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EMAIL FRAUD - A SERIOUS ISSUE

A serious issue arose in that the email account **anina.lee@ocf.org.za** was compromised and spam emails sent to the entire address book. All emails received from that address should be discarded.

The email sent to you was about a file uploaded to Google Drive. If you clicked on the link and entered your password then your account is compromised and you need to change your password IMMEDIATELY.

We regret any inconvenience caused by this unauthorised use of the account.

As I am sure you are aware the Whale Coast Conservation has changed the email addresses of all the staff. The new emails are as follows:

Rob Fryer (General Manager)
rob fryer.wcc@gmail.com

Dante Campbell (IT Specialist)
technician.wcc@gmail.com

Sheraine van Wyk (Manager: GreenHouse Environmental Awareness Centre)
sheraine.wcc@gmail.com

Lindy Warren (Manager: Youth Environmental Programme (YEP))
lindywarren.wcc@gmail.com

Shirley Volkwyn (YEP Coordinator)
svolkwyn.wcc@gmail.com

Dr Anina Lee (Manager: Communications & Public Relations)
anina.wcc@gmail.com

Denfred Bruintjies (Facilities Assistant)
denfred.wcc@gmail.com

Ingrid du Plessis (Manager: Administration & Facilities)
ingrid.wcc@gmail.com

The general email address (wcc@ocf.org.za) remains unchanged.

As you can see all emails will be coming from a Gmail address from now on. Any emails received from anything other than Gmail or MailChimp should be considered invalid. Correspondence from Whale Coast Conservation will always have a proper subject in the subject line and will be written using good grammar.

Our newsletters and other mass communications to our whole membership will be via the mailing programme MailChimp.

We ask you all to update your address books accordingly. However, emails sent to the old addresses will still be forwarded to the relevant parties until we shut them down.

A MONTH OF SCHOOLS EXPOS



Scene at Zwelihle Primary School

May was Expo month. We took our exhibits on the theme of biodiversity to 8 different venues from Kleinmond to Gansbaai. We hosted 16 schools and 2,484 learners went through the exhibits.

It was a gruelling schedule, which started to take its toll as one after the other staff member fell ill. Most soldiered on to the end, but yours truly fell before the final hurdle.

However, the effort was well worth it as all educators were most enthusiastic about the innovative way in which the syllabus was explained to the learners, taking book knowledge into the real environment.

Reports on each of the Expo venues ([Kleinmond](#), [Stanford](#), [Gansbaai Academia](#), [Gansbaai Laerskool](#), [Gansbaai Primêr](#), [Hermanus High](#), [Hawston](#) and [Zwelihle Primary](#)) are available for download. Even a glance at the photographs shows how fascinated the youngsters were with a new perspective on their school syllabus. Educators were also very positive about the value of these expos.

We thank the generous sponsors of this environmental education programme who made these expos possible: The National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund, AVI Community Trust, and the Hermanus Botanical Society.

THE ABALONE SITUATION

At our talk in May Dr Serge Raemaekers examined the serious social, political and economic issues around abalone.



Jamie Hart, WCC Chairman with Dr Serge Raemaekers before the talk.

Up until 1996 SA had the most stable commercial abalone fishery in the world. It was a model envied by the whole world. What could go wrong?

It started to go wrong after 1994. Why?

There are four main causes of the rise of the illegal industry. Firstly, the massive increase in the abalone price that occurred in the 1990s triggered an abalone fishing “gold-rush”. Abalone became a very high value resource with prices reaching about R500 per kg at one stage.

Secondly, the post-apartheid fishery reform process failed to accommodate many traditional fishers in a legal fishing rights framework, resulting in them operating illegally. Abalone poaching is done by people who had high expectations in 1994 that finally they would be recognised. But they were failed by the new government and they were driven into poaching because they feel that the whole system lacks legitimacy and it is their only way of making a living.

Thirdly, Chinese crime syndicates penetrated the country after 1994.

Fourthly, criminals take advantage of South Africa’s porous borders. Abalone that has been poached is taken across a land border to (say) Swaziland. It is then “imported” from Swaziland and “exported” legally to the Far East.

From a value point of view abalone is the biggest wildlife export from Africa - about R4 billion annually – bigger than all other wildlife products combined, including rhino horn, ivory and fish.

Contrary to the predictions by scientific modelling, the abalone imported from South Africa into the Far East is not declining. This might indicate that stocks are not

under the severe threat that gave rise to the closure of the legal abalone fishery in 2008.

Abalone fishery is a complex system, embedded in South Africa's socio-political setting. A more integrated governance approach is required that takes into account the biological, socio-political and economic factors determining the fishery activities.

Serge reviewed the proposed plans to combat illegal fishing and the black market trade in abalone. These plans include fishery reform to expand rights to a greater number of previously disadvantaged fishers, and a territorial user rights fishery (TURF) system.

WWF-SA is doing valuable work with fishers in the Kleinmond area that could form a basis for future self-managed fisheries, including abalone.

The monthly talks at WCC are supported by the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund.

FUTURE OF FISHERIES

The WCC talk in July is on this topic. **Mkhululi Silandela – WWF-SA will talk on An Uncertain Future for SA's Small Scale Fishing Communities.**

With many of our inshore marine resources badly overexploited, including important species such as abalone, West Coast rock lobsters and a number of key linefish species, South Africa's small-scale fishing communities face an uncertain future unless new solutions can be found to managing this complex sector. What are the solutions?

