

ZANDVLEI TRUST

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2011



Caring for
Zandvlei
since 1988

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MOLEY!**

**JUST 60 DUCKS
SHORT OF
GLOBAL STATUS**

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WHAT IS
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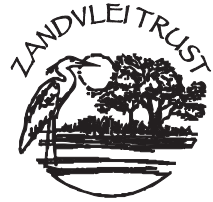
THE ZANDVLEI TRUST

Non-Profit Organisation - Fund Raising No: 004-011-NPO

Fax: +27 (21) 705 5224 • P O Box 30017, Tokai, 7966

Enquiries: David Muller on +27 (0) 21 788 1086

www.zandvleitrust.org.za



Caring for Zandvlei since 1988

Application for 12 month membership - valid from January 1 to December 31

Tick appropriate box: New Member Renewal

Title(s):..... First Name(s):.....

Surname:.....

Address:.....

Postal Code:.....

Tel (H):..... Tel (W):.....

Mobile:..... Fax:.....

e-mail:.....

Annual subscription: single member R80, couple (each may vote) R100

Can't afford the fee, but want to remain a member? Call David Muller on +27 (0) 21 788 1086

Deposit into bank account:

Paid Electronically (fax deposit slip):

Cheque enclosed:

Account name: Zandvlei Trust

Bank and Account number: ABSA savings account - 116 774 453

Branch and Code: Tokai - 632 005

Subscription sum R..... single couple

Donation sum R.....

What skills can you offer the trust?.....

I/we will uphold the aim of the Zandvlei Trust to conserve the indigenous fauna and flora of the Zandvlei and to enhance this natural resource for all.

Date:..... Signature:.....

The Zandvlei Trust

NPO 004-011 • PO BOX 30017, Tokai, 7966

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The Zandvlei Trust aims to conserve the indigenous fauna and flora of the Zandvlei and to enhance the the natural resources for the benefit of all.

Office Bearers

Chairperson: David Muller
Tel/Fax: +27 (0)21 788 1086
+27 (0) 72 986 5311
merryscholar@telkomsa.net
 vice Chair: Sharon McCallum
+27 (0) 21 788 8592
soitgoes@iafrica.com
Secretary: Julie Dunkerley
+27 (0)21788 6968
julie.dunkerley@intecbilling.com
Treasurer: Gerrard Wiigram
+27 (0) 21 788 7622
wigram@iafrica.com

Executive Members:

Joyce Brandt
+27 (0) 21 788 8071
+27 (0) 82 408 0960
joycebrandt@telkomsa.net
Lucia Rodrigues
+27 (0) 21 788 5580
+27 (0) 83 325 8881
signet@webafrica.org.za
Peter Kruger
+27 (0) 21 788 4578
prkruger@telkomsa.net
Muriel Darke
+27 (0) 21 788 7226
darkem@iafrica.com

Task Team Leaders

Recycling: Una Hartley
+27 (0) 21 788 5854
hartige@iafrica.com
(Details above)
EE Programme: Sharon McCallum
Webmaster: Gavin Lawson
+27 (0) 21 705 5224
glawson@xsinet.co.za

Newsletter: Peter, Sharon, Muriel

Westlake Edge: John Fawkes
+27 (0) 21 788 7123
john@metaplan.co.za
+27 (0) 21 788 1715

Park Island: Pam Hepple

Development Monitoring:
Vincent Marincowitz
vincentm@iafrica.com
(Details above)
Rehabilitation: Gavin Lawson
+27 (0) 788 6851
sally@mail.ngo.org.za
EIAs: Bowen Boshier

Friends of Bokmakierie Park: Lief Petersen
+27 (0) 21 788 1256
ief@acta.org.za

Zandvlei Inventory and Management Programme (ZIMP)

ZIMP Flora: Robin Burnett
+27 (0) 21 788 5914
ropat@absamail.co.za

ZIMP Fauna: Cassy Sheasby
Tel/Fax: +27 (0) 21 701 7542
cassandra.sheasby@capetown.gov.za

Greater Zandvlei Estuary Nature Reserve - a declared local nature reserve within the City of Cape Town

