



Save Water



AgulhasNPark eBulletin

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Beat Plastic Pollution

www.sanparks.org



South African
NATIONAL PARKS

World Environment Day 2018

Humans are both creatures and moulders of their environment, which gives them physical sustenance and affords them the opportunity for intellectual, moral, social and spiritual growth. In the long and tortuous evolution of the human race on this planet a stage has been reached when, through the rapid acceleration of science and technology, humans have acquired the power to transform their environment in countless ways and on an unprecedented scale.

The United Nations, aware that the protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue, which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world, designated June 5 as World Environment Day. The celebration of this day provides us with an opportunity to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in preserving and enhancing the environment. Since it began in 1974, it has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in more than 100 countries. (SOURCE: <http://www.un.org/en/events/environmentday/>)



**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**

Beat Plastic Pollution

Each World Environment Day is organised around a theme that focuses attention on a particularly pressing environmental concern. The theme for 2018, **Beat Plastic Pollution**, is a call to action for all of us to come together to combat one of the great environmental challenges of our time. The theme invites us all to consider how we can make changes in our everyday lives to reduce the heavy burden of plastic pollution on our natural places, our wildlife – and our own health. While plastic has many valuable uses, we have become over-reliant on single-use or disposable plastic – with severe environmental consequences. This World Environment Day UN Environment is asking you, companies and civil society groups, to take a concrete action to Beat Plastic Pollution. Let us all help to clean up our environment. (SOURCE: <http://www.un.org/en/events/environmentday/>)



We have produced more plastic in the last 10 years than we did in the whole of last century



1950:

50 million
tons of plastic



2008:

245 million
tons of plastic



World Oceans Day 2018

World Oceans Day, June 8, is a global day of ocean celebration and collaboration for a better future. Plastic trash is a serious problem for our oceans, and especially all the animals that call it home, but together we can be part of the solution. All and everyone can prevent plastic pollution and encourage solutions for a healthy ocean. Will you stop using single use plastic bags, bottles and straws to help our ocean?

Go to www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/04/visualizing-the-prolific-plastic-problem-in-our-oceans/ for more shocking Plastic statistics.



Connecting to Society

Agulhas Junior Ranger Art and Nature weekend – Gerhard Van Deventer, Sandberg Fynbos Reserve

The Junior Rangers of the Agulhas National Park visited Sandberg Fynbos Reserve during the weekend of April 10 to 11 to experience the nature of art with several of the Baardskeedersbos area artists. Gerhard Van Deventer introduced the youngsters to the creatives who shared their knowledge and art freely and it was evident that the rangers loved the experience. Artists visited included Lizzie van den Berg, Kali van der Merwe, Ivan Michael Trollip and Niel Jonker. A watermelon and banana picnic was enjoyed under the trees at the new natural brick home of Gabbi Jonker where the rangers experienced the beauty of sustainable architecture. The rangers left tired and filled with the energy of creativity. Thank you to a wonderful teacher and nature man, Nadier Roos for accompanying the youngsters. Thank you to Alliston Appel from Agulhas National Park for always facilitating a great connection between the community and the Park.

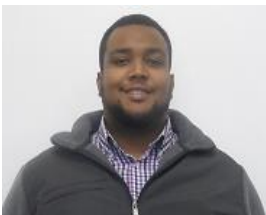


Artist Neil Jonker

Welcome to ...

Marshall September

Marshall September was appointed as the new Project Manager for Agulhas Working for Water from May 1. He was born, bred and educated in Cloeteville Stellenbosch. His first official job was as a music teacher for an NGO (Non-governmental organisation). Passionate about working with people he was employed as a trainer at Henchem for five years facilitating herbicide application training. He also was a supervisor for the weed control teams and the work range from vegetation to environmental management. He got a better job opportunity at CAPFISH as a marine scientist where he worked for two years. He returned to Henchem as training manager and accredited assessor. He decided it was time for another challenge and applied for the Working for Water Project Manager post at Agulhas National Park.



