WEssa Western Cape Awards for 2008

Individual Volunteer Award 2008
Pixie Littlewort for her indefatigable efforts through the Afromontaine Information Forum to have the special qualities and challenges of the Newlands Forest understood and responded to by the broader (and often apathetic) public of Cape Town, old and young, as well as by relevant authorities.

Bowen Boshier in recognition of many years of persistent and selfless work for the natural environment and for giving freely of his time and energy in tackling environmental threats ranging from inappropriate developments to alien invasive plants.

Affiliated Volunteer Group Award 2008
The Riverine Rovers for the ongoing care of the lower Silvermine river wetlands and specifically for the foresight in fundraising for and building of the self-guided blind trail around a section of the wetlands, which was opened on World Wetlands Day 2008.

Glencairn Education and Environment Support Enthusiasts (GEESE) for galvanising environmental awareness in Glencairn and focussing attention on the Els river and associated wetlands and specifically for fundraising for and managing the building of the new footbridge over the Els River.

Left to right: Bowen Boshier, Pixie Littlewort, Philippa Huntly handing over award.

News letter of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WEssa) Western Cape Region

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Our Vision:
WESSA is a membership-based environmental organisation that promotes public participation in caring for the Earth. We embrace professionalism and sound corporate governance, fostering collaborative partnerships to succeed in our Mission. With enthusiasm and a spirit of unity, we work to achieve a South Africa that is wisely managed by all to ensure environmental sustainability.

Volume 3
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July, August, September

Celebrating over 80 years of environmental action
ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM AWARDS 2008

Jorisna Bonthuys for her incisive and investigative journalism in confronting environmental dilemmas with a sense of uncompromising focus, bringing considerable public interest to bear on often difficult and touchy topics.

John Yeld for his consistent, accessible and balanced coverage of a wide range of environmental issues affecting the Western Cape and thereby helping mainstream concepts of sustainability and public custodianship.

NON-AFFILIATED VOLUNTEER GROUP AWARD 2008

Aart de Lange for his visionary work in the foundation and support of the South African New Economics Network (SANE) which has helped influence the way in which many in South Africa view the concept of money and its often destructive relationship with people and the environment, as well as demonstrating practicable alternatives.

60th AGM
by Roshan Stanford

The Western Cape Region celebrated its 60th Annual General meeting on Thursday 26 June at the Pinelands Town Hall. John Green, president of WESSA, handed over seven awards to individuals and organizations, who have made a significant difference in the environmental field. Professor Jan Glazweski’s presentation on the “Recent environmental cases and the implication to WESSA” was thought provoking and relevant considering some of WESSA’s activities at the moment.

Our more than 80 or so membership guests were treated to an evening meal fit for a king catered by Sandy Dowling and family. The flower arrangements were professionally covered by our long time volunteer, Yvonne Kapp.

The vibe was great with family, friends and colleagues sharing ideas and networking from the word go!

We thank everyone for contributing to a successful 2008 AGM. Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their kind help or donations:

- Dawid Malherbe, Simonsvlei Wine Estate who generously supplied the wine
- James Forsyth, Friends of Tokai Forest who was MC for the evening
- Natalie Fernandez, Forms Xpress for large banners
- Arlene Cameron, Greenprint magazine for free copies of their publication
- Anton Fortuin, Centre for Conservation Education, for donations of magazines
- City of Cape Town for free copies of the Smart Living Handbook
- The John Voelcker Bird Book Fund for free copies of Roberts Birds books
- Mr Johnson, Pinelands Town Hall

Jane Goodall Fundraising Event hosted by WESSA
by Roshan Stanford & Patrick Dowling

WESSA Western Cape hosted Jane Goodall on Tuesday 8 July at the Silvertree restaurant in Kirstenbosch during her short visit to Cape Town, her second in fifty years. Jane’s awe-inspiring talk mesmerized the 150 guests who attended the event. Our own ‘baboon’ lady, Jenny Trethowan, supported by husband, Ian and son, Nicholas provided a touching insight into her work with baboons speculating about the advice these primates would give us humans about living sustainably. Candice Segal, co-ordinator of the South African chapter of the Roots and Shoots programme, also founded by Jane
Goodall, encouraged schools and local groups to join this international initiative and become involved in actions for positive environmental change. Nicholas Trethowan enthusiastically committed himself and his school Reddam House to the movement. We thank Kevin Winter for his time in transporting Jane, Candice and Sue.

Judging by reports in the press as well as comments from WESSA members and Friends the event was a great success which raised funds for the Jane Goodall Institute and promoted consciousness of wildlife and the environment. Jane and her South African colleagues, Candice and Sue were very appreciative of the welcome and support. We thank the staff and management of Silvertree Restaurant at Kirstenbosch for the excellent service they provided and for special rates.

For more information, visit the following websites:
Jane Goodall Institute: www.janegoodall.org
Roots and Shoots: www.rootsandshoots.org
Baboon Matters: www.baboonmatters.org.za

Interesting Issues to Tackle
by Philippa Huntly

My new position at WESSA is proving fascinating, fun and challenging. The fun and fascinating parts are the networking with new and long standing colleagues and friends, engaging with topical issues and searching for workable solutions to the myriad environmental issues we face. The challenging part is tackling the sheer volume of development applications and policy revisions that need to be commented on, and simultaneously prioritizing where and how to spend our energies, expertise and precious resources.

Some policy and regulation issues we have engaged with in the last few months include the City of Cape Town (CoCT) Integrated Zoning Scheme (IZS), the proposed revisions to the NEMA regulations and the Berg River Spatial Development Framework (SDF).

