



# AgulhasNPark eBulletin



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[www.sanparks.org](http://www.sanparks.org)

**We wish all our readers a peaceful and prosperous 2014!!!!!!**

## Cape Agulhas Lighthouse opened to the public

On 10 December 2013 the Lighthouse opened its doors for visitors to the Southernmost Tip. Apart from climbing the tower which visitors came in their droves to do, the Lighthouse Museum can be visited with its new set of information posters and an art display with lighthouses as the subject. Cape Agulhas Tourism also moved into the Lighthouse where visitors are informed of all the places and sites, as well as all the activities happening. 8673 people visited the Lighthouse since the 10th of which about 4910 climbed the tower.



**Lux in tenebris – Light in darkness**

**Black Harrier and Lighthouse picture by Sharon Brink**



**First visitor to the Lighthouse  
Jackie Matthews from  
Melbourne, Australia**



**How to enjoy the Lighthouse  
and surrounds**



**Two Oceans Visitor Info Centre**



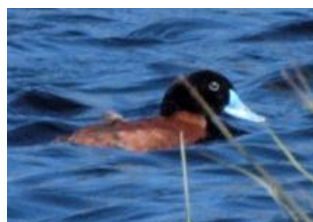
Connecting to Society

## Spotted in the Park



## Exciting Bird sightings for December – Wim De Klerk

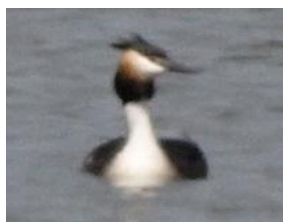
If SABAP 2 is correct, probably the most Southerly of the following birds ever were recorded: Gewone nagreier, Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*; Bloubekeend, Macoa Duck, *Oxyura maccoa*; Bruineend, Southern Pochard, *Netta erythrophthalma*; Kuifkopdobbertjie, Greater Crested Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*; Swartnekdobbertjie, Black-necked Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis* and Bandstertgriet, Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica*. The Black-Crowned Night-heron was at the Langezandt Wetland in Struisbaai. The others were all in the Agulhas National Park and probably due to the abundance of water. Every water body is filled to the brim. The Macoa, Pochard and two Grebes were seen in the pentad which includes the most Southerly point in Africa near L'Agulhas. At last the Kaapse kwarteltjie, Hottentot Buttonquail, *Turnix hottentottis* was found on the Rietfontein plains.



Macoa Duck



Black-necked Grebe



Greater Crested Grebe



Bar-tailed Godwit

## Agulhas National Park and ABI strengthening partnerships

From 26 to 28 November 2013 the Agulhas Biodiversity Social Projects Managing team presented training to 270 beneficiaries of the ABI project. Roger Bailey of Flower Valley Conservation Trust/ABI Alien Clearing Coordinator, requested in house training for Health and Safety, Herbicide application, Plant identification, Vehicle checks, Alien clearing work methods and Standard operating procedures. The programme was conducted over a three day period with groups of 25. A structured roster with one hour interaction time with each facilitator, ensured individual attention and proper training.



## Agulhas Junior Ranger End of Year camp

The Agulhas Junior Rangers had their end of year camp during the weekend of 6 to 8 December 2013 at Bosheuwel. They had a wonderful time engaging in spontaneous team building activities: canoeing, evening programmes and site seeing. They received goodie bags and certificates for the successful completion JR Level 1. Junior Rangers are real people making a real difference!



Congratulations to the organizers of a very successful Cape Agulhas Classic Mountain Bike Race on 21 December 2013. 637 cyclists took part of which 170 did the 60km route through Agulhas National Park.



Julia Adams Working for the Coast team, in their new green uniform, busy with coastal clean-up at the Rest camp

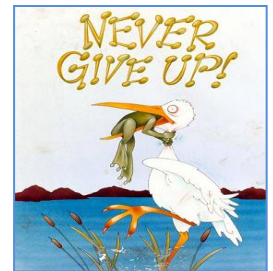


### Agulhas Working for Wetlands did it!!!

Agulhas National Park Working for Wetlands project was the first runner-up in the 2011/12 Best Project Awards. It is, therefore, with great pleasure and pride that we can announce that the Agulhas Working for Wetlands took the first place for the Best Project Award for year 2012-13! Congratulations to Arnold Viegeland and his team. You did Agulhas proud! It was not just all the rain that filled up the Agulhas wetlands in 2013; it is also a testimony of the successful restorative measures by the Agulhas Working for Wetlands project. Arnold Viegeland also made a career change and was appointed as the first Technical officer of Agulhas NP.



Arnold Viegeland



### Agulhas National Park Forum Work Group 3 /

#### PAC (Projects Advisory Committee) taken on a field visit

The Projects Advisory Committee represents the Park Forum Work Group 3. They had their last 2013 meeting on 6 December as a field visit to some of the contracting teams. One on one interactions and discussions took place and the work group representatives could get first hand knowledge of work procedures and challenges, as well as in field best practice. One of the stakeholder group representatives, Mr Sakkie Francken, councillor of the Overberg District Municipality, attended the field trip. He encouraged them to keep on with their splendid work and conveyed appreciation for their hard work. A Working for Water and a Working for the Coast teams were visited.



### United Nations International Year themes for 2014

The United Nations are celebrating the International Year of Family Farming, Small Island Developing States and Crystallography.

