



AgulhasNPark eBulletin



VOL 8 • NO 1 • December /galkani 2017 Happy Festive Season at the Southernmost Tip !! www.sanparks.org

Plastics alert!

It is that time of the year again and the most popular holiday time for all South Africans – summer and sea. Unfortunately our lovely beaches are being littered and polluted with masses of plastic, either by man enjoying the sun and sea or litter from ships - not to mention the plastic that is being washed down by rivers during floods. We want to appeal to our visitors to please be aware of the threat to our oceans – **by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans.** A study in the USA calculated that 8.3 billion tons of plastic have been manufactured since the early 1950s when mass production of plastic started. This compares with the weight of one billion elephants. Please take back what you bring with you for a day in the sun on the beach and also pick up at least 10 items of litter when you leave at the end of the day. Inspire others to do the same so that we have clean beaches to come back to the next morning. (SOURCE: HAZELL, N. Editor’s note, *Country Life*, November 2017.)



What other countries do ...

Drastic measures are being taken in countries over the world to try and stop plastic pollution. Kenya will throw you in jail or fine you up to \$40 000 for making or selling a plastic bag. Singapore fines people who discard cigarette ends or sweet wrappers \$300. In Johannesburg Mayor Herman Mashaba introduced a clean-up campaign for the last Saturday of every month with the slogan: *A clean planet is a working planet.* (SOURCE: HAZELL, N. Editor’s note, *Country Life*, November 2017.)

Clean beaches at the Southernmost Tip – let us keep it that way



The Southern Tip Icon – pictorial overview



Picture: Realty 1 Cape Agulhas

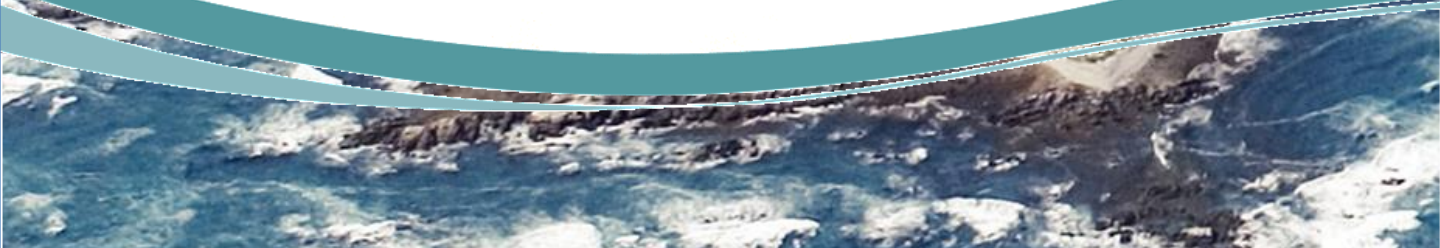


Rehabilitation of site



A new boardwalk is being built which will enter the Icon structure from the eastern side.

December in Khoe /galkani means small eland.



Agulhas Kids in Parks (KiP) programme 2017 ends successfully

The Agulhas KiP programme ended successfully on November 15. Seven primary schools took part: Protea, Napier; Likhanyou and Mount Pleasant, Hermanus; Die Bron, Stanford, Gansbaai; De Heide, Bredasdorp (sending four groups) and Mispah, Elim. 497 learners and 27 teachers took part in the programme for Grade 5. This year the programme concentrated on clean water (MINI SASS presented by Gretha Engelbrecht, Landcare), and for the first time, Ocean pollution and the threat of plastic litter (Edward Adonis, Potberg Environmental Education Centre, De Hoop Nature Reserve) and Marine Resources (Monriqueco Morris and Elmo Adams, Sea fisheries). A visit to the Bredasdorp Shipwreck Museum, the Cape Agulhas Lighthouse and the Southernmost Tip are a regular feature on the programme. The presenters were assisted by our regular team of Environmental Monitors, Angelo Newman, Emile Du Plessis, Alex Bantom, Hughrees Moses, Xolelwa Sunduzwayo and Field Ranger Savimbi Louw. The programme is presented in partnership with Pick'nPay, the Department of National Environmental Affairs and Education and the South African National Parks.



