



NEWSLETTER August 2019

OUR VISION | To be a highly effective and well-supported champion of the environment.





OUR MISSION | To implement high impact environmental and conservation projects which promote public participation in caring for the Earth.

Dear Friends of the Environment,

Environmentally friendly, we have at last reached a starting point. Restaurants have been assessed for their recycling and environmentally friendly management and the first 3 have received their awards under the auspices of the George Municipality, Landmark Foundation and WESSA Eden. More details below and links to interviews which explain “why” and “how”

WESSA proudly presents



Coastal Geology Tour, from Plettenberg Bay to Sedgefield		24 August 2019
		08:00
		The Lookout Deck Restuarant
		R100pp + add cost

A new **COASTAL GEOLOGY TOUR, PLETTENBERG BAY TO SEDGEFIELD!!!! Saturday 24 August**

The next **WESSA Coastal Geology Tour** will focus on an exceptionally beautiful stretch of our coastline, from **Robberg at Plettenberg Bay to Gericke’s Point at Sedgefield**. Participants will meet at 08:00 for breakfast at The Lookout Deck Restaurant, Plettenberg Bay where registration will take place and an introductory geological overview will be given. Participants will be divided into three groups, under the expert guidance of Paul Rixon, Peter Ginn and Colin Ralston.

The self-drive guided tour will visit five different geosites: Robberg, Kranshoek, Knysna East Heads, Brenton Road and Gericke’s Point. Your picnic lunch will be enjoyed at the beautiful Kranshoek picnic site in the Harkerville area.

Cost: R100 pp; proceeds to WESSA Education Fund.



Additional costs: entrance fees - R50 at Robberg, R34 at Kranshoek; or present Wild Card. Breakfast at The Lookout Deck (±R70-R80; a menu with two breakfast options will be circulated to participants, and orders will be placed with the restaurant up-front). Bring own picnic lunch, refreshments, seating.

Bookings: Send an email **before 19 August 2019** to Ingrid Vis: ingridvis12@gmail.com

Please provide names and contact details of interested persons, type of vehicle, whether transport is required or can be shared, and from where you will be travelling.

Further, to facilitate entry into SAN Parks and Cape Nature your Wild Card Number if you have



The Green Award

Restaurants received awards for their recycling efforts.

Watch Monica Vacarro explaining why...

www.georgeherald.com/Video/Video/project-for-recycling-201907110903

AWARDS FOR RESTAURANTS

www.georgeherald.com/News/Article/General/update-awards-for-restaurants-201907111129

Three local restaurants, Salina's, the Kaaimans Restaurant and the Old Townhouse, received Green Awards last Thursday afternoon, 4 July, for their recycling efforts.

The event was organised by the Landmark Foundation and Wessa, with the support of the George Municipality, and was held at Salina's in Wilderness.

The Green Award recognises and encourages businesses such as restaurants, hotels and food markets to minimise and dispose of waste in the correct manner. It challenges consumers, restaurants and other businesses to commit to a sustainable future for all on earth. Awareness of recycling among local restaurants grew after the owner of Salina's Beach restaurant, Massimo Mariotti, started recycling at Salina's in 2013.



Salinas Restaurant Award Handover

The project is a collaborative initiative by Wessa Eden and the Landmark Foundation to encourage the public to support businesses and restaurants that are committed to curb waste to landfill and to stimulate good environmental practices with sustainable solutions for the community. Among the attendees were representatives of the Landmark Foundation, Wessa, George Deputy Mayor Charlotte Clarke, George Municipal Councillor Erika Brown and officials of the George Municipality.



Kaaimans Restaurant Award handover & Old Town House Award handover



Monica Vaccaro, project coordinator of the Landmark Foundation, said the Green Awards is a pilot project. "We would like to see as many restaurants involved as possible. We also encourage the community to support restaurants and businesses that are making a concerted effort to minimise waste and recycle by separating it," she said.

Restaurants that would like to get involved can send an e-mail to monica@landmarkfoundation.org.za .

