

# AgulhasNPark eBulletin

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## National Water Week, 18 - 24 March 2013

### World Water Day, 22 March

World Water Day was declared an international day in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly and was first celebrated in 1993. This year's National Water Week celebrations coincide with the United Nations (UN) General Assembly declaring 2013 as the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation. In reflection of this declaration, the 2013 World Water Day, which will take place on 22 March 2013, also will be dedicated to water cooperation. The UN-Water has called upon UNESCO to lead the 2013 United Nations International Year on Water Cooperation, in particular because of the organization's unique multidisciplinary approach which blends the natural and social sciences, education, culture and communication.



## National Water Week in South Africa

The Department of Water Affairs is organizing an awareness campaign from 18-24 March 2013 under the theme "Water is life - Respect it, Conserve it, Enjoy it". The theme seeks to accentuate and emphasize the fact that water is central to all forms of life and that everyone has a responsibility to conserve and use it sparingly. It is therefore incumbent upon every individual and institution to use it conservatively and sustainably since ours is a water scarce country. In South Africa, March is also regarded as Human Rights Month and as such, the 21st of March will see the country celebrating human rights day.

### Thys Ahrends: determination, dedication and hard work do pay off

I started my working life as a young boy being a tractor driver on the farmlands of Elim in the early 1970's. I will never forget this as it was essential in the forming of most of my principles and approaches to life and the work place. In the 1980's I moved to Cape Town and became a bus driver for City Tramways. The company also had a learner transport contract with the education department in the Elim area and I was back in Elim until the contract expired. At some stage I was appointed as the manager of the Elim Community Development Organization (EGO), managing the Elim bakery, pottery, vegetable gardens, millhouse and other tourism initiatives. I became jobless for a while when the organization experienced problems. During that time I became involved with the Elim Working for Water (WfW) Project in 1999. This was totally a new concept of work which, now, I fully appreciate for what it means to me and thousands of other people. In 2000 the Elim contractors were transferred to the Agulhas WfW project. During the same year Park management decided that I must take up the position of task assessor to manage and resolve conflict within the Agulhas Working for Water project; a tall order to expect from a grade eight school leaver, but none the less, I faced the challenge with hard work and dedication. A year later I was appointed as assistant project manager. After the successive resignations of my predecessors I acted for two years as project manager. I applied unsuccessfully for the position on several occasions. In hind sight it became clear to me that more personal growth and experience was needed. I learnt a lot from all the people that I worked with and appreciate the role that they played in my development to become the Agulhas Working for Water project manager in 2002. Since October 2012 I am acting as the Assistant Regional Cluster Advisor for BSP projects in the Cape.



A successful Project Man



Management team





**Agulhas Working for Water Contracting teams**



**M. Diederichs and Team**



**W. October and Team**



**A. Michaels and Team**



**S. September and Team**



**V. Plaatjies and Team**



**H. Frans and Team**



**C. Pontac and Team**



**G. Ngondo and Team**



**Z. Newman and Team**



**C. Newman and Team**



**M. Adendorff and Team**



**P. Davids and Team**



**E. October and Team**



**J. Newman and Team**



**C. Gabriels and Team**



**C. August and Team**



**C. Josephs and Team**



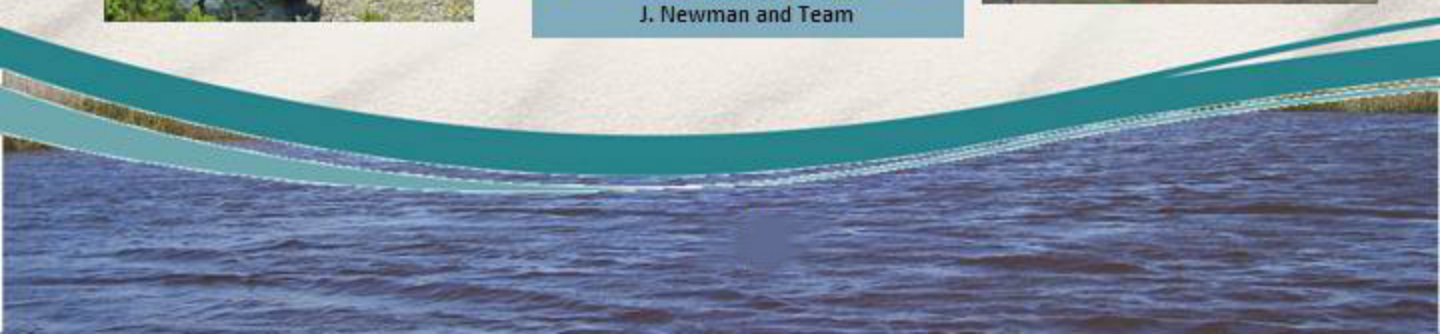
**R. Davids and Team**



**L. Stanley and Team**



**S. Leonard and Team**





### The Project beneficiaries

The project started with a R1.6 million budget in 2004 with 6 teams of 66 persons in total. It expanded to nearly R11.7 million per annum today and creates employment for 267 persons with an estimated number of 1068 indirect beneficiaries. 88% percent of the budget is spent on operations and of this 12% is spent on management. 20% percent of operational costs is spent on training. The project is managed by Project Manager Thys Ahrends, Ass Project Manager Stanley Engel, Field Assistant Christa Joumat and Project Administrator Wilmine Cupido. The project consists of 21 teams: 16 teams of 13 individuals per team and two teams of 12 per team. The teams are S. September, V. Plaatjies, A. Michels, G. Ngqondo, C. Josephs, M. Adendorf, M. Diedericks,, J. Newman, E.October, H. Frans (Ratelrivier), L. Stanley, C. Newman, C. Pontac, Z. Newman, W. October, G. Holtzhauzen, S. Leonard, (Rietfontein) and C. August, P. Davids R. Davids, C. Gabriel(Rhenosterkop).