City of Cape Town Integrated Zoning Scheme Regulations (Draft 4)
Along with many civil society groups, WESSA gave comment on the latest version of the IZS. Our primary concern is that there are several strong practical and policy arguments that support the view that the IZS should not be finalised unless the environmental implications of doing so have first been assessed and taken into consideration. It is unclear how the City will give effect to the objectives of the IZS if it has not first completed its Spatial Development Framework which forms part of a municipality’s Integrated Development Plan (“IDP”). We stressed the need for the City to apply the NEMA principles in preparing the IZS, arguing that the NEMA principles apply to the actions of all organs of state that may significantly affect the environment. Annually WESSA, and many other organisations, Friends groups and I&AP’s comment on numerous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA’s) and scoping reports. It is of concern that, if implemented, the new IZS would in some cases automatically grant development rights, which would effectively remove the need for certain developments to go through an environmental impact assessment process and, thus also would limit public comment on the desirability of many developments.

Amendments to NEMA Regulations
On 3 July I joined Andy Gubb at an IAIA and ELA convened stakeholder’s workshop around the proposed amendments to the NEMA regulations. The workshop was well supported and provided a good opportunity to gain some insight into the complexities of the proposed amendments. One of the main issues Andy raised, which was supported by the group, is that legislative process itself seems flawed in that it appears irregular to proceed with finalisation of the NEMA regulations prior to the finalisation of the legislation that informs the Regulations, namely the National Environmental Management Amendment Bill and the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Bill. Thank you to Andy for taking our regional comments into a cohesive WESSA national response.

Draft Bergriver Spatial Development Framework
The Berg River Municipality has recently produced a draft SDF for comment. Given the development pressures in certain parts of the Berg River Municipality, (particularly Velddrif) and the water resource issues facing the area at large, it is of concern that the process is somewhat limited in that it is focussing largely on urban issues. As such, overarching environmental issues are not considered, and the piece meal approach that plagues development planning is perpetuated. A specific concern is the recommendation to extend the urban edge of Velddrif south of the Berg River. Numerous I&AP’s, from concerned local resi-
Pinnacle Point Update
by Sharon Bosma & Louis de Villiers

In May this year WESSA took urgent legal action against the developers of Pinnacle Point Golf Resort to try to stop excess irrigation water from entering the caves below their clubhouse. These caves contain archaeological finds about the evolution of mankind which are of great importance to the international scientific community. The legal action was aimed at enforcing compliance by Pinnacle Point Resorts with conditions stipulated in the Record of Decision and the Settlement Agreement concluded between them and WESSA. Our urgent application was turned down by the Court, with costs, and our application to appeal this judgment was also turned down by the same judge. We have agreed with the developers now to suspend further legal action in an attempt to conclude a fresh settlement of the disputes.

We hope that the new settlement may help towards development of a 'blueprint' for future developments of this developer and others to ensure that they are environmentally sensitive and sustainable. We'll keep you posted.

Good look at Urban Renewal
by Patrick Dowling

The City's nationally funded Urban Renewal Programme has been running for some years now in Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain. WESSA has been supporting registered Eco-Schools in these and many other parts of Cape Town and the Province for a similar period, but this year with a generous funding boost from the City we ran a series of field trips for schools in these two large metropolitan areas. Instead of concentrating on the town centres where most of the engineering upgrades have been happening we focussed on the two local Look-out Hills which have also received some rehabilitating attention and funding. Secondary dunes, which would otherwise have been under threat from sand miners and thoughtless development, these lookouts provide visitors to this part of Cape Town with a rare bit of altitude from which to survey the homes of about two million people. Andrea Gordon, our educational intern, assisted by Eco-School node co-ordinator, Des Hartnick, organised trips for ten schools in the area to the hills where the children and teachers were introduced to the concept of rehabilitation of natural landscapes within an urban context. Schools took away indigenous plants appropriate for the area to plant at their schools. The visits formed part of the larger Youth Environmental School (YES) programme run by the City throughout the year and covering a variety of topics from energy to wetlands directed at lighter living and sustainability.

Kirstenbosch Biodiversity Expo
by Andrea Gordon

SANBI launched its first hugely successful Biodiversity Expo at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens on the 22 May, World Biological Diversity Day. Anyone who's anybody in the conservation arena was able to put up displays, touch base, rub shoulders and share experiences with one another and with all the visitors, learners, students and teachers who attended the event. I had the pleasure of encountering a vibrant network of people functioning as different parts of the same body, united in a collective spirit - working towards conserving our precious biological heritage. Reflecting on this, I found this echoes nature's resilience. These dynamic people could be compared to an Impressionist painting, like a Monet, where each brushstroke in itself is beautiful, but the whole painting – the "bigger picture" is a masterpiece. Gatherings such as this one reminds us that we each have a role to fulfill in the greater matrix, not as arbitrary brushstrokes but as active participants in a dynamic landscape. Well done, SANBI, for hosting this event and providing a display area for the bigger picture!
Environmental Education Report  by Lorraine McGibbon

Schools have responded to the problem of the increasing amounts of waste being generated by communities. From Ladismith High Environmental Centre and Van Reede Primary in Oudtshoorn to Holy Cross Primary in George, learners and their teachers are making a concerted effort to clean up their school grounds and communities.

In the 5th year of the Eco-Schools programme, Holy Cross Primary planned to host a ‘greener’ school bazaar. Bins were placed at strategic points. The system worked very well until the rain. However, the school is optimistic that their recycling programme can be expanded and improved upon.

Van Reede Primary in Oudtshoorn celebrated International Day of Families by making a concerted effort to clean up the town. Groups of learners tackled different parts of the town so as to cover as many areas as possible. An enormous amount of litter was removed.