Manager: Cassy Sheasby
(Details above)
Environmental Education Centre Manager: Mark Arendse
Tel/Fax: +27 (0) 21 701 7542
markclive.arendse@capetown.gov.co.za
P O Box 30028, Tokai, 7966

Regional Conservation Officer: David Morris
+27 (0) 21 713 0510

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Now is the winter of our beloved Zandvlei. How many more seasons before I become really discontented? At Josephine Mill one Monday evening last month Andrew Wheeldon of Bicycle Empowerment Network said to change someone's behavioral patterns is extremely difficult. Ian McCallum said the same thing in our last newsletter. But, I shall not give up and the Reserve will get its much needed assistance in the form of extra staff, come hail or high water.

When I took office a few years ago I was amazed to find that I could not take my family and friends for walks and birding through the Reserve over weekends. Did you know it's the quietest spot on our peninsula? When is the City going to realize that this asset can actually be of benefit to those who sit in their plush air-conditioned office in Wale Street stressing about rapidly expanding urbanization. If it was open over weekends they could catch the African Fish Eagle giving diving classes to its young. Instead perhaps they end up visiting the waterways of Canal Walk or worse.

Talking about waterways it was a pleasure to see that the annual paddle through canals joining the Indian with the Atlantic has grown in size. Well done to all who participated and especially to Kim and her litter-paddlers who filled that canoe we saw in the local press just after the event. This is indeed becoming a highlight for the City of Cape Town; soon no doubt it will be matching our March Pick 'n Pay Argus Cycle Tour. So next year just before you don your winter woollies start flexing those biceps, find some paddles, beg, borrow or buy a decent kayak/canoe and join the team on Environmental Day. And don't forget gloves and a mask to prevent herpes.

Another day which went well was Arbour Day when Cassy Sheasby, Mark Arendse and their team brought over 150 plants which Neil Major kindly sold us at prices which could not be beat, joined Gavin Lawson, the Smuts family of Willem, Amanda and Mckayla and Kevin Jones who hail from the new development east of Prince George Drive and myself and planted them just east of Sunrise Circle. This is ZVT's way of celebrating Youth and Arbour Day. May our young

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Cover photograph: The 2011 Peninsula Paddlers:
From Left to Right Jane & David Hofmeyer, Viv von der Heyden, Chris Kruyshaar, Kriss Barker, Kim Kruyshaar and Derek Goldman.

plants show our young leaders just how important the fragile balance of nature needs to be sustained; I don't care who owns the land as long as the balance is maintained. One small step can go a long way. Not only did we plant and fly the Trust banner but we piled loads and loads of dead alien vegetation for later incineration similar to that which Cassy burnt on Park Island in June. By the way, please take heed not to dump your garden refuse where Cassy has recently burnt; a car tyre wall was also removed. It will merely create a fire hazard.

One morning in early June at Upper Crust a few of us met with Shameema Wallace to discuss the future of our annual International Kite Festival, one of Muizenberg's Flagships. In short Muizenberg Partnership, a group of likeminded wise forward planners offered to relieve Cassy and her support staff (2 people) of the tedious work needed to prepare for the Festival. Thanks to Myles Spolander, Gerald Musikanth and in particular Edwin Genade the grass will be shorn and the cut heaps removed and the area well groomed for another bumper Kite Festival. Shameema has also agreed to engage more local crafters/artists so that we can move away from "made in China" to made in South Africa; better still: made in Muizenberg. Just because visitors to the Festival cannot afford much over ten rand a "toy" doesn't mean they have to be made in China. There is no reason why the Friday market next to False Bay Station can't move en masse to the Kite Festival in October.

Have you noticed that Muizenberg Beach is becoming cleaner and cleaner and that crime on the beach front is on the decrease? Two people need thanking for this. Myles Spolander for organizing seven closed circuit television cameras and Edwin Genade of Sports and Amenities for roping in people to keep things as clean as possible. More of this brings more tourists meaning more need to open the Reserve more often meaning more staff required. Is the City listening? It was Edwin who brought his team onto Park Island one Monday morning and filled over 200 bags of litter. With fellows like him who needs Wale Street? (Sorry but I want results.) The next day Cassy went to Park Island

and guess what? They filled more bags of litter. If this isn't a strong message to those who frequent Park Island to pat themselves on the back for either funding or working to improve this space as well as for others to learn to be more caring of a space which could become a cesspit if not looked after properly.

