

Botha is Mr Media in surfing world

Cindy Liebenberg

NOTHING is more daunting for a journalist than to interview a counterpart with the experience and reputation of the doyen of South African surfing, Paul Botha.

Botha, owner of Life's a Beach Communications, is currently in Jeffreys Bay handling the media for the Billabong Pro J-Bay as he has done the past 25 years and agreed to be on the receiving end of an interview.

Botha's over-riding passion for surfing has influenced every major decision he has taken in his life since 1962.

"I have surfed in more than 30 different countries but never visited a country that does not have a shoreline," says the father of three grown children and a grandchild.

In 1984 he attended an Association of Surf-

ing Professionals (ASP) event in Jeffreys Bay as a spectator and realising the potential he contacted Cheron Kraak. The two struck up an agreement but due to financial constraints Botha only started running the event in May 1987. At the time he also headed the ASP Africa regional office.

In the beginning he says he did everything from building the stands to handling entries, organising the media and public relations, writing press releases, commenting, paying the prize-money and everything in between.

After 12 years of intense hands on involvement he retired in 1998 to open Life's a Beach backpackers in Kommetjie. Yet such was his expertise that less than a year later he was asked to handle only the media at several surfing events. Hence in 2000 the backpacker was sold to make way for Life's a Beach Communications.

"And it's been going strong ever since," says Botha. "I've built up so many contacts over the years and what can be better than working with the media and in the field of your passion."

Botha says he has seen it all. The evolving of the communications world has seen loads of progress as Botha recalls writing press releases by hand, having them typed and copied before sending them via snail mail to the various publications.

"It's certainly a far cry from these days. Then it took seven days to get the news out, now you can watch it live on the internet."

Although he admits being on Facebook he says he draws the line when it comes to Twitter. "My forte is bringing the real story to as broad a public as possible," says the man who has spent the better part of his life promoting the sport he loves best – surfing.



SURFING DOYEN: Paul Botha. Picture: CINDY LIEBENBERG

Picture:



VLTYIG: Jeffreysbaai VLV het verlede Donderdag 7 Julie hul kwartaalkse byeenkoms gehou. Voorsitter en president Cupie Ferreira (links), Rina Potgieter, Mer-cia Ungerer en Doreen du Preez het hul naaldwerk talent ten toon gestel.

Foto: CINDY LIEBENBERG

More hot air on wind farms

Some residents opposed, others not

Lyn Aiken

WHAT was planned by Red Cap Kouga Wind Company as an informal platform for discussion for concerned and affected parties in St Francis Bay last week, failed to generate warmth among most of the St Francis Bay residents attending the meeting.

The meeting had been called by Red Cap and their partners and to engage with the community now the formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was over, giving everyone the opportunity to speak freely.

As the meeting opened, St Francis Bay resident John Hammond stood up to read a statement on behalf of the St Francis Wind Action Group (Swag).

According to the statement members of Swag, acting on legal advice, would not be attending the meeting as they had lodged their intention to appeal against the proposal to construct the proposed wind farm on Oshbosch Farm across the Kromme River from St Francis Bay.

Although most of those at the meeting declared they had no problem with the principles behind wind farms, St Francis residents felt the EIA process had ignored the impact such wind-farm developments would have on the visually aesthetic quality of St Francis Bay and the access corridor to the town.

St Francis Bay resident Bruce Brooker summed up the mood of residents by commenting: "We feel 50 years of effort to maintain this high visual standard has been ignored and along with it the considerable investment that has been made in developing this unique village."

"The EIA report stated simply there will be a visual impact and suggests we must just get used to it over time."

"We feel 50 years of effort to maintain this high visual standard has been ignored"

Red Cap managing director Mark Tanton's response was the visual impact could not be mitigated. However the effect on property values was debatable and this was more likely attributable to the current difficult economic climate and the negative impact of the Thyspunt nuclear debate. Some of the residents attending the meeting were not opposed to the Red Cap proposal. Members of the local farming community present were largely supportive, congratulating Red Cap and its

partners on the initiative.

The Industrial Development Corporation is assisting Red Cap and its partners to deliver what is described as meaningful socio-economic development through the establishment of a broad-based empowerment trust.

The focus of the trust will be to address the needs of the community with a view to improving the quality of life through job-creation, local economic development, capacity-building and skills transfer.

Red Cap declares it is not only represented by those with depth of experience and expertise in the local energy sector, but also by partners who have been directly involved in wind energy development in other parts of the world. They include Afri-Coast Engineers, Eurocap Renewables, Evolution One and Standard Bank.

The company plans to develop a wind farm of up to 121 wind-turbines near Oyster Bay, St Francis Bay and Paradise Beach.

The central cluster of 43 turbines will be developed first at Oyster Bay over a three-year period. The western cluster with 53 turbines will be near the mouth of the Tsitsikama River. The eastern cluster which lies between St Francis Bay and Paradise Beach on the north side of the Kromme River will have 27 turbines.

Snyman kap terug na berig

Cindy Liebenberg

DAAR is verlede week berig oor 'n hofuitspraak waarom die klaer, Eddie Johnson ontevrede was omdat die regter bevind het hy het geen voet op om te staan in sy klag teen Jaco Snyman van Automotive Mechanics nie. Johnson was ongelukkig met die diens en so meer wat hy van Snyman ontvang het en wou sy geld terug hê.