Welcome to ...

Mulisa Nekhavhambe, Tourism Intern

Mulisa is originally from Limpopo. He graduated from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in Tourism Management in March 2016. While doing his in-service training at Vhembe District Municipality in Limpopo, he got the opportunity to work at Miyelani Travel Consultants and the Kalahari Inn. Unfortunately Mulisa is a victim of the #Fees must fall campaign and could not complete his last year. He decided not to waste time and applied for internships to further his career and experiences. He started at the Hilton Cape Town City Centre Hotel in December 2016. Early January he went back to the university to resume classes and a week later started with his final exams which he completed in record time. While busy with his internship he got the opportunity to join SANParks and started to work at Agulhas National Park in October 2017.



Good-bye to

Simone Koert

Simone is leaving the Agulhas Working for Wetlands project on November 30 after 10 years and eight months as the Project Administrator for Agulhas Wetlands and Working for the Coast. She has been appointed as the Assistant Project Manager for Working for Wetlands at Golden Gate Highlands National Park. We wish her all the best in this big career move.



Steven Murtz

Steven is leaving Agulhas National Park after seven years to take up a position with the Cape Agulhas Municipality. He started working for Agulhas National Park as a general worker in the tourism department. In 2013 he was appointed as a handyman in the technical section. We wish him all the best in this new endeavour.



Bird of the Month: Ground Woodpecker, Grondspeg, *Geocolaptes olivaceus* – Wim De Klerk

Arthur Cumpstey told me almost a year ago that his son-in-law heard a Ground Woodpecker calling in the hills behind L'Agulhas. This was exciting news as the Ground Woodpecker has never been recorded in the Agulhas Plain for SABAP. And then..... Karin le Roux sent this picture taken at the old reservoir in L'Agulhas. This is the largest of the four Woodpeckers found in the Agulhas Plain. It can hardly be confused with the others due to its terrestrial habits and lack of red colouring on the crown. It is most often seen perched on rocks on hills and mountains slopes, but you are more likely to hear them before you see them. Their piercing call is unmistakable! The nest is an excavated tunnel (0,5-1m long) often in a sandstone earth bank or cliff, but it also builds nests in derelict buildings. They forage on the ground and are rarely seen in a tree. Their diet consists mainly of ants and their eggs.



Cape Cobra, Geelslang, *Naja nivea* in all its glory. Pictures: N. Falck.
Please do not kill snakes; they have a role to play in the environment.



Iron objects best left *in situ* – Jimmy Herbert

After lying on the ocean bottom for over 200 years visually very little of a shipwreck survives. Items found on a wreck site are typically cannonballs, cannons and anchors. The first two mentioned are invariably made of cast iron while the anchors are of wrought iron. Both these irons survive well in this anaerobic environment (underwater) but once brought to the surface, and brought in contact with air (aerobic environment), such as iron artefacts can corrode away within a few years. Wrought iron is stronger and more resistant to corrosion than cast iron, and thus the wrought iron anchors survive better than the cast iron cannon and cannonballs. Nevertheless, in the 1990s an illegally removed Dutch anchor, circa 1670, sadly only lasted a few years out in the open. The cannonballs found on the Danish ship *Nicobar* (1783) too showed what could happen to cast iron items even while still underwater. An East Indiaman's ammunition locker was customarily positioned in the middle of the ship. The *Nicobar* was no exception, as a large number of cannon balls still lay where the middle of the ship is believed to have been. All the balls were of the same size (9-10cm in diameter; 8- to 9-pounder), and all were severely oxidised due to the 'well-aired' water over the wreck, as it normally lies right in the surf. Although their shape was still perfect and their conglomerate environment was as hard as iron, only balls of iron oxide were left. These high in carbon artefacts were as 'light as feathers' and once removed, and not properly treated (a specialised and expensive exercise), could disintegrate into a heap of 'rubble' within weeks. Iron maritime artefacts are thus best left *in situ* as not only is it illegal to remove such an item but also detrimental to the protection of our maritime heritage.



