

# WoeskUS

## 2018 SA Longboard Championships Lambert's Bay



The West Coast  
has some of the world's  
most magnificent landscapes...

# EXPLORE



# Sea Shack

**Dianne Heeseom-Green** moved to neighbouring Paternoster many years ago when it was still a tiny fishing village. With her art gallery, Stone Fish Studio, she has evolved with the Village and its people. Having started and run Kayak Paternoster for many years, she is intimately familiar with the coastline and all its salty inhabitants. Her love of nature and artistry make her the perfect curator of this eco adventure camp. If tranquility, nature and beauty are what you are after, then Sea Shack is the place for you.

**Go on a Journey.** Sea Shack began millions of years ago when a beautiful bay was birthed. This bay, like a newborn baby, was the calm amongst the storm. Nestled within the ferocity of the West Coast's seas, this bay was like no other. As if it had been from the Mediterranean, it soon became the home to all sea creatures and birds alike, rejoicing in its serenity.

Now some millions of years later, the owners of the Sea Shack have strived to make it a place as special and serene for their visitors as it is for its fauna neighbours

**Accommodation.** Each tiny wooden cabin has been personalised and themed to suit its name by the famous artist Theo Kleynhans. Whether you have the pleasure of staying in Oyster or the delight of Dolphin this is sure to be the beginning of special memories.

There are four 'kleinhuisies' for all guests to use. Each one consists of a gas-heated shower, eco-toilet, urinal and hand basin. Guests need to bring their own towels.

A favourite place for guests to unwind, meet up and eat meals is the communal Boma. It has a fully equipped kitchen / scullery with gas cooking facilities and a shared fridge. In the evening guests collect around the fire pit to cook, laugh and kuier.

Powered by solar and gas, Sea Shack is off the grid. No hairdryers, but mobile cell charging is available at reception.



**Paternoster**  
www.seashack.co.za

## Discover



Discover

### Restaurants to visit on a rainy day

**Blouberg: Catch 22**  
The perfect setting with the perfect view!

Beachside Grill & Bar. Steakhouse, Seafood, Sushi, Vegetarian Friendly.

**Melkbos: I Love Melkies**  
Shop 9, MiraMar Centre, Beach Rd.  
Awesome view, great food.

**Club Mykonos: Boesmanland Plaas Kombuis,**  
Restaurant in Langebaan that offers traditional South African foods served in traditional South African style.

**Elands Bay: The Tin Kitchen**  
Vensterklip, 1 Bonteheuwel Farm,  
Shaded seating areas and beautifully tended lawns add to the relaxed, rustic atmosphere.

**Draaihoek Lodge**  
This is a beautiful get-a-way destination!  
Mouth-watering gourmet meals,  
Marietjie 082 9201 265  
www.draaihoek.com

**Lamberts Bay: High Tide Seafood and Steakhouse**  
6 Strand Street Lamberts Bay,  
An amazing little place, cosy and with a fireplace to keep you warm!  
Just what you need this winter.

*Sand slides between your toes, the sound of the ocean fills the air and the brilliant blue waves draw you in.  
Enjoy the fresh ocean air with your friends and family.*

**Melkbos:** This is the first West Coast beach you will encounter upon leaving Cape Town. Perfect for long, lazy walks and safe swimming. Melkbos Beach offers beautiful views of Robben Island and Table Mountain. The sunsets here are stunning!

**Jacobs Bay Beach:** Picture perfect! This is a beautiful unspoilt beach in a typical warm West Coast holiday village. The white limestone houses sit right on the sand. This beach is super romantic and perfect for long walks.

**Paternoster Beach:** The standout here is the endless stretch of a deserted white beach. Think spectacular sunsets, good West Coast seafood, brightly painted wooden boats and friendly fishermen.

**Shelley Bay Beach:** Shelley Bay Beach is named for the many beach pebbles and shells that lie scattered about. Due to this, people think the beach won't be as pleasant as other more popular beaches.....but they're wrong!

**Elands Bay:** This beach is also a big hit with surfers, but if you go on a day when the swell is low, you'll have the place all to yourself.

