



*Sustainably Yours...*

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## AGM 2014

All members as well as guests are invited to come to WCC's 12<sup>th</sup> AGM on Tuesday 9 September at 17h30 at the Green House. The AGM business will be concluded in 30 minutes and will be followed by a most topical and fascinating talk.

## TALK ON BABOONS

Immediately following the AGM, at about 18h00, guest speaker Matthew Lewis will give a talk on baboons.



The issue of baboons in the Overstrand is an emotive one which both humans and baboons are struggling to accommodate. Is there a solution? Come to the talk to hear about the latest thinking and research on the subject.

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Matthew Lewis is in the final stages of completing his PhD thesis on baboon behaviour. He is an excellent speaker and was awarded the prize for the Best Student Presentation at the 2013 Fynbos Forum meeting at Kirstenbosch.

For centuries the foraging pattern of the local baboons has included migrating down to the coast to access protein-rich shell fish, but with increasing urbanisation, their path to the sea is now taking them through heavily built-up suburbs. Opportunistic access to 'human' food has encouraged them to go for this high calorie takeaway, bringing them into conflict with angry and frightened humans.

Baboons are known to be remarkably dexterous, highly adaptable animals that exhibit great dietary breadth. It is these characteristics that have allowed them to colonise diverse habitats across much of sub-Saharan Africa. These same characteristics are also at least partly to blame for their status as one of the most troublesome genera involved in human-wildlife conflict.

In his talk, Matthew will discuss the behaviour of a natural-foraging troop of Peninsula baboons (that exploit marine organisms as well as terrestrial plant foods), as well as some of the raiding behaviour observed on the Peninsula.

He will conclude by giving a brief account of recent research into methods for mitigating human-baboon conflict in urban settings and along the urban edge.

Please support WCC on this important occasion – and we wouldn't want you to miss this interesting talk.

## CHANGES TO WCC CONSTITUTION RATIFIED

A Special General Meeting was held on 2 July 2014 to ratify certain changes to the WCC Constitution that brought it more in line with present philosophy and realities. The motion to accept the revised Constitution was approved unanimously. The Vision and Mission of the organisation were also updated as follows:

### VISION

The unique biodiversity of the Cape Whale Coast environment is valued and protected to ensure its wonders never cease.

### MISSION

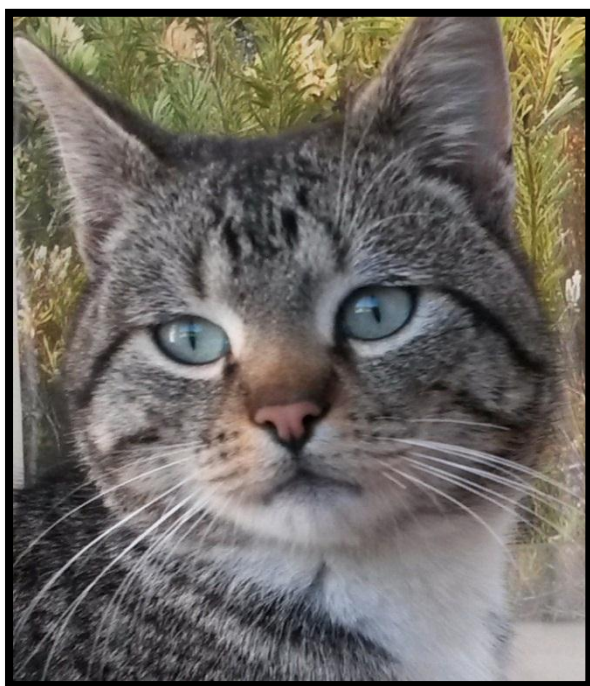
Raising awareness of the unique and biodiverse natural resources of the Cape Whale Coast region and promoting sustainable communities.

Members are welcome to contact the WCC office for copies of the revised Constitution.

