

Your 2024 LIBRA Committee

Chairperson: Henry Fairweather
Communications: Glen Stephen
Finance: Colin Burns
Security: Henk Meyer
Fire & Security backup: Ken Watt
Wildlife: Picca de Bruin
Secretary: Roz Messenger
Leonie du Preez co-opted member

Currently, the membership stands at 60% of our community.

As a reminder, here are some of LBRA's achievements:

- Upgrading of the LBRA website and streamlining of communication channels (principally through WhatsApp, email and the community chalkboard)
- Purchase, installation and monitoring of the cameras in the village
- Purchase and installation of solar lighting at jetty area
- Cleaning & maintenance of the shed area
- Upgrades to fire trailers and fire equipment

LBRA is also a member of:

- The Garden Route Alliance which consists of 28 Rate Payer Associations from Mossel Bay to Plett to Oudtshoorn
- The Western Heads Goukamma Conservancy and Western Heads Leadership Group
- The Knysna Community Policing Forum and the Knysna Safety and Security Initiative
- The Southern Cape Fire Protection Association

Committee members give up their time and travel to venues at their own expense to attend meetings with the above bodies as well as with SANParks, Knysna Municipality and the Fire Department.

Lake Brenton Community

This time last year, our newsletter focused on the theme of community spirit. As members of LBRA, we have the privilege to contribute to the welfare of all in our community through the various projects and volunteer programmes. In 2024 and beyond, we want to extend this community spirit by appealing to all residents to adopt and encourage a sense of **pride** in Lake Brenton. There are beautiful pockets in our community and a walk through The Woods is testimony to the care and pride of the residents there. There are a few properties look a little worse for wear. Consider keeping our own verges clean and tidy and assisting neighbours who may not have the physical ability to do this.

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We are grateful to Sean O'Donnell and his team who organised a hugely successful bring and braai on a sunny Saturday in March. The turnout out was excellent and what better way to celebrate our community spirit and pride?











The Lake Brenton Christmas Parade

Some years ago, Fred Mullany was asked to dress up as Father Christmas and drive past houses in his red MG. He and his wife, Jo, did this with great enthusiasm and continued to do so every year, giving out sweets to other children along the way. Sadly, both his house and the red MG were destroyed in the 2017 fire. When he became ill and could no longer manage this, Tony & Corinne Geldenhuys and Susan & Dave Davies took up the baton. Baked goodies for our more elderly residents are happily supplied by various ladies in the community and some residents come forward each year with donations of sweets for the children.

We are thrilled to have several of our local children who, each year, step up as elves to run alongside our varying vehicles to hand out packages. The Christmas Run is enjoyed by both young and old and has become a yearly Lake Brenton event and the village looks forward to it with great anticipation.







The Lake Brenton Wildlife Update

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. Note that this is the LB Wildlife SOS group for wildlife emergencies.

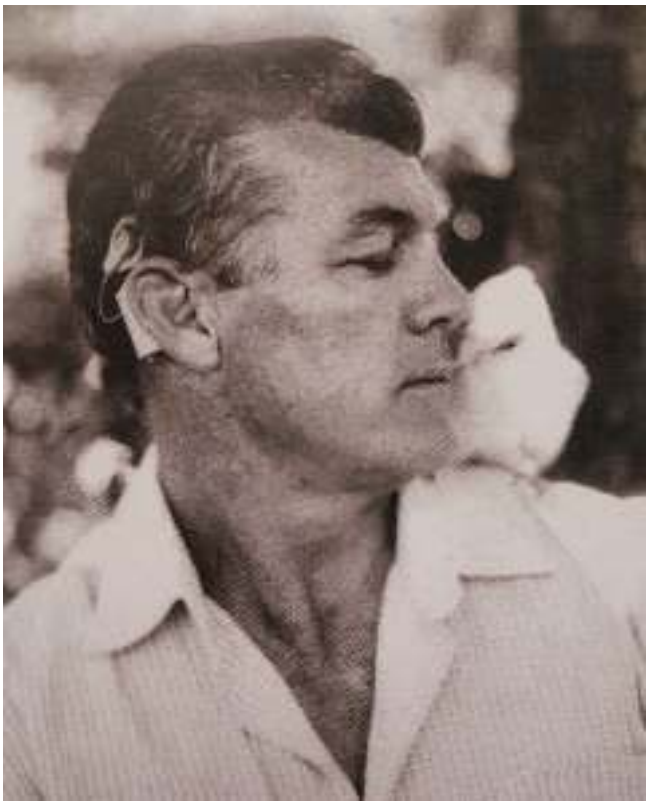
Alistair Reid, who moved to Lake Brenton last year with his family temporarily and who we believe will be here permanently before the year is out, started a Lake Brenton Wildlife Appreciation WhatsApp group.



Alistair and his son, Jayden

If you would like to be part of the WhatsApp group Brenton Wildlife – Appreciation and Chat -then contact Alistair on +447906474609 or Glen on 0636035254 to be added. This is an open group for community sharing and as its name implies, it is all about appreciation and love of our wildlife environment. It is not for SOS or emergency messages

Dr David Peter Johnson



18 October 1957-15 December 2023

In December, we lost a unique and remarkable man in Lake Brenton. His lifetime work in wildlife management and care stretched beyond the boundaries of Lake Brenton. He worked closely with Picca de Bruin who has written this personal tribute to him:

Dr Dave will be remembered for his dedication to all animals big or small. He worked constantly to bring awareness of the preservation of the lagoon and estuary.

We remember him checking up on injured buck and constantly looking at how to treat the injuries in a holistic way with pain medication to give them comfort while healing.

His knowledge was incredible, and he always took time to share his knowledge with the residents and explain the injury the cause and the part that nature plays in healing before he needed to assist medically.

It was incredible to see the trust the animals had in him while he was assessing and treating their injuries. Dr Dave would send me an update of an injured buck…" My patient just checked in for his treatment" as the old ram with the eye and jaw injury would show up at his house to receive treatment.

We acknowledge his passion for all to live together in harmony with nature, and to give each little creature a space to be safe, without discrimination. Dr Dave was a true guardian of the animal kingdom, and his legacy will live on in Lake Brenton Conservancy.

Thank you, Dr Dave, for the work you have done. It was an absolute privilege to work with you taking care of our precious animals.

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Wildlife Funding

With the passing of Dr Dave, Picca has searched far and wide for a vet who is prepared to assist us in the event of a wildlife emergency. Dr Dave gave freely of his time, seeking only compensation for drugs and medications. We are actively seeking alternative veterinary support, Dr Christian Blignaut, from the George Animal Hospital, was called out recently in an emergency. Although Dr Blignaut kindly offers is reduced rates, the extra costs for transport and medication mean we will need to reach out for your financial support.

Currently, the LBRA wildlife funds are almost depleted. We urge you to donate and any amount, however small, would be most welcome. The account is:

FNB account number 63098566153 sort code 255355.
Please mark your payment as WILDLIFE

FIRE AWARENESS



We live in a vulnerable fire area and next month will be the anniversary of the devastating Knysna fires 6 years ago. The LBRA committee has almost completed the Disaster Mitigation Plan which will be circulated in a later bulletin. We are also hoping to have a fire expert address our community on what each of us can do to mitigate the threat of fire and what to do in an emergency.



LAKE BRENTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

LAKE BRENTON WATCH