



AgulhasNPark eBulletin



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Springfield Agulhas rainfall: July 17 15mm; July18 30mm

www.sanparks.org

Look like you have swallowed the sun!!

What a lovely compliment: "you look as if you have swallowed the sun". Our wish for Women's month 2018 to all our SANParks female colleagues and South African women in general, is: "Look as if you have swallowed the sun!!" - for the rest of your life and everyone else's around you. Sunshine feels like smiling, warmth, growth, feel-good and health. Our country needs that.



The new Agulhas Working for Wetlands (WfWet) Project Administrator – Laverne Fredericks

Thobela Mata, WfWet Project manager, says there is no better way the WfWet project can celebrate Women's Month than to profile its only female member, Laverne Fredericks - a woman with a most heart-warming smile and a positive attitude. Laverne was born in Eersterivier in Cape Town but moved to Struisbaai 2002 where she now lives. She completed a N6 certificate in Management Assistance at the South Cape College in George. After graduating, she worked at the Tip of Africa Tourist Visitor Centre in Struisbaai for three years as Shop Assistant Consultant. Laverne joined the Agulhas Working for Wetlands Project as Project Administrator in February 2018. She at first found the job challenging as she has no background in wetlands, but with her strong character, willingness to work hard and to learn, she survived the first daunting six months of the position. She loves to work with people, keeping them motivated and to make them feel better about themselves. She admits that since joining BSP she has learnt much about Social Development, as well as the fascinating history of the Agulhas National Park.



Nomzinqisi Mqeke, Working for Water (WfW) contractor

Nomzi, as she is known to all in Agulhas National Park, joined the Agulhas Working for Water project in February 2016 as a contractor. She saw the position advertised at the Pearly Beach Public Library. She was a domestic worker and life was tough, but since being a Working for Water contractor, she is now managing to take care of her family and also helping some people in the community of Pearly Beach. She is employing up to 19 people from the community. Most of them are breadwinners in their respective families. From 2016 until today she and the team attended training in Health and safety, First aider, Herbicide training and primary health hygiene. It helped her to do her work more effectively. Nomzi could also buy a bakkie which is on her name, and do some house renovation since beginning to work for Agulhas WfW.

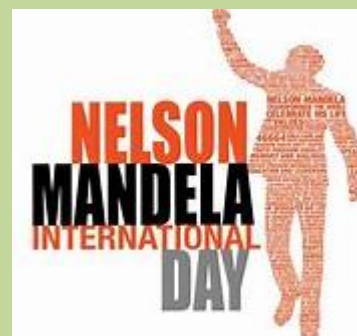


Connecting to Society

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” – Nelson Mandela.

Celebrating International Mandela Day – Alliston Appel & Pontsho Ramilla

International Nelson Mandela Day is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated on July 18, Mandela's birthday. The day was officially declared by the United Nations in November 2009, with the first UN Mandela Day held on July 18, 2010. In South Africa Mandela Day celebrations already began in 2009. The 2018 celebration was the tenth Mandela Day and marked the centennial year (100 years) of Nelson Mandela's birthday. On July 18, 2018, a joint event was organised by the Agulhas National Park (ANP), consisting of park management, ANP Biodiversity Social and Infrastructure and Special Projects teams and conservation staff, totalling more than 373 individuals, as well as the Elim community. Elim was the only village visited by Nelson Mandela within the Cape Agulhas Municipal area because of its history and the service the town renders to the less fortunate. It was befitting that Agulhas National Park celebrated his 100-year birthday in Elim. The park also hosted the first Mandela Day programme in 2009 in Elim. Alliston Appel, the ANP Senior People and Conservation Officer, opened the ceremony in the “Elim Big Shed” by welcoming those attending and explaining the purpose of the day. The Executive Mayor of the Cape Agulhas Municipality, Councillor Paul Swart, delivered the keynote address with an inspirational message encouraging all to adhere to their dreams and to “go for it”. “Stop looking up to others and start looking at the one you see in the mirror. You have greatness within you that is also found within other successful people.” After the official opening ceremony, everyone took part in 67 minutes of activities organised throughout the Elim village.



The interaction between water and soil

Ever heard of hydropedology? Hydropedology is a relatively new, interdisciplinary research field focusing on water movement through soil, or the interactive relationship between soil and water. It is not groundwater, but water flowing lateral or sideways to emerge above ground level to form wetlands or vleis. It includes, for example, effective wetland delineation, protection and rehabilitation, understanding and controlling the fate of pollution in the subsurface and determining the impact of land use change (for example, open pit mining and urban development) on water resources. In general, hydropedological information assists with effective water resource management, as required by the National Water Act through improved understanding and characterisation of hydrological processes. This knowledge is now applied in urban planning, wetland and nature conservation, mining and forestry.

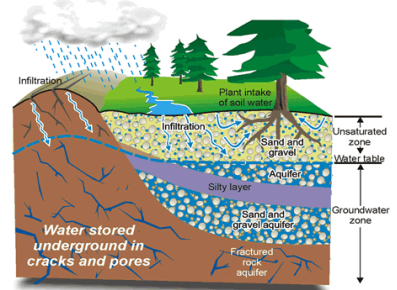
Land use change

Hydropedological information can support the understanding of the impact of land-use change on water resources. This information is therefore especially useful for local municipalities and can assist in town planning, zoning, and other activities. If, for example, the interflow zone is urbanised it may result in a build-up of water against foundations and the generation of return flow to the surface and overland flow which may cause erosion. Open pit mining close to responsive zones is likely to result in a draw-down of water levels and drying of wetlands. If such an open-pit intersects lateral flow paths it will break the connectivity of flow paths and cut the source of water to wetlands. Although the impact of land-use change cannot always be avoided, hydropedological information might assist in managing and protecting the hydrologic drivers of the ecosystem and thereby minimise negative impacts. (SOURCE: <http://www.wrc.org.za>; edited by Marlese Nel.)