More and more schools are addressing the issue of climate change. Projects range from removing alien vegetation and replacing it with indigenous plants to dealing with erosion problems in the school grounds. Learners really enjoy their technology classes at Holy Cross where the Grade 7’s are designing ‘low-wattage-cottages.’

Undaunted by the size of the school grounds, the number of learners and the fact that the school is situated in the centre of George, The Holy Cross Grade 5 classes are creating a small wetland. The idea was born when learners found a frog in the school grounds. Being the Year of the Frog, Mrs Davis used the opportunity to talk about frogs, their habitat and the effects of climate change. It was decided to utilise a damp corner of the teachers’ car park and create the school’s own wetland outdoor classroom. The Grade 5’s used their language and natural science lessons for research and writing letters, requesting the donation of water-loving plants. They rolled up their sleeves and dug a channel from the gutter outlet to the designated corner and put up a sign which is visible from the visitors’ entrance to the school. “Grade 5 project - watch this space.”

Planning for Arbor Week is going well as we prepare for the annual EnviroKids quiz and the on-going planting of indigenous trees at the Oudtshoorna Nature Reserve and the Garden Rout Botanical Garden.

Have your say

DISCUSSION FORUM:  As requested at our recent AGM, we would like to start a regular, informal discussion forum for our members, Friends and supporters. The first of these will be on Wed 20 August at 18h30 at the Pinelands Town Hall. The topic is "Ethical Investments" and we’ll explore what this means and how to do it! Light refreshments will be served. An email circular will go to all on our database closer to the time. Please contact Roshan at roshan@wessa.co.za for more details or to add your name and details to our database.

COMMENTS PAGE:  We are considering adding a 'Comments' page or reader's forum to our Cape Environment newsletter. Please email your suggestions on this, or your comments or letters, to Roshan for inclusion in our next newsletter. Please also let us know if you would like to blog with us.

Les McEwan Retirement:  Les McEwan, our dedicated volunteer has decided to retire from his volunteer work at WESSA. Les established from scratch our fynbos garden and maintained it weekly for 22 years. We thank him for his committed support over this time and wish him and his wife health and happiness in the future.

Farewell to Maureen Ngubane:  On 30 June we said a sad farewell to Maureen Ngubane, our receptionist who had been working at our Kirstenhof office for the last three years. Maureen’s happy and helpful voice was known and appreciated by many who have contacted us over this time. Since the closure of our little WESSA shop the need for a full time receptionist has diminished and various job descriptions are being combined as part of restructuring. We thank Maureen for all her help and service. 
Advertisements

‘GREEN’ ARCHITECT REQUIRED: We need to renovate our buildings in Kirstenhof and invite concept proposals from interested architects. Please contact Sharon at sharon@wessa.co.za for more information.

REGIONAL MANAGER’S POST: the Regional Manager’s post will be re-advertised shortly. Please contact sharon@wessa.co.za for more information, or watch the local press.

BUSHMANS KLOOF FLOWER FEVER: Discover Nature at her best at Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve and Retreat, located at the foothills of the Cederberg, it forms part of the Cape Floral Region which has been declared a World Heritage Site. Bushmans Kloof is a sanctuary to more than 755 indigenous plant species representative of three major Biomes, namely Fynbos, Succulent Karoo and Afromontane Forest, and is home to over 35 species of mammals, including the rare Cape Mountain zebra, along with over 150 kinds of birds. An SA Natural Heritage Site, it is renowned as the world’s ‘largest open air art gallery’ and is custodian of over 130 San Bushman rock art sites, providing unique opportunities for guests to learn more about the rich cultural history of this ancient land. Participate in a botanical programme led by botanist Dr Penny Mustart. These programmes include fascinating excursions offering first-hand educational encounters with an extraordinary diversity of flowers. Contact Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve & Retreat Reservations on Tel: + 27 (21) 685 2598, Fax: + 27 (21) 685 5210 or Email: info@bushmanskloof.co.za Website: www.bushmanskloof.co.za

INTRODUCTION TO IDENTIFYING WETLAND PLANTS WORKSHOP: Presented by Environmental Educator, Wendy Hitchcock, 25 - 29 August 2008, Gold Fields Environmental Education Centre, Kirstenbosch, 13h00 -16h30, Cost R500 / person. Tel: 712 3966. Cell: 084 681 4385. Email: hitchcock@mweb.co.za

Lessons on sustainable living in the Little Karoo

Better late than never or rushed and botched, a set of lesson plans and reference materials for use by teachers in the Eastern Part of the Succulent Karoo finally rolled off the printing press in May this year. This was one of the products of a year-long project cutely named SKEEP (Succulent Karoo Environmental Project) where, with the help of teachers from the Klein Karoo in the Outshoorn District as well as Cape Nature, the Education Department, the Department of Agriculture, the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Programme, C.A.P.E and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), WESSA organised a series of camps for grade 8 kids and lesson planning workshops for their teachers. The colourful lesson plan file covering earthy themes of Soil, Water, Energy, Plants, Animals and People has been distributed amongst participating schools in the Karoo and will be further supported during the year. Anyone wanting an electronic or hard copy in English or Afrikaans is welcome to contact Roshan. There will be a modest fee.

Please note Western Cape staff’s e-mail address changes:

Sharon Bosma - sharon@wessa.co.za, Charmaine Anderson - charmaine@wessa.co.za, Patrick Dowling - patrick@wessa.co.za, Philippa Huntly - philippa@wessa.co.za, Andrea Gordon - andrea@wessa.co.za, Roshan Stanford - roshan@wessa.co.za, Accounts department - accounts@wessa.co.za

George Office: Steve du Toit steve@wessa.co.za, Lorraine McGibbon lorraine@wessa.co.za, Shagon Carelse shagon@wessa.co.za
What's happening in WESSA Western Cape branches

WESSA Western Cape George / Sedgefield Branch
by Christine Ridge-Schnaufer

Envisage a seed that germinates, grows slowly but steadily into a large and strong tree giving generous shade. The years pass, leaves fall, the tree rests, branches break off and for some reason few seeds germinate, there is no new young growth. That just about summarises our Branch.

