



GRASSHOPPER COUNTRY
*The Great Brak River
 Museum News Letter*

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 Great Brak River

November 2011

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Editor Rene' de Kock

Dear Friends of the Museum

Issue 11 of 2011

I always thought that the 'Kanniedood' now in flower was a South African plant. Not so, it is a *Tillandsia* a genus of around 540 species in the Bromeliad family (Bromeliaceae), found in the forests, mountains, and deserts, of Central and South America, and Mexico and the southern United States in North America.



The thinner-leaved varieties grow in rainy areas and the thick-leaved varieties in areas more subject to drought. Moisture and nutrients are gathered from the air (even dust, decaying leaves and insect matter) through structures on the leaves called trichomes. *Tillandsia* species are epiphytes (also called aerophytes or *air plants*) – i.e. they normally grow without soil while attached to other plants. Epiphytes are not parasitic, depending on the host only for support.

Colleen Chatt has managed to scrounge sufficient parts to put together a computer for our new museum assistant. Loads of thanks go to Colleen and the many donors of parts.



We have a distinguished little theatre in Great Brak River which has impressive 'month end' art films. I must apologise for not publishing details as information comes out during the month and too late for our publication. Nonetheless, please contact Dries at:

39 Long Street, Great Brak River, 6525

Fax: (044) 620 4036

Cell: 082 576 3338 / Cell: 082 558 5244

Email: drielaine@yahoo.co

Did you know that we send out more than 400 copies of our news letter each and every month? The letters are then forwarded, some automatically, by many other parties including DCAS who kindly post our letters on their site. We know this as readers write in from many addresses not on our address lists. What is more important that when searching the Internet for information on Great Brak River, readers are often referred back to articles from our newsletters?

The Christmas holidays are just around the corner and the following come highly recommended.

For Accommodation

ILITA LODGE
 Overlooking Great Brak River.
 B&B & Self Catering.
 Phone 044-620-4143
www.ilitalodge.co.za



For High Class Cuisine

Trans Karoo @ The Station
 Great Brak River.
 Ph: 044-620-4163



For Breakfast, Lunch and Teas

Tafeltjie Dek
 Guinea fowl walk
 Long Street in the village
 044-620-2482

The Museum is now open Monday to Friday between 9 am and 4 pm.

In support of our many museum members you will continue to receive the full news letter whilst non members will for the time being only receive the first three pages.

South African towns are continually being subject to name changes. Whilst many believe this is the residents right, it is probably the worst form of marketing that can take place. Who is going to remember all these new names? and what the association with the past is.

It renders all previously published advertising, history and geographical books obsolete. By all means provide new names for new streets and municipalities but don't change village and town names. Some new names are:

Makhado (was Louis Trichardt) a town 108 km north of Polokwane.

eMbangweni (was Lochiel) a settlement in Mpumalanga Province.

Maphundlwane (was Oshoek) a settlement in Mpumalanga Province.

eMangweni (was Loskop) a village in Escort in KwaZulu-Natal.

EXobho (correction of spelling from /xopo) a local municipality in KwaZulu-Natal Province.

See the Government Gazette for more details.

The Poverty Alienation Workshop at the Museum was revitalised some months ago and the girls have been working very hard sewing new items for the museum shop for Christmas. They also take orders for individual items. Visit Nora and Annabel at the museum on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week and see the many novel items on sale at the museum shop. The museum craft classes have been cancelled for the remainder of the year as Hope will be on convalescence leave.

The museum is doing something different this **Christmas** in that the Pelton Wheel supper club will be hosting supper evenings with a classic mystery story.



"The Cat screamed at midnight" will be performed on several occasions.

The intriguing plot includes eight possible suspects. Our detective inspector will lead the investigation and our hostesses will serve supper during the story. The various parts are played by the attending dinner guests, who may dress for the part, and several of these will also take the part of sleuth's who can use their effective investigative techniques to figure out the intricacies of the crime. Even the guilty party doesn't know that he could be found out and everyone at the supper table can

attempt to solve the case.

Come and choose your part.

It is October 31, 1936 And, at the English country estate, Conifers, Sir Hugo Smythe Armbruster's 70th party took place last night. Sir Hugo had been knighted after The Great War for his contributions to the war effort. His brilliant sense of both history and propriety established him as an able publisher whose newspaper, *The Daily Truth*, kept the citizenry informed of what was happening at the front.