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR RECYCLING EFFORTS

Massimo Mariotti, speaks about recycling at Salina's:

www.georgeherald.com/Video/Video/acknowledgement-for-recycling-efforts-201907110858



Extract from Outramps CREW Diaries, Tuesday 9th July 2019

The Cape Floral Kingdom is the smallest of the six Floral Kingdoms in the world, and the only one contained in its entirety within a single country. It is characterised by its high richness in plant species (8700 species) and its high endemism (68% of plant species are confined to the Cape Floral Kingdom). The Cape Floral Kingdom thus compares with some of the richest floras worldwide, surpassing many tropical forest regions in its floral diversity.

A loss of Fynbos biome area of between 51% and 65% is projected by 2050 (depending on the climate scenario used), and roughly 10% of the endemic Proteaceae have ranges restricted to the area lost. Species range projections suggest that a third could suffer complete range dislocation by 2050, and only 5% could retain more than two thirds of their range. Projected changes to individual species ranges could be sufficient to detect climate change impacts within ten years. Midgley et al, 2002.

For earlier versions of the Outramps CREW Diaries

<https://us17.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=be2accf3de565e1297257f79e&id=8113ba68c6>

Jo-Anne Isobel King

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GARDEN ROUTE BOTANICAL GARDEN



Displaying, conserving, rehabilitating, protecting, and researching the Southern Cape's flora for the benefit of the surrounding communities



www.facebook.com/gardenroutebotanical

www.botanicalgarden.org.za

**Have you visited our
Nursery recently??**



Greenpop Eden Festival of Action Programme 2019 Week One

www.thegremlin.co.za/2019/07/07/greenpop-eden-festival-of-action-programme-2019-week-one



Our first big day of reforestation was at the Heartlands School of Self-Sufficiency. We have planted at this site previously and it was amazing to see how much the 1780 trees we had planted last year have grown. We also planted at our host location, Wild Spirit Backpackers Lodge.

Along with planting, we hosted a variety of activities at The Craggs Primary School. We painted an Art for Awareness mural at the school facilitated by Chris Auret with the help of the students. Candice Mostert and Matthew Baker of Waste-Ed hosted workshops about eco and natural building methods at the school. We also planted 10 trees at the school as part of our urban greening programme.

More at www.facebook.com/Greenpop

The second week of the Eden Festival of Action has concluded! We made an impact! We got stuck in planting trees, cleaning beaches, connecting with nature, learning about the principles of permaculture and made memories that will last a lifetime! We celebrated each others talents, recalled knowledge for a quiz night and made new friends. We are ready to see the change everyone continues to make in not only their own lives but in the world!

[...and the second week included](#)

MORE THAN A 1 000 TREES PLANTED

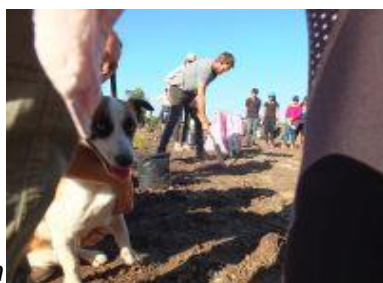
Source www.georgeherald.com/News/Article/General/more-than-a-1-000-trees-planted-201907110904

The organisers of the tree planting event last Friday, 5 July, at the Garden Route Botanical Garden in George were overwhelmed by the response. Almost double the number of people expected turned up.



Excitement was in the air when, just after 10:30, young and old got their hands dirty for the good cause of planting about 1 500 trees. The mass planting formed part of the eighth Eden Festival of Action, organised by Greenpop and the Garden Route Botanical Garden. The Festival of Action is hosted over three weeks each year, with the weeks dedicated to specific age groups. This year it stretches from 22 June to 14 July.

"We host high school students over the first two weeks of the programme and adults in the third week," read a statement by the organisers. "In 2018 we hosted the Festival of Action in the Garden Route for the first time and we are returning to this beautiful space to continue our work in the area after the devastation of the 2017 fires."