Please support your organization by attending to Prof Timm Hoffman's presentation, July 20th at 7pm, in the Imperial Yacht Clubhouse on the new Herbarium entitled: Citizen Science and the Plants of Zandvlei. This will be followed by the reserve's open day three days later on July 23rd from 8 to 1pm when we hope to officially open the Herbarium.

By some good fortune this will be followed with another Gala Fund Raiser of the Masque Theatre's "Farndale Murder....." On July 27th 7.15 for 8pm. Tickets are available from members of the Executive Committee for only R80 together with a raffle ticket for R10 (3 for R20); we will be raffling a hamper of GREEN plants; equipment and artworks, including a Feathers male Knysna Lourie carved bird valued at over R800. Bowen Boshier and I will exhibit our artwork where 50% of the sales will go towards the Trust's coffers.

On August 17th at 7pm, also at Imperial Yacht Club, Leif Petersen, Eco Sociologist and Development Practitioner will be presenting an illustrated talk: The legal and illegal consumptive use of plants and animals in the City of Cape Town and the effect it has on local biodiversity. Leif, a member of the Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation, promises to be entertaining and highly informative.

Until then keep warm and dry and help others to do the same even if they only have legs or wings.

D.G. Muller

The Zandvlei Trust is very sad to report the death in the families of two members of our Exco. Our Secretary, Julie Dunkerley, lost her mother and Joyce Brandt lost her husband. Our deepest condolences to you, Julie and Joyce and to your families.

A WETLAND IN THE BACK YARD

The lights in our neighbour's pool are not for mid summer night dips but for frogs to catch gnats, flies, moths and other flying creatures off which they thrive.

Janine and Ferdinand Versveld who live a spit and a throw away from the Vlei have turned their 40 year old swimming pool, which pictures took up far too much space once the children had fled the nest, into a small eco-system. This wetland is something those of us spoilt with swimming pools could well consider. Janine can still enjoy her summer dips as well as sitting quietly of an evening watching the birds attracted to this biodiversity.

Janine says the birds have just gone... "mal."

"We spent at least half an hour trying to get rid of an Egyptian goose which refused to budge," laughed Ferdinand, "so comfortable did it feel paddling around the new mini-wetland."

The one hundred thousand litre pool is a thing of the past. The Versvelds divided it into two, laid porous pipes down in one half placed a metre of gravel carefully scrubbed and cleaned over the pipe. Water from a well-point and cleaner than the chlorinated water we buy from the City bubbles out to be sucked into another waterway to feed the artificial water fall which also helps oxygenate the pool.

"Neil Major advised us on which plants to place in our wetland," explained Janine, "and today we have the

pleasure of being much closer to nature as it was before Marine Estate was an apple in the developer's eye."

If anyone is interested in doing this to their swimming pool you may call Janine on 0836599822. It's a great way to invite the wild out there into your front garden.



Part of the wetland created by Versvelds in their back yard

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

More volunteers are needed to help with the quarterly CWAC (Co-ordinated Waterbird

Counts). This is an ongoing project run by the ADU Animal Demographic Unit at UCT.

This is a national count for all water birds in the water bodies of the whole of RSA. It is done quarterly and the quarterly open days at the Zandvlei Nature Reserve are aligned with these dates. The dates are available on the

ZVT website

<http://zandvleitrust.org.za/zandvlei%20estuary%20>

nature%20reserve.html

The remaining open days for the reserve in 2011 are - 23 July and 22 October. The first open day in 2012 is on 21 January.

Also see the page

<http://zandvleitrust.org.za/art-ZIMP%20biotic%20-%20birds.html> for more information.

I have taken over from Brian Herman who is moving away and volunteers can contact me Gavin Lawson glawson@xsinet.co.za or tel. (021) 705 5224.

