U3A STILBAAI

DIT EN DAT
3 Augustus 2020

Zoom Praatjies

Dankie aan die lede wat hul name ingestuur het vir Zoom praatjies. Sodra ons praatjies gereed het, sal ons almal in kennis stel.

Veels geluk Johan

Ons wens Johan van Rooyen geluk met die publisering van die tweede artikel oor die atlaswerk vir die Suider-Afrika Voëlatlasprojek 2 (SABAP2) wat lede van ons Voëlgroep hier in Hessequa doen. Die artikel het in Julie in die joernaal "Biodiversity Observations" verskyn.

Die artikel is oor die gestruktureerde atlaswerk in Hessequa. In 2018 het Johan 'n eerste artikel hieroor publiseer waarin hy beskryf hoe die voëlgroep nou ook voëlspesies in Hessequa moniteer. In die tweede artikel, met Professor Les Underhill van Universiteit Kaapstad as mede-outeur, word verslag gedoen oor die eerste siklus van die Voëlgroep se seisonale moniterings-program.

Meer hieroor op die "Opnames vir SABAP2" blad in Aktiwiteite in die Voëlgroep seksie van ons webtuiste, www.u3astilbaai.org.

[Van Rooyen JA & Underhill LG 2020. Systematic atlasing in Hessequa – Report on the first cycle of seasonal monitoring. Biodiversity Observations 11.3:1–14].

Fotografie Groep foto's

Die Fotograpfie Groep het nou 'n seksie op ons webtuiste om hul foto's te vertoon. Gaan na Fotografie Groep onder Groepe op die webtuiste, www.u3astilbaai.org, en klik dan op Foto Albums in die menu – daar is tans twee albums met uitstekende foto's.

Bly besig

Die **Voëlgroep** se Virtual Museum projek word goed deur ons lede ondersteun. Vir meer inligting oor deelname, en ook om die foto's te sien, gaan na Projekte op die Voëlgroep seksie van ons U3A Stilbaai webtuiste.

Die **Fotografie Groep** het ook interessante foto-projekte waaraan lede kan deelneem. Gaan na Foto Albums in die Fotografie Groep seksie van ons U3A Stilbaai webtuiste.

Die **Neurowetenskap Groep** bly besig met skakels na interessante artikels of videos wat Jenni uitstuur. As u enige interessante voorstelle het, stuur hulle asseblief aan Jenni sodat sy dit aan al die lede in die groep kan versprei. Klik hier om Jenni te kontak.

THIS AND THAT
3 August 2020

Zoom Talks.

Thanks to the members who submitted their names for Zoom talks. As soon as we have talks ready, we will inform everybody.

Congratulations Johan

We congratulate Johan van Rooyen with the publication of the second article about the atlasing that the Bird Group is doing here in Hessequa for the Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2 (SABAP2). The article appeared in July in the journal "Biodiversity Observations."

The article is about systematic atlasing in Hessequa. In 2018 Johan published a first article describing how the bird group was moving from just mapping bird species to monitoring species in Hessequa. In this second article, with Professor Les Underhill of the University of Cape Town as co-author, they report on the first cycle of the Bird Group's seasonal monitoring programme.

More about this on the "Surveys for SABAP2" page in Activities in the Bird Group section of our website, www.u3astilbaai.org.

[Van Rooyen JA & Underhill LG 2020. Systematic atlasing in Hessequa – Report on the first cycle of seasonal monitoring. Biodiversity Observations 11.3:1–14].

Photography Group photos

The Photography Group now have section on our website to display their photographs. Go to the Photography Group under Groups on the website, www.u3astilbaai.org, and click on Photo Albums in the menu – there are currently two albums with some really fantastic photographs.

Keep busy

The **Bird Group's** Virtual Museum project is well supported by our members. For more information about how to participate, and to see the photos submitted, go to Projects on the Bird Group section of our U3A Stilbaai website.

The **Photography Group** also has interesting photo projects in which members can participate. Go to Photo Albums in the Photography Group section of our U3A Stilbaai website.

The **Neuroscience Group** are keeping busy with various links to interesting articles or videos that Jenni sends out. If you have any interesting suggestions, please send them to Jenni so that she can distribute them to the members of the group. Click here to contact Jenni.

STILBAAI GESKIEDENIS BROKKIES

Niel van Wyk

Ons sit ons reeks oor die geskiedenis van Stilbaai voort met die storie van die ontwikkeling van die pad na Stilbaai.

