



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.

WESSA EDEN Newsletter February 2015

Dear Friends of the Environment,

this month there are additional separate attachments which bring an Environmental Symposium organised by CANSA to your attention and Monica Vaccaro has supplied us with the report on Education activities carried out by the Landmark Foundation during 2014.

It is the time of annual reports, so if you are interested in reading more about WESSA....

WESSA's quarterly National Newsletter highlights the environmental conservation work being done by staff throughout South Africa.

To view all 2014 issues, go to: www.wessa.org.za/resources/newsletter.htm

The WESSA Annual Review 2013-2014 highlights WESSA's work throughout South Africa over the past financial year. The Review was generously created for WESSA on a *pro bono* basis by human.kind in Johannesburg.

To download, go to: www.wessa.org.za/who-we-are/annual-review.htm

We visited Nature's Valley recently and popped into the office of the Trust to see Dr. Mark Brown and his team The Annual Update is available at www.naturesvalleytrust.co.za if you are interested.

WESSA proudly presents

The third national awareness day for southern African frogs will be held on 28 February 2015

What is the aim of Leap Day for Frogs?

It is one day of the year when ordinary South Africans can take a leap of action and do something to appreciate and protect one of the most threatened group of animals on Earth: Frogs! These important creatures are disappearing all over the planet largely because of habitat destruction.

Why 28 February?

Apart from having tongues 1/3 the length of their bodies, frogs are also famous for leaping across long distances – up to 20 times their own body length in a single leap!

The South African Cape River Frog holds the world record for Frog Jumping – the longest distance covered in three consecutive jumps – at 10.3 m? Not bad for a 5 cm frog!

And if you think about it, February leaps into March, skipping days 29, 30 and 31 except on Leap years,



which occur every four years, adding the 29th of February to the calendar. People born on this day are called "Leaplings". That's why 28th February seems the perfect day to leap into action and save our frogs.

Join the froggie folk here in George on Saturday 28 February to see what leaps around the Botanical Garden.

Meet at the Moriarty Centre, Caledon Street at 18h00 for an introductory talk. Colin Ralston will report on his recent sensational observations on the predation of frogs by beetle larvae. (see photo right)



The gates will then be locked and all visitors will tour the garden with Colin and Willem Mathee (currently conducting post grad research on the Knysna Leaf-folding frog at NMMU) who will catch and explain their findings.

Any other frog experts ,eore than welcome to join the frogging! Bring torches (headlamps), insect repellent and own refreshments. Donations for WESSA Eden Education Fund most welcome!



28 March - Permaculture - Integrated Food System

Intensive workshop on Compost, Worm farm and Planting in a garden in Heatherlands. R 350 incl. Lunch. Limited to 16 participants. Imperative to book, follow up course possible. More info and booking Michelle Schubert 044 873 2254 schubert.michele@gmail.com

21 April 17h30 Venue Moriarty Centre, Botanical garden, Caledon Street

WESSA Eden AGM – Speaker Deon van Zyl on getting off the grid.

(By then we may be desperate for alternatives to ESKOM !)

25 April – Coastal Geology Tour

Our ever popular geology tours. The last one was a severely washed out – from Mossel bay to Vic Bay, but we hope that this time the sun will shine on us!

News from WESSA S.Cape Project Co-ordinator, Lorraine McGibbon

YES intake 2015

Orientation day. Mandy Noffke (YES project manager) and Helena Atkinson (WESSA Mission Project Implementer) ran the sessions with me. The participants and hosts were introduced to WESSA, the YES programme, the documentation, etc. We also drew up rough charts for ideas of where to place the participants. I am still trying to place participants and find host organisations in Knysna and Sedgefield. Currently we have:

- Pledge Nature Reserve - 4
- SANParks Tsitsikamma - 2
- 2 small educare centres - 3
- KAWS (Knysna Animal Welfare) - 2
- Smutsville Primary in Sedgefield - 2



Photo - the new YES students arrive at the Masifunde Library in white Location Knysna for the orientation session

What fun the ice breaker was with almost 40 participants finding each other (name tags handed out randomly) and then forming groups, ie herds and having to make the sound of that animal. Frogs were easy - oh dear, warthogs were not!



Garden Route BOTANICAL GARDENS



There is much happening at the Garden Route Botanical Garden
All events are fundraisers for the Garden, so please do support them at the event of your choice!!!