**Doringbaai Beach:** We love this beach for its romantic feel and obviously, the lighthouse. The beach is mainly occupied by locals, which makes it the ultimate West Coast spot.



### Events & Festivals

1. Darling Winter Festival @ Darling TBA Facebook  
Tel: 021 286 1099
2. Bergrivier Winter Karnaval: 14 July @ Velddrif
3. Dinner Dance @ Elands Bay Hotel 28 July  
Contact Teresa 060 8658 929
4. Farmers Market: Malkoppan Guest Farm  
Last Saturday of the month @ Lamberts Bay

# Telling

Mandi about the sea

Norman van der Poll



Mandi - my Monster child...

Sitting in Costa Rica, contemplating life as a fundamental phenomenon, I get an anxious and urgent text from Mandi (who is my Monster child), asking that I pen a page of summat about the Sea, the West Coast or surfing....a tall order, all things considered, as I am a lazy writer.

Mandi, if I had to write about the West Coast, I'd have to tell you about Boepie, Sekkie, Oupie or Porra. As I sit, I reminisce and remember – neither of them would be too happy to see me extolling their virtues, considering that I'm writing this in English. I'm not too sure that Sekkie has actually ever spoken English, let alone read it, unless he was forced to by his Sub A (First Grade) teacher!

So here I am, canning that topic – the West Coast, that is.

Surfing, Mandi? Seriously? All I know about surfing is the day your mom and I came across your brother, Ernst, on the beach. He was about 12, and religiously waxing a board kindly gifted by his uncle. We both knew he had no idea how to surf, so we had a quiet giggle at his expense, careful not to tease him about this.

I still think the product he was using may have triggered the waxing. By the way, It was called "Sex Wax". I guess I could talk about the sea, having been around the world a few times, experiencing various bodies of water as though they were home to me.

The most vivid recollection I have is of a beach in South Korea. Picture a hot, sunny day, nothing to do other than chill at home, and you get invited to experience South Koreans at the beach.

I jumped at the opportunity, collecting the paraphernalia I thought I'd need to romp in the waves – factor 40 lotion, a towel, shades and of course, a happy face.

Needless to say, I wasn't impressed by reality...bikinis on the beach? Oh, no. I was bowled for a six when these two young ladies appeared...Xi Ling and Pang Mong were dressed to the T. Stockings, heels and parasols. No waves to speak of, and a rocky beach further dampened my excitement, (although I saw the beauty of the rough landscape for what it was).



I hurriedly left to put on a shirt to cover my thoracic extremities, finding that I was not only the only expat on the beach, but the only adult without a shirt!

Mandi, did I ever tell you about the Baja Laut on the island of Mabul? The folk that live on boats, being completely stateless? They'd often venture off the ocean and anchor a few hundred metres offshore to replenish greens and spices. The kids would then rush ashore, eager to play with the islanders.

I found this to be amazing and actually requested a sleepover on a houseboat, trying to imagine a night on the stormy seas in a vessel as tiny as this! I quickly learned not to fart in the cabin, no matter how silently it escaped – they knew it was me, as they honoured the limits of close confinement! I didn't!

This little fellow came ashore to take a dump in full view of the wealth and pretentiousness surrounding him. I asked him about this..."but, why??" His answer was simple: "We Baja Laut respect the oceans, and we find it difficult to defecate in the oceans we visit, adding to the waste we encounter on our travels. We were taught that organic waste is to be dumped on land. So this is my small contribution today."



I didn't laugh, or even try to question his reasoning...

Which, I guess, leads me to comment on humans interacting with our oceans. I don't want to go into statistics, show horror pictures or display charts to echo the dire cries of our marine creatures – I think we have enough of that at our fingertips (almost as much as the NG Kerk used to remind us of our sins, hmmm?).

Rather, a little tale...

Walking on Palm Beach some time ago, Mandi and I came across starfish having washed up on the beach, drying out in the harsh sun, and, of course, she started picking them up, throwing them back into rock pools, occasionally landing one back in the ocean.

As it happened, a Valie strolled by, asking me why Mandi was doing this – she'd never manage to return all the little creatures to their natural habitat. I prompted him to ask her, a little four-year-old. She smiled sweetly: "Oom, because I want to make a difference...I make a difference to each of the little Starfish I return to the ocean!"

