

In 1488, 529 years ago, Portuguese seafarer, Bartolomeu Dias turned back after he failed to reach the East in search of a trading route. On his return journey, on May 16, he sailed passed a certain flat piece of land. He named it after an Irish monk, St Brendan, whose festival day it was: *Ponte de Sao Brendao*.



AgulhasNPark eBulletin

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The Southern Tip development

The Southern Tip development is in full swing with the paving of the gravel road, the preparation of the Icon construction site and the development of a new circular hiking trail.

Southern Tip circular hiking trail

Four Small Medium Management Enterprise teams started to work on the new circular hiking trail from the Cape Agulhas Lighthouse to the Southernmost Tip and back. The trail passes the small cave and quarry to the west of the Lighthouse, continuing on the ridge westwards to join the Rasperpunt Hiking trail, coming down towards the coast, to continue eastwards towards the Southernmost Tip beacon and back to the Lighthouse. At the same time the boardwalk at the Southernmost Tip will be repositioned further away from the coast line to end at the Icon.



Paving the coastal road towards the Southernmost Tip

Mapitsi/Masiqhame Joint Venture was appointed as contractor to pave the 1,2km of the coastal road to the Southernmost Tip. The construction camp was set up in March at the first open parking area next to the gravel road. On April 10 the road work machines were hard at work. The work will be done on alternative sections of the road to ensure smooth movement of vehicles travelling to and fro.

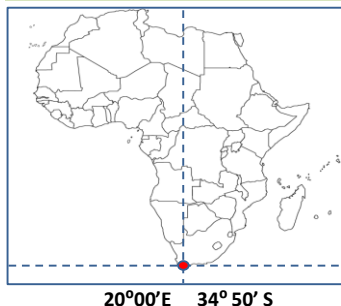
Southern Tip Icon

The construction site of the Icon was set up towards the end of March. Together with Suzette Leonard's contracting team plants were harvested and relocated to the garden at the Park's Administration and Reception building. In April the contractors, BushActive, began to prepare the site for construction.



Connecting to Society

What makes the Southernmost Tip unique?



A place of continental significance ...

The southernmost tip is recognized by the International Hydro-graphic Organisation as the **geographic dividing line** between the Indian and Atlantic oceans, following the meridian of 20° east.

A floral kingdom in its own right

It is part of one of the world's six floral kingdoms: South Africa has one-tenth (23 200) of the world's flowering plants, of which nearly 19 000 are endemic, making it the richest region in the world in terms of species to area – 1,7 times richer even than Brazil. It is the only country in the world to contain an entire floral kingdom and has the third highest level of biodiversity in the world.



King protea

Killer waves

It is believed that the waves at the southernmost point are, after those at Cape Horn, the highest in the world



National symbols

The Southernmost Tip is home to four of South Africa's national symbols (King Protea, Springbok, Blue-crane and Galjoen).

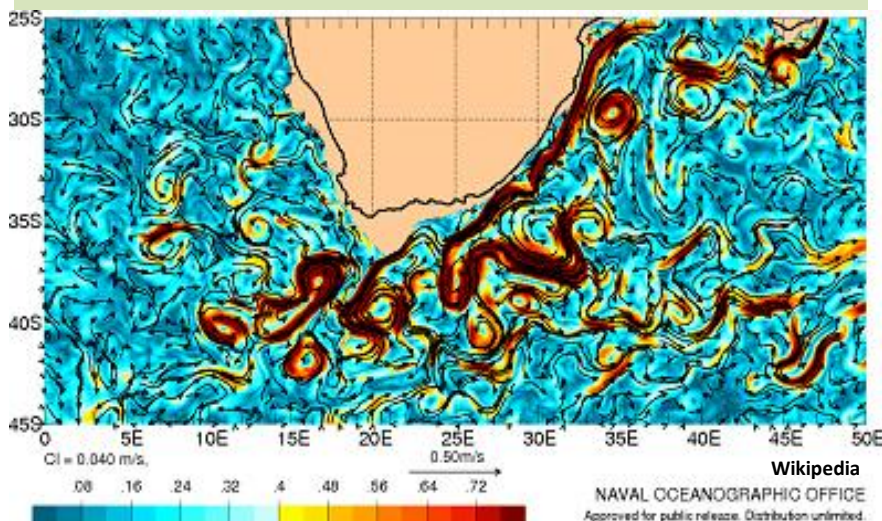
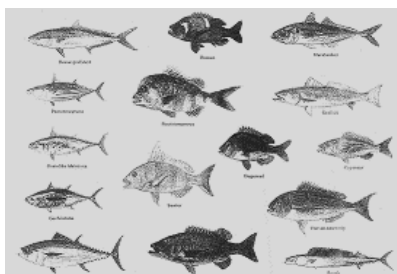