Fin... G... la... trees of about 30 species were planted. He said it is not only a community project but also a scientific experiment. The trees were planted on a piece of land of about 1 hectare. It will take about nine years to form a forest. He said there are many different reasons why it is important to plant trees, one being that trees contribute to the biodiversity of the area. The event will most probably take place again next year.



If you go down to the Environmental Education Centre you will see that some paint brushes have been put to good use both inside and out!!



Garden Route Environmental Education Centre

WELCOME WALL One of GREENPOP project events is bringing *beauty to the community in the form of a mural*. Every year a space is identified within the community and they organise a mural event with schools and artists. This year the Garden Route Environmental Education Centre was elected to have the mural painting. After much planning the concept of the painting, artist Chris Auret really put all the ideas together in a splendid array of colours. The painting not only represents the unity of our diversity but also the beauty of our natural heritage. We will use it as a way of communicating to our learners and visitors about their relationship to the natural world and their intrinsic connection to it and how they are welcomed home because they are part of it. We will be prompting questions around why they think the title says "WELCOME HOME" and will help them remember how they fit in.



CLIMATE CHANGE WALL inside the EEC The idea of painting this wall dark and using it as an interactive "chalkboard" was so that the learners could contribute to the content of the theme. The wall is called CLIMATE CHANGE - BE THE CHANGE. It has two main branches; one is the causes of climate change and the other are the solutions. We will ask learners from FET (Grades 10-12) will do a research task focused on the causes of Climate Change. Once they have studied them closely they will be required to look at themselves and their community and "draw/paint" how they contribute to the causes and how they will personally make amendments in their lives to find practical and positive solutions to climate change (BE THE CHANGE). Ingrid Nuss (local artist) painted the skeleton of



the concept and she will facilitate the learners ideas and transfer them onto the wall. In this way the wall also binds them to commit to their promise of being the change.

The schools name and learners will accompany their drawing.

Monica Vaccaro ,
Landmark Foundation Education Program
www.landmarkfoundation.org.za



FRACKING IN THE KAROO HALTED WITH COURT BATTLE

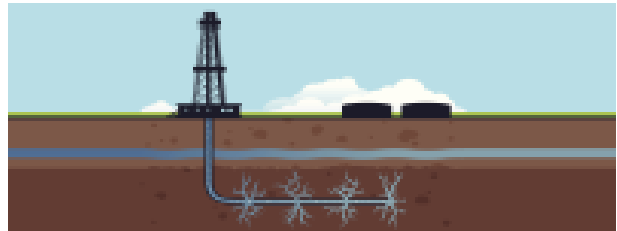
AfriForum and TKAG have been involved in litigation for years to prevent the implementation of fracking for gas extraction in the Karoo.



Source : www.georgeherald.com/News/Article/National/fracking-in-the-karoo-halted-with-court-battle-201907040313

KAROO NEWS - The civil rights organisation AfriForum and the Treasure the Karoo Action Group's (TKAG's) succeeded in its appeal against the Ministers of Mineral Resources and Environmental Affairs to aside the regulations on petroleum exploration and production – as promulgated in 2015 and which allows for fracking in South Africa.

A full bench judges today ruled in favour of AfriForum and TKAG in the Appeals Court in Bloemfontein. AfriForum and TKAG have been involved in litigation for years to prevent the implementation of fracking for gas extraction in the Karoo.



AfriForum and TKAG maintained that the regulations were illegal on several grounds. The Court indeed found that the Minister for Mineral Resources do not have the power and authority to implement the regulations for petroleum exploration and production. The Minister ought to have taken ownership of the process and regulations, however.

Morné Mostert, Head of Local Government Affairs at AfriForum, says that this is a major victory to ensure that our environment is preserved. “We must ensure that future generations have a place in which to live sustainably. We cannot afford to take short-sighted decision.”

He says that the ruling is proof of the necessity that the Departments of Mineral Resources and Environmental Affairs should consult with organisations like AfriForum and TKAG, rather than blatantly continuing and making wrong decisions. Jonathan Deal, CEO of TKAG, says that today's ruling justifies the reservations that AfriForum and TKAG had about the regulations and fracking technology. “The victory was made possible thanks to AfriForum's continued support and resources to wage the court battle. AfriForum protects civil and human rights; it works to the benefit of the man on the street and the community. We will continue with them to protect the country against the damages of fracking.