So the question I have, is simple; Having read the tongue in cheek memories a little earlier in this article; Could you class your interaction with our beaches and oceans as being responsible and conducive to marine life? Do you recycle? Do you think of the consequences of the actions of the less-informed, and are you helping to educate our unique cultures about the fact that conservation starts at home?

## Are you making a difference?



# Early Days at Elands Bay

**PAUL BOTHA**

After a couple of hours rattling down the corrugated gravel road south of Lamberts Bay, the Kombi slid to a halt in the dusty square flanked by a hotel, an 'alegemene handelaar' (general dealer) and a solitary hand-operated petrol pump in the sun-bleached one-horse coastal town. A quick scan of the ocean revealed head high waves that peeled flawlessly for 200 metres down a rocky point below the towering sandstone cliffs of Baboon Point before closing out in the sandy shore-break.

## 1965 - 1967

Whooping with the anticipation of a virgin discovery, the driver navigated the heavily loaded vehicle down a rutted track towards the point and parked next to a small river that bisected the rocks and the beach. He and his young companion jumped out and untied the cumbersome 20 KG, 9'6" epoxy and fibreglass covered polystyrene surfboards from the roof-racks while the dog ran around excitedly whilst the women accompanying them tended to the toddlers and set up camp.

Rummaging around for a candle the guys rubbed wax on the boards, slipped into Speedos and made their way through the thorny scrub to the ocean's edge. Entering the 12 degree water, they kneel-paddled up to the top of the point and spent a couple of hours racing the pristine peeling waves, with the occasional swim through the kelp to retrieve their boards after wipeouts, before returning to the shore with chattering teeth and sunburnt backs but absolutely stoked.

The year was 1957, the surfers were John Whitmore and Earl Krause and the spot was Elands Bay!

Whitmore, a goofy-foot who went on to become the Doyen of South

African surfing, building the first foam and fibreglass surfboards and introducing Clark foam, surf mags and movies to the country, as well as creating the WP and SA surfing associations, managing the first Springbok teams to compete in the world championships and even winning a couple of SA veterans titles, immediately fell in love with the Elands Bay area.

First inhabited by hunter-gatherers about 30 000 years earlier, give or take a millennium or two, when the coastline was approximately 12 Kms from the present beach, archeological evidence found in the Elands Bay Cave shows the rising sea-levels caused by melting ice-caps brought the ocean to within five kms around 11 000 years back and to just a couple of hundred metres from the mountain since then.

With a year-round supply of fresh water in Verlorenvlei, approximately 15 minutes drive inland from Elands Bay, next to which both Krause (in 1970) and Whitmore (in 1972) were to buy farms, the area had long been farmed and is still one of the premier potato growing regions in SA. The cold, nutrient-rich Benguela current teems with sea-life and a well established crayfish industry was already in operation.

On that first trip, decades before the current coastal road was built, the group had driven up the N7 as far as Vredendal before heading down the Oliphants River valley to the coast at Standfontein, where they surfed the beach break. Stopping at Doringbaai to feast on crayfish caught in knee-deep water, they then passed through Lamberts Bay on their way to the headland indicated on the map as Elands Bay.

The 220 Km return journey to Cape Town the next day via the old farm road to Piketberg and the N7, took close to five hours with numerous stops to open the dozens of farm gates.

The quality of the waves they had surfed was kept to close friends at first, but as news of secret spots always does, it soon spread amongst the hardy crew of surfing pioneers in Cape Town and by the start of the 1960's a steady trickle of surfers started taking trips to the fabled lefthander, bypassing the turnoff to Yzerfontein with its mediocre left point that had previously been their staple West Coast hangout.

However, back then expeditions to Elands were only for the hardcore. The N7 was simply a narrow tarred surface without

shoulders and the dusty, potholed road from Piketberg to the ocean often destroyed the rudimentary suspension systems, and more-so on the overloaded VW's, Morris Minors and Austin A35's that were the surf vehicles of the day.