Festivities at the Southernmost Tip

720 HEALTH | DIVERS | REALITY | SOUTHERNMOST FOUNDATION | CAPE AGULHAS MUNICIPALITY | SANPAAKS
- PRESENTS -

CAPE AGULHAS CLASSIC
Africa's Southernmost Mountain Bike Race

MTB RACE 29 December 2017
Struisbaai, Overberg

R40,000 worth of Lucky Draws!

Model and Gift box for each category winner
Giddy Bags for 1st 200 entrants
Medals for all participants

TRAIL RUN 22 December 2017
Bredasdorp Mountains, Overberg

R10,000 worth of Lucky Draws!

Giddy Bags for 1st 100 entrants

Distances:
70km - R250
40km - R220
35km - R200
10km - R100

Kiddies ride - R50
Starting time: from 07h30

Enter Online: www.entryninja.com
ONLINE ENTRIES CLOSES - MTB: 26/12/2017 TRAIL RUN: 18/12/2017
Contact: SMP Events Tel: 028 425 1063



STRANDVELD VINEYARDS
THE HOME OF FIRST SIGHTING WINES
ELIM • CAPE AGULHAS

Well known local country foodie, Dee Robinson, will be back at Strandveld Vineyards over the season.

Enjoy the healthy, fresh, delicious and sometimes decadent country food for which Dee has become known along with Strandveld's exceptional cool climate wines.

Be sure not to miss out on this fabulous experience.

Available from 15 December 11:00 – 15:00
Monday to Saturday. Closed on Sundays, 25 December and 1 January.
Contact 082 462 8269 for more information.
www.strandveld.co.za 028 482 1902

STRANDVELD VINEYARDS
ANNUAL TRAIL RUN AND BUBBLY BREAKFAST

Join Strandveld Vineyards for their annual Strandveld Trail Run, followed by a Methode Cap Classique breakfast on Thursday 28 December.

Enjoy a scenic 15km trail through vineyards, fynbos and pastures along a prep track onto the Sandberg, enjoying breath-taking views of the Agulhas Banks with wetlands, wheat fields and the surrounding coastline.

There is an 8km vineyard run or walk with 40km shortcut for the less fit and competitive.

Prizes will be awarded to the first three male and first three female finishers of the 15km.

Pre-booking your spot for the day is essential as only a limited number of tickets are available for the bubbly breakfast. Additional tickets for the trail run only are available and include bubbly and juice at the finish line.

Contact Jackie at jackie@strandveld.co.za or 028 482 1902 during office hours for more information and to request a booking form.

28 DECEMBER
15 KM
8 KM
4.5 KM

STRANDVELD TRAIL RUN
VINEYARD WALK/RUN
THE SHORT CUT

BREAKFAST AND TRAIL RUN
R775 PER ADULT | R50 PER CHILD

TRAIL RUN AND BUBBLY/JUICE
R900 PER ADULT | R400 PER CHILD

R60.00 REGISTRATION 47.00 RACE START

STRANDVELD VINEYARDS WINE ESTEES
20 DINNER FROM 10PM ON TUE

STRANDVELD VINEYARDS

Tel: 028 482 1902 www.strandveld.co.za

Black Oystercatcher Wine Farm

26 - 27 December: Summer, Seafood and Sauvignon Blanc Festival (with the *Bottomless Coffee Band*)

28 - 29 December: Blues and Brews Festival (with the *Blues Broers* and Albert Frost)

30 December: Traditional Food and Music Festival (with the *Baardskeedersbos Orkes*)

Visit: www.blackoystercatcher.co.za or Tel. 028 482 1618.



Cape Agulhas Tourism Activities

Visit

www.discovercapeagulhas.co.za, www.xplorio.com/regions/cape-agulhas for activities planned for the festive season at the Southernmost Tip!

Elim *stoepkuiers* at the Maakit Mooi Coffee Shop (028 – 4821693/082481 4782) and the Waterfront Coffee Shop (028-4821739)