The assembled guests celebrated the event in a most fitting way - with enough food and drink to choke the proverbial horse. But, it seems, the horse may have fought back. For, this morning, Sir Hugo was found dead in the stables near the main house. Although the death was at first viewed to be accidental, Scotland Yard took little time in declaring that, indeed, evidence pointed toward murder.

Are your visitors
Short of a book
to read ?

A large collection
of Pre-owned
books on sale in
the Museum
Shop....Every
week day.

Proceeds go to
museum funds



Interested in Bass
Fishing
072-714-2292
044-876-0464

Georgebackpackers
@gmail.com.

The museum shop
has a new range
of colourful bags,
kitchen ware,
wooden toys, dolls
and Christmas
present items on
display

The Department of
Water Affairs and
Forestry reports that
during late October
2011, our
Wolwedans dam
water level is
98.0% full.

Visitors welcome but
nofishing, swimming
or boating allowed.


In September 2009
the **Wolwedans** dam
water level stood at
44.50% full and
water restrictions
were introduced.

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What's on, in and around the museum in Great Brak River this and the coming months?

Month & provisional date	Description	Supported by	Contact person
November	Pre-owned books on sale in the Museum Shop....Every week day. Both English and Afrikaans books available from R4.00 each	The Museum for museum funds	The museum 044-620-3338
December	<p><i>"The Cat screamed at midnight"</i></p> <p>The Pelton Wheel supper club will be hosting buffet supper evenings with a classic mystery story.</p> <p>The intriguing plot includes eight possible suspects. Our detective inspector will lead the investigation and our hostesses will serve supper during the story. The various parts are played by the attending guests, who may dress for the part (1930's).</p>	<p>The Museum for museum funds</p> 	The museum 044-620-3338
NEAR BY			
November	Visit the Nobel Peace Prize Travelling Exhibition at the museum	Dias Museum Mossel Bay	GENERAL ENQUIRIES 044-691-1067
12 th November 9.00 am @ De dekke	A PUBLIC MEETING On The Establishment of a Fire Management Unit Great Brak River Heights	GBR Heights Rate payers	email, aecipierre@gmail.com

For more details on **what's on** in our area email Hennie & Rene with a request for their news letter: mcpjhb@metroweb.co.za



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Great Brak River has for a long time had a crafts market of some repute however over the years this has declined into a flea type market which does not do justice to its founder Kay Schroeder which she started in 1986 (see our curator's corner).



A **flea market** is a type of bazaar where inexpensive or secondhand goods are sold or bartered. It may be indoors, such as in a warehouse or school gymnasium; or it may be outdoors, such as in a field or under a tent. The flea-market vendors may range from a family that is renting a table for the first time to sell a few unwanted household items to a commercial operation including a large variety of new or used merchandise.

Kay Schroeder showing the basic points of her leatherwork.

Many flea markets have food vendors who sell snacks and drinks to the visitors and may be associated with carnivals or concerts. Some flea market



vendors have been targeted by law enforcement efforts to halt the sale of plagiarized movies and music or knockoff brand clothing, accessories.

The RLR folk displaying some of their crafts.

Kay is, however, not a person of the past, she is now 86 years old and for the past two years has organised the October Seniors Fair at the RLR retirement homes in George. Kay believes that this must be a craft market and only accepts original work done by those over 60 years old. Believe you me when you see the quality of the work done by these long retired gentry you realise what craft work is all about.



Hope de Kock creating a 'Foil Art' art work.

One of Kay's real leatherwork masterpieces. The decorated art work on a Harley Davidson Motorbike's knee Pads.



"Glass-on-dewerf"

Another of our local crafters



Hot out of the Kiln.
Work by the well known glass master of Glass on DeWerf, Henk Du Plessis.

A long time resident of Great Brak river, Henk du Plesses says "The process of designing and manufacturing of warm glass items in two or three dimensional objects and projects of a good standard requires a lot of time, patience and experience in the field. It includes both warm- and cold working techniques and can, due to the requirements of glass as an art form, be frustrating and disappointing as well as rewarding and fulfilling.

Experimenting is essential and can also, more often than not, lead to pleasantly surprising results".



