



JULY eBULLETIN

Should you wish to be added to our email list, please send an email with “**SUBSCRIBE**” on the subject line to emmerentiad@sanparks.org

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF AFRICA S34°49’59” E20°00’12”

Historical value: The unpredictable weather and sea conditions along the Cape Agulhas coastline were fearsome experiences for early seafarers.

It is believed that the waves at the southern tip of Africa have similarities with those at Cape Horn – the highest in the world. Furthermore, the sea-bed around Cape Agulhas is unsafe for anchoring ships. These ferocious seas have caused shipwrecks at every kilometre along the coast – thereby influencing the local culture and architecture. With no natural timber source in the area, farmers are reputed to have held prayer sessions for wrecks. The tip and its environs have many marine archaeological heritage sites, of which the *Meermin*, a slave ship, is just one. Survivors from these wrecks have mingled with the local population over the centuries to help create new communities.



Unknown shipwreck along our shores

RESTCAMP NEWS

The Restcamp – a very important archaeological site



An archaeological scan undertaken in November 2002 showed that the Restcamp area contains archaeological remains (Kaplan 2002) and twelve sites in all have been identified.

Archaeological research indicates that people have occupied the Cape Agulhas area for well over a million years. Middle Stone Age (MSA) and Early Stone Age (ESA) tools occur locally.

Large numbers of mainly Later Stone Age (LSA) sites have been recorded in the Restcamp area (Hall 1984; Kaplan 1993, 1997, 1998a, b, 1999a, b, 2006; Nilssen 2004). Sites have been described at Die Walle, Hoek se Baai, Gruis se Baai, Oubaai, Bloubaai, Vlei se Bank, Rasperpunt and Cape Agulhas.

Substantial concentrations of shellfish remains (shell middens) are densely clustered inshore of the rocky shoreline. It is here that large quantities of shellfish species were exploited, processed, and consumed by LSA hunter-gatherers.

To unsubscribe to this email please send an email with the subject “UNSUBSCRIBE” to emmerentiad@sanparks.org





Archaeological sites, however, are not only confined to the shoreline area. Large numbers of sites are found in the inland dune fields, as well as above the limestone cliffs overlooking the sea (Hall 1984, 1998a). Rare shelters/overhangs also occur in some of the limestone cliffs (Nilssen 2004).

Well-preserved *visvywers* (tidal fish traps) are evident at Cape Agulhas, Rasperpunt and Suiderstrand (Kaplan 1993, 1998a). The tidal fish traps were most likely built by pre-colonial LSA people – possibly the same people responsible for the accumulation of shell middens that occur along the rocky shoreline (Avery 1974, 1976; Goodwin 1946).



Archaeologically and historically, the Restcamp area is considered to be a very important and sensitive cultural environment. (Jonathan Kaplan, 2007)

Southern Tip recycling of globes and cooking oil

Struisbaai Elektries & Beligting in Malvern Drive in Struisbaai has a container to collect broken light globes.

Old cooking oil (saved in an old glass jar) can be taken to *Dit en Dat* – also in Malvern Drive in Struisbaai.

Fauna Vaalribbok, Grey Rhebeck *Pelea capreolus*



The Grey Rhebeck is a common sight on wetlands along the Struisbaai-Elim road in the vicinity of Bosheuwel. Well camouflaged with their grey-brown colour, Rhebeck tend to melt into the background of the environment, resulting in them often being overlooked. They have long slender necks, long narrow pointy ears, and only the males have horns. They occur in small family groups of about twelve individuals, consisting of an adult male and a number of females with their young. An identifying feature of the Rhebeck is the white tail flash when running away.

Grey Rhebeck are primarily grazers, and occur mostly in mountainous regions with cliffs and grassy plateaux. Our mountains, here on the Agulhas Plain, lack a grassy component and this accounts for their presence on low lying areas such as wetlands. Grey Rhebeck have unpalatable meat and are therefore not hunted. They have been, however, shot out as they were regarded as competition for stock farmers.

The settlers of the Cape originally called the buck *roebuck* – probably reminiscent of the European Roebuck (Roedeer). Over the years the name and spelling have changed from *roebuck*, *rabuck*, *reebok*, *raybuck* to *rhebok* in English and *ribbok* in Afrikaans.

To unsubscribe to this email please send an email with the subject “UNSUBSCRIBE” to emmerentiad@sanparks.org





Flora Varkblom, Aronskelk or Arum lily
Zantedeschia aethiopica



The Arum lily, better known in the vernacular as the *Varkblom*, is a common sight in the Cape in winter. In the past these plants were well known for their medicinal uses. In the old days ships visiting the Cape of Good Hope traded their wares for the fresh leaves and stems of the Arum lily. The plants were gathered at marshes and river mouths along the coast. Then, after 1652, the species became more widely known and is described in old medical journals.

Zantedeschia aethiopica is the only evergreen Arum lily species in South Africa. It does not become dormant in winter. Pigs on farms in the Cape dug out the juicy rhizomes (root stock) during winter. This resulted in the species spreading to vleis and rivers and accounts for the derivation of the Afrikaans name, *Varkblom*.