The harsh West Coast environment ensured it usually took several days to recover from an Elands trip. No wetsuits, no sunscreen, no shelter and no idea of the value of keeping hydrated in the searing semi-desert conditions, combined with having to swim in to recover your surfboard every time you wiped out, resulted in severe cases of sunburn, dehydration and exhaustion when the intrepid adventurers returned home.

Getting surf was also a hit and miss affair as there was no knowledge of wave mechanics such as swell direction or period and, despite overhead surf in Cape Town, many a group spent the weekend at Elands catching crayfish, climbing the mountain or riding tiny surf in the beach-break when the swell was too Southerly to refract onto the point's liquid racetrack.

The construction of the R366 between Piketberg and Elands in the early '60's significantly reduced the driving time and although still gravel and often badly corrugated,

the cattle grates next to each gate avoided the need to stop at every farm boundary.

As the popularity of surfing grew in Cape Town, thanks largely to Whitmore providing the latest international products and media, including his legendary surf reports on Good Hope FM, and the introduction of rudimentary wetsuits, so the numbers heading for Elands grew.

The chances of getting surf on the point improved when surfers realised that it was only worth making the trip if the waves were overhead at Milnerton which, without knowing it at the time, meant that the swell was coming from a predominantly Westerly direction.

By 1964 Fish Hoek surfers Peter Alexander and Lambert 'Woody' Woodburne, who went on to become a Vice Admiral and Head of the SA Navy in 1990, were making up to 40 trips a year to Elands, all in Woody's Austin-Healy Sprite sports car, with the soft-top requiring special reinforcement after being crushed by the weight of the boards.

They became friendly with Oom Willie Engelbrecht, owner of the crayfish factory, hotel and most of the town, who reserved the relative luxury of a sparsely furnished bungalow for them and provided crayfish at 2c each.

The first media exposure for Elands Bay came in the October 1965 edition of the South African Surfer, Vol.1, No. 3, which featured a three page spread consisting of words by Whitmore and photos by John Reid, an Elands regular who worked in the Whitmore Surfboards factory. Images of Woodburne, Alexander and fellow Fish Hoek

goofy-foot Martin Smuts, amongst others, driving down the line on peeling, overhead waves, alerted surfers all over South Africa, and internationally, to the quality of the waves.

Also in 1965, Elands received major mainstream national coverage when renowned film director Ashley Lazarus contacted Whitmore to make an advert there for Lexington cigarettes. Whitmore organized a crew of surfers including Reid, Alexander, Woodburne and a dozen young 'hotties' from Fish Hoek, who made the trip in the back of 'Carrots' Wright's construction truck.

The point was firing and arguably the period's best footage of surfing in South Africa was recorded on flawless 6 to 8 foot offshore waves under cloudless skies. Some surfers and the lead actors were lined up on the beach to capture the trademark Lexington 'After action satisfaction' slogan but the camera started misfiring and the three minute advert eventually showed in cinemas countrywide for many years thereafter with Alexander and Reid (who never smoked) posing with cigarettes instead of the intended stars.

By the second half of the 1960's the formerly quiet Afrikaner seaside village was regularly being overrun on weekends by groups of hyperactive, mostly English speaking city surfers running amok and intent on surfing, drinking and having a good time. The infamous delivery van purchased and customised by Muizenberg's Corner Surf Club in 1965 would produce an instant 'logjam' when it arrived with 20 or so amped surfers.

The Saturday night parties at the

hotel became the fulcrum of social interaction between the cultures. Featuring traditional "sakkie, sakkie boere musiek" and attracting the local farming and fishing families, who all seemed to be named Engelbrecht or Niemand, these parties produced several tense standoffs as the uninhibited, beer-swilling surfers tried to dance with the local girls. Several city gigolo's were run out of town by the locals who, after consuming litres of brandy and coke, went to fetch their shotguns!

Another memorable visit to Elands Bay came when the WP Surfing Association decided to hold its 1967 champs there and around 80 surfers arrived for the weekend. Conditions were terrible, tiny surf, hard NW onshore wind and continuous rain. Nobody even went near the ocean, the drinking started early and that night's party was a legendary affair!

Leaving the next morning, the mostly hung-over drivers found that the 60 kms of gravel road back to Piketberg had turned into an ankle-deep mud slide, making driving in a straight line difficult and cornering almost impossible. Scores of overloaded surfers' cars ended up spinning into the roadside bushes with many doing full 360's and everyone having to slow down to walking pace to navigate their way through the cattle grates.