Tuition in the traditional method of manufacturing stained- or leaded glass panels is offered in the form of a two-lesson course, each lesson having a duration of four hours.

The course comprises two parts: Firstly, a theoretical section explaining and demonstrating available literature, tools and materials used and a brief history and characteristics of the different forms of glass. Secondly, a practical section where this is put into practice and the student is taught and guided through the processes of manufacturing a given project. At the end of the course the student should be able to do the next project entirely on his/her own.

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Our Khoekhoe languages

There is a possibility that each province will have six official languages?

At the recent George Heritage seminar we were introduced to Chief Kutela who speaks many languages and who discussed the interesting relationship between various languages spoken in South Africa.

One item of major interest put forward by the Chief is that the Afrikaans language has a substantial background of Khoe words. He commented that whilst Afrikaans speaking South Africans can often understand some European languages, the same Europeans have difficulty in understanding Afrikaans. I am hardly a language professional but would like to hear from those that may have done some research. Other authorities say that although Afrikaans adopted words from languages such as Malay, Portuguese, the Bantu languages, and the Khoisan languages, an estimated 90 to 95 percent of Afrikaans vocabulary is ultimately of Dutch 'origin'.

The **Khoisan** languages (also known as the **Khoesan** or **Khoesaaan** languages) are the click languages of Africa which do not belong to other language families. They include languages indigenous to southern and eastern Africa, though some, such as the Khoi languages, appear to have moved to their current locations not long before the Bantu expansion. In southern Africa their speakers are the Khoi or Khoe and Bushmen (Saan), in east Africa the Sandawe and Hadza.

Prior to the Bantu expansion, it is likely that Khoisan languages, or languages like them, were spread throughout southern and eastern Africa. They are currently restricted to the Kalahari Desert, primarily in Namibia and Botswana, and to the Rift Valley in central Tanzania. Khoisan languages were previously believed to be related to each other as part of a single family, but this conclusion is no longer generally accepted; a minority of linguists continues to regard Khoisan as a valid family.

The Khoekhoe language, or Khoekhoegowab, also known by the ethnic term Nàmá and previously the now-discouraged term Hottentot, is the most widespread of the Khoisan languages. It belongs to the Khoe language family, and is spoken in Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa by three ethnic groups, the Nama, Damara, and Hai||om. It appears that the Damara picked up the language from the Nama in Botswana, and that they migrated to Namibia separately from the Nama. The Hai||om, who had spoken a Juu language, later shifted to Khoekhoe. The name for Nama speakers, *Khoekhoen*, is from the Nama word *khoe* "person", with reduplication and the suffix *-n* to indicate the plural. Georg Friedrich Wreede was the first European who studied the language, after arriving in 1659 (was governor of Mauritius from 1665 to 1672). Khoekhoegowab is only the mother tongue of about 2000 people in South Africa and is spoken more widely in Namibia.

Khoekhoe is a national language in Namibia. In Namibia and South Africa, radio programs are broadcast in it. In Namibia, it is used for teaching up to the university level, as well as in the administration.

Xam-i ge 'a Igúrún hòán dì gào-ao; káiseb 'a Igaísa, kai llkhái, #khari xabu, tsi !háése ra !khole !khai !'aróma.

Tsi matsekám llgóagas hòásàb ge #kham xamroba !gárob !na #gá tsi ll'ib dì Igaíba náú Igúrún !oagu gere /nogu.

Tsi má tsès hòásàb ge ll'ibà dàn'aose gere oa/khi. Tsi ne #hòas ge Igúrún !húb hòarágab !na gè ll'nàúhè tsí #'ánhè 'íí xam-i 'a Igúrún dì gào-ao !khaísà. Tsi má tsès hí'ab gèrè 'óá-lkhí dàn tsís khaó!gá 'oos ge ll'ib dì llgusà gèrè koábi: "tíí 'óátse! lui !nórótse! /ui xábú khaótse! kai llkháitse! 'áore khòetse!" tí.