WHAT'S ON

The Zandvlei Herbarium

On 20 July 2011 at 7pm at Imperial Yacht Club.

Professor Tim Hoffman will speak on the new Zandvlei Herbarium. His talk is entitled: Citizen Science and the Plants of Zandvlei.

Following this on the next open day at the Nature Reserve on 23rd of July 2011 from 8am to 1 pm we will have the official opening of the Herbarium.

You are all welcome!

This outstanding achievement has been made possible through the hard work and dedication of Robin and Pat Burnett. Thank you.

Cape Bird Club has outings to Rondevlei Nature Reserve on the first Saturday of the month. These outings are for Rondevlei enthusiasts and beginners are welcome. From the M5 turn East into 5th Avenue and then at the first traffic lights turn right into Perth Road. Follow the signs. A small entrance fee to the Reserve is payable at the gate.

Our website - www.zandvleitrust.org.za - is regularly updated with information about the nature reserve and our activities. Please visit it regularly. If you have photographs/anecdotes about your experiences and sightings around the estuary, please send them to Gavin Lawson at glawson@xsinet.co.za. We would love to post them on the site for everyone to enjoy.

PHOTOS FOR THE NEWSLETTER.

We are keen to publish good, clear photos of our special environment, but so often we are unable to publish submissions because they quality is unsuitable for printing purposes. What looks good on a PC screen may not be of a high enough resolution to print on paper. Please remember that we print in black and white so a green frog against a green background reproduces as a black splodge. Wait for the subject to get into the light or open shade, if possible, with a clear background. Also, please set your cameras to record the image at a resolution between 150 and 300 dpi. The file size of the image should be atleast 1mb-1.5mb. Also, photos taken with a cellphone are just not good enough.

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR 2011

World Tourism Day	Tuesday	27 September
World Habitat Day	Thursday	03 October
World Aids Day	Thursday	01 December
National Arbor Month	September	
National Marine Month	November	

Equinoxes	Solstices
September 23 11h04	December 22 07h30

ZANDVLEI NATURE RESERVE – OPEN DAYS

Open Days for 2011 will coincide with the CWAC (Co-ordinated Waterbird Counts).

These days will run from 8am to 1pm.

The dates are as follows:

23 July

22 October

21 January 2012

EXTRACT FROM ZANDVLEI QUARTERLY REPORT

April May June 2011 from : Cassandra Quinton Sheasby
- Area Manager: Deep South - Biodiversity Management
Branch - City of Cape Town

Zandvlei Highlights

- New staff member Isgaak Crombie (Weedharvester driver) started on 01 May 2011
- Margit van Heerden Graduated at SAASVELD ND: Nature Conservation
- New boat tryout: awesome
- New tank for Morella made by Oliver
- New office screeding done in 3 of 4 offices and new alarm system fitted in new office
- New replacement computers received from Vision IT (1 insurance for theft, 1 for replacement of crashed PC.
- Waterways took down illegal fenceline YAY!
- Kite Festival meeting positive
- CWAC count 23rd of April with Open Day and Butterfly census rolled into one.
- Loggerhead turtle hatchling found at mouth on 15 April 2011 and taken to 2 Oceans Aquarium to be reared: New species for list!!!
- Weedharvester collected and taken to Burgip for upgrade
- Litter trap Uitsig moved in partnership with residents
- Bath Road vegetation is doing well. Establishment of bath Passerinas now at 20cm tall.
- Chameleon count Psoralea Park April 2011, 7 juveniles and 21 adults counted.
- Removed pondweed by hand under Thibault bridge May.
- Cassy bought bird ringing nets and poles - Bird ringing assessment by Dieter to follow.
- Burning permit for Park Island brush piles approved and received for 2011/2012 rainy season. Park Island Brush Piles were burnt on 20th June 2011.
- Mark Arendse, Environmental Education officer, completed Competancy assessment 01 June 2011 Challenges
- Promenade road vegetation site inspection turned out very low quality of vegetation and large fragmentation across the site.
- High volume of complaints wrt weed and litter in Marina and surrounds after heavy rains and dropping of water level. Residents not informed by Marina da Gama Association that the weedharvester had been removed for upgrade.

