

August 2023

The BOL Conservancy and use of Poisons

As you cross under the White Bridge on your way to Belvidere and The Brentons, you will see that you are entering the Greater Goukamma Conservancy. We have a duty to conserve and protect plant and animal species in the area where we live.

Rats and mice are probably the species we do not want in our homes. Over-the-counter poisons normally contain anticoagulants which work over a period of days before rats die. During this time, they become increasingly toxic. There are several outcomes from using these toxic substances in our home areas:

- Poisoned rats become food for our predators (Caracal, Eagle Owls) which in turn become infected and die. Studies in Cape Town have shown that lactating Caracal females can pass toxins to their young through their milk
- Poisons on land can also wash into our water systems affecting water mongoose and otters
- Our bushbuck is attracted to the sweet tasting rat poisons. In sufficient quantities, they then become ill and die
- We know that our wildlife species are already affected by habitat loss, vehicle collisions, disease (as witnessed in the decimation of the rabbit population) and fire. Poison exposure merely adds to this and could in time threaten an entire ecosystem

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SAFE OVER-THE-COUNTER RAT POISON



The traditional spring coiled rat trap is easy to use and cheap to buy. It kills the rats and mice and bodies need be disposed of sensibly and not in the municipal bins. Best to bury the corpses

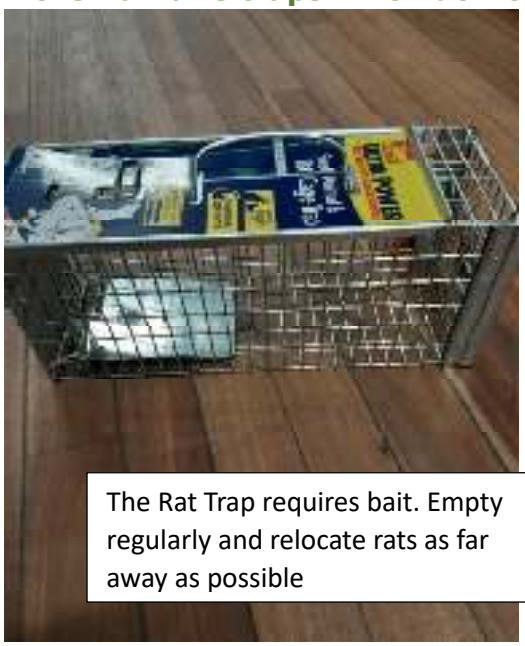




This bait trap with a sprung 'crocodile' jaw can be bought online from https://www.peststore.co.za/

They are cheap to buy. Dispose of bodies safely and regularly.

More humane traps whch do not kill rats & mice



The Rat Trap requires bait. Empty regularly and relocate rats as far away as possible