Membership in crisis! The AGM in April attended by 15 stalwarts almost ended in disbandment. The outgoing committee was exhausted and dispirited. Under threat of disbandment, 3 members volunteered to give it a go - along with four existing committee members who were suitably encouraged. This is a very desperate appeal to our current membership that we need to attend to this problem.

How can we let this precious gem of an area; Mossel Bay, Ladismith, Oudtshoorn, Sedgefield, George and the huge area enclosing these towns go into the future without our attending to the many problems, as development needs careful and responsible planning. We, the general public, cannot only contribute to, but also make a difference to what happens.

The breakdown of the current membership is very revealing. Of a total of 125 (this is after George & Sedgefield combined owing to low membership) there are 53 Adult members, 38 Senior, 18 Envirokids and 16 Institutional members.

Future Plans: By attending the Wild Oats Farmers Market in Sedgefield, the Garden Route Botanical Garden Flower Fees 10-12th October 2008 and the Mossel Bay Flower Fair 23-25th October 2008 we hope to reach and recruit new interested members of the public. A panel discussion is planned for 17th or 18th September on EIA's. In close co-operation with NNMU-Saasveld Campus and the “Men at the Side of the Road Project” owl breeding boxes are being produced and sold through our branch. This is an exercise in educating the public to avoid using poisons, rather use natural predators, Barn Owls and Spotted Eagle Owls in this case, to eradicate vermin. The breeding owls will be used by the Nature Conservation students as field training, the Men at the Side of the Road have an income and WESSA gains funds to utilise in educational projects. One of our members is embarking on a campaign to inform and engage her neighbours in an exchange of views around a common water course. Early days yet - we will keep you posted.

As a result of a very WESSA-critical letter to the Editor in the George Herald, personal contact with Dr Steve du Toit (Head of Conservation) and Lorraine McGibbon (Environmental & Educational Officer) has been established and for both sides, a very positive and productive discussion has developed. Both sides have discovered they are actually looking for the same result!!!

Dear fellow members, I ask and even challenge you to do something for the Society. Discuss the objects of the Association with your family and friends. Make a present of a membership to WESSA (it is cheaper than 2 books or a tank full of petrol!). The children in particular love the Envirokids Magazine! Above all, speak to us! The Committee can be reached best by e-mail: wessageorge@isat.co.za If you have an e-mail and have not yet communicated this to us, please do so to ease the flow of communication, postage is prohibitively expensive.

Networking

WESSA WESTERN CAPE FRIENDS WORKSHOP
by Andrea Gordon

Members of several Friends groups from around the Western Cape notably the Friends of Paarden Eiland, Friends of Silvermine Nature Area, GEESE, Friends of Liesbeek, Friends of Blaauwberg Conservation Area, Friends of Helderberg, Afro Montane Information Forum, Friends of Tokai and Cape of Good Hope Friends gathered at the WESSA Western Cape office in Kirstenhof on the 9th May 2008 to learn more about worm farming or vermiculture – a growing Sustainable Living practice that fits in nicely with good old composting. The session, run by experienced WESSA worm man, Patrick Dowling, covered a range of how-to basics as well as facts and figures related to kitchen waste and its management. This was intended as one of a series of practical Sustainable Living Workshops planned for the future. Don't miss out on others in the series which will cover topics related to water, energy, soil, biodiversity, food and more.
Other matters addressed at the workshop were the needs and requirements of WESSA Western Cape Friends groups in that friends were given the opportunity to share their needs and other issues in an attempt to further pave the way forward.

A big thank you once again to all the friends who attended the workshop and for their respective contributions. Looking forward to seeing you all at the next Friends workshop.

MEADOWRIDGE COMMON: ONGOING REHABILITATION

In May the Common may have looked like a dry wilderness, but exciting developments were nevertheless taking place:

Wetland project: The 198 plants introduced into the rehabilitated wetland area in November 2007 (Bulletin of 29 November) have been closely monitored to gauge their response to the dry hot summer. The yellow-flowered Athanasia dentata have done well as have the Cliffortia strabilifera. Orphium fructescens (sea rose) with its beautiful pink flowers made a lovely display. Most encouraging has been the reappearance of a significant number of Psoralia pinnata (bloukeur) shrubs which had become extinct on the Common. Removal of the imported soil dumped in the area exposed a seed bed, the seeds of which have germinated after 20 years of burial. Dormant seeds also augmented our numbers of the perennial Lobelia erinus, the annual Monopsis debilis and the shrub Pelargonium capitatum (kusmalva). The introduced species were originally found on Bergvliet Farm and, coming from Rondevlei, will be of the same acceptable original genetic pool.

Augmentation of species already present: Meadowridge Common is small and some species are present in such small numbers that their viability is at risk. On 28 May we augmented some of the smaller populations of Salvia chamelaeagnea, Ruschia geminiflora, Pelargonium cucullatum, Hermannia hys-sopifolia, lampranthus stenus, lampranthus reptans and leucadendron salignum by planting out additional specimens, the end product of more than 7 months of propagation processes. In these efforts we appreciated the partnership and support of others. Trevor Adams of the Kirstenbosch plant propagation unit collected cuttings in November and December 2007; he taught us how to propagate them and care for them. A unit of the City Conservation Department based at Kenilworth Race Course bagged the rooted plants, nurtured them at Kenilworth and then, together with other volunteers, helped plant them on the Common. We were blessed by them and by the rain which fell a few hours after our planting session.

