



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 December 2015

Dear Friends of the Environment,

the Silly Season approaches inevitably – and ever more rapidly.....

Looking back on the past calendar year, it has been another busy one for this Committee and we have had new blood and energies injected. There have been a number of interesting outings which have been well-received by our public – thank you for supporting us in these efforts.

It is probably not easy for our readers to appreciate how much effort, time and energy is expended organising outings. But it is all worthwhile if everyone has a good time – the participants as well as the hosts. For this reason I feel it necessary to emphasise that when booking tours, should you find that you are unable to attend it would be polite to cancel. Our last tour (a repeat to Noetzie Conservancy) was fully booked and reminders were sent out asking for cancellations. Sadly, of the 37 persons booked, 6 cancelled at short notice and 11 simply did not appear! That is almost half of the number expected !!!!

This is extremely embarrassing when hosts go out of their way to give presentations – at no charge - to our groups. And of course inconsiderate of those on the waiting list hoping to participate. So when considering what your New Year Resolutions will be, please consider standing to commitments made.

The Committee (from left - Claude, Lorraine, Roz, Christine, Hester, Annemarie & Linda. Monica was absent) would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our readers and supporters a wonderful Festive Season with family and friends.



WESSA proudly presents

WESSA Eden Sustainability Info Stall,

Mosaic Market, Sedgefield – Saturday 5 December 08-14h00

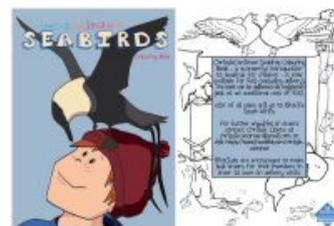
Come and visit us at the market where we will be using an eco-doll's house to show what can be done in the home to benefit the environment – and save money!

There will also be info on recycling and environmentally friendly cooking methods. Rocket stoves will be demonstrated <http://www.rocketworks.org/> as well as solar alternatives and Wonderbags.



The ChrissieCanDraw Seabirds Colouring Book (the first in the series) is more than a colouring book; it aims to introduce various seabirds and related conservation issues to young children through humorous and informative pictures and activities.

Published in association with BirdLife South Africa, 20% of the proceeds go towards helping them to continue with important research and conservation initiatives for the preservation of birds in South Africa and our coffers, too will receive a little commission – thanks Chrissie ! Available at our stall for R65.



<http://scenicsouth.co.za/birdlife-south-africa-launches-a-seabirds-colouring-in-book-by-chrissie-cloete/>
<http://showme.co.za/plett/news/chrissiecandraw-seabirds-colouring-book/>



And whilst in a generous, desperately looking for Christmas presents mood, give either yourself or someone close to you a WESSA membership! From R 145 – R415 p.a.

CREW Outramps News

Crew Outramps have been very busy during 2015 – and particularly during spring.....

“At the end of October part of the team visited Loerivlei as part of the Outramps goal to document all the plants on the properties that form the Robberg Corridor.

And now the work begins. All the plants seen and photographed will appear on iSpot ITFOT. When we have completed our surveys of the Robberg Corridor properties, there will be a comprehensive pictorial record of all the plants we have seen over the different seasons. We will need to return to Loerivlei to finish cataloguing the trees that occur in the forest and on the banks of the river. This is the link to the Loerivlei project.”

<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/rcc-jackals-kraal-433-ptn6-re>



Dr Robbie Robinson, formerly Head of SA National Parks and one of the founding landowners of the Robberg Corridor, believes that inappropriate development is the single biggest threat to biodiversity in the Garden Route, "With the exception of this conservation-friendly neighbour, Robberg Nature Reserve is surrounded, on the terrestrial side, by intensive development. In the Robberg Corridor, generations of conservation-sensitive landowners have struggled to keep the link between Robberg and the remaining coastal lowland fynbos viable. It is essential to maintain this vital corridor." The good news is that the Robberg Corridor was recently declared a "Protected Environment" by the Western Cape Government.