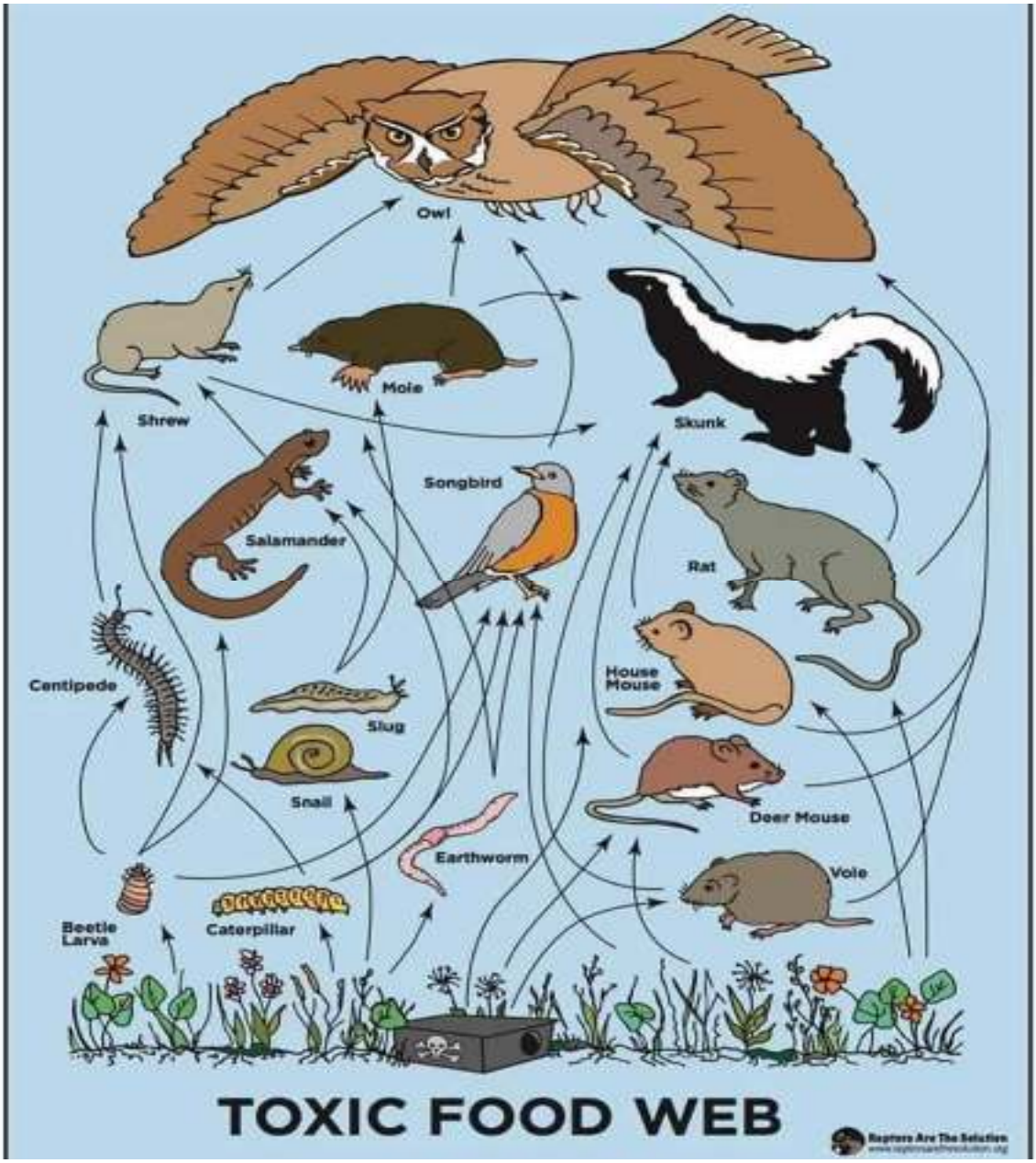
The Eco trap. Again bait is required and rats need to be relocated as far from the area as possible

Baits to use for traps: sultanas, bananas, apples, peanut butter.

Vary the bait and check traps regularly

We appeal to you and encourage you to use non-toxic methods of dealing with rats and mice:

1. **Use a trap**
2. **Mix oats and salt as bait which will dehydrate and kill rats**
3. **Plant mint in your garden and around the entrances to your house or along routes rats may use**
4. **Sprinkle cayenne pepper in your roof/rat routes**



Fire Awareness



- The Western Cape is an extreme fire risk province and global warming is adding to this risk
- When a global temperature rises by 1 degree, the fire risk increases by 29%
- Fire risk increases due to * fynbos (burns readily) *alien vegetation * discarded cigarette butts on roadsides *collapsed power lines * strong winds

BE PREPARED

Have a plan of action in place to include:

- Property insurance at replacement value not commercial value. A house valued at R2m may require replacement insurance for R4m
- Keep a small bag packed with items such as insurance documents, certificates of compliance, passport, ID, your laptop etc
- Reduce fire risk by removing all dead vegetation from your property and keep all bushes or overhanging trees off doors, windows and wooden decks and keep gutters free of leaves and vegetation
- Check your water reserves: Jo Jo tanks and nearest water hydrant (there is a blue cat eye on the road indicating a water hydrant)
- Attend fire drills in Lake Brenton so you know how to use these and where the hydrant hoses are kept
- In a fire emergency

Close all exterior openings and move curtains, blinds and furniture to the centre of the room
Have an exit plan at all times

Your emergency LBRA Fire Officer is Ken Watt. Mobile/WhatsApp: 0829258358

Please do not call Dave Davies as he is no longer the LBRA Fire Officer

Camera Project Update



We are currently adding 5 new cameras to the system at various locations to cover a few of the loopholes in our perimeter security. That will bring us to a total of 33 cameras in our community (LBRA and privately owned).

We are extremely grateful to those residents who contribute to the camera fund. We still need R28,000 for 4 more cameras to finalise the perimeter security. If you are willing to help, please contact us on info@lbra.co.za

We have also put up two more solar security lights at the jetty area to provide security over the moorings.

All residents who have new home cameras covering any street frontage and who would like to be added to our network, please get in touch. You would not be obliged to supply footage, but if you do, the LBRA will ensure any such footage is used within the confines of the law. We would need you to sign up so we are aware of the camera and we can contact you should there be an incident.

