pollution due to poor shielding.

Why it's a problem

- Light pollution disrupts ecosystems. Nocturnal animals rely on darkness for hunting, mating, and navigation. Because of light pollution, sea turtles and birds guided by moonlight during migration get confused, lose their way, and often die. Large numbers of insects, a primary food source for birds and other animals, are drawn to artificial lights and are instantly killed upon contact with light sources.
- Light pollution impacts human health. Overexposure to artificial light at night disrupts circadian rhythms, potentially causing sleep disorders, stress, and increased risk of conditions like obesity or depression.
- Excessive skyglow makes it harder to observe stars and celestial objects, hindering both professional and amateur astronomy.
- Unnecessary lighting consumes significant energy, contributing to higher carbon emissions and costs.
- Dark skies have inspired art, science, and culture for centuries. Light pollution diminishes our connection to the natural night sky.

Reducing light pollution benefits wildlife, human health, energy conservation, and preserves the beauty of the night sky.

Doing your part to reduce light pollution

- If you have outside lights that do not serve a clear purpose, disconnect them or simply remove the bulb.
- Take a good look at your light fixtures and consider how much light is aimed *where it needs to be*. If the light fixture has any light aimed at the sky, that is wasted light that contributes to light pollution. Consider light fixtures that are better shielded or downward-focused to eliminate any light going into the sky or onto your neighbour's property.
- You might be over-lighting, putting more light into the night environment than necessary. Change your light switch to a dimmer, or use a lower-wattage bulb.
- Consider using timers for porch lights and occupancy sensors for security lights.
- Use warmer-coloured lighting where possible.



Frans van den Bogaerde

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 again on 13 and 27 June.
- Please ask all contractors to look out for animals, especially tortoises.

2. Water

- Water usage for the month was measured on 26 May.
- The bulk water reading was 30 455 kl; the reserve used 881 kl.



Clearing alien vegetation



3. Estate Projects

- The beach deck has been upgraded by the addition of retaining planks to keep the deck clear of sand.
- Three fire boxes with hoses and nozzles have been installed.
- The removal of alien vegetation is ongoing.
- Residents are requested to report alien vegetation in their gardens that need to be removed.
- Problem areas on our roads have been identified and repairs on these areas will commence soon.



Upgraded beach deck

The beach deck is still in need of a proper name. Put your thinking caps on and send your suggestions, as well as any other news or photos you may wish to share, to deidre.lotter@gmail.com



One of the new fire boxes



Rene Hodges

Out and about during June & July

Midbrak Market

Brinkleys River
Village
Every Saturday
from 9:00

Wild Oats Farmers Market

Sedgefield,
Every Saturday

14 – 15 June
Calitzdorp
Expressed: Food
and Wine Festival

14 June
Father's Day
Family Fun Day
George

16 June
Youth Day 10km
Run
George

21 June
St Blaize: Pinnacle
to Point 9km Hike

4 – 13 July
Knysna Oyster
Festival

4 – 13 July
Plett Ocean
Festival

4. Environment

- Residents are invited to join us on Fridays when the beach is cleaned. Thank you those who regularly lend a hand, and to everyone who picks up litter when walking/fishing on the beach.
- We continue to find sick seagulls on the beach; this is most likely due to the birds feeding on garbage at the Petro SA dumps. All sick birds recovered are taken to the SAPREC Seabird and Penguin Rehabilitation Centre.

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.
- 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.
- We have acquired a new trailer, which will come in handy during refuse removal and clearing of alien vegetation.



6. Security

- “My Estate Life” seems to be running smoothly; please remember to send all your visitors access control tags. Long-term builders can be uploaded as staff and submitted 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

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.



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.