What now? We will monitor their survival rate but need the co-operation of the community in a few important ways: keep to the paths to avoid inadvertently stepping on and destroying the small young plants, control dogs, report any plant theft activities to the Civic Patrol 021 447 2305.

Fiona Watson (Botanical Officer, Friends of Meadowridge Common)

SAVE THE FLAMINGO CAMPAIGN

Assistance urgently required

Kamfers Dam, which is located just north of Kimberley, South Africa, is under threat from deteriorating water quality due to a badly managed sewerage works. This wetland is home to:

- The largest permanent population of Lesser Flamingos in southern Africa.
- The only Lesser Flamingo breeding site in South Africa.
- One of only four Lesser Flamingo breeding sites in Africa, and six in the world.
- A host of other endemic and threatened waterbirds.

Kamfers Dam is also a South African Natural Heritage Site and an Important Bird Area. Despite years of negotiating with the Kimberley's municipality (the Sol Plaatje Municipality) to improve the quality of water flowing into Kamfers Dam, the water quality is deteriorating and there are consequently severe health implications for Kamfers Dam's flamingos and the people living in neighbouring suburbs. We have now decided to step up our campaign and we therefore urgently need your assistance in terms of (a) signing our petition and/or (b) donating funds towards this important campaign. PLEASE visit our website (www.savetheflamingo.co.za) and contribute towards the conservation of Kamfers Dam and this important population of globally "near-threatened" Lesser Flamingos.

FRIENDS OF DIE OOG

The Friends of Die Oog will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17 September at 17.30 at Die Oog Midwood Avenue, Bergvliet.

Pat Holmes, Biophysical Specialist in the Department of Nature Conservation of the City of Cape Town will be speaking on “What’s happening to Tokai Forest”. All are welcome. With the cold weather the duckweed (Lemna Gibba) that covered Die Oog, has more or less completely disappeared and with the recent heavy rains Die Oog is now overflowing. We are awaiting the arrival of the endangered Leopard around the third week of August. When the toads migrate to Die Oog to breed, every-
one in the area is asked to keep a sharp look out, particularly at night, as many toads get killed by passing cars on the roads that the toads have to cross to get to Die Oog.

CREW REPORT: A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

First of all we would like to thank the Friends of the Tygerberg Hills for buying us a Carl Zeiss microscope! We are absolutely over the moon! This will help us immensely in identifying species properly. We would also like to thank Anna and Steve Fellingham for giving Anna’s microscope on loan to the reserve. Anna’s microscope has the advantage of having a drawing tube attached, which means one can draw exactly what you see.

The Tygerberg CREW group is part of the Friends, but we work as volunteers for the CREW Programme, based at Kirstenbosch. CREW stands for Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers. We go out on field trips to find species that have been red-listed. Once found, populations are then monitored and the information is sent back to Kirstenbosch.

The past three months we have had monthly outings to the Tygerberg Nature Reserve, taking specimens for the herbarium and updating the species list. We will continue our monthly outings to the TNR for the rest of the year. We also visited Riverlands, close to Malmesbury. This is a Cape Nature reserve and we are helping them update their species list. Other outings were to Perdekop, Uitkamp and Groot Phesantekraal.

Slowly but surely, the herbarium is growing! And so is our group! We are now between 6-8 regular team members. Thanks to you all! You are doing a great job!

Karen Marais 021-945 2855 or 084 358 2207

FRIENDS OF TYGERBERG HILLS

Youth Day Celebrations 16 June: Despite the inclement weather the Youth Day celebration was a resounding success. The proceedings started off with the stirring sounds of a Bagpipe played by Duncan MacMillan. This was followed by the loading and firing of the ½ Pounder cannon by MJ de Wit. All who were there can attest to the fact that one small cannon can make such an almighty noise.

Our Member of the Provincial Parliament, Ms. Denise Robinson, gave a short speech exhorting the youth of today to make the most of their opportunities with all the resources at their disposal. The hills of the Tygerberg echoed to the sound of music provided by the South African Youth Choir. The Choir is off to Vancouver in Canada to participate in an International Eisteddfod. Their melodious sounds were followed by the loading and firing of all the cannons. A Seven Pounder fired by Martin Venter, ½ Pounder fired by Neville Potgieter, ½ Pounder fired by Alfie Parris and a ¼ Pounder fired by our chairman, Jürg Zimmermann. On the cold misty morning the booming and fire flashes of the cannons were even more impressive than usual.

Gerry de Vries, chief gunner of the SA Cannon Association gave a short history of the cannons. Once again the sound of the bagpipe being played while the 6 Pounder was being loaded and fired by Neville Potgieter and Alfie Parris precisely at noon in celebration of Youth Day. Thereafter all the cannons were loaded and fired in sequence from small to large. On this high note the Youngsters were asked to walk down and gather in the Kristo Pienaar Centre where food parcels sponsored by the City of Cape Town were handed out to them.

The combined resources of the Friends of the Tygerberg Hills, the Tygerberg Nature Reserve and the City of Cape Town made Youth Day 2008 a memorable one for all who attended the event.

Pearl van Zyl

FRIENDS OF RONDEBOSCH COMMON

On July 8th Friends of Rondebosch Common launched our book! After 3½ years of talking and planning, a very beautiful and comprehensive book was produced. The first part covers the history of the Common which includes records of flora, fauna, birds and insects written by experts. The second part covers the exquisite water colours of the entire flora on the Common by Betty B Dwight. Betty has been planning her collection of paintings during the 1970 and 80’s. Betty’s wish is for proceeds from the book to go toward future maintenance of the Common. Rupert Koopman, who spoke at the book launch, said how important the work of amateur recorders, such as Betty, in helping CREW to keep their records up to date. Our Patron, Prof. Kader Asmal, also thanked Betty and said how the work of the Friends, and especially Betty’s botanical paintings, leading to this lovely book, have secured the Common for our grandchildren and future generations. We thank all contributors and sponsors to the book who gave their time willingly, in particular Dr Clive McDowell who wrote the section on the flora.