Imperial Yacht Club / Zandvlei Sports Club
1 Promenade Road, Lakeside 7945

FUNCTION VENUE

On the water at the Zandvlei Estuary. Looking across to Marina da Gama.

Scenic views with a wind free north facing terrace.

The clubhouse can comfortably accommodate up to one hundred guests.

The perfect venue for private functions; Weddings; birthdays; anniversaries or any other occasion you might have in mind.

Catering and bar facilities are available.

For further information please contact:
Carol cell: 072 9259 092
email: iycpcc@gmail.com
fax: 086 6963 862



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DUCKS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Breeding and nesting information required.

Professor Graeme Cumming from the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town has a request to anyone who has past, and who will collect future duck breeding and or nesting records.

Objective.

I am in the process of compiling existing data on the breeding patterns of ducks (including 'geese') for sub-Saharan Africa. The goal of the analysis is to try to connect breeding periods in different places to movements, given that we already have several years of satellite telemetry data for a couple of species of duck.

What is required?

The minimum data items that I am interested in are; species, date, place (as precisely as possible), and whether you saw a nest or ducklings.

Additional information on things like numbers of eggs, ages of ducklings and/or habitat type is also potentially useful.

The majority of our nest card information is from the 1960 - 70s, so this is also an appeal to submit new nest records - even for common species like Egyptian Geese, we still have a relatively poor understanding of spatial

variation in the timing of breeding and exactly how this relates to the timing of moult and movement.

The species list.

There are 16 duck (including shelduck, teal and 'goose') species in the Sasol guide - Spurwing, Egyptian, and Pygmy are all ducks rather than true geese - and we are interested in data for all of them, and for wild Mallards too, although the ranges of some of the birds in Sasol are far to the north and I very much doubt that observers in the Cape will see more than about 7 species breeding.

Submit your records

To me graeme.cumming@uct.ac.za and also copy them to gscumming@gmail.com and I will make sure that your data are also added to the data set.

Thank you.

MANY THANKS

To the Constantia Mens Probus Club

For their kind donation to The Environmental Education fund of the Zandvlei Trust.

These funds are used by the Trust to transport children from local Schools to the Environmental Education Centre in the Nature Reserve.

Your generosity is much appreciated.

E F F E C T I V E C O M M U N I C A T I O N
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MONKEY SHADOW



MICHAEL LAMBRECHT
Art Director • Designer

0 7 3 5 4 8 6 6 4 1
michael@monkeyshadow.co.za

www.monkeyshadow.co.za
Marina da gama, Muizenburg

JUST 60 DUCKS SHORT OF GLOBAL STATUS

Could the appearance of a substantial number of the little White-backed Duck be the cause of the Zandvlei Nature Reserve receiving a status which, the authorities in the City of Cape Town seem reluctant to acknowledge?

Why, you might well ask! Well have a look at the reaction this little duck has elicited:

On 19 May 2011 at 06:49 Gavin Lawson wrote:

Hi All,

Robin Burnett reports he counted 120 White-backed Duck last week at Zandvlei (Nature Reserve) in the bay area, north of the scout bases.

The above e-mail sent by Gavin went to various people and one of them was Doug Harebottle at the Animal Demography unit at the University of Cape Town. He responded with the following:

Fantastic count and possibly the largest concentration recorded on the Cape Peninsula or even the Western Cape! This definitely qualifies Zandvlei as a Sub regional Important Bird Area (IBA). 90 is the cut-off point for White-backed Duck for its numbers to meet sub-regional IBA requirements in southern Africa. 180 birds would qualify the site for Ramsar and Global IBA status.

We should try and keep tabs of these birds over the coming weeks/months.

Regards

Doug

So there we are – Zandvlei qualifies as an Important Bird Area (IBA) and that is just 60 White-backed Duck short of qualifying for Ramsar and Global IBA status!!

What does all of this mean?

Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

The selection of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) has been a particularly effective way of identifying conservation priorities. IBAs are key sites for conservation – small enough to be conserved in their entirety and often already part of a protected-area network. They do one (or more) of three things. They protect species that:

- are globally threatened
- have a restricted range
- are restricted to specific biomes/vegetation types

The South African IBA Programme is coordinated by BirdLife South Africa, and makes extensive use of data collected by Animal Demography Unit (University of Cape Town) projects. The purpose of the IBA Programme is to identify and protect a network of sites, at a biogeographical scale, critical for the long-term viability of naturally-occurring bird populations. The IBA Programme helps BirdLife South Africa's partners prioritise conservation action amongst sites.

In South Africa there are over 100 IBAs.

Ramsar Sites

The Ramsar Convention is the only global environmental treaty that deals with a particular ecosystem. The treaty was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and the Convention's member countries cover all geographic regions of the planet.

It is an intergovernmental treaty that embodies the commitments of its member countries to maintain the ecological character of their Wetlands of International Importance and to plan for the "wise use", or sustainable use, of all of the wetlands in their territories.

There are currently 16 Ramsar sites in South Africa. The two that are closest to us are the Langebaan Lagoon and the Verlorenvlei River. Both are on our west coast.

The White-backed Duck

This little star is described as a small diving duck with rufous/ochre colouring with dark brown barring. It has a dark bill with a diagnostic pale spot at the base of the hooked bill. Its distinctive white back is only visible in flight.

They sit very low in the water with their backs sloping into the water which gives them a hump-backed appearance.

They prefer quiet inland waters with dense edge vegetation and emerging aquatic plants. They feed almost ex-

JUST 60 DUCKS SHORT OF GLOBAL STATUS cont.

clusively on the seeds of aquatic plants, obtained from the muddy bottom by diving.

A pair of White-backed duck is regularly seen in the canal on the eastern side of Park Island about 100 meters north of the bridge at the entrance to the Island.

At present their status in South Africa is regarded as secure.

Benefits of the IBA Programme.

The conservation of IBAs can make a major contribution to wider landscape or habitat protection.

As islands of rich ecological complexity in a landscape which is increasingly simplified and vulnerable to man-made perturbations, remaining semi-natural habitats at key sites such as lakes, rivers, forests, reefs, mires and grasslands can make an inordinate contribution to mediating the natural cycles of water, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and other substances through the environment, filtering, buffering, purifying, storing and replenishing the substances that make life possible. A healthy environment is good for both birds and people.

In terms of market economics, because IBAs are recognized world-wide, they attract interest from birdwatchers, conservationists and planners. They become travel destinations and targets for eco-tourism projects and scientific study.

Governments and donor agencies recognise the value of IBAs, so these sites attract financial incentives or direct funding for sympathetic development and management.

So lets hope that this significant count and the recognition afforded the Zandvlei Nature Reserve by BirdLife South Africa may galvanise the senior officials in the City of Cape Town to apply more resources to this very valuable asset in our City. It is after all the only functioning estuary on the Cape Peninsula and is also one of the most significant Regional Recreation areas in the City.

PK



The characteristic white mark at the base of its bill and the diagnostic white back of the White-backed Duck. It flaps on the surface of the water to get sufficient speed to take off. Picture by Greg Morgan

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ZIMBABWE.

Contrary to our expectations, on our recent extended travel through a number of Southern African countries, we found that environmental education and conservation is doing pretty well in Zimbabwe, despite the government situation there – certainly not because of it.

One place we visited, a wild dog research and rehabilitation centre on the main tarred road not far from the entrance to Main Camp at Hwange called Painted Dog (wild dog) Conservation, took us by surprise.

Not only do they have an excellent visitors centre opened in 2007 that recognises tourism as a component that improves lives of both wild and human communities. This facility raises awareness of the plight of wild dogs and also promotes Hwange National Park as one of their last remaining refuges. The Painted Dog Interpretative Hall teaches tourists and locals about the natural history of the dogs and the Hwange ecosystem to which they belong. An impressive series of seven large paintings illustrate the story of one particular dog's (Eyespot) life and the obstacles he encounters.