Agulhas eddies

Agulhas eddies - also called "current rings" - tend to be among the largest in the world, transporting warm, salty water from the Indian Ocean to the South Atlantic. Agulhas rings are peeled off the Agulhas Current in the Agulhas Basin where it retroflects back into the Indian Ocean

Meeting of the currents

The meeting of the cold Benguela and warm Agulhas currents at the edge of the Agulhas Bank fuels the nutrient cycle for much marine life in the area, making this region one of the most productive areas in South Africa.



Enquire at the Agulhas National Park for more reasons why the Southernmost Tip of Africa is unique.

Southern Tip Day Talk and Meal: May 19, 2017, 19h00

Join Agulhas NP at a function to commemorate Bartolomeu Dias sailing round the southernmost tip - and all the shipwreck victims that lost their lives along the Cape Agulhas coastline. Esna Swart will talk about Dias's voyage with *No log, no journal, no chart*. The *Captain's Dinner* is supplied by the Suiderlig Dienssentrum in Struisbaai at R120 per person (bring own drinks). For more information and to book contact Emmerentia De Kock, 028-4356078 (8:00 to 16:00) or Truida Groenewald, 028-4356340



Plant diversity at the Southernmost Tip



International Day for Biological Diversity 2017

The United Nations proclaimed May 22 **The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)** to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The theme for 2017 is "**Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism**", which has been chosen to coincide with the observance of 2017 as the **International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development**. Celebration of the IDB under this theme provides an opportunity to raise awareness and action towards the important contribution of sustainable tourism both to economic growth and to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

(SOURCE: <http://www.greeningtheblue.org/event/international-day-biodiversity>)

What is Sustainable tourism?

Sustainable tourism can be defined as *"Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities"*. Sustainability refers to the environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects of tourism development. A suitable balance must be established between these three dimensions to guarantee its long-term sustainability. (SOURCE: *Making Tourism More Sustainable - A Guide for Policy Makers*, UNEP and UNWTO, 2005, p.11-12; <http://sdt.unwto.org/content/about-us-5>)

Agulhas Working for Wetlands 'The Pietersielieskloof challenge' – L. Du Toit, Project Manager, Working for Wetlands

The cause of erosion in Pietersielieskloof has many contributing factors. Major impacts are alien invasive plants and incorrect farming practices within the buffer zone of the wetland. In the past wetland areas were used for cultivation. When flood events occur there is no buffer to protect the wetland. During high flow periods contributing factors in this particular area that may have brought about erosion is the roads through the wetland. It is of utmost importance to address the erosion in this wetland to protect the remaining peat. This wetland with its sumps store lots of water in the landscape and allows for sustainable water flow through the area. Over the last few months the teams faced many challenges but water flow was the main issue. The technical drawings changed a number of times during construction due to problems identified during excavations. This meant that plans had to be changed during construction, making the task at hand even more difficult. As usual the Agulhas Wetlands teams showed just what they were made of and adjusted to the situation. Working in these ever-changing environments are not an easy task and they have again proven what can be done with commitment and hard work!



Spotted in the Agulhas Plain

A first record for the Woodpecker.