“South Africa simply does not have enough resources to handle this industry – water is a resource that one simply cannot waste,” Deal says.

Shell has already down scaled its fracking plans in the Karoo as a result of continuous pressure from AfriForum and TKAG.

AfriForum and TKAG won the court application with cost.

Read the Judgement : <https://cms.groupereditors.com/Documents/FroalaFiles/4062f51e-8be3-4ef3-9f03-0a3b0581721d.pdf>

New management plan for the Garden Route National Park

Public Workshops: Garden Route Management Plan
Unfortunately this information only reached me mid-July
so by the time you read this the workshops have already happened.
BUT there is still a short space of time (**until 9 August !!!!!**) to contribute.....



South African National Parks (SANParks) has conducted a process to review the Garden Route National Park (GRNP) management plan over the past year. SANParks invites interested and affected organisations and stakeholders to join a workshop to comment on the draft of new Management Plan of the Garden Route National Park.

The purpose of the management plan is to guide the management of the park for the period 2020 – 2029. The NEM: PAA requires that interested or affected persons be given the opportunity to comment on these plans. (Please note that these first workshops are not aimed at addressing operational issues).

Please note that interested parties are required to register. Registration may take place on the SANParks website at www.sanparks.org/conservation/park_man/forms/reg_form.php by telephone or mail (see contact details below).

To facilitate participation, an electronic version of the draft management plan will be available on the SANParks website

www.sanparks.org/conservation/park_man/draft_plans_public_comment.php on 03 June 2019.

The plan may also be viewed at the following locations:

George Public Library, Sedgefield Public Library, Knysna Public Library, Hornlee Public Library, Plettenberg Bay Public Library, Stormsriver Village – SANParks offices, Nompumelelo Village – Koukamma Satellite office.

Stakeholders are welcome to submit written comments electronically or by mail to:

Len du Plessis

Postal address: PO Box 3542 Knysna; 6570

Tel: 044 3025600

Email: len.duplessis@sanparks.org

The due date for comments is 9 August 2019.

Read more:

www.sanparks.org/assets/docs/conservation/park_man/framework-april2008.pdf

www.sanparks.org/assets/docs/conservation/park_man/pmp-stakeholder-participation.pdf

www.sanparks.org/assets/docs/docs/conservation/park_man/grnp-draft-plan-for-public-comment-v2.pdf

Wednesday 28 August 10:00 = Tea, 10:30 = Meeting starts,

Venue : Emmaüs, Hope Street.

Monthly General Meeting: Prof. Jenny Day:

“Water, Water Everywhere – and Nowhere: South Africa’s Water Woes”:

The recent drought in Cape Town brought home to its citizens the fact that water is a limiting factor and that it can run out. The drought is now over (we hope) but the memory remains, and many questions need to be asked and answered. In this talk I’ll pose some of them and try to answer at least a few. Has water availability changed over time? If so, why is that?

Will availability continue to decline? If so, why is that? Who can we blame? And the big one, what can we do to prevent future water crises? I will show that it is very likely that we will not in our lifetimes. Return to a state of water plenty but that instead we need to adjust to a “new normal” where water availability dictates agricultural practices, industrial activities and personal lifestyles.

Contact Mike: 044 620 2589.

Just R10 for non-U3A members



Birds of the Karoo: Ecology and Conservation

The Karoo landscape is unique and has maintained its aesthetic for many generations while other areas have succumbed to change and excessive development. In many respects the landholders, primarily private and communal farmers, are the key custodians of this landscape, which includes taking responsibility for its birds and other species.

The work of BirdLife South Africa has shown that agriculture and birds can happily co-exist and that the traditional sheep farming of the region can support biodiversity. However, certain threats to both landscape and species exist. In some instances threats are increasing, particularly those that come from mining and renewable energy facilities. The aim of this booklet is to educate and inspire people to take action, if necessary, or continue with existing positive actions that support the conservation of the Karoo's birds and biodiversity.