## STRIPES THE ECO CAT

We have a new team member at the Green House. 'Stripes' has adopted us and has moved in to be closer to the fridge.

Although cats are not generally considered to be friendly to the environment, Stripes is a work in progress. He is keen to learn about the eco-thing and what it entails being 'green' – although he's perfectly happy with his grey tabby looks.

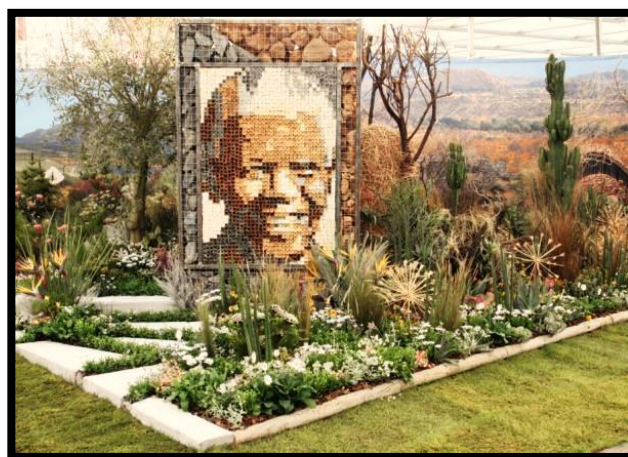


You can follow Stripes' daily struggles to learn about the environment (written for junior school level) on [www.whalecoastconservation.org.za/stripes](http://www.whalecoastconservation.org.za/stripes)

## DAVID DAVIDSON ENCHANTS

David's presentation on Chelsea 2014 was informative, entertaining and delivered by a master raconteur. We are so delighted that David made time in his busy schedule to keep us up to date with latest trends in garden design and plant breeding innovations.

The exhibit highlighted our highly diverse vegetation, depicted the 'boomslang' walk at Kirstenbosch, and paid tribute to Madiba in a floral mosaic made of dried protea rosettes.



The BBC used the Mandela portrait exhibit as the lead story in their week-long television coverage of the show. Recorded before judging and broadcast to millions of viewers, the BBC television team described the Kirstenbosch exhibit as one of the best in the Grand Pavilion.

David even found time to hug a rather subdued Stripes. To find out why Stripes temporarily lost the 'kinetic-thing', please visit his blog.

## A GREAT INITIATIVE FROM DICT

The Dyer Island Conservation Trust, headed by the inspirational Wilfred Chivell, held a ground breaking event during August – literally and figuratively – for their Cape Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary.

This initiative arises from Wilfred's commitment to the conservation of the African Penguin, because, in his words "I care for every one of them". With support from generous sponsors, this sanctuary will make it

possible to rescue and rehabilitate may more threatened seabirds. This is a wonderful initiative of which the Overstrand will be very proud.



From left to right: David Polkinghorne (Grindrod Bank and Blue Fund), Bridget Harpur (Volkswagen South Africa), Dr. Andrew Venter (Wildands Conservation Trust) and Mr. Wilfred Chivell, Environmentalist Extraordinaire..

### MAYOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

The Mayor's annual Evening of Excellence once again paid tribute to outstanding achievements by the people of the Overstrand.

The prestigious Environmental Award and floating trophy is especially valued. Three people were honoured for their contributions to protecting the environment.



Seen with Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) are Sheraine van Wyk, Duncan Heard and winner Jack Bold.

Sheraine van Wyk, WCC's Eco-Learning Manager, was honoured for her work in the educational field. She

- Established the Eco-Learning function at WCC
- Introduced the WESSA Eco-Schools Programme, now running in 30 schools from Gansbaai to Pringle Bay

- Oversees educational content and relevance to school curriculum of WCC's educational Expos
- Initiated schools' participation in events that illustrate practical aspects of environmental education, such as International Coastal Clean-up, Earth Hour, World Oceans Day, Harbour Day, Rhino Conservation, etc.
- Provided the environmental education component of the Blue Flag Beach programme – a critical factor in getting this accreditation for three Overstrand beaches.
- Runs citizen-science projects that inspire understanding of environmental issues and contribute scientific data.

