



## JANUARY eBULLETIN

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*We wish you a prosperous and healthy 2011!*

Agulhas Restcamp, and goes through the Park in the direction of Soetendalsvlei. The canoeing is approximately 13km and takes place on the Soetendalsvlei and the Nuwejaars River. The mountain biking is approximately 35km, starting at Soetendalsvlei, crossing the Soetanys Mountain and ending at the Cape Agulhas Lighthouse.

You put your own team together consisting of a paddler, mountain biker and runner. For more information please contact Giel De Kock, 028 435 6078 (Mon to Fri, 8h00 to 16h00).

### The Agulhas Rest Camp Opening, 7 December 2010



The Agulhas Restcamp was officially opened by SANParks CE Dr David Mabunda on 7 December 2010. The event was also attended by the Overberg District Municipality's Mayor Eve Marthinus.

### Soetendalsvlei

The coast between the Breede River mouth and Soetendalsvlei was described in 1761 as "een ruime wildernis van bergen en spelonken".

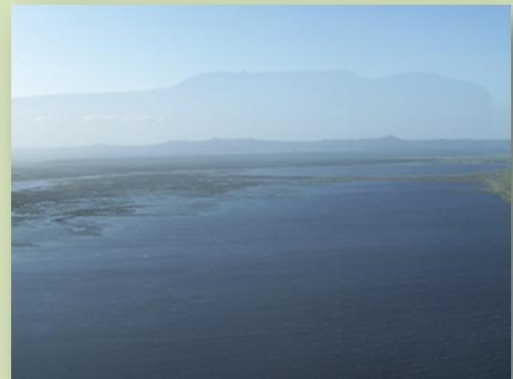
Soetendalsvlei is rightly being called the geographical focus point of the Strandveld. It is the southernmost lake in Africa, the second largest freshwater lake in South Africa and the largest freshwater lake linked to the sea in South Africa. It is 8km from north to south and 3km at its widest. The link with the sea is the Heuningnes River at Die Mond and the inflow is from the sources of the Nuwejaars River in the southern foothills of the Bredasdorp Mountains, the Koue Mountains in the west, the foothills south of Elim and the northern foothills of the Soetanys Mountain.

### The Southern Tip-Soetendalsvlei Relay Race, 14 May 2011

We would like to make you aware of the new relay race that is being planned for the Southern Tip weekend in May 2011. This relay race will consist of running, mountain biking, and canoeing. It developed from the successful Southern Tip Fun Run/Fun Walk on 15 May 2010 organized by the Bredasdorp Athletics Club.

Southern Tip Day, 16 May, is an initiative by Agulhas National Park to commemorate the history of the Southernmost Tip of Africa, the impact shipping and shipwreck survivors have had on the local area, and the victims who lost their lives along the Cape Agulhas coastline. It is also

linked to Bartolomeu Dias's sea voyage round the southern tip of Africa. In 1488 Bartolomeu Dias turned back after he failed to reach the East in search of a trading route. On his return journey, on the 16 May, he passed a certain flat piece of land. He named this "Ponte de Sao Brendao", after an Irish monk, St Brendan, whose festival day it was. The relay race will take place in the Park and the neighbouring Nuwejaars Special Management Area. The run, approximately 14 km, starts at the new



Soetendalsvlei is named after the first recorded shipwreck on the Strandveld or Cape Agulhas coastline. During the night of 23 August 1673 a Dutch East Indian Company ship, the Zoetendaal, foundered on the rocks in a bay. At daybreak the survivors started walking in the direction of the Cape and after about three hours they came upon a big lake with fresh water. They were so relieved and thankful that they named the lake after their ship.

The Soetendalsvlei and the Heuningnes Estuary are a very important breeding and feeding area for freshwater and marine fish species.







## Shipwrecks along the Cape Agulhas Coastline

Approximately 22 shipwrecks have been recorded along the coastline between L'Agulhas and Die Damme. In the next few editions we will tell you more about these shipwrecks.