W. De Klerk

Bakoorjakkals, Bat-eared fox
Otocyon megalotis



Gryskopspeg
Olive Woodpecker
Dendropicos
griseocephalus

Caught on camera



Duiker
Sylvicapra grimmia



Rooikat, Caracal
Caracal caracal



Ratel
Mellivora capensis



A new form of conservation protects critically endangered Renosterveld - by Heather D’Alton

WWF-South Africa has signed a Conservation Servitude agreement with a Caledon landowner. The Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust (ORCT) will manage the easement and provide the management support as well as to landowners who sign up in future. Through this innovative form of conservation on private land, part of the largest area of Western Rûens Shale Renosterveld left in the world (370 hectares) will be protected in perpetuity. Conservation easements or servitudes are a fairly new concept in South Africa, although they have been used inter-nationally. A servitude is attached to the title deed, which is binding on the successor in title. A management plan is attached to the servitude, providing support to landowners and identifying priority management interventions. The ORCT then assists with the implementation of these interventions. Conservation easements offer landowners an easy and accessible opportunity to conserve their land. The servitude is placed over the entire farm, with areas demarcated for conservation and agriculture. The land does not need to be rezoned, as is the case with many other protected area proclamations. The signing is the first of hopefully many conservation easements.



International Museum Day, May 18

International Museum Day is annually celebrated worldwide on or around May 18, after being proclaimed by the International Committee of Museums in 1977: “The purpose of the celebration is to raise awareness about the important role of museums in society. This year’s theme is **Museums and contested histories: saying the unspeakable in museums.**

“Respect each other’s culture and celebrate a collective heritage ...”

Thoughts expressed by Julian Masimila en Chris Nissen from the South African Human Rights Commission on the occasion of the Human Rights Day celebrations at the Bredasdorp Shipwreck Museum, March 20 2017. A Museum is a communal space where the distinctive and joint cultural heritage of all inhabitants of a particular region, be it the cultural heritage of an individual town or that of the surrounding district, can be preserved and celebrated. Knowledge of the past opens the road to the future and history cannot and should not be erased at will. “If you do not have a story to tell, you have no future ...” Rather celebrate the wonderfully close-knit and intertwined heritage of all people who have travelled through and worked in this particular space in different ways and at different times. Do not isolate yourself and only concentrate on individual cultural heritage and history, usually referred to as “mine or ours”. Every inhabitant of a country has the right to celebrate his or her culture, but the responsibility to respect and celebrate everyone else’s, as well as the collective cultural heritage, ultimately lies with all of us. (Ora Laubsher)

Museums & Heritage Centers to visit at the Southernmost Tip



Lighthouse Museum, L’Agulhas



Shipwreck Museum, Bredasdorp



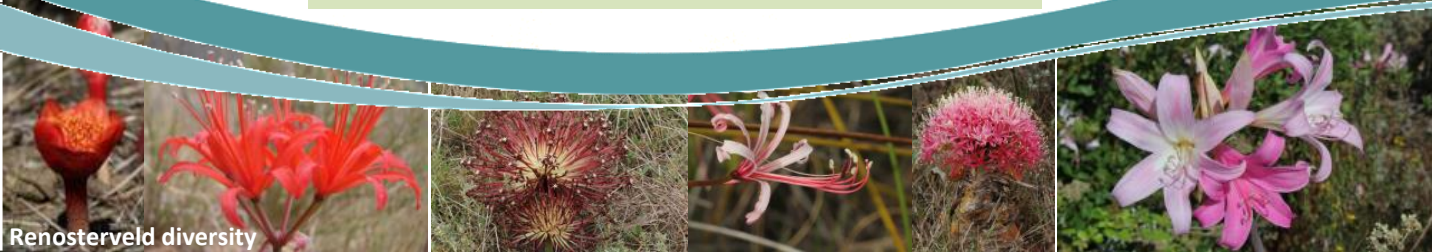
Heritage Centre, Elim



Shell House Museum, L’Agulhas

Open:
18th – 20 May
2017
10.00 - 16.00

#nu//khab = “black moon (grass and veld food begin to grow)”