“YELLOW TAG” INDIGENOUS TREE AND PLANT SALE
SATURDAY MORNING 7TH FEBRUARY 2015 09H00 – 13H00
GREAT BARGAINS!!! UNBELIEVABLE SPECIALS!! REDUCED PRICES!!
Agapanthus plants - out of ground.(Blue and white) - Aloes - big and small.
Shade loving Duvernoia adhatodoides (Pistol bush)
And much more - come and browse, sale plants will be identified by their yellow tags

The Cloud 9 Band - Botanical Garden PICNIC Concert **7 February 2015 from 16-18h00.**

A tribute to the Rock 'n' Roll story of the late 50's, 1960's & 70's under the band stand at the beautiful Garden Route Botanical Gardens.

This is one to put in your diaries for a wonderful afternoon of picnicking, partying and live rock 'n' roll music as only Cloud 9 know how. Come and enjoy all of the wonderful Botanical Gardens and then get ready for some fun in the fairly sheltered, lawned / treed bandstand (Gazebo) area. So many folks have asked for another Cloud 9 Picnic & Party - so here it is!

You are welcome to bring your own picnic gear, food and drinks.

Or if you would like to have a picnic provided see the “commercial” for the Wilderness Picnic Co. below.

Tickets: R70.00 Adults, R60.00 Members / Pensioners / Students. School Kids FREE



Guy Buttery

Live at the Garden Route Botanical Garden

Acoustic classical Guitarist, Guy Buttery, will be performing a Summer Concert “The Gathering Fiction Tour”.

Sunday, 15th February 2015 at 16h00, show starts at 17h00

Tickets: Adults – R70.00, Members – R60.00

Food Stalls, bring your own chairs or blankets

For more information 044 874 1558 / info@botanicalgarden.org.za

www.guybuttery.co.za

[www.facebook.com.guybutterymusic](https://www.facebook.com/guybutterymusic)



WWW.GUYBUTTERY.CO.ZA
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GUYBUTTERYMUSIC

ANDREW YOUNG & BAND

SUMMER SAX & SALSA

Garden Route Botanical Garden

7 March 2015 from 14H00

Bookings & Info
044 874 1558
Computicket
0861 915 8000



ACORN
Computicket

ALSO AVAILABLE IN THESE STORES: SHOPRITE, Checkers, Checkers Hyper, Food Lovers

Saxophonist, Andrew Young, is back at the Garden Route, Botanical Gardens in George performing his new Show **Summer Sax & Salsa**. A program crammed full with spicy salsas, hot mambos, reggae, rhythm and romance.

Together with his brilliant band Andrew brings sounds of the Caribbean to your doorstep. If you like your music hot n' spicy then this is a show definitely not to be missed!

Born in Liverpool Andrew studied clarinet and saxophone from the age of eight...now, an internationally renowned recording/performing artist, he has performed for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Charles at the Royal Festival Hall, worked with Dionne Warwick, Gino Vanelli, Shirley Bassey, Jonathan Butler, and Sir James Galway.

Hailed as The Prince of the Saxophone (China Daily News) you can expect an evening of awesome music fired by the energy of one of the most complete Sax players on the scene today.

TICKETS AT THE GATE	
GENERAL ADMISSION	R120
MEMBERS & PENSIONERS	R110
TICKETS ON LINE	
COMPUTICKET	R100
SCHOLARS	FREE

7th March from 14h00 at the Garden Route Botanical Garden

Andrew Young plays "Summer Sax & Salsa"

in George between touring China and the rest of South Africa....
If you missed this brilliant saxophonist and entertainer last year, make sure you don't miss it this year !



Forthcoming Activities

CANSA Environmental Symposium 13 Feb, 10-12h00 George Town Lodge
Environmental Factors: Impact on the Body and Health. (Flyer attached)

Seating limited please reply directly to:-

Minette van Zyl

Regional Manager Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) Southern Cape Karoo Region & Eastern Cape (Western Region) Care Centres

Tel: +27 44 874 4824 +27 041 373 5157 Cell: +27 82 443 3601

Sedgefield Island Conservancy AGM

26 February 2015 18h00 for 18h30 Sedgefield Bowls Club

Chairman's Report on 2014

Guest Speaker:- Di Turner, (CREW Outramps) indigenous plant enthusiast who has been involved in conservation activities in the Southern Cape for many years will share some of her experiences.

