

# CHRONICLE SPORT

Jeff Clause, CEO of St Francis Links Golf Estate in St Francis Bay, has added another feather to his cap. This time it is for winning the PGA Professional of the year in the Southern and Eastern Cape region.

In a letter from Nic Grundling, Regional Chairman Southern and Eastern Cape Regional Committee, Jeff was congratulated by the committee. Grundling wrote: "On behalf of the Southern and Eastern Cape Regional Committee, we would like to take the opportunity and congratulate you on winning the PGA Professional of the year in your region."

"We are extremely proud to have a member who has contributed so much to both the PGA of South Africa and the game of golf as a whole."

"We hope that the current members, apprentices and the future members alike will recognise and learn your example."

Jeff has won this award twice previously.

## Jeff is Best Golf Pro in Southern and Eastern Cape 2014



## Santa says

(a column by Jeff Clause)

*Let the Sun shine!*

For years, it was commonly known that December weather all along the coast was some of the worst weather of the year. Just as all of the 'Vaalies' and 'Free Staters' would arrive for the holidays, the wind would go easterly and stay strong for days on end.

This, of course, killed surfing, blew the sea salt all over everything and everyone with an ocean view would seek shelter on the other side of the house. After years of foul December weather, the Northerners just kept coming.

Then, about two years ago something the locals couldn't come to terms with, just happened; the wind dropped on the 26th of December and the sun came out and stayed out for weeks on end. Instead of waving good-bye in early January and leaving the locals to bask in near perfect weather for the next six months, the Northerners were exposed to 'our' normal weather.

Oops! The following year, rentals went through the roof. Home sales picked up and the secret of St Francis Bay was gone.

This unexplainable happened in 2013 when the weather was so good that no one stayed indoors ever! Paddling, running, surfing, swimming, hiking, biking and even great golfing in windless conditions spoiled the plan for the selfish locals who preferred to keep the Village a peaceful Village.

Restaurants were booming and struggling to keep up with the numbers, Holiday rentals were through the roof.

Our world-class golf courses were pumping rounds through from dawn to dusk (unless the weather was too perfect). Everyone told their friends about St Francis Bay and all hell broke loose.

Property sales were on the rise throughout the year. Visitors started coming to town in the winter months and bookings for 2014-5 were breaking records. Some of the locals were forced to leave, renting their beautiful homes for a couple of rands, to avoid the congestion. Other locals with a broader view of life put their heads together and decided to provide the visitors with more to do this year end Programmes came together for the this Festive Season that includes a Concert in the Park with Jesse Clegg and other top musicians – and this is a 'Free Concert', thanks to our ever-supportive Super Spar.

When kids are happy, parents are happy too. Take a deep breath before you react negatively to the sounds of music in the air. Billy's Beach and other venues attract thousands to our Village. When we were young the sound was the same and our parents were happy that we were in a safe place with our friends around us.

Every Great Shot Starts with a SMILE has always been my advice for golf. It also applies to life. As locals, we must do our absolute best to make our visitors welcome over the holidays. Our philosophy at St Francis Links is to "treat our Members as Royalty and our guests as Members for their stay. We have our own Season Programme that will appeal to all ages – Nic Rabinowitz will cap it all off with a sure sell out on the 3rd of Jan. Come for the day or stay for a lifetime! Visitors are most welcome. With Eskom adding some intimacy to the spirit of Christmas by bringing out 'the carols by candlelight', our generators will ensure that our lights will always be on!

This year, help our visitors by being vigilant – everyone protect your homes and valuables from burglars. Look out for each other's best interests and have a safe and prosperous holiday season!

Let the sun shine – for the entire holiday! If the wind blows, so what! It's St Francis Bay and there is always something great to do – for the entire family.

PS. We are going to recreate "the Festive Season" later in the year – you can return in the 'Cool Season' for great weather and just as many opportunities to have fun here!



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