Groundwater is not an infinite resource – Marlese Nel

Water from aquifers can be over-abstracted. To be able to abstract water “forever” an aquifer must remain in balance, in other words, only as much water as is being recharged, can be abstracted. Otherwise the water levels will fall. Each aquifer has only a specific quantity of water it can deliver, which is being determined scientifically before a well field is pumped. The volume that is being pumped and the duration that this tempo can be kept up are then fixed to prevent the well field being over-abstracted. It seems that deeper well fields might last longer, but this needs to be verified.



coastmonkey.ie

Afterthought: corallines and plastic – Gavin Maneveldt, Department of Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, University of the Western Cape

Corallines are seaweeds (and marine plants more specifically), which are less impacted than animals (because they do not generally incorporate the plastics/micro plastics into their bodies through digestion). Among the many seaweeds, corallines are probably not impacted directly due to their hard, calcified nature. However, all of this assumes that when the plastics break down they are not dissolving harmful chemicals into the water-column. This, more than anything, will be detrimental to seaweeds, including corallines.

Wanted Bird species on the Agulhas Plain



birdlife.org.za

Striped Flufftail
Gestreepte vleikuiken
Sarothrura affinis



W. De Klerk

White-backed Mousebird
Witkruismuisvoël,
Colius colius



Pers-birding-pages.com

Victorin's Warbler
Rooiborsruigtesanger
Cryptillas victorini

When it rains in Bontebok ...



R. Jacobs

Secretarybird
Sekretarisvoël
Sagittarius serpentarius

AGULHAS REGION

SIGHTINGS FOR SORE EYES.

19 – 21 October 2018

BONTEBOK NATIONAL PARK BIRDING EXPERIENCE

SANParks Honorary Rangers Agulhas Region invites you to join us for a birding weekend of note. With over 200 species including Blue Crane, Denham's Bustard, Black Harrier, Spotted Prinia, most of the Kingfishers and the near threatened Sentinel Rock Thrush, you're guaranteed tons of ticks and a whole lot of fun.



Date:

19 – 21 October 2018

Venue:

Bontebok National Park

Time:

Registration from 15:00 on Friday, October 19
Lots of lucky draws and prizes to win!



Price:

R550 per person
Cost excludes accommodation

For accommodation bookings contact Bontebok National Park
Phone: 028 514 2735

*Entries close 16 September 2018.



Contact:

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R. Jacobs



J. Stock



R. Jacobs



Balades-naturalistes.fr



Agulhas National Park Junior Ranger Winter Camp, Karoo National Park

On June 25 the Agulhas Junior Ranger group departed for their annual winter camp in the Karoo National Park, road tripping through the Klein Karoo and Meiringspoort as part of the Karoo experience. The venue for the camp and programme was at the Grantham Environmental Education Centre, 52km from the entrance gate. The programme consisted of a balanced experience of natural, cultural and paleontological content that the Karoo can offer through guided walks and interpretation of the medicinal value of plants, riverbed ecosystem, the fossil trail and animal adaptation. They visited old graves and the Interpretive Center, as well as a game viewing trip through Lammertjesleegte. In between all the natural and cultural beauty of the Karoo the young people were again brought back to the reality of plastic pollution. After four days the group returned via the N2, to experience more of the Great Karoo. Unfortunately, there was no Sylvester 2 in sight.



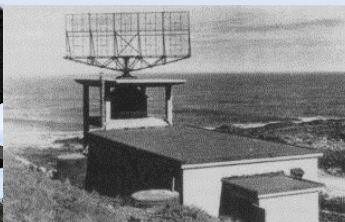
Heritage sites in L'Agulhas village

Mount Pleasant

During World War Two Cape Agulhas was regarded as strategic because there was much enemy submarine activity around the coast. Radar equipment was installed on the Agulhas hill and both men and women were stationed at this radar station. Barracks were built on the outskirts of the village at the foot of the hill. The complex was known as Mount Pleasant. There was no electricity and boreholes were sunk for water. A tidal "soldier's pool" was constructed and this is still in use today. The barracks were later converted into holiday units. A nine-hole golf course was laid out for the soldiers, but no longer exists. Legend has it that Wessel Street in L'Agulhas was used as a landing strip for aircraft during World War Two.



Barracks



Radar station platform & during WW 2



Soldier's swimming pool

Heritage Month programme

Celebrate living in a World Heritage Site (Kom vier jou Erfenis)

Lowland fynbos



Wetlands



Southernmost Tip

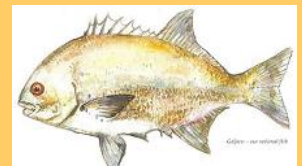


Cultural Heritage



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|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Programme 1: | Park Week |
| Date: | 10-14 September 2018 |
| Programme 2: | International Coastal Clean-up |
| Date: | 15 September 2018 |
| Programme 3: | Heritage Week |
| Date: | 17 – 21 September 2018 |
| Programme 4: | Elim Flower Festival |
| Date: | 22 – 23 September 2018 |

For more information please contact:
Emmerentia De Kock, Alliston Appel,
028- 4356078
(Monday – Friday, 08:00 – 16:00)



August in Khoe, *#halam* means wide green (rain, abundant veld food, flowers blooming)