The booklet starts off by introducing a suite of the birds that occupy the region, specifically the charismatic species that may spark an interest in birds, as well as the endemics that occur nowhere else. The species descriptions and images should help with identification while also providing an introduction to the birds' ecology. The Karoo's endemic species are part of South Africa's unique natural heritage and it is our responsibility to create awareness of them and encourage people to support their conservation.

Namaqua Sandgrouse are widespread across the Karoo.
Credit: Dale Wright



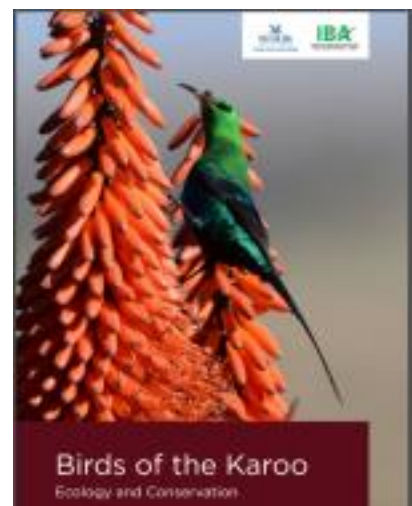
The booklet goes on to describe some of the threats to the Karoo landscape and specifically its birds and biodiversity. In many instances these are shared threats and we hope that knowing about them will support action to mitigate their impact. In the final pages are conservation recommendations and actions that can be taken by interested landholders, private farmers, communal property owners, environmental organisations and government agencies. In this way, the booklet intends to support the people and organisations already undertaking conservation initiatives in the Karoo while also encouraging action from all who call the region home.

DALE WRIGHT, IBA CONSERVATION IMPLEMENTATION MANAGER

Source : <https://www.birdlife.org.za/media-and-resources/e-newsletter/e-newsletter-2019/#24705>

The following is sourced from : Stories from Blue Hill Escape blogA collection of tales about life in the remote regions of South Africa, often surveying birds, or analyzing data.

<http://bluehillescape.blogspot.com/>



Karoo Birds: Conservation and Ecology

Karoo Birds: Ecology and Conservation, the booklet compiled by Dale Wright, Stefan Theron and myself (Alan Lee) is now free to download in English or Afrikaans from the BirdLife South Africa website.

English: <http://www.birdlife.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Birds-of-the-Karoo-Ecology-and-Conservation.pdf>

Afrikaans: <http://www.birdlife.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Voels-van-die-Karoo-Ekologie-en-bewaring.pdf>

The booklet is the culmination of 2 years work in an amazing biome, full of great birds and people, funded by a donation by Gaynor Rupert to BirdLife South Africa and run in conjunction with SANBI's Karoo BioGaps project. While there are also several research articles out already from the survey, one key deliverable was to create a simple bird guide for the landowners of the Karoo, distilling information from the mammoth report that concluded the project, as well as a further document on conservation concerns for the biome.

It is our hope the book will inspire interest in birds and their conservation among landowners in the Karoo.

More information on **Blue Hill Escape**, accommodation and Mountain Fynbos Reserve

We are a family in custody of 2300 hectares of former livestock farm land in the far eastern reaches of the Little Karoo which we have turned into a Nature Reserve under the Cape Nature / Eastern Cape Parks stewardship program. We wish to preserve the area's endemic mountain fynbos vegetation and associated wildlife. www.bluehillescape.co.za



The logo for 'green times' is displayed on a light green background. The word 'green' is in a light green, lowercase, sans-serif font, and the word 'times' is in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.

SA's green news portal since 2009

Most people care about the world, but many don't know what they can do to help steer our society onto a more sustainable path. The Green Times fills this gap by providing stories about what can be done - and how fun and rewarding it is to live a greener life. Naturally corporate greening and green products and services are also very important, so we are always looking for those stories too. Environmental news for a sustainable future.

Sign up for free at www.thegreentimes.co.za to receive our e-newspaper.

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Regards, Christine Ridge-Schnauffer

Honorary Secretary WESSA EDEN



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