Snyman het egter intussen vir Our Times sy

kant van die storie vertel en gevra dat die saak nou tot ruste gelê moet word.

Hy beweer aangesien Johnson se aanhoudende aantuigings onwaar is, dit besig is om sy (Snyman) se besigheid moontlike skade te berokken.

Hy wil graag sy kliënte verseker van sy voortdurende goeie diens en bereidwilligheid om die ekstra myl te loop.

SIVEST Environmental Division

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA):
PROPOSED THYSPUNT TRANSMISSION LINES INTEGRATION PROJECT (TTLIP)
 (DEAR REF: N05/12/12/20/12/11, 12/12/20/12/12 and 12/12/20/12/13)

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, under Government Notice No. R386, R388 and R387 of 21 April 2006, Section 24 (b) read with Section 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), the public is hereby notified that the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will be made available in hard copy for review and comment at the venues below.

REVIEW PERIOD OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The public is hereby notified that the DEIR will be made available for review and comment from Monday 18 July 2011 to Thursday 01 September 2011 (end of business) at the venues below. The document will also be available on the SIVEST website (<http://www.sivest.co.za/Download.aspx>) then browse to the folder "9520 – Eskom Thyspunt EIA" and CD (on written request).

Venue	Address	Contact Person	Contact Details
Oyster Bay Estate	Elf Street, Oyster Bay	Ms Elmaria Meyer	082 568 1769
St Francis Library	1 Assisi Drive, St Francis Bay	Mrs K De Groot	042 294 0369
Humansdorp Library	15 Bureau Street, Humansdorp	Mrs M Leggenberg	042 200 3316
Jeffrey's Bay Library	45 Da Gama Road, Jeffrey's Bay	Mrs L Jack	042 200 2261
Hankey Library	1 Hoof Street, Hankey	Mrs L Kleinmans	042284 0302
Loeries Hill	Loeries Hill Community Hall, Judy Street, Loeries	Mr W Smit	042 267 0651
Thornhill Hotel	8 Old Cape Road, Thornhill	Mr J Allers	042 266 0653
Altan Ridge Library	Kamosh Road, Uitenhage	Ms Maria Mathewse / Margaret Gongo	041 694 1314
Motherwell Library	C/o Umnul & Ngqolweni Streets, Motherwell (NUG)	Mrs Marianne Terblanche	041 462 0208

NOTIFICATION OF AND INVITATION TO PUBLIC OPEN DAYS

Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) are also invited to attend any of the Public Open Days (POD) to be held as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
Monday 25 July 2011	Oyster Bay Community Hall, Oyster Bay (GPS: 34°10'00.47 S 24°3'16.36 E)	09:00 - 12:00
	Humansdorp Secondary School, Krustepreien (GPS: 34°0'12.97 S 24°44'49.19 E)	16:00 - 19:00
Tuesday 26 July 2011	Loeries Hill Community Hall, Judy Street, Loeries (GPS: 33°52'55 S 25°01'14 E)	09:00 - 12:00
	Ferry Hotel, Gamtoos (GPS: 33°54'50 S 25°01'02 E)	16:00 - 19:00
Wednesday 27 July 2011	Antares Primary School, Rocklands Road (R334) (S 33°51.62' (E 25°16.93')	16:00 - 19:00
	Sea Vista Community Hall, Sea Vista (St Francis Bay) (GPS: 33°41'0.45 S 25°44'33.81 E)	09:00 - 12:00
Thursday 28 July 2011	De Vries, Jeffreys Bay (GPS: 33°41'32.27 S 24°24'24.24 E)	16:00 - 19:00
	Elukhanyeni Library, Pomona Vind Road, KwaNobuhle (GPS: 33°49'26 S 25°22'22.95 E)	09:00 - 12:00
Saturday 30 July 2011	Dabs Madakane Community Hall, KwaNobuhle	14:00 - 17:00
Monday 1 August 2011	Henry Fassy Community Hall, KwaDwesi	14:00 - 17:00
Tuesday 2 August 2011	Lucky Look Creche, 2 - 6 Bonito Street, Tynville, Uitenhage	16:00 - 19:00
Wednesday 3 August 2011	Uitenhage Golf Course, Uitenhage (GPS: 33°44'33.81 S 25°24'44.75 E)	16:00 - 19:00
Thursday 4 August 2011	Raymond Mhlaba Sports Centre, Motherwell (GPS: 33°48'09 S 25°35'48 E)	09:00 - 12:00
	Ngqolweni Community Centre, Ngqolweni Street, Motherwell	16:00 - 19:00

The purpose of the Public Open Days are to present the environmental findings as per the DEIR, present the revised Northern and Southern Corridors and associated EIA Team-preferred alignment, provide I&APs the opportunity to raise any further comments and/or concerns they might have regarding this proposed project and to discuss any aspect of the proposed project with members of the EIA Team present. Please note the EIA Team has determined an EIA Team-preferred alignment and this will also be presented at the Public Open Days.

Nicolene Venter / Mabel Qinsilo / Andrea Gibb

SIVEST Environmental
 P.O. Box 2021
 RIVONIA
 2126
 E-mail: thyspuntlines@sivest.co.za / nicolenev@sivest.co.za / mabelq@sivest.co.za / andreaag@sivest.co.za

Tel: (011) 768 0000
 Fax: (011) 803 7272