



## ICC CLEANUP GANSBAAI

The annual Gansbaai schools' International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) was held on 28 September. The day started at Laerskool Gansbaai with a talk by WCC's Christoff Longland who also showed videos about the negative effects and dangers of littering on our oceans and the animals that live in them. Some children from Gansbaai Primer also attended. The International Marine Volunteers from Dyer Island Conservation Trust with Pinky and their eco-group as well as the teachers.



Antonio De Silva-Swart, who had walked the entire Whale Coast coastline, suggested litter "hot spots" for cleaning up.



The videos showed the shocking way in which marine animals are affected by plastic. The children were clearly affected by it and asked many questions and discussed ideas to help save our oceans.

After the talk some of the children travelled by bus to De Damme, a Cape Nature resort past Pearly Beach where Antonio had identified a litter problem. The International Marine Volunteers arranged for an old Samil army truck to help with the rubbish removal.

"At De Damme we had very good support from Cape Nature management who sent a representative to take us to the most affected areas" Christoff reported.



The children all enjoyed the ride on the old Samil Army vehicle - definitely a great experience.

At the site everyone divided into groups of 3 – an adult and two children - one to hold the bag and one to pick up, while the adult had the responsibility of

recording the litter items picked up by the learners as it was put in the bag.



Many bags of litter were collected.



Part of the exercise was to identify the major litter items along this stretch of coast. It was found that the most abundant were fishing line and plastic bottles.



After the pickup, the group installed one of the DICT fishing line bins at a popular fishing spot on the coast.



The learners enjoyed the day out while helping to clean our beautiful coastline.

Thank you to all who helped to make the event a success - Whale Coast Conservation, Dyer Island Conservation Trust, Antonio Da Silva-Swart, the International Marine Volunteers, Cape Nature, Laerskool Gansbaai and Gansbaai Primer. Our thanks also to AVI Community trust for supporting youth education in these Gansbaai schools.