



HERMANUS HIGH SCHOOL'S GRADE 10 ECOLOGY CAMP 29-31 MARCH 2017

A highlight for grade 10 Life Science learners from Hermanus High is undoubtedly the three day Ecology camp in Hermanus and Wortelgat.



Whale Coast Conservation staff presented many of the outdoor lessons on ecology. From left: Anina Lee, Sheraine van Wyk, Lauren Rainbird, (Blue Flag Beach Manager, Overstrand) and Shirley Mgabeza.



The first morning comprised beach ecology.



Lauren Rainbird explained that the Blue Flag brand implied excellence in environmental management, education, facilities management and water quality.



Anina Lee talked about the myriads of nocturnal crustaceans such as the sand-hoppers and their role in returning nutrients to the environment.



Sheraine van Wyk discussed the various survival strategies of animals like mussels and plough shells living in the intertidal zone.



The learners were fascinated by the feeding habits of these animals.



Shirley Mgoboza led groups of learners through the Milkwood forest where they learnt about its history and the negative impact people have on the forest.

Day 2 at Wortelgat focused on fynbos ecology.



Sheraine van Wyk introduced the main families of plants making up fynbos, and their importance to our ecosystems. She also described some fynbos adaptations to harsh conditions.



Students used microscopes to study these adaptations as well as flower structure.



Pat Miller conducted a fynbos field study to illustrate what they had learned.



Shirley Mgoboza described the impacts of invasive plants on fynbos and the best ways of eradicating the different species of aliens.



The camp ended with Sheraine's presentation of the shark egg case project to the grade 10 class.