What makes the white Arum lily more special is the fact that a small pink frog, *Hyperolius horstockii*, lives in the plant. The little frog, as big as the top part of your thumb, is even more reason to protect the Arum lily by law. No picking of this species is permitted.

(Margaret Roberts, June 2010).



International Year of Biodiversity

Give a thought to the role of biodiversity in combating air pollution, filtering air and delivering oxygen to the planet.

HET U GEWEET...

Waterfeite:

- In Oktober 2009 het die Waternavorsingskommissie van Suid-Afrika bevind dat Suid-Afrika 4% minder water as 20 jaar gelede het.
- Rand Water voorspel dat die aanvraag na water in Suid-Afrika die beskikbare water in 2025 gaan oorskry, maar dat Gauteng en Kaapstad reeds in 2013 en 2016 'n watertekort gaan ondervind.
- As ons gaan aanhou om water te mors soos wat ons tans doen, gaan daar in die toekoms nie genoeg water wees om in die land se behoeftes te voorsien nie en gaan ons meer vir water betaal.

(SA Tuin, Junie 2010)

SOUTHERN TIPPERS



ANP supporting the Bafana team and the 2010 Fifa World Cup

To unsubscribe to this email please send an email with the subject "UNSUBSCRIBE" to emmerentia@sanparks.org





Environmental Education in Agulhas National Park

The objective of environmental education in Agulhas National Park is to provide an education and interpretation resource for all visitors to the Park to cultivate a better understanding and appreciation for the natural and cultural assets of the Park.



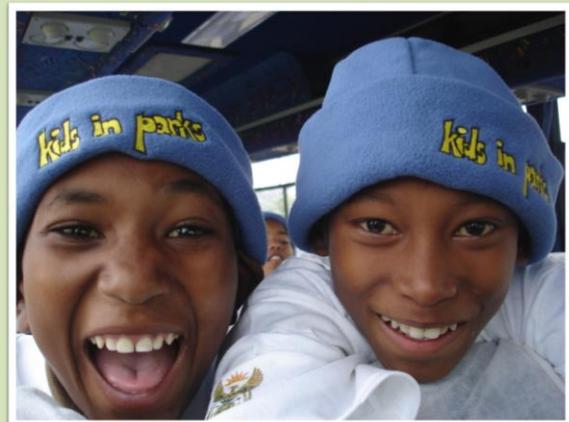
The Environmental Education Centre is based at Bosheuvel on the Struisbaai-Elim road. It is well situated at the edge of the Agulhas wetlands next to the Nuwejaars River and near the Saltpans. This position serves to incorporate different environmental issues in the environmental education programmes. Bosheuvel is also a safe environment in which to learn, play and explore.

The Centre can accommodate fifty learners and four teachers, with separate sleeping quarters for the cook and a bus driver. There is a fully equipped kitchen and a lecture hall. Dormitories have hot and cold water. The facilities are very basic and are in the process of being upgraded.



The lessons and activities are designed to be both fun and informative, encouraging the children to think for themselves. Subjects include fynbos, coastal and wetland ecosystems, as well as the study of archaeological and other cultural sites, thus reflecting the diverse nature of Agulhas National Park. Interpretive walks, canoeing and swimming form part of the activities. Three-day and day programmes are being presented and can be adapted to the school's needs. The programmes are also curriculum linked.

For more information on the Bosheuvel Environmental Education Centre, contact Alliston Appel at 028-4356078, Monday to Friday, 08:00 to 16:00.



To unsubscribe to this email please send an email with the subject "UNSUBSCRIBE" to emmerentiad@sanparks.org





SOUTHERN TIP DAY

14 -16 May 2010



Suiderlig Dienssentrum Talks 14 May 2010



Southern Tip Fun Run & Walk 15 May 2010



Tasting of local wines at the Wine Boutique at the Shipwreck Coast



Friends of the Park, Johan Steyl and Johan Steyn, erected the shipwreck at the Historic Southern Tip

EVENTS

JULY

17	Sweet Potato Baking Day in Elim
18	Mandela Day Celebrations at Elim Heritage Centre

AUGUST

Aug	Fynbos Birding & Winter CWAC (Date to be announced)
-----	---

'n Groen Wenk

Groen bakstene

Kleibaksteen-geboue is 'n baie omgewingsvriendelike opsie vir bouwerk. Dit verg geen onderhoud nadat dit gelê is nie, wat dadelik ook jou koolstofspoor dowwer maak.

Dubbellaag-kleibakstene reguleer temperatuur binne 'n gebou meer doeltreffend, wat ook beteken jy het minder elektrisiteit nodig wanneer jy jou huis wil verhit of verkoel. Kleibakstene word vir beide residensiële en kommersiële ontwikkelings gebruik om die omgewing te help bewaar en koolstofvrystellings te beperk.

(SA Tuine, Mei 2010)

To unsubscribe to this email please send an email with the subject "UNSUBSCRIBE" to emmerentia@sanparks.org