Jonathan E. Jasson, Tourism Intern

Jonathan Jasson hails from Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape. He completed his Grade 12 at the Muir College Boys' High after which he went to the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University to do a National Diploma in Tourism Management, graduating in 2017. Before starting at Agulhas National Park as Tourism Intern on May 2, he worked at the Blunden Coach Tours in Port Elizabeth as part of the reservation team.

Bat exclusions

Eight bat species have been identified on the Agulhas Plain. Bats are more beneficial than harmful, but people normally do not like bats to occupy the roof space of their houses. Bats, however, cannot be captured and relocated. They can only be excluded. If one desires the bats to remain in the area bat houses can be erected before exclusion is done. The website of Bat Conservation International provides information on the process of exclusion and the steps to follow and how to construct and erect bat houses. Please note that bats are protected and any exclusions should be done as humanely as possible and should only be undertaken if absolutely necessary. Exclusion is best done at the end of winter before pups are born, or at the end of summer after the young have fledged to avoid excluding the mothers and trapping the pups in the roof. For more information on the many services provided by bats to humans visit the website of Bat Conservation International: www.batcon.org/. (SOURCE: David S. Jacobs, Animal Evolution and systematics, Department of Zoology, University of Cape Town; information supplied – Lee Hedin)



Cape serotine bat
Kaapse dakvlermuis
Eptesicus capensis



June in Khoe, //hei//khab, means pale moon (good grazing, flowers began to grow)



Fynbos landscapes in Agulhas National Park

Chelsea 2018 displayed Iconic landscapes in South Africa. Enjoy the Iconic Fynbos landscapes in Agulhas National Park.



Groundwater abstraction in the Cape Agulhas area – Marlese Nel

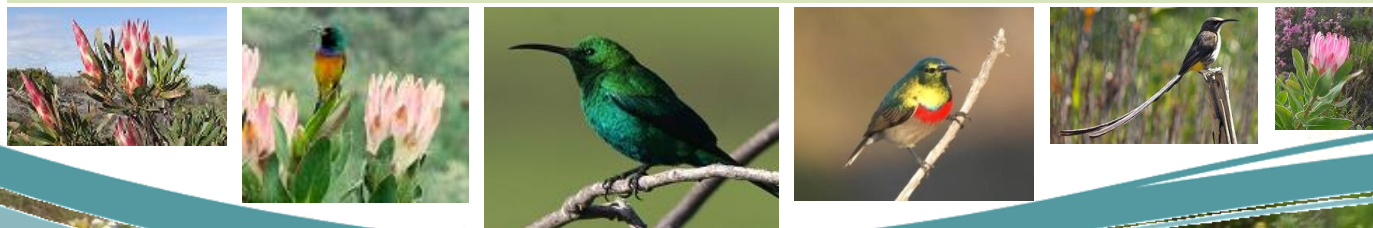
The primary water sources of the Cape Agulhas Municipality (CAM) are groundwater from various boreholes in the area, as well as the Uitvlucht spring and the Sanddrift Dam in Bredasdorp. The municipality recognises the increasing pressure on water supplies which is exacerbated by global warming and climate change; add to that the influx of people. Currently, all towns falling under CAM have adequate water sources. Three main groundwater abstraction areas (wellfields) are operational in the Cape Agulhas area: the Agulhas wellfield, the Struisbaai wellfield and the Suiderstrand wellfield, which is situated in the Agulhas National Park. The boreholes were sunk in the 1970s when Suiderstrand village was developed. The two production boreholes have been monitored since 2002. These boreholes tap the quartzitic sandstone aquifer of the Table Mountain Group aquifer. Even though production volumes have increased steadily over the years, the water levels have remained fairly stable between 25 and 35 mbgl (meters below ground level) in the different boreholes. At a glance, it seems that the augmentation of water supply from groundwater resources in the area is stable and reliable. Monitoring should however continue and the protection of these resources from contamination that could render the water unsuitable for domestic use, as well as over-abstraction, be ensured. To be continued.

