



## LITTLE LEOPARDS RESCUE

On a rainy day in November seventeen adults and seven children rallied to the rescue to help baby Western Leopard Toads to make their way in the big wide world.



Everyone was amazed at how small and vulnerable the little toadlets are when they first emerge from the dam. Morgan Hendricks (above) showed little sister Lizelle how tiny they are.

Sheraine van Wyk introduced the group to her research on the issues surrounding their breeding place in the Willem Appel Dam in Stanford. She described the problems of pollution and nutrient run-off leading to eutrophication of the dam. She also explained her research that monitors the health of the system using biotic indicators such as frogs, birds, dragonflies and plants.

The solutions will involve communities, the Overstrand Municipality, environmental organisations and other role players. Already steps are being taken to remedy the problem areas and to secure the health of the water systems and frogs' future.

Western Leopard Toads spawn in the Willem Appel Dam around August and, roughly 12 weeks later, the eggs have hatched, the tadpoles have metamorphosed in to tiny toadlets that emerge from the dam to look for forage in the surrounding fields and gardens. Crossing urban roads is a major challenge for them and they need a little help.



Craig Walton

Fortunately there were not many that needed our help to cross the road – and no dead babies were found – all good.



Morgan Hendricks



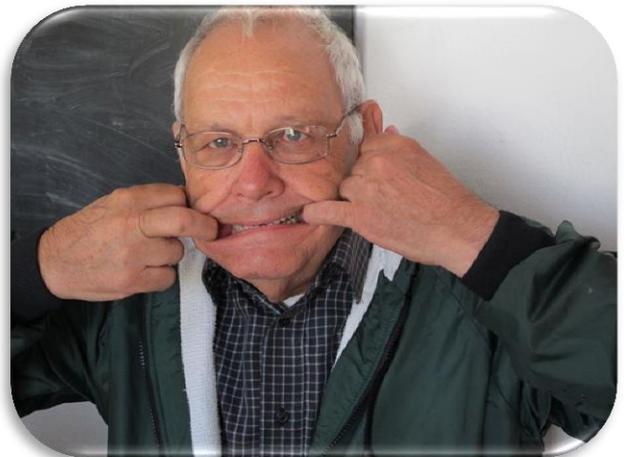
After the slightly soggy rescue everyone deserved a slap-up breakfast at the Coffee Corner. Graham and Liam Walton tucked in and showed everyone how it's done.



Graham Walton



Making frog faces is such fun.



Even for adults. Thanks to all the enthusiastic participants who made this adventure so enjoyable.