By 1968 the shortboard revolution had begun and the often long-haired surf stars of the day were ripping, tearing and lacerating the waves and the decade ended with the local entrepreneurs building a campsite in front of the hotel to accommodate the number of surfers visiting what had become the jewel of the West Coast.



Elands Bay trip 1965



Elands Bay trip 1965  
Orton, Craig, Botha, Alexander



Elands Bay trip 1965  
The Crew



Elands Bay trip 1967  
Praying for surf....



Photo by Sean Thompson

# Playground on the *West Coast*



Weddings Functions Birthdays

## Vensterklip

Vensterklip is situated on a stretch of water known as Verlorenvlei, which is one of the largest natural wetlands along the West Coast of South Africa and the only coastal freshwater lake in the country.

The Tin Kitchen serves delicious home-cooked food in a 300-year-old barn and shady garden. Shaded seating areas and beautifully tended lawns add to the relaxed, rustic atmosphere.

All their pork, beef and lamb is locally sourced. They also offer spectacular seafood. Their home-made chips are second to none. Friday night is stone-baked pizza night. The bar oozes old Afrikaner charm and serves a wide selection of drinks and excellent coffee.

Accommodation; Vensterklip offers a choice of accommodation ranging from 5 beautifully restored historic cottages dating from the early 1800's, to 6 well maintained 15m x 25m private campsites overlooking Verlorenvlei, each with braai area, sink and en-suite bathrooms with WC, basin and shower.

Should you have a kayak, bring it along, the Vlei is the perfect spot, especially early in the morning. The Vlei is too shallow for swimming, so instead you can enjoy the beautiful pool and lapa. View the scenery and birdlife on a guided horse trail.



Tell: 022 - 972 1340 Cell: 079 500 3335 info@vensterklip.co.za  
www.vensterklip.co.za



feel the wave

SA LONGBOARD CHAMPS 2018

LAMBERTS BAY, WEST COAST SOUTH AFRICA



Hugo Zuanni

KEEP CALM AND LET'S SURF



*In* 1989, Dave Lipschitz from the Eastern Cape entered the first ever SA Longboard Championships that was held at Seal Point in the Eastern Cape. This became an annual event. Twenty-nine years later, having never missed one event, he came to Lamberts Bay again for the GB Surf SA Longboard Championships.

He, and about 150 competitors took part in this competition which is the measure of the longboard surfing talent in South Africa.

Competitors came from as far as Northern KZN to compete in this prestigious competition. The teams that entered were from KZN Surfing, Eden Surfing (the old SWD), Eastern Province Surfing, Western Province Surfing and a Barbarians Team which included competitors from the ILEMBE Team from Northern KZN.

The youngest surfer was 12 and entered the U14 division. The oldest surfer was 70 and surfed in the Senior Ladies division. Therese Russell is still one very fit person who would put most of us to shame in the swimming pool having until recently won multiple South African Masters swimming titles. The oldest male, George Bunting at 69, was the title sponsor of the GB Surf SA Longboard Championships and without his generous sponsorship, these Champs would not have been possible. The SA Champs were hosted by Western Province. Thank you to every single individual that worked tirelessly to make this competition the roaring success it was.

It was held over five days. With the exception of the second day, where we had a small taste of what we want so badly in Cape Town, stormy, rainy, windy weather, the other four days had beautiful weather with cooking waves which were served up by old Neptune. We could not have asked for better waves and a better venue. Lamberts Bay has the perfect set up for a surfing competition and I'm sure that more competitions will be planned there in the future. The Lamberts Bay Town Council were awesome and very helpful and welcomed us with open arms. Nothing was too much trouble for them. The locals and restaurants were just as welcoming to all the competitors and their families.

This was the first time the SA Champs were held up the real West Coast of South Africa and by all accounts it was a resounding success. Every person we spoke to loved the whole vibe that they experienced over the course of the event. The "rawness" of the West Coast was clearly felt and enjoyed by everyone. The cooking waves no doubt contributed to the enjoyment.

