

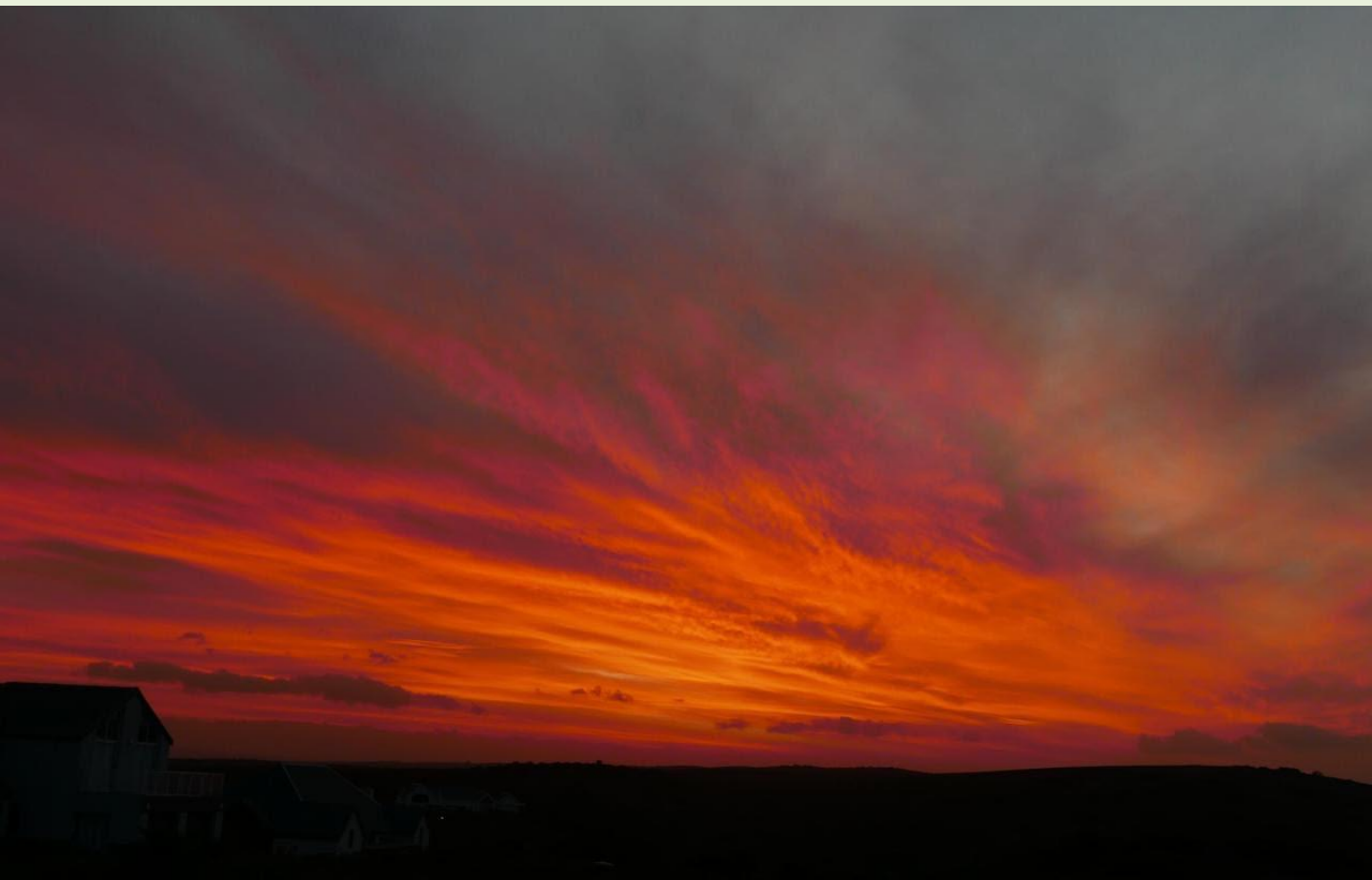


Nautilus News

Sept/Oct 2025

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“♪♪ Birds do it, bees do it, even educated fleas do it... ♪♪”

A look at the reproductive strategies of puff adders

The puff adder (*Bitis arietans*), one of Africa's most widespread and dangerous venomous snakes, exhibits fascinating and complex mating behaviours that reflect its adaptation to diverse environments. As a member of the Viperidae family, the puff adder follows a typical viperine reproductive strategy, characterized by seasonal breeding, ritualised male combat, internal fertilization, and live birth.

Arietans means "striking violently" and is derived from the Latin *arieto*.

Seasonal reproduction and mate searching

Puff adders typically breed during the warmer months of the year. In southern Africa, mating commonly occurs between September and December. During this period, males become increasingly active and travel considerable distances in search of receptive females. They locate potential mates primarily through chemoreception, using their forked tongues and Jacobson's organ to detect pheromones left by females.