### JUNO

(Dutch barque, 631 tons), en route from Batavia to Rotterdam; cargo: coffee, sugar, rattans and tin blocks; wrecked on the point of Cape Agulhas, directly under the lighthouse, 2/03/1852; 5 passengers drowned. (Shipping Register, Cape Archives, C.C. 2/17, Shipwreck Museum files)

### SS CAMPBILL

(British steel screw steamship, 3988 tons, built in 1906), en route from Rangoon to Buenos Aires; cargo: rice; wrecked west of Cape Agulhas opposite Meishu Maru, 27/03/1913. Three men died when the main steam-pipe burst. (Cape Argus, 27.28/03/1913; Lloyds Register of Shipping, 1911-12)

### MEISHU MARU

(Taiwanese trawler), route unknown; cargo: tuna, diesel-oil; wrecked east of Rasperpunt, 1982; 17 survivors.

### YUNG TAI 2

(Taiwanese trawler), route unknown; cargo: fish; wrecked in Bloubaai, Suiderstrand, 1982.

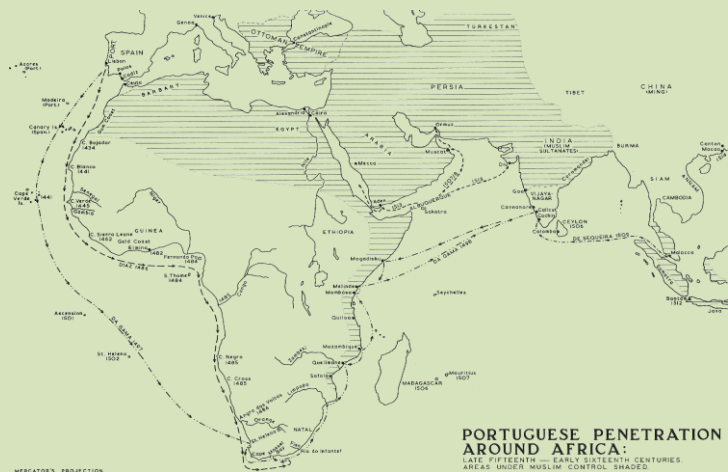
### LE CENTAURE

(French ship), en route from Mauritius to France; cargo unknown; 400 survivors; wrecked a little west of Cape Agulhas opposite *Die Walle*, 19/01/1750 (*Hoek se Baaï*); 400 passengers and crew reached the Cape safely. (Cape Archives, V.C. 26)

For more information on shipwrecks:

BURROWS, Edmund H. *Overberg Odyssey: People, Roads & Early Days*. Swellendam Trust, 1994.

TURNER, M. *Shipwrecks and salvage in South Africa – 1505 to the present*. Cape Town: C. Struik, 1988.



## Fauna



### Reuse Geelstert, Cape Yellowtail, *Seriola lalandi*

**Spawning season:** Spawns all year round, peak during October – March

**Length at 50% sexual maturity:** 61,5 cm FL

**Age at 50% sexual maturity:** 2 to 3 years

**Maximum age:** 9 to 10 years

**Length at first capture:** 40-45 cm FL (~ 1 year)

**Status:** Open species

**SASSI status:** Green

**Origin of name:** *Seriola* is an old Italian word for fish and *lalandi* is named after a former naturalist, Delalande. The term *geelstert* refers to the bright yellow tail.

## Flora

### Limestone Fynbos

Limestone Fynbos is an intriguing flora that occurs on our southern coast wherever there are limestone hills or cliffs. Most of the plants are found in a broad sweep from Gansbaai to the Gouritz River, including pockets at Cape Point and Macassar. This flora can be divided into three natural units: Agulhas Limestone, De Hoop Limestone and Canca Limestone. In December 2007 *Veld and Flora* published an article on the Agulhas Limestone. The Duiwenhoks Conservancy has added a new aspect to the literature available on this rather unknown flora by publishing a book that describes the Limestone Fynbos of the Vermaaklikheid area, near Heidelberg, which falls in the Canca Limestone unit.