Di Turner comments:

“With field trips during Spring ranging all over the wider Southern Cape, Baviaanskloof, Marloth and the McGregor Mts, we haven't been to the Swartberg for ages. Early on in the year, there were widespread fires over most of the western part of the range. A visit to our beloved Waboomsberg may produce some exciting surprises, as the post-burn plants emerge after excellent rains. “

Some of the Outramps Projects

<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/vermaakskloof-to-buffelsdrift-via-kammanassieberg>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/rooiberg>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/gamkaberg-south>

www.ispotnature.org/projects/marloth-reserve/observations/gallery
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/klipdrift--zebra>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/witblitz-trail-in-the-eastern-langeberg>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/perdepoort>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/camferskloof-in-the-northern-oueniquas>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/goukamma-nature-reserve-complex-checklist>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/southern-swartberg-foothills>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/crew-site-sheets-for-the-southern-cape-coast-and-the-coastal-mountains>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/the-conglomerates-and-the-area-west-...>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/crew-species> - for all our site sheets for Redlisted plants with status
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/northern-foothills-of-the-swartberg-...>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/gouritzmond-to-western-side-of-gouriqua>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/kareedouw-and-surrounds>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/fynbos-nature-reserve-krans-hoek-432...>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/oueniqua-reserve/observations/gallery>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/biodiversity-of-the-western-kouga->
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/outramps-crew-site-sheets-for-the-karoo-region>
<http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/project-list/> / See Under Comments for a complete list of Projects on iSpot

Environmental updates

From: [Treasure Karoo Action Group](#)

Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2015 9:34 PM

Good Day,

This email serves as a reminder to all South Africans to register as stakeholders for the national Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on shale gas mining in the Karoo.

The Department of Environmental Affairs commissioned the SEA earlier in 2015 to enable the assessment of the potential implications of shale gas exploration and production in the Karoo and South Africa. The assessment is managed by the CSIR in conjunction with SANBI and the Council for Geosciences. Several academics and experts form part of the various author teams.

To register as a stakeholder, please submit your details on the following site:

<http://seasgd.csir.co.za/iap-portal/>

The zero order draft document has been released for public comment and can be found here:
seasgd.csir.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ZOD-V3.0-SEA-SGD-Karoo_12Oct.pdf

We believe it is critical that South Africans make use of this opportunity to comment on the content and scope of the investigation.

Thank you very much.

Kind Regards,

Jeanie le Roux Director of Operations Treasure Karoo Action Group
127 Main Road Bergvillet, Cape Town, , 021 715 3003

To support the work of Treasure Karoo Action Group and AfriForum in ensuring advocacy, accountability and fairness around the issue of shale gas in South Africa, sms "karoo" to 45354 (R1/sms).

Garden Route BOTANICAL GARDENS



Garden Route
Botanical Garden

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT CONCERT WITH SOUTH CAPE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

IN THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER 2015 - 18H00

Bring family and friends, chairs and candles and a strong singing voice!

Come early and enjoy your picnic in the garden before joining the South Cape Symphony Orchestra for a sunset concert on the events lawn in the beautiful Garden Route Botanical Garden.

ENTRANCE FREE – Donations will be accepted

ORDER Picnic Baskets from the Botanical Brew – 079 212 6582

Botanical Brew – Food and Drinks Stall

ENQUIRIES: 044 874 1558 / info@botanicalgarden.org.za

NURSERY OPEN DAY - SATURDAY MORNING - 5 DEC 15

Remember our Indigenous Nursery will be open from **09h00 to 12h00** with amazing specials.

The nursery is in desperate need of your old plant pots and yoghurt containers which can be dropped off at the office or nursery. Thank You – it helps to keep our costs and prices down.

CONCERTS TAKING PLACE IN 2016: MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW ONCE FINALISED

Cloud 9 – 30 Jan 2016 at 16h00 .

Andrew Young and Band - 6 March 2015

and lots lots more ! Botanical Gardens will release final details closer to the dates.

– watch press for details.

UPDATE from the Garden Route Botanical Garden Trust

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS ...