Duncan Heard, former WCC Board Member, and Chairman of the Fernkloof Advisory Board, has worked tirelessly to ensure the best possible future for the reserve by developing an excellent Management Plan for the reserve.

And the winner (and custodian of the penguins for the next year) was Jack Bold, Manager of the Fernkloof Indigenous Nursery. Jack has perhaps done more than any other to propagate and supply indigenous flora at affordable prices to the local gardeners to enable them to plant water-wise and ecologically appropriate gardens. Jack's extensive knowledge and willingness to advise and assist has been a feature of his contribution to sustainable gardening.

Thank you Jack, your lovely wife Cathy and the whole nursery team.

### WCC EXPLORING ENERGY

One event you should not miss is the WCC exhibit "Exploring Energy" at the Hermanus Flower Festival from Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

The fabulous Fernkloof Nature Reserve is the setting for the Hermanus Flower Festival which this year pays tribute to botanical explorers, both past and present. These are the people who found and named the thousands of fynbos species.

But the magnificent fynbos on display will only be the start of the exploration possibilities on offer.

The Whale Coast Conservation exhibit will explore the topic of the energy of the sun which was captured in plants over millions of years. These prehistoric plants were converted by pressure, temperature and time into the fossil fuels (oil, coal, gas) on which our civilisation now depends.

But reckless use of fossil fuels has contributed to climate change which is threatening the existence of life on the planet.

Climate change is real, is happening and is at least partly caused by humans and their use of fossil fuels. It has never been more important to generate electricity sustainably and to use energy wisely.

The Whale Coast Conservation Expo, **Exploring Energy**, will help us to explore ways of doing this:

- Discover the energy-wise technologies available to help us save electricity; save money; and feel good about reducing our carbon footprint.



Stripes experiencing a solar light moment.

- Explore how we have used different forms of energy in the past. For example, the development of the steam engine and its use of fossil fuels started the industrial revolution. Much of our technology today still depends on steam for generating electricity. The Expo will pay tribute to some of the famous steam energy explorers like James Watt.
- The invention of the electric motor led to our total reliance on electricity as a source of power. We pay tribute to men like Faraday who demonstrated electromagnetic induction which led to the development of the electric motor.
- The challenge now is how we can become less reliant on electricity from the grid so that when it fails we are not left totally 'in the dark'.
- Relax in a typical domestic lounge that shows you how to keep the TV, decoder, WiFi, laptop and LED lights going during 'load shedding'.

- Get advice on how you can incrementally become more self-reliant in terms of energy, according to your individual needs.



- Watch a model steam roller puff along and remind us of the huge role played by steam since the Industrial Revolution. Learn how solar energy can be generated and stored in a battery to drive a model electric train.
- Take the opportunity to make waves in a model of a wave energy converter and see how it will convert wave energy into electricity. Hermanus has its own innovative project underway to generate sustainable energy from the waves in Walker Bay. Mean Sea Level's (company started by Abagold for this project) Wave Energy Converter is already under construction and is an exciting innovation in clean affordable energy.
- Find out how a photovoltaic cell actually generates electricity from sunlight.

To learn more about these and many other energy-related issues, come to the Whale Coast Conservation Energy Expo. We will give you advice on available technology and the estimated costs of becoming more energy-wise.

During the Expo, on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, the restored water mill on Beaumont Wine Estate at Botrivier will be milling flour, especially for visitors to the Energy Expo. Thank you Andy Selfe for the mill's restoration and for demonstrating how it works. Explore the ancient use of running water as an energy source, buy some stone-milled flour and take the opportunity to taste the wine.

The **Exploring Energy** Expo is funded by the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund.

Compiled by Anina Lee and made possible by the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund.