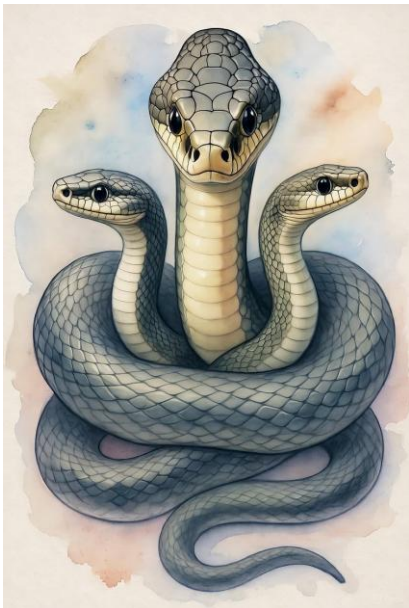
Male-to-male combat

When multiple males are drawn to the same female, they engage in ritualized combat to establish dominance. This behaviour, sometimes referred to as a "combat dance," involves the two males intertwining their bodies and attempting to push each other to the ground. These contests can last for extended periods and are typically non-violent, with no biting or injury involved.



Friend or foe?

Thanks to Gavin Shear for sharing these amazing photographs.



Courtship and copulation

Once a male wins access to a female, courtship begins. This involves the male aligning his body with the female's and rubbing against her to stimulate receptivity. The mating process may last several hours.

Ovoviviparous reproduction

Puff adders are ovoviviparous - females retain fertilized eggs within their bodies, where the embryos develop and hatch internally. This method of reproduction provides the developing young with protection from external threats and environmental extremes. After a gestation period of approximately four to six months, the female gives birth to live young. Litter sizes can vary significantly, ranging from 20 to over 80 offspring, depending on the size and health of the female.

Reserve Manager's Report: September 2025

1. Building Projects

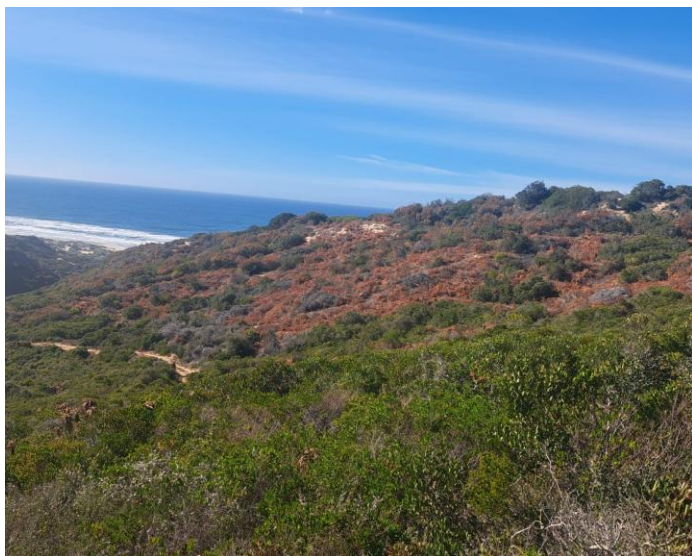
- Units 16,17, 24, 25, 34 and 52 are under construction, while units 43 and 31 are being upgraded.
- The aesthetics committee will meet again on Friday 17 Oct, at 08:30.

2. Water

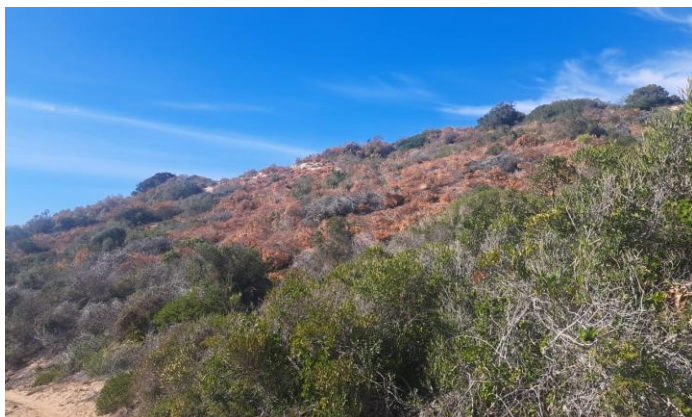
- Water usage for the month was measured on 25 Sept.
- The bulk water reading was 34 461 kl; the reserve used 1 036 kl.

3. Environment

- The removal of alien vegetation continued to take up most of the team's time this month.



Orange-brown areas are rooipitjie.



4. Estate Projects

- Speed bumps have finally been installed. Residents are requested to reduce speed and exercise caution when crossing these bumps.



5. Security

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

6. 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.
- Please be on the lookout for fires. Teamwork, coupled with a fast response, is the best way to deal with this threat.

Upcoming events

24/25 October

[Glow Festival](#)

George Show Grounds

16 November

[Ironman 70.3 Mossel Bay](#)

27-30 November

[MosJazz](#)

28 November

[Enchanted Botanical Feast](#)

Garden Route Botanical Gardens

[Curro Mossel Bay Park Run](#)

Every Saturday

[Hart & Bosch Village Parkrun](#)

Every Saturday

[Droombos Farmers Market,](#)

[Tergniet](#)

Every Saturday

[Midbrak Market](#)

Brinkleys River Village

Every Saturday



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.

