



Mudlark Riverfront Lodge

# Newsletter

Breede River - Infanta

Edition 12



Wind, wind, wind, seems to be the pattern this summer. I can't remember when we had so much at the beginning of summer. Luckily we are protected from the prevailing South East wind, so we can still enjoy the sunshine without being blown away. As I write the South Easter (the so called Cape Doctor) is blowing away, and the guests are sunning themselves on the deck watching the birds perform.



Fishing has been exceptionally good with large numbers of grunter being caught, they have never really gone off the bite, except when the conditions have been unpleasant, and that is probably because we cannot feel them biting in the wind. A number of our guests say that it is the best fishing they have ever had at the Mudlark. The Garrick have appeared and numbers of good size fish have been caught and released. The same cannot be said about the Kob. Larger fish are as scarce as hens teeth, and very few have been caught.



The locals certainly don't have a release ethic when it comes to these monsters. Hopefully, the conservancies education program will increase the number of releases. We are very lucky as 80% of the fish caught at the Mudlark are released by our guests. The water is a warm 21 deg C which might have something to do with all the fish being around.



A humpback dolphin has been cruising up and down the river. Hilary has been photographing the dorsal fin which is the means of identifying individual dolphins, the photos have been sent to a lady in Gans Baai who is doing a study of these animals. We may find out in time if it is the same dolphin, or different ones that come into the estuary to visit.

Witsand beach has been given a blue flag status, which makes it one of the top beaches in South Africa. A timber viewing deck is to be built overlooking the mouth of the river close to Infanta. It will certainly be a bonus for those that do whale watching, as it is really a stunning place to watch the river meet the sea, and watch the whales in season.

Birding has really been good this month. We have had sightings of the European Oyster Catcher, and the Jacobin Cuckoo, which are quite rare in this area. The Cape Sugar Birds have taken over the garden, they seem to put on a show whenever necessary forcing the other birds to wait their turn at the nectar feeders.

Our mad dog Bodger, a huge favorite with our guests has passed his snake test.. We were particularly concerned as to how he would react on seeing a snake, would he try and play with it as is his nature, or would he be wary. We were called outside by him barking wildly, realizing something was wrong, he had spotted a Puff Adder going across the road and was being very careful and wary of it, but he definitely wanted us to know that it was there!! Thank goodness. Luckily snakes around the lodge are a rarity.

The mad season is almost upon us, and all of us at the Mudlark would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas, and all the Best for a Great New Year.

Tim & Hilary



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