Venturing from the Hall to the Interpretive Walkway and trail system, visitors wander through two enormous enclosures that house wild dogs from the adjacent Rehabilitation Facility. Exploring the teak woodlands and studying the extensive series of interpretative trail signs give visitors field-study experiences with wild dogs and the ecosystem they need to survive. The Interpretive Hall is also a place for locals to understand the worldwide attraction to wild dogs. They comment that they feel pride they had never known.

This building has been cleverly designed for the hot summers and cold winters of Zimbabwe. The large public door faces the prevailing wind and when a matching opposite door is left open, a cool breeze is created that obviates any need for air conditioning. Closing that same door in winter brings warmth to the space.

The Painted Dog Conservation centre is the brain child of Greg Rasmussen who has lived most of his life in Zimbabwe, having gone to school close to the centre. He invited us to his Bush Camp education centre, and this is

what most impressed us. One astonishing fact is that all the rondavels where the learners sleep are made from snare wire from traps that have been recovered in the surrounding bush!

Opened in 2004, every year a thousand children come through the Camp. They stay a week – and for the first time, they see the dogs and wildlife that live just miles from their villages. It's the highlight of their lives.

Called Iganyana Bush Camp, the local Sindebele language name for wild dogs, the objective is to teach local children conservation concepts, an understanding of ecological relationships, the value of biodiversity, an appreciation of wild dogs and the role they play in ecosystems, and to inspire an emotional attachment to the beauty and complexity of nature.

The Bush Camp program is free of charge for all grade six students from the 19 primary schools in its immediate area. While at the Camp, children have a series of experiential learning activities in small groups, led by specially trained local guides. They learn about species, adaptations and ecological relationships in the teak woodlands, through hands on activities. They meet and learn about wild dogs and their plight at the adjacent Painted Dog Rehabilitation Facility. They visit, usually for the first time in their lives, Hwange National Park on a game drive, during which the role each species of wildlife plays in its natural community is emphasized.

Since the program began, nearly 4,000 children's lives have been touched, and parents are saying that their children are teaching them about what they learned at the Bush Camp, saying, "We are realizing the importance of conserving."

Greg Rasmussen says : "whereas before, locals have been expected to protect something that they had no direct experience with, no emotional attachment to and received no direct benefit from, it is education that will represent a new generation of villagers over time. "

Having seen the local wildlife, experienced the excitement and beauty of the wild African Savannah and gained an experiential understanding of its complex ecology, bush

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ZIMBABWE cont.

camp graduates have more of an emotional investment in caring for it.

The greatest threat to wild dog's survival in Zimbabwe is poaching activity by people from the communities that border the dog populations. Intervention, rehabilitation and anti-poaching patrols are crucial when every individual's life is precious. But education and sustainable development in local communities are the long-term solutions to the problem.

Desperation associated with poverty and unemployment leads local people to abuse their natural resources, even if they know better, in order to merely survive. Since the tourism crash that began in 2000, unemployment in local communities has soared to over 90%. Before this time, when Hwange National Park was a world-class safari destination, the tourist industry was the greatest employer of local people.

This Centre provides employment opportunities and promotes environmentally sustainable income generating projects. These improvements go hand-in-hand with education. And with instructional programs teaching that the flawed use of resources will adversely affect the future of everyone, students learn that healthy wildlife

populations impact not only the economy, but also their emotional experience of the wild.

The Education Outreach Officer visits all the schools that attend the Bush Camp, to conduct classroom based and hands on conservation education lessons with a focus on sustainability and the significance of biodiversity and which includes :-

- Teaching children about wildlife in general and the long-term negative effects of poaching
- Reinforce the concepts learnt at the Bush Camp.
- Establishment of Nature Corners: To develop love for nature among school children Nature Corners are being supported in schools.
- Conservation Clubs: Conservation clubs have been used as another method of imparting knowledge about conserving natural resources to school children.
- Demonstration Nurseries: Tree growing demonstration nurseries have been started in some communities and schools.
- Gardening skills: to practice biological farming in both schools and community gardens are taught to garden masters and community gardeners.



The entrance to the centre.

HOLEY MOLEY!

Song sung blue. Every garden grows one.