Die pad na Stilbaai

Een van die vrae aan my gestel is hoe mense in die ou dae by Stilbaai uitgekom het. Inwoners van Riversdal en die distrik het Stilbaai al vanaf die vroeë 1800's, indien nie vroeër nie, besoek, maar daar was geen formele pad na Stilbaai nie. In die vroeë jare het die mense plaaspaadjies gebruik vir hul ossewaens en muil- of perdekarre, en die "pad" na Stilbaai het uiteindelik ontwikkel meestal langs die grensdrade tussen plase. Ons weet nie presies wanneer hierdie roete as 'n pad geproklameer is nie, die Afdelingsraad van Riversdal het al in 1883 fondse aangevra vir die verbetering van die pad, maar fondse is eers in 1895 deur die Kaapse Parlement goedgekeur.

Die pad wat in 1895 gebou is het 'n harde gruis oppervlakte gekry en is gebou van die hoofpad tussen Riversdal en Mosselbaai tot by Olive Grove; dit is in die vroeë 1900's verleng langs die oostelike oewer van die rivier tot by Scott se losieshuis wat in 1904 by die drif oor die rivier naaste aan die see gebou is.

Die ou hoofpad van Riversdal na Mosselbaai se roete was eers vanaf die Vetterivier drif langs die steg aan die onderend van Hoofstraat in Riversdal (waar 'n laagwaterbrug later gebou is en daar nou 'n volwaardige brug oor die rivier is), na die plaas De Draai en verder aan oor Tygerfontein (noord van die huidige Albertinia) na Blandsdrif op die Gouritsrivier. Die afdraai na Stilbaai was op die plaas Palmietrivier waar die pad die Goukourivier oorkruis.

Die wabrug oor die Goukourivier (waar die gholfbaan nou is) is in 1893 gebou en die hoofpad na Mosselbaai volg daarna 'n meer suidelike roete na die nuwe Gouritsrivier brug wat in 1892 voltooi is (hierdie brug is langs die huidige brug op die N2 oor die rivier).

Met die nuwe roete het die pad na Stilbaai op die plaas Tolange suidwaarts afgedraai, dit was teen 'n lang skuinste af na die Soetmelksrivier net noord van waar die huidige pad by die N2 aansluit (die pad teen die skuinste is steeds sigbaar op die landerye oorkant die vallei).

Vandaar was die pad min of meer op die roete van die huidige pad, maar op Soebattersvlakte het dit aan die onderkant van die heuwel, waar die Anglo-Boere-oorlog gedenkteken nou staan, suidweswaarts weggedraai (langs die ry bloekombome wat nog steeds daar staan) na Kasselman se winkel op Droëvlakte. By die winkel het dit aangesluit by die Melkhoutkraal pad, suidooswaarts tot by die huidige pad net noord van die Droëvlakte winkel, en vandaar suid na die heuwels. Ons kan aanvaar dat die ossewaens is reguit teen die heuwel uit tot bo (daar is steeds 'n veldpaadjie in die vallei wes van Skerpkoppies). Toe die pad in 1895 gebou is, sou hulle die roete skuins teen Skerpkoppies op gemaak het omdat dit minder steil is vir perde en perdekarre, en volg toe min of meer die roete van die huidige pad suidwaarts.

Om oor die rivier te kom was nie altyd so maklik nie. Hoër op was daar 'n aantal driwwe deur die rivier, maar aan die weste

STILBAAI HISTORY SNIPPETS

Niel van Wyk

We continue our series on the history of Stilbaai with the story of the development of the road to Stilbaai.

The Road to Stilbaai

One of the questions I was asked was how people got to Stilbaai in the old days. Residents from Riversdale and district visited Stilbaai from the early 1800's, if not earlier, but there was no formal road to Stilbaai. In the early years people used tracks over farms for their ox wagons and mule or horse carts, and the "road" to Stilbaai developed mostly along the boundary fences between farms. We do not know when this route was proclaimed as a road, in 1883 the Riversdale Divisional Council requested funds for the improvement of the road, but funds were only approved in 1895 by the Cape Parliament.

The road built in 1895 had a hard gravel surface and was built from the main road between Riversdale and Mossel Bay to Olive Grove; in the early 1900's it was extended along the eastern bank of the river to Scott's Boarding House which was built in 1904 at the drift over the river nearest to the sea.

The old main road from Riversdale to Mossel Bay was from the Vette River drift next to the footbridge at the bottom end of Main Street in Riversdale (where a low-water bridge was later built and a proper bridge now spans the river), to the farm De Draai and further on to Tygerfontein (north of the present Albertinia) and to Blandsdrift on the Gourits River. The turn-off to Stilbaai was on the farm Palmietrivier where the road crosses the Goukou River.