Xawes ge Igúí tsekám llgóaga khái-má tsib ge #kkam xamrobà a kàrósen 'o ge !khólkhábi "ll'au llkháitse! lui !nórótse! xam ll'oatse! /ui xábú khaótse!" tí, !khólkhabi tóá tsi gè mí "am'asete ge ra #góm sáts má Igúrún hòán xa 'a Igaísa !khaísà. Má tsès hòásàts ge sátsà #'óá !gárob !na tsí 'óá-lkhí tsí ra llgaute 'am'asete sátsà 'a Igúrún dì gào-ao !khaísà. Xawe, tí 'óátse! Igúí tsèts ge ní #'óá !gárob !na. Tsí #'óá tsíts !gárob !na ra !guma hí'ats ge #khari

xurób #hanúse ra !gú, !hodi !na #núa dàná sa ibà ní mù. Tsí, tí 'óátse! //au llkháitse! lui !nórótse! /ui xábú kháótse!
Ilná #kharí xurób xáts kà rà lhaó'ú tsi tsès llnaás 'áis ge sóresà ní #ga 'óal-khí tamats hà hí'a. Ilná xurób ti l'òns ge
a "khòeb" tí ra #gaihè.

English translation

The lion is king of all the beasts because he is very strong, thick of chest, slim of waist, and runs fast. Every morning, the young lion would go out into the forest and compare his strength with the other beasts. And every day he would return the victor. This news was heard and known throughout the animal world: that the lion was king of the beasts. Every day that he would return victorious, his mother would praise him, "Son of mine! Thick of neck! Slim of waist! Thick of chest! He-man!"

But one morning, when having got up the young lion was stretching; she praised him, "Thick of chest! Thick of neck! Lion-armed! Slim of waist!," finished praising him and said, "I truly believe that you are strongest of all the beasts. Every day you go out into the forest and return, and show me that you are truly king of the beasts. But, my son, one day you will go out into the forest. And while you are out walking around in the forest, you will see a little thing which walks straight, its head sitting on its shoulders. And, Son of mine! Thick of chest! Thick of neck! Slim of waist!, the day you meet that little thing, on that day the sun will set while you have not returned. The name of that little thing is called 'man'.

WITH A LOT OF HELP FROM WIKIPEDIA.

Marcolene Botha vertel haar storie

'n bydrae deur
Marcolene



My naam is Marcolene Botha en ek is in George gebore. Ons gesin het na Groot Brakrivier verhuis in 1995 en ek woon die afgelope 16 jaar hier. My ma woon in Pansyiaan, Greenhaven en my pa is in 2005 oorlede. My ma het vanaf haar geboorte in Tannerykloof (Groot Brakrivier) gewoon maar moes die kloof in 1974 a.g.v die vloede verlaat en daar sou ook 'n golfbaan gebou word. My pa het vanaf 1965 in Mossieneslaan gewoon, maar in 1970 moes al die gesinne daar uittrek. Die rede wat aangevoer is vir die uitsetting was glo, volgens meneer Stuart Franklin, gesondheid. My pa het toe na Tergniet verhuis.

Op skool was my gunsteling vakke Ardrykskunde en Toerisme en my Toerisme onderwyser, meneer Peter (Pietie) Smith het my as leerling en ook in my daaglikse lewe geïnspireer. Dit was ook hy wat my vertel het van die pos hier by die Museum en my aangemoedig het om daarvoor aansoek te doen.

Op die oomblik werk ek met die preservering van ou foto's. 'n Ander fokus van hierdie aanstelling is Erfenis-Toerisme en die beplande projek wat ek moet doen sal klem lê op

inligting versamel oor Mossieneslaan, Tannerykloof en Grootbrakhoogte.

Ek beskou myself as stiptelik, eerlik en iemand wat daarvan hou om hare te doen en te kommunikeer. Ek hou ook daarvan om mense te help en navorsing te doen.

In 2009 het ek by PetroSA se 'Shutdown' –afdeling gewerk en in Desember 2010 het ek by die Family Entertainment Centre in Voorbaai uitgehelp.

Laastens is ek ook 'n musikant wat die sopraan saksofoon speel in die Kersfees- orkes genaamd Star of Bethlehem. Die orkes bestaan uit 80 lede.

PUBLIC MEETING

Establishment of a Fire Management Unit

by GREAT BRAK HEIGHTS RATE PAYERS ASSOCIATION

We all remember the veld fire that devastated our area in November 2007. In many instances it was a very close call; many property owners had to evacuate their homes to escape the smoke and heat.