Renosterveld diversity

Cannon firings at the *Taalmonument* in Paarl

The *Afrikaanse Taalmonument* in Paarl is organising a series of canon firing held in collaboration with CAOSA (Cannon Association of South Africa) on the last Saturday of every month. The cannon, a Half Pounder (1770 Armstrong), is fired at 12:00 from the Garden Theatre stage. The firing is preceded by a short talk on the history of South Africa's cannons as a form of communication, including the VOC cannon signal system, and a demonstration of the use of all the loading gear. The cannon is loaded with gunpowder (no projectile). The talk is offered at 11:30 (in English) and at 11:45 (in Afrikaans). South Africa has one of the biggest varieties of muzzle loading cannons in the world. Unfortunately many of these cannons have been grossly neglected and some even destroyed. It is CAOSA's mission to research these cannons and the VOC cannon signal system, as well as to track, restore and display the cannons to preserve their heritage for future generations. The association has already found, measured and registered more than 1 000 of them in the DURR record of South African Muzzle Loading Cannons. In the talk there is also reference to the Six pounder cannon on Paarl Mountain, and other cannons in Drakenstein. For 2017 cannon firings are scheduled for March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24, July 29, August 26, September 24 (Heritage Day), September 30, October 28, November 25 and December 30. In case of heavy rain, the cannon firing will be cancelled. For more information contact Amira Brown at tel. 021 863 4809/0543 or kommunikasie@taalmuseum.co.za. (SOURCE: *Afrikaanse Taalmuseum en -monument*)



The Chainouqua

By 1672, the Chainouqua were starting to disintegrate. The tribe broke into two, with one group following Sousoa's son Dorha (Klaas) and the other following his son Koopman. Another well-known captain with lesser status was Dorha or Klaas who became more influential over time and was well-disposed towards the VOC. He helped from 1672 until 1697 with trading between the VOC and the Overberg Khoekhoen. The two brothers were in continuous enmity with first Dorha and then Koopman establishing good relations and trading with the VOC. Koopman eventually defeated Dorha in 1701 and for a short time, the Chainouqua were known as the Koopman's after their chief. In the early 1700s the Chainouqua was also known as the Koopmans, after another captain. Koopman died in 1707. By the 1720s the Chainouqua disintegrated as a tribe, like all the other Khoekhoen groups, due to loss of land and stock and the effect of the small-pox epidemic. (SOURCE: DE JONG, M. 2016. *A forgotten first people: the Southern Cape Hessequa*. N.p.: Watermark Press; MEFFERT & VAN HEMERT. 1996. *Gids tot die uitstalling Die Khoisan van die Overberg*. Swellendam, Drostyd Museum.)

Treasure maps or not? – Jimmy Herbert continues

The third salvage excursion to the South was commissioned to recover the reputedly large treasure of the *Nossa Senhora de los Milagros* (again a new unknown area). This time, although they were not expected to plot their route on a map, no fewer than two journals were kept and handed in on their return. Today, both are safely housed in the Cape Town archives. In both these journals, the daily weather, undertakings and accomplishments were well recorded. Some 36 years later, the next expedition to Cape Agulhas was undertaken. This time the Dutch ship *Schonenberg* was the reason for no fewer than four trips taken there and back. Of these, three were thoroughly recorded in journals and these documents too have stood the test of time. Again by 1722, they were not asked to plot their position, nevertheless, as stated, journals were kept and handed in on return to the settlement at the Cape. By the time the *Meermin* was lost in 1766 they did not even insist on a journal. By then, with all the farmers applying their agricultural skills in the Overberg area, one can safely assume that the Zoetendaals Valley and its surroundings were well known by then. The same can be said in the case of the next two treasure ship losses, *Nicobar* (1783) and *Brederode* (1785). The historical records clearly indicate that **keeping journals and plotting the routes taken on maps, therefore, were primarily reserved for DISCOVERY TRIPS made into the unknown.**