A limited number has been printed. Please contact rondebosch-common@mweb.co.za to purchase a copy at R150.00 each.

FRIENDS OF THE LIESBEEK

Our AGM went off well with a good attendance of friends, an inspiring and fascinating talk by Cliff Dorse on Biodiversity in the City and an excellent supper kindly
supplied by the Wild Fig Restaurant and Courtyard Hotel. We said fond farewell to our trusty treasurer of many years, Beth Reitz, and welcomed Grant Irlam in her place.

The Rivers of the World art project run by the British Counsel is entering its second phase. It links schools across the globe and encourages young people to create artworks inspired by their study of their local river. This year Heideveld High has joined the group of six participating schools. Over three days, Carla Arkley led the scholars, their teachers and four facilitating artists down the Liesbeek to study their various river related themes. Now the art works are in progress and will again be sent to the London Thames Festival.

Recently, we have taken two walks down the Liesbeek with participants on the UCT Disaster and Development short courses. We compared the relatively undeveloped reaches to those in the urban setting, studied various flood control attempts and mitigation measures.

With the good July rains the Liesbeek has been flowing to capacity. It is scary to witness the quick rise in levels as soon as there is a heavy downpour. Fortunately these have to date been intermittent and so no flooding has occurred. The continual hardening of surfaces with car parks, driveways, patios, etc is cause for concern and if not checked will lead to more and more flash flooding.

The Liesbeek Maintenance Team have enjoyed planting trees along the Rondebosch and Newlands reaches thanks to the kind donation by Rosvitha von Dewitz. We thank SA Breweries and Tuffy Brands for their generous sponsorship which keeps the Project running three days a week. The position of project manager / supervisor is vacant. Anyone interested in applying is welcome to phone Kevin Winter on 021-650-2875 or Liz Wheeler on 021-671-4553.

Joan Parker on the Bishopscourt Village reach reports that Simon Raab and Ford King of Greeff Properties will be sponsoring Mathews Moetsi’s salary for the next year. We are very grateful for that and our congratulations go to Mathews for completing module one of the Landscape Maintenance Course sponsored by Room to Grow Business Skills.

At the end of April eleven Standard 8 pupils of Brackenfell High School undertook two days voluntary community service at the reserve and spent the time cheerfully assisting with alien eradication. Several local schools have been on conducted walks and attended environmental classes at the E.E. Centre, and on the first day of the July school holidays FoB organised a very successful “Xhosa bird morning”. This was attended by 35 children from the nearby Everite hostel. A qualified bird guide, Skhumbuso Mbewu, gave an environmental talk and slide presentation on local birds, followed by a quiz competition with the winner receiving a copy of Roberts Birds of Southern Africa. The children were then divided into groups and asked to look for some of the birds illustrated as they walked through the reserve. The sight of a Jackal Buzzard circling slowly overhead provided some excitement. We hope to follow this up with a visit to Intaka Bird Sanctuary later in the year.

Our next major event will be our Spring Event (or Perdekop Flower Show) on Saturday 9 September, when Bracken should be at its springtime best, and we hope to introduce visitors to Perdekop, a small koppie and botanical gem which is not yet officially open to the public.

We shall be hosting the WESSA Workshop in August and hope that members of other Friends groups will come along and make their acquaintance with Bracken Nature Reserve.

FRIENDS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
The rain has been a blessing for our burnt areas, but does result in lots of flowers appearing. With the petrol price rise we are having to consolidate our trips and monitoring the new growth is difficult. Is there anyone down our end of the Peninsula who is interested in helping? The Hessea cinnamomea are once again flowering but not in the numbers of last year. Our walks are still well supported.

GLENCAIN EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT SUPPORT ENTHUSIASTS
Congratulations to all members of GEESE and thank you all for your contributions to GEESE. GEESE have just been given a WESSA Affiliated Volunteer Group Award for 2008!

We thank:
- those who helped clear the reeds for the opening of the Wiley Bridge
- those who laboured on World Wetlands Day
- those who faithfully manage the Litter Bins week
by week
• those who turn out for the Clean Up days
• those who watch over the Vlei and the Beach reporting what's amiss
• those who found the name for our website, registered it, set it up, currently manage and contribute to it - you are really smart you guys! Geeseglencairn.org
• It is great that your labours have been recognised - they are certainly appreciated! Your support is really making a difference!

Please note it is Leopard Toad Season again. Watch out for this endangered toad, especially at night, giving them a helping hand off the road. If you need help or information, phone Evanne & Terry Rothwell on 021 782 6144 and watch the press for news.

Please be vigilant when walking in the vlei and watch out for mating birds (especially with your dogs),

FRIENDS OF RIETVLEI
Environmental Education Centre: Those of you who attended the AGM would have seen the wall mounted projection screen and whiteboard that we purchased and installed in the Education Centre. To add to this Chevron has donated a data projector to the centre for presentation purposes. The Friends would like to thank Phumi Nhlapo, Public Affairs Manager at Chevron Refinery, for arranging this donation.

We are also concerned that the centre is not being used enough for school outings so if you know of a school or class wanting to visit Rietvlei please email the details to info@friendsofrietvlei.co.za or phone Pat on 021 5573748 a/h. Also welcome are adult groups interested in an outing and presentation about Rietvlei or wetlands.