### Agulhas Working for Water Project salutes a stalwart – Christina Paff

On Friday 11 January 2013 family, friends and AgulhasNP lost a loved one, a friend, colleague and team member. Christina Paff started at the Agulhas Working for Water in the team of Gerty Holtzhauzen on 29 May 2005 until Jan 2013. She completed various training courses to better her skills and career, which included a brush-cutter operator course at the age of fifty-two. Christina was very dedicated and loyal to her co-workers and always supported and guided them when needed. She was very proud of her work, especially to wear the yellow WFW-T-shirt. She always found solutions to problems and had a positive outlook on life, even in times of despair. We were blessed to have an employee and colleague of this stature; she will be sorely missed. She had a huge impact in fighting alien infestation in the park and as a senior member of her team, will be remembered for her inputs and the examples she set. Our sincere condolences to her family.



### William Mxhongwa – Rest in Peace

William, 29 years old, sadly died on 2 March 2013. He was a member of Patrick Davids junior's team and only worked for the Agulhas Working for Water for one year. He was the team's herbicider and at times, a normal worker. He was a shy person and very hard working. He left behind a partner and a seven year old boy, a twin brother, an older brother residing in Bredasdorp and his parents who live in the Eastern Cape. He hailed originally from Idutwa in the Eastern Cape and will be buried in his home town.



### Working for Water interventions

Our mission is to eradicate all alien plant species from the natural Agulhas fynbos areas so as to restore the veld processes and patterns to its original state and in so doing improve the rich biodiversity and associated life forms of the Agulhas Plains, as well as regenerate the natural water flows. Interventions implemented to eradicate the alien plant species are clearing alien vegetation growth by way of hacking, spraying with herbicide, as well as removing seedlings by hand.



### The South African Water History Archive

On 22 February 2013 a workshop, sponsored by South Africa's Water Research Commission (WRC), was held in Vanderbijlpark to inform stakeholders in the water sector, researchers and the public of the South African Water History Archival Repository (SAWHAR). The theme of the workshop was *Our Water History & the Future of its Preservation*. Recent calls by the South African water sector for the establishment of water-related information storage facilities have prompted the launch of a project by NWU with support from the WRC to establish the South African Water History Archival Repository (SAWHAR). The project is a collaborative initiative of North-West University (NWU) and the WRC, to develop, an archival repository with primary and secondary source materials on the history of water in South Africa. The hard copy archival repository will be accommodated in the new library, currently under construction, on the Vaal Triangle Campus of NWU in Vanderbijlpark. The project is a partnership between researchers at the Resesarch Niche for the Cultural Dynamics of Water (CuDyWat) at North-West University and archival scientists at the University of South Africa (UNISA) who will be working with the InterPARES Project. This international consortium that is coordinated from Canada, will provide support and guidance in the development of a virtual archive with validated and accessible primary and secondary source materials. (Information provided)



### Worth fighting for





### Wine, birds and Fynbos

The Agulhas Honorary Rangers will be hosting their second wine auction on 4 May 2013 at the Bosheuvel Precinct in Agulhas National Park. The starting time is 9:00 with a very interesting programme of birding and walking through the fynbos with wine tasting afterwards. The auction will start at 13:00. For more information contact Flip van Staden at 082 378 1245 or email [drflip@phildi.com](mailto:drflip@phildi.com) and Angela Altendorfer at 072 283 5282.



### Agulhas reception upgraded

The reception area underwent a much needed facelift and redecorating. A new front door and ceiling were fitted and a beautiful oregon pine floor emerged after the carpet was lifted. A new reception desk was installed and other woodwork was cleaned. The entrance is also now wheelchair friendly.



### Boardwalks at the Southern Tip

The boardwalk from the Cape Agulhas Lighthouse towards the Southern Tip is now finished. Visitors can walk the distance of one kilometer at their leisure along a lovely stretch of rocky coastline while observing the interesting coastal fynbos. Be on the lookout for tortoises and birds as well.



The boardwalk to the Rasperpunt fish traps is now under construction and will take visitors from a parking area along the gravel road to Suiderstrand down to the fish traps. Visitors will walk through coastal fynbos and pass shell middens from the late Stone Age.

### Ratel River structure

The Ratel River system was extensively changed by previous owners over years in order to divert water during the rainy season from the werf and to prepare land for ploughing. This was done by excavating and bulldozing trenches to divert normal water flow of the river and wetland areas. Old maps and current maps show that the whole of the Ratel River area is a seasonal wetland, therefore these diversions. Working on Wetlands project built a massive concrete structure in 2012 in the main diversion channel where the water flow was channeled into the man-made trench as a short-cut to the sea. But, over the years life did establish itself in the man-made trenches and to allow for this to continue good engineering had to provide for the continuation thereof. Rare amphibians, eg. Cape Platanna and plant life established itself in some of the trenches or pools. The 2012 rains tested this structure to its fullest, but ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the structure and its impact will continue as it is a work in progress.



## Southern Tip Day programme

### Bosheuvel programme:

11 May 2013: Southern Tip-Zoetendals Valleij Relay Race & Walk  
Stalls, Kiddies programme, Canoeing, Other (jukskei, etc.)

### L'Agulhas programme:

17 May 2013: Southern Tip Talk & Meal, Suidelrig Dienssentrum  
11-19 May 2013: Southern Tip & Shipwreck Art Display, Ocean2Ocean Art  
18 May 2013: Southern Tip Historical walk Shipwreck Display in  
conjunction with Bredasdorp Shipwreck Museum to  
commemorate International Museum Day Opening of new  
Lighthouse Museum display

