



Nautilus News

Nov/Dec 2025

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Discovering our local fauna



Rock Kestrel (*Falco rupicolus*)

This juvenile female rock kestrel (Afr: kransvalk) was rescued after falling out of a nest. René Hodges, our local animal whisperer, looked after her until she could fend for herself.

Rock kestrels are slender and medium-sized, between 30 and 33 cm tall. Adult male kestrels weigh between 183g and 254g, while females weigh between 190g and 280g. Females differ from males by having more prominent black bars on their tails and rumps, and some dark streaking on their heads.

Strange sea creatures



Sea swallow (*Glaucus atlanticus*)

Common names for this strange-looking little creature include the sea swallow, blue angel and blue dragon. It is a species of blue sea slug found in the open ocean, where they float upside-down by using the surface tension of the water to stay afloat.

This sea slug stores stinging [nematocysts](#) within its own tissues as defence against predators - humans handling the slug may receive a very painful and potentially dangerous sting.

Photo credit: Rene Hodges

Source: Wikipedia



Blue button (*Porpita porpita*)

This bright blue creature might look like a single jellyfish drifting on the water, but it is actually a community of specialized polyps all working in unison. It appears delicate but displays a clever strategy for survival.

Its float usually measures only a few inches across, yet it hosts an impressive mini-collective where each polyp plays a unique role. Some feed, some defend, and others handle reproduction – all of which contribute to the colony's success.

Photo credit: Rene Hodges

Source: earth.com

Reserve Manager's Report: October 2025

Building Projects

- Units 16,17, 24, 25 and 52 are under construction, while units 43 and 31 are being upgraded.

Water

- Water usage for the month was measured on 24 Nov
- The bulk water reading was 36 523 kl; the reserve used 925 kl.

Environment

- The removal of alien vegetation around the reserve is ongoing.

Security

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

Estate Projects

Thanks to Marcel and the team for our spotless, newly painted electrical boxes.



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.

Increasing our tortoise population

We recently welcomed a magnificent new specimen to our reserve. This male tortoise, pictured here with Dennis Robson of Radical Raptors in Gouritzmond, was rescued in the Gouritzmond area, and will now live out the rest of his (hopefully) long life in our reserve. He was resettled in the vicinity of the boma.

Thanks Marcel for sharing the story and the photo.





Notice of Nautilus Bay HOA Annual General Meeting

Date and time: Friday 19 Dec @ 09:00

Venue: Volle Evangelie Kerk, Hartenbos

Please note that the meeting will be held in person; a link will be supplied for those who wish to attend virtually.



Annual Christmas Choo Choo Festive Evening

The Christmas Express will once again take to the streets of Nautilus Bay this year. This fun event, planned by Eddie, Daryl and Kaléne, will take place on 24 December, from 6pm. Those who cannot join the fun on the trailer should consider hosting a table with some Christmas treats along the route. More details to follow.



RARE PLANT FESTIVAL

GARDEN ROUTE BOTANICAL GARDEN

13 - 14 December 2025 09:00 - 15:00

- Rare indigenous and exotic plants
- Handmade pottery
- Cactus grafting workshop
- Restaurant on premises
- Free entry to plant sale



LIVING DESERT PLANTS
www.livingdesertplants.co.za

GARDEN ROUTE BOTANICAL Garden
www.botanicalgarden.org.za

*The Nautilus Bay Exco wishes all residents and owners
a safe, happy and peaceful festive season.*