We are still in desperate need of your expertise in supervising alien invasive clearing. We have a work force of approximately 150 unskilled labourers available for alien clearing. Anyone that could assist us with supervision, even if it is just for a hour or two, please contact Kristen on 044 874 1558 /

info@botanicalgarden.org.za.

SOUTH CAPE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
*Carols by Candlelight
in the Gardens*
GARDEN ROUTE BOTANICAL GARDEN
Caledon Street
Entrance FREE ~ Collection for charity
Saturday, 5th December 2015 at 18h00
Come earlier to picnic on the lawns.
Bring blankets, folding chairs and candles.
ORDER Picnic Baskets from the Botanical Brew 079 212 6582
Botanical Brew ~ Food & Drinks Stall available at the concert
ENQUIRIES: 044 874 1558 / info@botanicalgarden.org.za

kos en fynbos

Summer Food Festival

As the most recent contribution to the Kos en Fynbos project seeds were donated by the Committee for distribution to participants. Here Hester Greef is handing over packets of seeds to 2 of the co-ordinators for the various suburbs.



Forthcoming Activities

SCLI end of year seminar - 10 December 2015 (See separate Agenda attached)

You are cordially invited to join us for a day of shared knowledge and experience at our Bi-Annual Seminar on invasive alien plant management.

Date: 10 December 2015 (optional field visit on the 11 December)

Venue: Far Hills Country Hotel

Time: 08:30

Please note that the end of year SCLI Seminar also serves as a year-end function for all participating entities, and we are looking forward to socialising after the seminar with you all. Attendance is free.

Please RSVP by the 26 November.

Kind regards



" ART & LIVING in NATURE"

OPEN AIR ART & PROPERTIES 13 - 20 December 2015

from 10 am till 6 pm

Roberto Vaccaro Metal Sculptures

Thijs Nel Earthy Ceramics

in 17 hectare Private Nature Reserve



Grand opening **SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER 2015** at 3 PM - BUZZARD HEIGHTS, 22 High Road North GREAT BRAK RIVER

gps: 34 02 00 98 S / 22 13 52 38 E

Entrance fee R15 pp for the benefit of the 2 primary schools in Great Brak River.

Bookings essential: 082 833 50 63 / aecpierre@gmail.com

Interesting websites

South African Food Sovereignty Campaign

<http://www.safsc.org.za>

Commercials



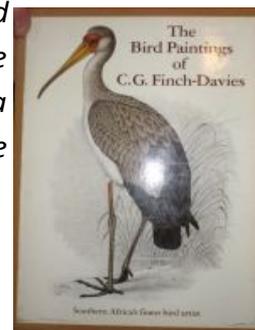
2014 marked 35 years of *EnviroKids* – WESSA’s award-winning publication. *EnviroKids* is an invaluable, reusable educational resource for children, parents and teachers interested in the environment, wildlife and environmental issues. Children are wonderful ambassadors for the environment, and many take what they learn into their homes and communities.

EnviroKids magazines are full of amazing facts and fun activities that promote more sustainable lifestyles and caring for the Earth. Each issue has a different theme and supports the National curriculum, making *EnviroKids* a perfect source of ideas and information for school projects. Most readers keep their magazines as a reference library.

With Christmas coming up...or as a Birthday present, avail yourself of the special offer of 4 issues for just R150. Subscription form available on request.

A copy of **“The Bird Paintings of C.G.Finch-Davies – Southern Africa's finest bird artist”** has been donated to St Mark's Cathedral and was valued at between R800 - R1200 by the Strydom Gallery in 2013. We would like to sell it, however, since it is a collectors' item, we thought it would be a good idea to ask you to send this request to your members in case one of them would be interested.

Kind regards, Marie Scherrer
Parish Council Member, St Mark's Cathedral
marie.scherrer55@gmail.com



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.

And of course we, the Committee, wish you all a wonderful time with family and friends sharing valuable time together with bundles of affection and care.

Regards, Christine Ridge-Schnauffer
Honorary Secretary, WESSA EDEN
e-mail: wessageorge@isat.co.za www.wessa.org.za www.facebook.com/wessa.eden