Limestone Fynbos is floristically very different from other vegetation. The reason for this is that these plants thrive on a soil type that would be toxic to most fynbos plants which are normally found on acidic or neutral soils. They grow on limestone soils, which are so alkaline that if you squeeze lemon juice on them they fizz. It is this alkalinity in the

soil that is toxic to most fynbos plants. In a remarkable adaptation to a hostile soil environment, Limestone Fynbos has evolved as a unique flora that shares only a few species in common with sandstone fynbos and sand fynbos. As one would expect from a flora that is confined to such specific soils, many plants are endemic, meaning that they grow







only on such soils or even at only one locality.

At first glance, this little-known flora appears as dry woody scrub. On closer inspection a fascinating array of intriguing and sometimes tiny flowers emerge. Over the past ten years, the author Louisa Oberholzer has been collecting, describing and photographing the plants in the Vermaaklikheid area. The Duiwenhoks Conservancy provided financial support for the identification of the species and finally for the publication of the book, *Limestone Fynbos of the Vermaaklikheid Area*. It presents a photographic record and description of 124 species. Of particular interest are the intriguing *Fabaceae*, or pea-like flowers and the pungent buchus, which belong to the *Rutaceae* or citrus family.

The aim of the publication is to inform the public and particularly landowners about the value of Limestone Fynbos and the importance of controlling alien vegetation, which is a major threat to all the fynbos plant communities.

The book is priced at R130,00 and is available from the Duiwenhoks Conservancy, (Rob Hill [michellehill@mweb.co.za](mailto:michellehill@mweb.co.za)) and also from the author, ([louisa.stanford@gmail.com](mailto:louisa.stanford@gmail.com)).



freezing winter temperatures, unstable substrates (such as sand, gravel or boulders), and exposure to strong winds. Just how do they cope? Animals generally find it easier coping in this harsh environment because among other ways, they can simply get up and move when the going gets too tough. Plants (both terrestrial and marine) on the other hand, have to either tolerate, or succumb to it.

In a series of articles Professor Maneveldt will tell us about the astonishing ways in which both plants and animals from a typical southwestern Cape shore have evolved to adapt and cope in the harsh environment of the intertidal zone.

## WATER

Wil u meer weet oor die watersituasie in u omgewing? Besoek Dept Waterwese se webtuiste [www.dwaf.gov.za](http://www.dwaf.gov.za) en klik op "My Water".

## Festival in the Fynbos merges local music talent with conservation – Heather D’Alton, Flower Valley Conservation Trust

Greyton's rasta band, The Country Conquerors, had festival-goers on their feet at Flower Valley's Music Festival in the Fynbos on Saturday 11 December. The festival, the only one of its kind in the area, sought to give a platform to local bands to showcase their talent. It was held on Flower Valley Farm, just outside Gansbaai.



It was also a day of firsts for visitors at the music event. Tourist accommodation at Flower Valley's neighbouring farm, Witvoetskloof, was launched. The Witvoetskloof upgrade is a joint venture between Flower Valley Conservation Trust and Grootbos. And local musician and the festival's master of ceremonies, Pof Louw, launched his first CD – the Pof Louw Show – at the event.



## International Year of Forests

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

## Life at the margins of the continents - An examination of the intertidal marine life of the southwestern Cape - Gavin W. Maneveldt, Department of Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, University of the Western Cape

Imagine surviving in an environment that is neither truly marine nor truly terrestrial. That area just beyond the low-water mark of neap tides along the seashore is an example of just such an environment. The organisms living here have to cope with the combined extremes of both land and sea environments: salt spray, immersion in salt water, emersion in air, drenching by heavy rainfall, heating by the sun,







According to Flower Valley Conservation Trust’s Executive Director Lesley Richardson, the festival achieved its aim. “We wanted locals and tourists at the festival to enjoy some of the best local music around – and they did just that. We also wanted to introduce festival-goers to Flower Valley Conservation Trust – and through our educational fynbos trips, they got to see what Flower Valley, and fynbos conservation, is all about.”

