



# whale coast CONSERVATION

Caring for your environment

## WHALE COAST CONSERVATION EXHIBITION AT THE HERMANUS WHALE FESTIVAL 2015

Whales and the environment took a prominent place at the 2015 Hermanus Whale Festival. Emphasis was placed on the vision of the Cape Whale Coast Hope Spot. Hope Spots are similar to Biosphere Reserves, but encompass coastal-marine areas of high biodiversity value.



Large crowds visited the marine marquee daily over the 3 days. In contrast to previous years, visitors showed a lot of interest in the many interesting displays.



The Whale Coast Conservation Team comprised (from left) volunteer pirate Sandiso Magaqa and Eco-Learning Manager Sheraine van Wyk, shown here with Communications Manager Anina Lee and William Ntebe from the Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries (DAFF).



The WCC exhibit showcased the important role of citizen-science projects in environmental awareness. These projects engage people with the nature and encourage a culture of caring.



The WCC project monitors shark egg cases on SA beaches to gain data about the types and distribution of oviparous sharks offshore.



Sheraine van Wyk enthused many visitors to become involved in the project.

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Sandiso Magaqa carried on the good work.



The large marquee housed many fascinating exhibits, a firm favourite being the models of marine creatures by DAFF.



Sheraine and Sandiso are seen next to WCC's new-look lockable butt bin.



Floral biodiversity, whales, sharks, penguins, nature photography and aqua/mariculture all featured prominently.



Sheraine demonstrates how smokers should dispose of their butts instead of littering them on the ground. Cigarette filters are not biodegradable and contain many toxins that leach into the environment if they are not binned correctly.



The National Lotteries Commission funds this WCC project to raise awareness of sustainable lifestyles in the Overberg.