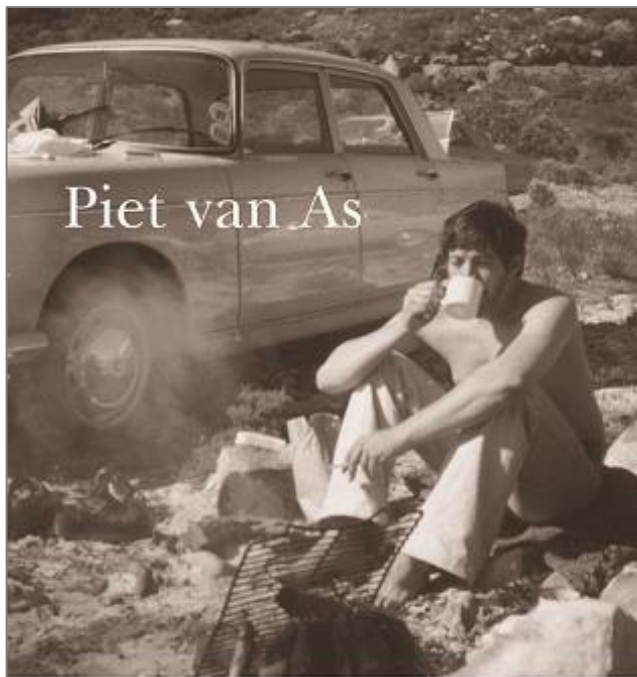


Monitoring a borehole

Birding Tourism in Agulhas National Park during a drought - Wim de Klerk, Agulhas Plain Birding

The Agulhas National Park is currently experiencing one of the worst droughts since its inception. The Park, primarily a birding destination, should be adversely affected by these conditions, but is this true? The Agulhas Plain Birding Project continues to monitor bird numbers, despite the drought conditions. Some thoughts on the project: The Springfield Saltpans, Voëlvlei, Langpan, Rondepan, Waskraalvlei and Melkbospan have dried up completely. This caused a major drop in wader numbers, but many waders, although in smaller numbers, can still be seen on the Nuwejaars River in normally deep water. Birds being opportunists, they will go where they find food and, during the drought, many flocked to coastal pentads where water and food is as abundant as ever! Good birding can be enjoyed at the Agulhas Rest Camp and along the coast. May and June are normally the best months to observe sunbirds and sugarbirds. The **Orange-breasted Sunbird** is more common on hilly or mountainous areas, such as Waterford or Sandberg. Greater Double-collared Sunbird should be looked for on the Soetanytsberg and **Malachite Sunbird**, **Southern Double-collared Sunbird** and **Cape Sugarbird** at Melkbospan. Reverse migration (birds that should migrate north but for some unknown reason fly south) could well lead to some interesting species observed - because we are at the most southern Tip of Africa. The reverse migrators should arrive now. So keep your eyes open - and keep birding!





'n Bek vol Strandveld

onthou-verhale uit die Suidpuntstreek

Pictures: Naude family file, Piet Van As file,
Black Oystercatcher

'n Bek vol Strandveld

This long awaited book by Piet Van As, local story-teller, recorder of cultural-history and artist, will be launched on June 16 at Black Oystercatcher. Piet was closely involved in documenting the cultural heritage of the Agulhas National Park. He grew up and lived or has family that lived on all the historical farms that is now part of the Park. For more information about the book, *'n Bek vol Strandveld*, please contact Marie Van As at 028-4356603.

Pictorial collage of the places, people and scenes depicted in *'n Bek vol Strandveld*



Rhenosterkop 1890s



Oom Omie en Ant Hannie



Salt pans



Ratelrivier stables



Ratelrivier werf



Ratelriver school children



Hunting party



Gawie Jakkalsjagter



Hunting party



Southbosch



Struisbaai fishermen



Buurman



Ratelrivier workers' houses

Wasvlei and hippos