Members and Visitors welcome. Snacks & cash bar. Contact Oliver Purcell opurcell@telkomsa.net

Environmental updates

FRACKING

There is one thing I can be sure of – if I send out anything on fracking I have a great deal of correspondence to deal withfrom both sides of the fence!

I apologise to the pro-frackers as regrettably I am unable to remain cool and impartial on this topic – I am absolutely terrified that fracking WILL happen in the Karoo destroying grazing, landscapes and our water sources. Livelihoods will be destroyed and only the shareholders of the multinationals will benefit.

Pam Brighton sent me a photo

I took this photo on Hillston Farm near Middelburg. Pristine Karoo landscape, grazing for sheep, wild horses, fallow deer and blue cranes. The farm is a tourist destination for South Africans and foreigners. There is also licensed hunting for the fallow deer which multiply very rapidly. The effect I used is my way of expressing my rage at what fracking will do to areas like this. What will remain for our grandchildren?

Pam Brighton



16 February 2015 - DEADLINES FOR REGISTRATION AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY for :-

- 1. Bundu oil and gas has released their Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for public comments.**
- 2. Falcon oil and gas has released their Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for shale gas exploration in the Karoo.**

TKAG encourages everyone to please register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) and to submit comments on the EMP on or before 16 February 2015. Anyone can register and submit comments and anyone is welcome to attend public meetings.

Follow Jonathan Deal's blog :- <http://jonathandealblog.com/>

Have a look at :- <http://www.bdlive.co.za/business/energy/2015/01/22/chemicals-used-in-fracking-could-cause-cancer>

From Bernhard Scheffler:- *“Google with "rt news fracking" for many of the best sound arguments against fracking. RT is a Russian state-funded news website. I am no fancier of that state in its present form, but its website has collected together many of the best anti-fracking arguments and facts. The reason is probably that Russia gets a major portion of its total revenue from the sale of natural gas and petroleum, and does not like competition (it is not exactly a free-market state). It is clever enough not to put bogus stuff on its fracking website to undermine its credibility.”*

Interesting websites

Outramps CREW Group Southern Cape

For all Outramps CREW site sheets featuring Rare and Endangered plants -

<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/crew-species>

For previous Reportbacks - <http://www.ispotnature.org/forum/32428>

Search Outramps Projects - <http://www.ispotnature.org/your-ispot/projects>

Southern African Projects - <http://www.ispotnature.org/communities/southern-africa/projects/latest>

There are lots of Projects covering the Southern Cape, if you have an interest in this area.

Commercials

The Wilderness Picnic Company

will be supplying green biodegradable picnics at the upcoming Cloud 9 concert on the 7 March at the George Botanical Gardens..

Mini picnics will be on sale at the event for R130.00 each. They will include 2 salads, 2 pates , Ciabatta , home made seed biscuits, cutlery and plates.

A deluxe basket can be ordered prior to the event and delivered to the venue at a cost of R350.00.

This will include :-2 pates, 2 salads, 2 quiches, 2 types of cheese, 2 preserves, 2 desserts , Ciabatta, home made seed biscuits, plates, cups and cutlery.

Contact Paul or Rikke on 071-537-3265, 082-646-5981 or via email at picnic.wilderness@gmail.com to order and find out about the menu selection on www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wilderness-Picnic-Company



Poison for Bugweed

From: Carl

Subject: RE: WESSA Eden Newsletter Jan 2015

Thanks for the entertaining newsletter and creating much awareness around bugweed invasion.

While Timbrel and its genetic equivalents have traditionally been used for cut stump treatment on this species, I wish to remind users that the herbicide must be used in conjunction with Actipron or similar wetting agent and applied as a coarse spray to all freshly low cut surfaces.

However, I wish to draw your attention to a relatively new “ready-to use” herbicide gel specifically registered for the above, which requires no mixing or dilution and contains everything required to do the job including a marker dye. Because the product is painted rather than sprayed onto cut stump surfaces, there is considerably less risk of environmental contamination and off-site damage.

If anybody required more information on this product, they may contact me on this email or by phone 0826557585. I would be happy to share my information for the greater good.

Carl Stoltz noweeds@absamail.co.za



As always, feel free to forward to others. And as always, all errors are entirely mine!

If you wish to unsubscribe – just let me know.

Regards,

Christine Ridge-Schnauffer

Honorary Secretary, WESSA Eden Tel: 044-873-4203

wessageorge@isat.co.za

www.wessa.org.za

Fax: 086 646 5458

<http://www.facebook.com/wessa.eden>