Great Brak River is surrounded by a mixture of natural bush, plantations and invasive species. The community generally lacks the infrastructure to appropriately maintain both private and communal land which in many areas has given rise to invasive plant species which not only relentlessly suck our precious water, but also provide fuel for wild fires in the dry summer season.

Looking West, the Great Brak Heights.

Great Brak Heights Rate Payers Association, on behalf of its members, is in the process of forming a Fire Management Unit (FMU). Our aim is to ensure our community and members can comply with the National Veld and Forest Act 101 of 1998, sections of

which makes fires, the responsibility of each and every property or land owner.

Should a fire start from our property, or run through it causing damage to neighbours, our Noncompliance with the law leaves us at risk : standard fire insurance will probably not provide cover should we be in breach of the act. GREAT BRAK HEIGHTS will pool our resources and aim to create the infrastructure to set up, maintain and manage our fire risk more effectively.

The Southern Cape Fire Protection Agency (SCFPA) will assist all who wish to comply with the Act. SCFPA will:

- I. assess the fire risk in our area,
- II. design and implement our fire prevention and fire fighting plan,
- III. submit the application to the Minister to be granted certain exemptions as members of a FMU.

Non – members will need to create firebreaks on their individual cadastral boundaries and have the necessary equipment as stipulated in the Act.

Great Brak Heights Rate Payers Association will map the way forward to setting up, and maintaining a FMU in our vulnerable area.

We invite all Great Brak Heights land owners, land owners of properties bordering the Great Brak Heights community, as well as any interested land owners to join us at this meeting.

Saturday the 12th NOVEMBER 2011

Time: 9.00 am registration to start at 9:30

Place: De Dekke Restaurant.

For further information:

Please contact Pierre VILLAIN vice chairman of the Great Brak Heights Rate Payers;
by email: aecpierre@gmail.com
or telephonically: 082 833 5063

OUR NATURE CORNER

PHOTO'S AND TEXT;
SALLY ADAM

I'VE long wanted to see a stone grasshopper, and during a recent trip to the Richtersveld I came across many of them. Their camouflage is remarkable.



The pair looked a bit peeved at having been interrupted!





Sally writes, I hadn't noticed this pretty little plant before this spring - it's *Cyanella lutea* (Lady's hand) and grows in the Cape in clay or limestone soils, flowering from September to October. The leaves tend to wither before the flowers appear.



Also flowering at the moment are *Pelargonium fruticosum* (right) and below is the *Aristea pusilla*. The latter is a diminutive member of the genus with the typically blue bloom - one flower opens at a time and lasts just a day.



Many years ago when we were still living in Cape Town I was given a wood and Perspex snail money box for looking after the neighbour's dog. Little did I know I would eventually meet the crafter who had made it.



indigenous garden that Ted and Kay planted.

In 1986 Ted and Kay had a monetary crisis and Kay tackled the problem of opening a permanent outdoor craft market on the 'outspan' in front of Spar. In the past trading was only allowed indoors and legislation had to be promulgated. The venture was a huge success. It is still part of Great Brak River today.

The House that Kay & Ted built.

Examples of Kay's exquisite leatherwork can be seen on the pulpit in the Searle Memorial



Kay and Ted at the 2011 Services Club October Festivities.

I first met Ted and Kay Schroeder in 1996. In those days I had teamed up with Marian O' Riordan to form the Great Brak River Heritage Society. To do fund raising we used to arrange suppers in the old Church hall celebrating a particular event like Burn's Night, Valentine's Day, Bastille Day and Christmas in July. The Schroeder's were part of the programme leading the sing-songs and entertaining us to duets on autoharp and guitar.

They finally settled in Great Brak River after travelling all over South Africa in their caravan and built "The Croft" in Long Street almost single handedly which is now the Croft Animal Hospital. Kay was 56 and Ted 62 when they started. That was nearly 30 years ago. One can still enjoy the



Church and the Museum. In 1994 Kay was the Chairperson of the Museum and Mrs Vossie Nunes the curator. They were instigative in moving the Museum from the Wolwedans Farm Complex next door to its present place at the old Schoolhouse. The Museum was originally established in 1975.