YOUR CAMERA MAY ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING CULPRITS FOR INVESTIGATION

Please email Glen at info@lbra.co.za

The Lake Brenton Wildlife Update



As you are aware, we are so fortunate to have Picca de Bruin and DR Dave Johnson in our community. Picca manages a Lake Brenton WhatsApp group which is an open group for residents to report wildlife in distress. If you have not joined the group, please WhatsApp Picca on 0825712462. She will need your name and erf number.

In July, we appealed for funds to purchase a blow gun and the required medications for this. DR Dave has a lot of experience in using blowguns and they are far more effective in sedating animals at close quarters, without injury. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of the 18 residents who gave to this fund. The blow gun has been purchased along with a kit of syringes and medications and has already been used recently to good effect:

- Picca and DR Dave were able to successfully sedate the female with the prolapse and treat her and we hope she may make a better recovery
- The ram with one eye was also sedated with the blow gun. DR Dave used a bright torch and was able to determine that the one eye was still functioning so this ram's sight may recover to some extent. He was also able to clean and stitch an abscess

Our plan is now to manage illness and injury to our wildlife ourselves. A vet call out would only be necessary in an emergency or if the animal needs to be euthanised and the body taken away for appropriate disposal. LBRA and donated funds are therefore able to stretch a lot further.

Useful Contact Numbers

Sean O'Donnell recently posted on the community Facebook page a cell number for the police in Knysna which is useful to add to your contacts:

0823793411

Here are some other useful numbers for you:



The Dave Davies Meander

Many of you will know about the trail in Yellow Wood Forest. Entering from Glen House, the trail starts on the left just before the large sycamore fig tree. It is clearly marked with yellow tipped stakes. An extension (with orange tipped stakes) has been added.

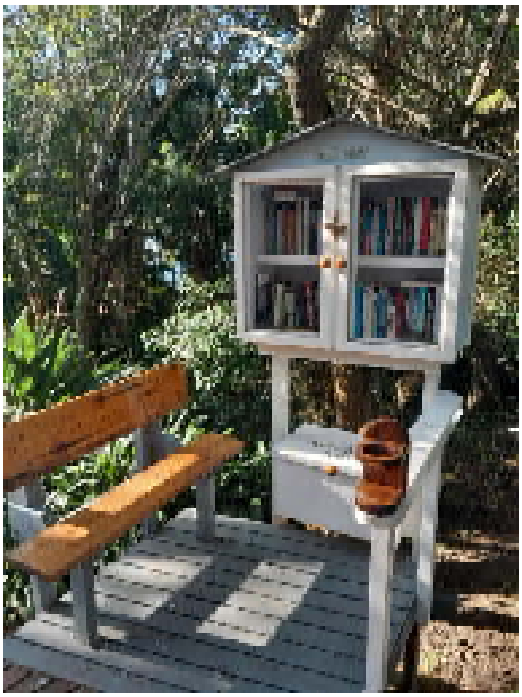


We are grateful to Dave Davies, Anthony Eden and Ken Sprenger for stting up the trail. Thank you!

Note that entry is at your risk. Please take care along the path for snakes and always check for ticks when you return home

Lake Brenton Little Library

Do you know about our Little Library here in Lake Brenton? It is registered as one of the Little Libraries of the world (charter # 115855). You can find more about Little Libraries around the world by scanning the QR code below:



This wonderful initiative started by Susan and Dave Davies is at the top of Roman Street before it enters Dolphin Avenue. You are free to take books and leave books you have read for others to enjoy.

Farewell to Ken and Sharon Sprenger



Ken, Sharon and Dante

We bid farewell to Ken and Sharon Sprenger (and their gorgeous boy Dante). They have left Lake Brenton and safely arrived this week in the United States. We are enormously grateful to Ken for all his work on the LBRA Committee as our liaison representative at SanParks and to Sharon for her sterling work as Communications Officer for LBRA. Ken kindly donated a First Aid kit which is kept at The Shed. It primarily has dressings and treatments for fire burns.

And finally….

In the last edition, we reported that the provincial road from the White Bridge to the entry into Brenton On Sea would be re-sealed in July. This project has now started. We imagine the work will take at least 6 months so plan on extra time to get to the N2.

Lastly, many thanks to Andries who repaired the leak at the Shed which oozed water for weeks. We are grateful he stepped in to prevent further wastage when calls to the municipality fell on deaf ears.

If you have news and articles of interest to be included in the December issue of The Buzz, please contact Glen at info@libra.co.za

LAKE BRENTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

www.lbra.co.za | Non Profit Organisation | Reg: 2020/616326/08

LAKE BRENTON WATCH