



PENGUIN WADDLE 2016

Monday 11 to Saturday 16 April 2016 saw the annual penguin waddle come to town. The waddlers are a group of concerned animal keepers and conservators.



The waddle started in Gansbaai at the African Penguin & Seabird Sanctuary. There was a good send-off with many members of the community and groups like the Gansbaai Primer Grade 3 group.



The learners carried penguin drawings and posters and wore black & white AND MADE PENGUIN PROMISES. This is a commitment to do one thing that will help the penguin conservation drive.

African penguins numbers have falling dramatically and are already lower than what is needed for a genetically viable population. Urgent conservation attention is needed to encourage the numbers of this endangered bird to grow. Public awareness and support of penguin conservation is one way to bring the matter under the spotlight.



The group waddled to Gansbaai Academia where they stopped for group photos and the primary school learners departed back to school. The high school learners took up the baton and waddled further.



Spar staff joined with song and dance.



A Gansbaai Academia learner posted her penguin promise.



As they passed Laerskool Gansbaai, the school came to the fence to wave them on.



When the waddlers reached Stanford some of them joined a group of learners from Okkie Smuts Laerskool on the village green.



The little ones had made beautiful posters and collected money for a penguin nest. They did a round of waddling around the common. Elsa Gebhard, representing the Stanford Bird Club, took the opportunity to hand over their Certificate of Commitment to the Youth Environment Programme (YEP) to the Okkie Smuts learners.



On the second day of the waddle the group walked from Stanford to Hermanus. Waddlers spent time explaining the initiative to



Hermanus Pre- and Primary Private School learners. This school has also collected money for penguin conservation before and the learners were quite knowledgeable.

On the morning of the third day the waddlers visited the Hermanus Waldorf School. The school showed very strong support with everyone, including the teachers, wearing black & white.



The school waddled spectacularly on the school fields.



Lastly the waddlers visited Hawston Primary School in the afternoon as they passed by giving the Grade 4 class an opportunity to make penguin promises.



The final leg of the Overstrand portion of the waddle saw the waddlers walking from Kleinmond to Stony Point Penguin colony in Betty's Bay. Pringle House learners and teachers met them along the road and waddled the last part of the journey with them.