New bird hide: After eighteen months of planning and organising the financing, a new bird hide has been erected by the City of Cape Town on the eastern edge of South Vlei. It will provide good birding opportunities in summer when other parts of the reserve are dry. At present it is not accessible due to rising water levels and a boardwalk that still needs to be built.

Milnerton Racecourse Conservation Area: Are you aware of this little jewel of a conservation area right in the middle of northern Milnerton. The conservation area in the centre of the old Milnerton Royal Ascot Racecourse (which is now used as a training track for horses) is one of the most important conservation areas in the Cape Peninsula. Only 18ha in size, it has 232 recorded plant species of which at least 12 have Red Data status - that is endangered and highly vulnerable. Nearly surrounded by the Royal Ascot development, this conservation area is divided into 2 portions; a northern portion which has a path which is open to the public, and a larger southern portion which is closed to the public because of the vulnerability of the plantlife.

A survey at the end of last year had indicated that there were at least 24 grysbokkies in the conservation area which theoretically should only be able to support 4 to 6 grysbokkies. A capturing operation was launched to remove as many of the excess grysbokkies as possible; over several captures they caught about 20 grysbok these have been relocated to other conservation areas and several farms where farmers are conserving them.

YES EDUCATION AWARD

WESSA Western Cape was proud and honoured to get an award for its educational efforts in the City of Cape Town over the last decade. Andrea Gordon was happy to receive the award on behalf of the Region at the annual Youth Environmental School Award ceremony held at River Club in Observatory, early June. The handover was accompanied by many complimentary words that endorsed the citation: "Outstanding contribution to Environmental Education in the City of Cape Town". WESSA is grateful to the City for this ac-
Diary

CREW outing dates
- 15th Aug: Double Grow; Bloublommetjieskoof. Contact me!
- 22nd Aug: Riverlands. Contact me!
- 27th Aug: Klipheuwel. (This is a Wednesday!) Contact me!
- 1st week in September: Plant Monitoring Day. Date T.b.a
- 12th Sept: TNR. Meet at 9h00 at the Welgemoed entrance
- 19th Sept: Meet at 9h00 in front of gate to Perdekop.
- 26th Sept: Riverlands.

Outings are weather permitting and can change. Best is to contact me anyway before an outing!
Karen: 021 945 2855 (home) ; 0843582207 or bkrj@telkomsa.net

Please phone me if you would like to join us on any outing. We pool cars to reduce our carbon footprint.
Karen Marais 021-945 2855 or 084 358 2207

Quick Guide to UPCOMING EVENTS:
- August 16 - Walk in reserve at 8h00
- August 23 - Hack above Kanonberg at 8h45
- August 30 - Walk in reserve at 15h00
- September 02 - Talk on “tba”
- September 13 - Walk in reserve at 07h00
- September 20 - Hack above Kanonberg at 8h45
- September 24 - Opening of Wheelchair path and firing of cannon at noon
- September 27 - Walk in reserve at 16h00

All Walks start at the Welgemoed entrance to the reserve. Please be at the gate 10 minutes before the starting time!
Bring along a snack and plenty to drink and wear appropriate walking / hiking shoes!
For general information on the walks, hacks and talks please contact Jürg on 083 701 8496 or via e-mail at jurgz@mweb.co.za

Friends of Bracken
Saturday 16 August - Walk in Perdekop from 10h00
Saturday 6 September - Spring event and Perdekop Flower Show
Saturday 4 October - Outing to Blaauwberg
Saturday 17 November - Sundowner picnic
Plus regular planting and hacking mornings
For more details phone Thea at 021 982 3654 or 083 564 1106 or Jo at 021 981 1275

FRIENDS OF LION’S HEAD

Saturday walks: AUGUST
16th- High level route/Lion’s Head, 14:00 - 17:00,
Phone : Annabel on 021/439-7786 re meeting place, Visitors : Donations
30th- A scenic Signal hill route, 14:00 - 17:00,
Phone : Caroline on 084-303-6777 re meeting place, Visitors : Donations

SEPTEMBER
13th- Table Mountain contour path, 14:30 - 17:30,
Phone : Annabel on 021/439-7786 re meeting place, Visitors : Donations
27th- Circular walk below Tafelberg Road, 09:00 - 13:00, Phone : Sidney on 021/439-1812 re meeting place, Visitors : Donations

OCTOBER
11th- Walk on the Camps Bay side of the mountain, 14:30 - 18:00, Phone : Caroline on 084-303-6777 re meeting place, Visitors : Donations
25th- Walk around Devil's Peak, 09:00 - 13:00, Phone : Sidney on 021/439-1812 re meeting place, Visitors : Donations

FRIENDS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
Everyone is welcome on our Easy and Nature Walks

EASY AMBLE 2nd Thursday of every month. Info Tel: 021 782 4070. 14th Aug, 11th Sept, 9th Oct, 13th Nov and 11th December.

Suitable footwear, water, jacket and a snack.
**Friends of Simon's Town Coastline**

**HACKS**

**SATURDAY: 6/09/08  4/10/08**

Venue: Elsies Peak, meet at the top of Golconda Road, Glencairn Heights, 14:30-17:30

**SUNDAY: 17/08/08   21/09/08   19/10/08**

Venue: Redhill, meet at Pinehaven on Redhill, 09:30-12:00

**TUESDAY: 19/08/08   16/09/08   21/10/08**

Venue: Dorries Drive, meet at far end of Dorries Drive, Froggy Pond, 09:30-12:00

**SPECIAL HACKS (SATURDAYS): 23/08/08   13/09/08   27/09/08   11/10/08   25/10/08**

Venue: Woodlands, meet in Dido Valley Road, opposite Woodlands, 09:30-12:00

**CONVENER FOR ALL HACKS:**

PETER SALTER - TEL: 021 786 1620

For those interested, there is a hack on Elsies Peak every Thursday afternoon. For details contact: ILUSKA ALLAN on TEL: 021 782 2736

**WALKS (FYNBOS RAMBLES)**

Last Sunday of the month: Day Walks of approximately 5 hours, weather permitting. For details contact: Claire McCarthy Tel: 021 789 1334. Bring a picnic lunch and warm and waterproof clothing on all day walks.

