



WALKING FOR WATER

18 March 2016

The annual WCC Walking for Water event raises awareness of the critical importance of water all over the world. There are 663 million people globally without access to safe drinking water, and about 1000 children die daily from drinking contaminated water. Many people in South Africa also face water challenges. So while recognising that we live in a water scarce area, we value the fact that in the Overstrand we do have access to high quality drinking water and children are safe from water borne diseases.



The Whale Coast Conservation event had the perfect setting on the cliff overlooking Walker Bay.



Learners studying Marine Science and teachers from Gansbaai Academia came to participate.



Enthusiastic Grade 4 learners from Hawston Primary were there.



Dr Robin Lee of the Hermanus History Society set the scene with a fascinating history of water supply in Hermanus – against a superb backdrop. He related how one visitor to Hermanus described taking a bath in the tannin-stained brown water as “bathing in sherry”.



WCC Board member Dr Pat Miller and Patrick Chapman led the walk.



Followed by learners, members of the public and enthusiastic dogs.



Along the way the children were fascinated to hear about the "wasbakkies" that were built below the cliffs. A stream of clear water flowed here which was used to wash the white linen from the sanatorium and hotels.



The story of Mr Fick and the pool he built for the children from the High School to have a place to swim in the town, was appreciated by the audience, especially those who had swum there.



The event ended on a high note with entertainment provided by the Gansbaai Academia Marimba Band.



The musical entertainment was much appreciated by the walkers.

All of us living in the Overstrand have to appreciate how little water we actually have here. Already, 45% of our water comes from boreholes. The De Bos Dam would already be inadequate without this extra supply. Use less water, recycle what you do use and collect rainwater – anything helps. Also, be thankful for a Municipality that manages our water carefully. Almost every year we win an award for water management. We should all see ourselves as part of water conservation.

Whale Coast Conservation would like to thank White Shark Projects for transporting the learners from Gansbaai, Eastcliff Spar who donated their supper, and the Windsor Hotel for their generous support.