Neil Diamond may not have been thinking about moles when he wrote and sang these words in 1972 but they surely are appropriate for anyone whose lawn is transformed from pristine to pesky.

The main culprits in our area are Cape Golden Moles (*Chrysochloris asiatica*) which are particularly active in winter – why dig in summer’s hard earth if you can do it in winter-softened-sogginess? Moles may be a blind nuisance but they’re not totally stupid!

The Golden variety are often confused with moles, which are vegetarian, with incisors at the front of the jaw, while golden ones have small sharp teeth because of a diet mostly of insects and worms.

The surface ‘runs’ are created with a leathery snout pad backed up by forepaws containing three claws of differing lengths to aid digging.

‘Mountains’ are formed when moles excavate a new burrow or where existing ones are damaged. Molehills are also used as a source of very fine soil by permaculturists, who value its fineness.

Moles also play an important part in aerating and tilling soil and improving its quality, although fastidious gardeners and golf course managers may not quite see it that way!

If you cannot stand seeing the criss-cross patterns on your lawn or flowerbeds, there are various commercial

means of killing moles. But if you care about animals, try pouring diluted creosote down the holes. This will not harm the moles but the smell will likely cause them to either invade your neighbour’s garden or move further away.

Muriel Darke



The Cape Golden Mole

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ARBOUR DAY

Hi Everyone

We had a lovely planting session with some new faces on Wednesday for Arbour Day. We planted on the dunes next to the Sunrise Circle Parking lot off Baden Powell Drive. We managed to put the following into the ground:

20 X *Watsonia meriana*

60 X *Gladiolus angustus* seedlings

20 X *Phyllica ericoides*

20 X *Psoralea repens*

20 X *Rushia macowanii*

10 X *Otholobium bracteolatum*

1 X *Struthiola dodecandra*

1 X *Cliffortia orbicorda*

Total: 152! And just before the rain set in, our timing was brilliant!

Many thanks to the new residents who came to help: Willem, Amanda, Michaela and Kevin – it was great to meet you and spend the morning planting with you! Thanks to Gavin and David from ZVT and to the Zandvlei and Muizenberg East staff too – Mark, Isgaak, Margit, Taariq and our volunteer Liam!

The Zandvlei Trust is in need of an IT volunteer amongst our members who could help us into Facebook, onto Google and the like so that we can have a broader foundation for the world to land on when surfing, flying and visiting Zandvlei, Muizenberg and Cape Town.

Please contact the Chairman or any other committee member if you can help

We were also able to move quite a large area of brush from previous Rooikranz removal into 3 large brush piles that will be burnt next season (burning permit permitting).

Have a great weekend and we'll keep you updated when the next planting session will take place, we still want to put some plants into the proposed new Boyes Drive section of the Zandvlei Nature Reserve, so watch this space!

Kind Regards

Cassandra Quinton Sheasby
rea Manager: Deep South
Biodiversity Management Branch
City of Cape Town
Ph/fax: 021 701 7542



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PERMACULTURE: WHAT IS IT?

The term permaculture combines permanent and culture, or permanent and agriculture.

The philosophy behind permaculture was developed about thirty years ago in Australia by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren.

During his many years as a wildlife biologist Bill Mollison had witnessed first hand the destruction that humans are causing in natural systems, but he also had a chance to observe how these natural ecosystems work and what keeps them in balance.

"Permaculture uses the inherent qualities of plants and animals combined with the natural characteristics of landscapes and structures to produce a life-supporting system for city and country, using the smallest practical area."

What Bill Mollison describes in his books is a totally integrated design system that's modelled on nature. If you design your garden or farm like a natural system you can save yourself a lot of work, save energy, and eliminate waste.

Think about it, nobody digs and sows, plants and weeds, or sprays bugs in a forest. Still, all those chores are taken care of somehow. The forest grows and feeds its inhabitants, doesn't it?

If any task in your garden is an unpleasant chore then there is definitely a better way to do it or to eliminate

it. Learn from nature. Nature has already developed a solution to every problem that you could possibly encounter in your garden.

From the internet - permaculture - what is it?

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Seasonal notes

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