They moved to George when they felt it was too much for Kay to climb a ladder to the attic to do her leatherwork and later settled in the Rendezvous Retirement Complex. They continue to do their wonderful work encouraging all the oldies to belong to the "Oldies are not mouldies" group thus teaching the younger folk that the elderly also have a place in society.



Tourvest Destination Management (TDM) has introduced a new electronic route planner called GreatGuide, which will essentially replace paper documentation and allow business units within TDM to provide clients with everything they need from their itineraries electronically.

The GreatGuide is a navigator, audio tour guide, reference guide and itinerary planner in 11 different languages – Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish – with the following benefits:

- It offers a fully pre-loaded itinerary at the touch of a button
 - GreatNavigator is easy to use in car GPS systems taking travellers from A to B via the shortest routes with directions in the language of their choice
- GreatAudio is an in-car tour guide offering South African stories in English with anecdotes and facts about the areas being travelled through
- GreatAdvice provides travellers with recommended restaurants, local spots and activities in their immediate area
- MTN (Rent-a-Mobile) will also be distributing the GreatGuide from outlets at OR Tambo International Airport, Cape Town International Airport and King Shaka International Airport.

(Thanks & acknowledgement to Tourism Update & Hotel & Restaurant magazine)

GARDEN ROUTE EVENTS – NOVEMBER

- **Christmas concepts**

Friday, 04 November 2011 to Sunday, 06 November 2011, Knysna

The first of its kind on the Garden Route - an up-market, chic Christmas shopping experience in a beautiful country venue setting. This spectacular Christmas Fair brings together more than 40 exhibitors from all over the Western and Eastern Cape in a festive three-day extravaganza of quality and fun.

Contact: Amanda on 072 949-3002 for more information.

Venue: Chapel and Old School, Buffalo Bay Rd, Knysna

- **The Gary Player Invitational**

When: Thursday, 24 November 2011 to Sunday, 27 November 2011

Where: George

In honour of the 25th anniversary of The Player Foundation a select gathering of golf professionals, celebrities and executives will gather at Fancourt, to launch the local Gary Player Invitational (GPI), presented by Coca-Cola. The GPI is South Africa's premier pro-celebrity charity golf event.

The principal objective is to raise funds for The Player Foundation and local charities in South Africa.

In addition to The Player Foundation, the Children's Welfare Organisation in George, several smaller local beneficiaries will benefit from the proceeds of this year's event.

INTERESTING & UNUSUAL TOWN NAMES in the USA

"I'd rather wake up in the middle of nowhere than in any city on earth." - Steve McQueen.

ALABAMA.....Aimwell, Bobo, Burnt Corn, Eclectic, Muck City

ALASKA.....Chicken, Deadhorse, Eek, Left Hand, Nightmute, Unalaska

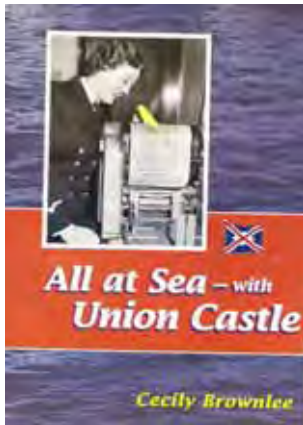


INTERESTING WORDS

AMBIGRAM A word or sentence that can be read in more than one way. This can be achieved in several ways, for example by writing the word so it can be interpreted in more than one way, or by making it also meaningful when turned upside down. The name comes from Latin where ambi = both and gram = letter



ANAMORPHOSIS An image that appears to be distorted unless it is viewed from a certain angle or with the use of a mirror with a certain shape. An example is a painting that only shows something meaningful when viewed with a cylindrical mirror.



ON SALE @ THE MUSEUM

This intimate account of the life of a purserette in the Union Castle Line is written by the first South African purserette on what was a British South African service.

Cecily Brownlee then Baker served for 6 years until 1965 and has many stories to tell of the interesting, glamorous and adventurous life she led on the high seas. Only R20.00

DID YOU KNOW?

- Because half of the world's vanilla crop is grown in Madagascar, the whole island smells like vanilla ice cream.
- Robust singing skill is correlated with a strong immune system in songbirds. Male birds with the most extensive repertoire of tunes also have the largest spleens, a key measure of immune system health.
- Bali has 80,000 temples.

RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY B. PRICE

