



THE WAY I SEE IT...

Most of the photos which appear in this newsletter are courtesy of Jacki Bruniquel, a talented, professional photographer and long-time avid lover of Cape St Francis. On her facebook site, she refers to that fynbos smell that is Cape St Francis. You know that unmistakable, pungent smell which hits you as you approach the village...a smell that signals time-out, time to chill and time to renew! Hoping that 2011 offers you time to do all of the above.

Have a look at Jacki's site...the pictures are that good you can almost smell the fynbos!
<http://jackibruniquel.com/blog/2011/01/29/my-soul-place-summer-holiday-to-seal-point/#more-2001>



THE CAPE OF FOGS!

The drone of the foghorn has become a familiar sound at Cape St Francis over the past few months. The heavy fog, which has been a daily occurrence, is according to some weather fundis, due to an extremely cold sea in conjunction with very warm atmospheric air. The sea temperatures of 13 to 15 degrees, not uncommon this December, have been brought in by the particularly strong on-shore winds which have dominated at this time.

Sadly the crabs seem to have been a casualty of this cold water. Hundreds of dead crabs have been scattered along the beach providing a wonderful smorgasbord for sea gulls.

It seems that the cold water is all part of the La Nina phenomenon. This is a periodic climatic pattern occurring every two to five years in which the cooling in temperature of the surface of the Eastern and central Pacific Ocean takes places. Ironically it is due to this same La Nina that almost the entire country, excluding Eastern Cape where the drought continues, has experienced above normal rainfall in this same time.
[Picture courtesy of Joan Brady]



THE DECEMBER/JANUARY SEASON IN REVIEW

From all accounts, the Summer of 2010 seems to have done all of what it was supposed to - it put people into rental houses, sent them into the shops, got them spending their hard earned bonuses and lured them into eating out at restaurants. Most retailers report having had a good season with one local outlet of a national retail chain reported the highest sales figures country wide for one particular day during the season.

There appears to have been a pick-up in buyer interest in property in comparison to the previous years with a number of sales taking place.

Sales for undeveloped land varied from R550 000,00 to R1 050 000,00 and for developed properties from R850 000,00 to R5million+. Demand for rental accommodation definitely exceeded previous years with the most popular period being between December 20th and January 3rd.

In Cape St Francis no particular pick-up in crime was reported during this time and the usual lawlessness due to alcohol induced revelry, seemed to be more under control.

All this despite the weather! It was without a doubt the worst weather experienced in Cape St Francis over a 3 week period for probably the last 10 years,



THYSPUNT - THE DEBATE CONTINUES

A Select Committee of the National Council of Provinces held a series of meeting over a 2 day period in the area recently aimed at interacting with stakeholders and listening to their concerns regarding Thyspunt and Wind Farm proposals for the area.

Representatives of Eskom, The National Nuclear Regulator, the Department of Energy and Public Enterprises and the Kouga Municipality also took part in the meetings. Social and environmental concerns,



possible irreversible damage to valuable Khoisan heritage sites, the potential damage to the chokka industry and the very real threat to Tourism were all intensely debated. As with the past meetings, many left **the meeting with a feeling of defeat and a sense that the stated purpose of the meetings, to listen to the concerns of the stakeholders, was just a form of window dressing and that ultimately the decision would be made irrespective of these real concerns.**



HAVE A LOOK AT THIS PROPERTY!

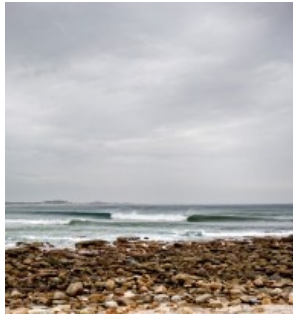
A compact, smart and functional home situated in a cul-de-sac shoulder to shoulder with other prime Cape St Francis properties. This home has excellent access to the beach and great elevated inland views. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a delightful kitchen centred living area are just some of the many upmarket features. Add to this a double garage, laundry and low maintenance garden.

R2 900 000,00



For more information on this property visit:

www.debbienicholsonproperties.co.za



IT MAY INTEREST YOU TO KNOW...

- The Liquor License application for a retail liquor outlet at Cape St Francis has been approved. **This comes as a huge shock considering the enormous number of objections lodged by residents and property owners.** The applicant is now applying for the change in the zoning of the Mini-Market site to **"Special Consent Usage"**. **The period during which property owners in the surrounding area are able to object, expires on the 3rd March 2011.** Should you wish to know how to go about this, contact the **Cape St Francis Civic Association.** capestfranciscivicassociation@gmail.com
- The Churchill Dam, the main source of water for Cape St Francis is at the low level of 36.9%. Therefore the water shortage in the area remains extremely critical and severe water restrictions **remain in place. The combined level of the 5 dams servicing the whole greater Port Elizabeth area is at 35.2%.** This dire water shortage is ironic considering **the overflowing dam in so many other parts of the country.**