Some of the answers will be explored in this very topical talk on **Tuesday 7 July at 17h30 at the Green House.**



World Oceans Day on 8 June will again be celebrated in great style by the SA Shark Conservancy who has

put on a marvellous festival of films, talks and panel discussions.

The 40FATHOMS FILM FESTIVAL takes place from Friday evening 5 June to Sunday 7 June in the Whale House Museum, Hermanus. A full programme of the festival can be found at www.40FathomsFilmFest.org. Entrance to this special event is free.

The value of our oceans to our global future cannot be overstated. Let us keep them uppermost in our minds.

HERMANUS BIODIVERSITY WALK

A major new educational and tourism attraction was officially opened by Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie on 22 May 2015. The Hermanus Biodiversity Walk is set to be another gem on the beautiful "Champagne Mile" in Hermanus.

It was inspired by the Green Point Biodiversity Walk and was brought to life by David Beattie, Cliff Path Management Group Chairman. He reports:

"The beautiful stretch of Walker Bay coastline between Hermanuspietersfontein and Gearings Point was largely derelict, badly degraded, polluted and alien infested. It was a site begging attention and rehabilitation and therefore perfect for the development of a Green Point-like biodiversity walk.

The theme of this project is 'Discover Biodiversity'. Our goal is to ensure that everyone, including all of the schools in the Overstrand, recognise and understand their role in preserving our biodiversity. The walk has five stone-clad seating nodes and a series of 21 signs providing information on the biodiversity of the area.

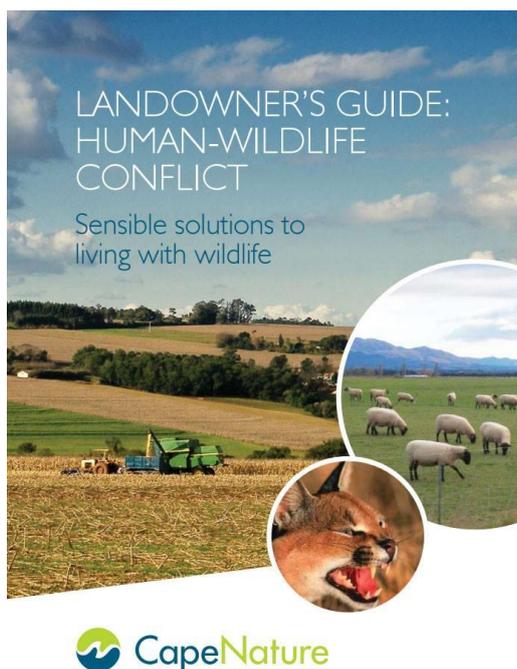


Funding came from the Greenest Municipality Competition won by the Overstrand for two consecutive years. Additionally, R70 000 has been spent on upgrading the cliff Path along the walk. Most of the original alien vegetation has been treated or removed but it is still a work in progress and will be for some time to come. Planting of R30 000 worth of indigenous coastal species to replace the aliens will commence within the next few weeks."

SENSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

The Western Cape's wildlife is continually under threat. The effective conservation of wildlife is a vital part of our protection of the Western Cape's rich natural heritage.

CapeNature has put together a publication called the Landowner's Guide to Human-Wildlife Conflict: Sensible solutions to living with Wildlife. This guide, developed for the agricultural sector, hopes to provide landowners with information, tips to deal with the conflict and a way to holistically manage livelihoods (stock or crops).



To download the guide in English OR Afrikaans, head to this page: <http://www.capenature.co.za/care-for-nature/conservation-in-action/biodiversity-compliance/wildlife-management/>

YOUR PLACE IN THE KOGELBERG

Another must-read book has been launched by the Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of South

Africa, namely "Your Place in the Kogelberg" by Tim Attwell.

Merrilee Berrisford writes, "This book is aimed at property owners from Rooi Els to Kleinmond. The idea behind it is a wish to encourage residents and local authorities to be wise custodians of the land in the transition zone of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. We want our villages and open spaces to look special because they are in this reserve.

Gardeners will find what plants grow well in the different zones from mountain slopes to coastal dunes and wetlands. There is a chapter devoted to the practicalities of gardening here, including fire-wise planting; another chapter deals with the removal of invasive alien plants.

This well-illustrated book – a photo on nearly every page - gives an idea of the incredible biodiversity of this area, from Scott the leopard to the rarest plant. It will persuade the reader that all developments here should be in harmony with the natural treasures of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve."

All of us who live on the Cape Whale Coast can take advice from this book and live as if we are in a biosphere reserve. Our coastline is that special.

The book is for sale at the Harold Porter Gardens telephone 028 272 9311.

FYNBOS AT FYNARTS

The Hermanus Botanical Society brings two wonderfully knowledgeable and enthusiastic botanists to the FynArts programme. Both Professor William Bond and Bronwyn Botha are experienced speakers and their enthusiasm for fynbos is infectious. Their two well-illustrated presentations, either side of a tea break hosted by the Society, will focus on co-operative life; the animal life, large and small, which lives among the fynbos, the plants themselves and the various ways in which each has evolved a dependence on the other.

Join them from 10am to 12.30pm on Saturday 13 June in the Fernkloof Hall, just inside the Reserve gates. Tickets at R130 are available on line at www.hermanusfynarts.co.za or from the Hermanus Tourism office.



THANKS TO OUR GREEN DIAMOND AND GREEN EMERALD INVESTORS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

**G&R
RAIMONDO
CHARITABLE
TRUST**

AVI



**Johan and
Catherine
Conradie**

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