



FIREFLY ADVENTURES

It's been a year since we went to see the fireflies on our very first eco-adventure.

This year we took 4 groups of adventurers to see the fireflies and to learn a bit more about the frogs we found and heard on the way.

Each adventure included the story of fireflies, sometimes known as glow worms – but which are neither flies nor worms. They are beetles, with the normal insect lifecycle of adult laying eggs that turn into larvae, which eat voraciously for a year, and then pupate and eventually emerge as the adult beetle. The 'fire' is a cold form of light called bioluminescence, and the flashing is simply to find and attract a mate.

But the cold facts belie the magic of seeing the dancing lights in the dark. One young participant remarked that it looked like the mountain was decked in Christmas lights.



We took the first 2 groups along the Mossel River. Sheraine van Wyk is never more in her element than when she can share knowledge with others, especially when it involves plunging into a stream to apprehend a particularly handsome frog.



We are expecting one to turn into a prince any time now.

Fireflies entertained us with the magic along the path and put on a spectacular display against the mountain.



We also took 2 groups into the main reserve where the lights were equally amazing. We were lucky to hear the last of the romantically challenged Drewes' Moss Frogs calling rather forlornly hoping to still find a match at the end of the breeding season.

Enthusiastic participant, Pieter van Aswegen, posted on FB "The firefly and frog adventure was fantastically magical. How blessed we are to have all this. Thanks to Anina Lee and WCC."