**NB:** All walks are undertaken at own risk.

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**Friends of Liesbeek**

**Hacking & Weeding:** First Wednesday of the month. Meet at 9am at Protea, Winchester Road, Bishopscourt. More volunteers are needed. If another day suits you, let us know.

**River Walks by arrangement.**

**Heritage Day:** Wednesday 24 September

Meet at 9.30am on Sans Souci Road Bridge, Newlands for a Walk & Talk down to Observatory. Wear comfortable shoes, bring hat, jersey / anorak and snacks. Limited return transport will be available. Dogs with poop-scoops welcome.

Tel: 021-671-4553

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**Friends of Rondebosch Common**

**Spring Flower Rambles:** 17 Aug, 7 & 21 Sept, 12 Oct and 2 Nov. Sundays at 11:30am. Meet on the grass area adjacent to new wetlands area on Campground road side of Common. Walk ends at 13:00. Free to all, donations welcome and go towards general maintenance of the Rondebosch Common. Contact Sue on 021 686 8968.

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**Hottentots Holland Branch**

Meetings take place in the Somerset West Library Hall at 20:00 on the third Wednesday of the month. Bookings are essential for outings and usually takes place on the first Sunday of every second month. Members and visitors are welcome. For more details, contact Cecilia Wolmarans on 854 8011 or Freya Brett on 851 6951.

**20 August Meeting**

Dr Jurie van den Heever, Paleontologist from University of Stellenbosch, will give a talk on the Evolution of Man.

**7 September Outing**

Join us for a scenic drive in the Hottentots Holland mountains with mountain Fynbos and afromontane forests on the Lourensford Estate.

**17 September Meeting**

Andreas Groenewald, Education Manager of the Mike Woods Environmental Education Centre will give a talk on “The Wildlife in your Garden”.

**5 October Outing**

We visit Harmony Flats, near Gordons Bay, for a walk among renosterveld and discover the many bulb species that flower at this time of the year.

**15 October Meeting**

Owen Wittridge will share some of his experiences as a Conservationist in the Kgalagadi with us.

**19 November Meeting**

Guy Midgley from SANBI will give a talk on global warming and it’s effects on Southern African ecosystems.

**7 December Outing**

Book as soon as possible for an outing into the mountains, Destination Unknown. 4x4’s welcome for this trip.
the “Lick ‘n Stick” team, Mrs Goodchild and the Kirstenhof Primary School children who ensure that this newsletter reaches you.

the members and friends of WESSA Western Cape who offer their time and services willingly and at short notice.

Forms Media Independent for printing this newsletter at a very reduced rate.

Thanks to:

ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED GENEROUSLY TO THE REGION, INCLUDING:–

- Pixie Littlewort
- Philippa Huntly
- Sarah Bates

Chairman: Rudy Schats
Treasurer: Graham Lovely
Acting Regional Manager: Sharon Bosma
Section Heads: Patrick Dowling & Steve du Toit
Senior Environmentalist: Philippa Huntly
Environmental & Education Officer: Lorraine McGibbon
Editor / Layout and DTP: Shaune Rogatschnig
Copy Editor / Project Support: Roshan Stanford
Project Logistics: Charmaine Anderson
Environmentalist (Intern): Shagon Carelse
Environmental Educaion (Intern): Andrea Gordon

NB Dates to Remember
August, September, Ocotber

1-7 Sept: National Arbor Week
16 Sept: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
15-20 Sept: National Clean-up Week
21 Sept: International Day of Peace
24 Sept: Heritage Day
4 Oct: World Animal Day
6 Oct: World Habitat Day
6-10 Oct: Weedbuster Week
13-17 Oct: National Marine Week
16 Oct: World Food Day
17 Oct: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Promoting Public Participation in caring for the Earth
### WESSA Annual Membership Fee

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<tr>
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<td>Patron</td>
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Note: All categories of membership can be mailed anywhere in the world. Please contact Nina at the WESSA Membership Office on (033) 330 3931 or wessamembers@icon.co.za for postage rates.

For further details and membership forms please contact Maureen on 021 701 1397 or roshan@wessa.co.za or go to www.wessa.org.za/organisationmember.htm

### WESSA Western Cape would like to acknowledge the funders of its various projects. They are as follows:

- City of Cape Town
- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
- Development Bank of Southern Africa
- Emcon Technologies
- Gabriel CI
- Johnson & Johnson (Pty) Ltd
- Market Toyota Tokai
- Oceana Group Ltd
- ROSE Foundation
- SA Breweries
- Syntell (Pty) Ltd
- Tellumat (Pty) Ltd
- Tuffy Brands (Pty) Ltd

### WESSA Western Cape would like to acknowledge our corporate members. They are as follows:

- BP Southern Africa
- Caltex Oil S.A (Pty) Ltd
- Old Mutual

### WESSA Western Cape would like to acknowledge our patron members. They are as follows:

- Rose Foundation
- Woolworths

31 The Sanctuary, off Pollsmoor Road, Kirstenhof, 7945
PO Box 30145, Tokai, 7966
Tel: 021 701 1397
Fax: 021 701 1399
www.wessa.org.za

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