Artists that performed at the festival included The Country Conquerors, Caledon’s Barok Band, the Marimba Magic band from Hermanus and Pof Louw. Sylvia Agenbach’s Snaterteater also entertained the crowds with their dance routines.

Pick ‘n Pay’s involvement in the festival – through the Pick ‘n Pay Strandveld Sponsorship – allowed 84 children and workers from neighbouring farms to attend the festival. They were treated to tractor rides up the Flower Valley mountain – and the children to some of the kids’ entertainment available on the day. According to Flower Valley’s Marketing Manager Frieda Lloyd, “The Trust is very grateful to Pick ‘n Pay for helping us reach more community members living on the Agulhas Plain through the Strandveld Sponsorship. Pick ‘n Pay’s involvement in the festival – and the area in general – shows how serious they are about sustainability and community upliftment.” Coca-Cola also offered assistance by sponsoring cans of cool drink for the farm workers and children.

The festival – Flower Valley’s second – was aired on Whale Coast FM. The local radio station broadcast from the event, interviewing many involved in conservation in the area, as well as some of the artists. Richardson says, “The Trust is grateful to everyone who was involved at the festival, and of course, everyone who came in spite of the overcast weather. It made for a wonderful day – and an important one in terms of highlighting the need for biodiversity conservation.”

rest of the world will be the picturesque 5,5km route from Struisbaai to L’Agulhas. Floats, dancers and productions will tell the story of Africa on this route, finishing at the festival grounds with a music festival at L’Agulhas. To guarantee a healthy representation we want to ensure a substantial reward i.e. originality and spirit. We want to set a platform for upcoming artists in time to come, therefore 30% local and 70% national performers will be accommodated.

Over a period of two weeks we want to present fine arts through the abundance of local and national artists in an ongoing art exhibition on location. The middle weekend water sport will be coordinated by Leonard Pratt (3 x Trans Agulhas champion) with a rubber duck championship. Tara Niehaus (latest world record, kite surf) will coordinate a kite surf competition. In conjunction with these water sports a new discipline, trial running, will be held with a team relay race (running, canoeing, cycling) ending at the Cape Agulhas Lighthouse and organized by Agulhas National Park and the Bredasdorp Athletics Club. Agulhas NP has already held a Southern Tip Day over the past three years combining arts, food and sports with the highlight on 16 May 2011, the day Bartolomeu Dias saw the southernmost landmass of Africa for the first time in 1488.

We want to incorporate this date as the end of these celebrations with a dramatization using national actors. Frans Marx in combination with M-Net will play a part in the planning of this event, ensuring future productions in time to come.

All of these events have their own sub-committee reporting to a centre management infrastructure already in place. We would appreciate your input into this matter as we would like to invite you to be part of the branding and sponsoring of this exciting venture.

For more information contact Pieter Koen, 082 555 4881.

### Cape Agulhas Mardi Gras 29 & 30 April 2011



Over the past six months, a thorough investigation into the possibility of presenting a music and arts festival has been undertaken. An abundance of talent (music and arts) in the region, with overwhelming support from SANParks, Overberg Agri, Air Force (TVOS), Cape Agulhas

Municipality, local businesses, welfare groups and the new found radio station – Overberg Radio – was identified.

We are in the process of enlisting the Cape Agulhas Mardi Gras as part of the International Mardi Gras circuit. The visual marketing to the

### EVENTS

January	
1	New Year’s Day
February	
2	World Wetlands Day
21	International Mother Language Day
April	
29 & 30	Cape Agulhas Mardi Gras
May	
13 - 15	Southern Tip Weekend