The wagon bridge over the Goukou River (at the present golf course) was built in 1893, and the main road to Mossel Bay now followed a more southerly route to the new Gourits River bridge which was completed in 1892 (this bridge is next to the present N2 bridge over the river).

On this new route the road to Stilbaai turned off southwards on the farm Tolange, the route was down a long hill to the Soetmelks River just north of where the current road joins the N2 (the road against the slope is still visible in the fields across the valley).

From there the road more less followed the route of the present road, but on Soebattersvlakte it turn off southwestwards at the bottom of the hill, where the Anglo-Boer War memorial now stands (along the row of bluegum trees which are still there) to Kasselman's shop on Droëvlakte. At the shop it joined up with the Melkhoutkraal road, the route was now southeastwards to the present road just north of the Droëvlakte shop, and from there south to the hills. We can assume that the ox-wagons went straight up the hill to the top (there is still a veld track in the valley west of Skerpkoppie). When the road was built in 1895, the road was made up to Skerpkoppies as it was not so steep and easier for horses and horse carts to use, from there the road more or less followed the route of the present road southwards.

It was not always so easy to cross the river. Higher up there were a number of drifts or fords, but the western side was quite hilly with deep valleys. Closer to the sea there was a drift at Riverside, and a bit further south the drift at Olive Grove – both

kant was dit baie heuwelagtig met diep klowe. Nader aan die see was daar die drif by Riverside en net ‘n klein entjie verder suid die drif by Olive Grove – albei op die plaas Grootfontein aan die weste kant van die rivier. Die mees suidelikste drif was by Scott se losieshuis oor die rivier, suid van die huidige padbrug. As die sandbanke goed opgebou het en met laaggety kon ossewaens maklik deur die rivier, maar dikwels is die goedere en die mense per boot oor die river karwei, sodat die osse met ‘n leë wa deur kon loop of swem.

Voordat die pad na Scott se losieshuis gebou is, was die Olive Grove drif die gewone deurgang na die westelike oewer. Hella Döckel bevestig dat haar familielede, afstammelinge van Eerw. Daniël Heese van Riversdal wat al sedert ongeveer 1880 Stilbaai as vakansieplek gebruik, vertel het van ossewa ritte deur die rivier by Olive Grove. In Helene Steyn se boek vertel Eksteen van Wyk (wie se pa die eerste erf by wesstrand gekoop het) hoe hulle die rivier by die drift by Scott se losieshuis deurkruis.

Die ou pont is in 1932-33 gebou – ‘n kabel is oor die rivier gespan en die pont is per hand oorgetrek. Dit kon twee motors dra. Die pont was net suid van Olive Grove op die noordelik gedeelte van die plaas Ellensrust; ‘n pad is oor die plase Grootfontein en Platbos gebou na Stilbaai-Wes strand.

In 1955 is die brug oor die rivier voltooi en die ou pont met kabels en al is verwyder. Die pad is ook verbeter en in die 1960’s is die pad geteer – maar eers nadat die roete oor Soebattersvlakte en Droëvlake reguit gemaak is. En so 2-3 jaar gelede is die pad weer verbeter, die ou roete is nie verander nie, behalwe dat die skerp draai bo op Skerpkoppies nou net ‘n stukkie geskiedenis is.

Bibliografie

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are on the farm Grootfontein on the western side of the river. The most southerly drift was at Scott’s Boarding House south of the present road bridge. If the sandbanks were favourable the ox wagons could cross easily at low tide, but quite often the people and their goods were taken across the river by boat, and the oxen walked or swam with an empty wagon through the river.

Before the road was extended to Scott’s Boarding House, the usual crossing to the western shore was at Olive Grove. Hella Döckel confirmed that members of her family, descendents of Rev Daniël Heese of Riversdale who had been holidaying at Stilbaai since about 1880, told of crossing the river by ox-wagon at Olive Grove. In Helene Steyn's book, Eksteen van Wyk (whose father bought the first plot on the sea at westbeach) tells of crossing the river at the drift at Scott's Boarding House.

The pontoon or Pont was built in 1932-33 – a cable was spanned over the river and the pont was pulled across by hand. It could carry two vehicles. The pont was just south of Olive Grove on the northern part of the farm Ellensrust, a road crossed the farms Grootfontein and Platbos to Stilbaai West beach.

In 1955 the bridge over the river was completed and the old pont was removed with cables and all. The road to Stilbaai was improved and in the 1960’s it was tarred, but only after the route over Soebattersvlakte and Droëvlakte was straightened out. And 2-3 years ago the road was again improved, the old route was not changed except for the sharp curve at the top of Skerpkoppies which is now only an historical note.

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