



GANSBAAI HOLIDAY ECO-ADVENTURE CAMP



The winter school holidays started excitingly for 15 learners, aged 13 to 19, from Gansbaai, Stanford, Hermanus, Zwelihle, Hawston and Kleinmond. Grant-in-Aid funding from the Overstrand Municipality enabled WCC'S Sheraine van Wyk to take these young learners on a wonderful 3-day eco-adventure youth camp at Fynbos Retreat cottages near Gansbaai. The cottages are in a hidden valley with a dam and playing fields for volleyball, soccer and rugby. Idyllic.

The weather was cold and wet but that did not detract from the beauty of the surroundings and the pristine fynbos.



Their first adventure was a hike to a natural fountain - in the rain. The young people were nevertheless eager to learn what they could about their environment.



On their return the learners each chose a relevant nature topic and researched it with Christoff Longland's help.

The next morning was sunny, but cold. Junior learners from Gansbaai joined them and the seniors lead the juniors on the hike and shared their knowledge with them.



Beautiful Odwa talked about proteas. Everyone else also had a turn to guide the younger children and to tell them about the interesting facts they had themselves learnt.



The hike led into a spectacular gorge, a pristine river and waterfall. It's so special that plans are already being made to repeat this adventure in summer.



The nights were super cold but the enthusiastic group nevertheless went frogging one evening in the rain with Grootbos herpetologist, Juanita Viviers – and spent the rest of the night in front of the fire. Pizzas were high on the menu.



Marine researchers from White Shark Diving Company shared stories about their research projects with the learners.



Sheraine (with daughter Frances) took the group to visit the 'Growing the Future' farm that supplies organic vegetables and herbs, free range chicken eggs, pork, honey and bottled water to the Grootbos Lodge. They were impressed by the clever business plan that ensures financial viability by providing this service to the Grootbos Lodge.

Grootbos kindly transported the learners from the campsite to the road.

The eco-adventure camp was made possible through Overstrand Municipality grant-in-aid funding and a generous sponsorship from White Shark Projects.