

# THE QUARTERLY BUZZ



CHANGING LIVES  
THROUGH NATURE

CTEET Newsletter Vol. 7

Jan - Mar 2017

## Big Cape Town Cleanup



CLP learners and mentors at the Cleanup

The Two Oceans Aquarium partnered with 5fm for the Big Cape Town Cleanup on the 18th of February. Teams of volunteers joined forces at Lion's Head, Mouille Point, Liesbeek River, Milnerton Lagoon and Joe Slovo to collect rubbish from waterways and beaches.

Our Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) learners got stuck in and joined efforts along the Liesbeek River. These young environmentalists did us proud - contributing to the 1640 kg of rubbish that was collected on the day! It is wonderful to see these dedicated and passionate school children put so much effort into an event such as this, showing the results of mentorship and encouragement coming out of this leadership initiative.



Cleaning up!

## High 5's

On the 21st of January we hosted a Graduation for the learners involved in our NQF level 5 Environmental Management learnership at the Atlantic Beach Golf Club. Of the 12 learners who started the course, 11 successfully completed the very tough year of training. These learners came from different backgrounds and levels of education, and we are very proud of them all!

The graduation ceremony was attended by the graduates and their families, Linden Rhoda from NCC Environmental Services, Stephen Granger from the City of Cape Town and CTEET and City reserve managers and staff members.

Stephen Granger concluded the morning with a special message for the graduates: "Well done for persevering and getting to the end and congratulations for choosing to be in the field of nature conservation."



The graduates, their families and managers.

## EE Stats this Quarter

Day Programmes: 11

Overnight Camps: 16

Number of Children Involved: 1228

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## Interns Blitz Bokbaai

As part of the Intern Development Programme, 22 CTEET interns spent four days at the Bokbaai Seaside Camp in order to perform a bioblitz. This was an invaluable opportunity for the interns to practice field-related skills such as vegetation surveys, mammal counts and designing an environmental management plan. In addition to providing excellent field experience for the interns, the data collected will help build the ever growing species lists for the site.

One of the most popular activities was the Oystercatcher survey - a total of 52 adult birds were counted along the 6 km stretch of coastline checked. The teams counted adult birds, juveniles and any nests they saw. Even a little bit of rain didn't scare the teams off their task, resulting in a great count!



*Interns hard at work during the bioblitz*

## Fire Season

January started with an eruption of bush fires across Cape Town. The learners and interns involved in our Training and Development Programmes are based on City Nature Reserves all across Cape Town and fire control forms an important part of their duties. Many members of our staff spent days on the fire-line on both Helderberg and Redhill fires.

This part of the job, although exciting is dirty, dangerous and hot work which often requires long hours.

Well done to everyone who was involved and thanks for doing such a great job!



*On the fire-line!*

## Reaching New Heights

The Village Eco-Buddies consist of 30 learners from the Village Heights informal settlement in Lavender Hill. Zulfa Booth is working with the Village Heights Community Centre and organising a variety of Environmental Awareness programmes. The group enjoyed an exciting trip to Intaka Island where a number of them experienced their first ever trip on a boat!

Tammy-Lee Apollis, a CTEET intern, recently presented a session on the importance of the Eco-Buddies programme and its relevance to Capetonians caring for the natural environment.



*First time on a boat at Intaka Island!*

## Next-level Learnerships

Our NQF level 4 Environmental Practices learnership is coming to an end with the learners finishing off their final course modules. It is encouraging that all the learners are doing well, and even more exciting that 10 of the 13 participants have already found jobs! All of these learners who have found jobs will be completing their learnerships and therefore gain their qualifications. This will really set them up for a successful career in Nature Conservation.

Well done to the following learners on their new positions:

- Melvin Booysen & Rando Arendse:  
Rangers with Quemic Nature Conservation Services.
- Phinando Ingo & Nolungisa Nkwali:  
Two-year learnerships with WESSA NQF level 5 Blue Flag Programme.
- Ntombiziphi Rafu & Stefan Dreyer:  
Field Rangers with City of Cape Town.
- Kidwell Juqu: Penguin Monitor, Burghers Walk Penguin Project
- Anwar Boonzaaier: Environmental Educator, CTEET
- Thurlo Marco & Ricardo Downes:  
Eland Monitors, the Gantouw Project



*Left: Melvin in his new Quemic Uniform  
Right: Stefan at work as a Field Ranger!*

## New Conservation Leaders

This year a new group of learners will be joining the CTEET family as part of the third Conservation Leadership intake. A selection camp was held in March, involving 64 learners from 10 local schools. From these children the most dedicated and interested learners will continue on to make up the 2017 CLP group. Over the next seven years of their school career they will then be involved in hikes, camps, visits to nature reserves and mentored. We hope to grow their love and passion for nature through this process and expose them to different aspects of nature conservation. There is also an opportunity for the older members of the programme to work with and mentor these new learners, sharing their experiences and knowledge.

Everyone involved in the March camp had a fantastic time, and the learners made the most of the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends from various backgrounds. The teachers were very impressed with how quickly the learners got along and how they worked well in groups even through they were from different schools.



*New CLP's beating the obstacle course!*

## How did the toad cross the road?

We are very excited to welcome Corey Thorp to the team to head up the Western Leopard Toad Underpass project, thanks to a partnership with Leisure Charitable Trust.

During the Western leopard toad breeding season many toads are being killed on the roads by passing vehicles and these road deaths are currently the biggest threat to the population. This project is focused on creating an alternative route for these toads to cross in order to keep them safe from harm. The aim of this project is to design and construct an underpass (underground tunnel) on Peninsula Road for the toads to pass through.



*Corey with a Western Leopard Toad*

## Eco-Schools Excellence

The Western Cape WESSA Eco-Schools Awards were held in February. We currently support over 50 schools involved in this programme, covering two Cape Town Nodes which were represented at two Awards Ceremonies. Freya Brett, the co-ordinator for the Helderberg Cluster held a small ceremony for the schools in her node where 18 schools received awards.

The Southern Node schools attended the Awards at Rustenburg Girls' High School. 27 of our schools were recognized for their environmentally sustainable practices. Two CTEET schools received their 'International Flag Award' - a huge achievement as this award is given after being involved with the Eco-Schools programme for 5 years!



*Springdale Primary with their International Flag Award*

It was a great day and a learning experience for our Eco-Schools team as Rustenburg Girls' High School is a zero-waste-to-landfill school. A tour of the school grounds, gardens and eco-initiatives provided numerous ideas and lots of inspiration!

*"I enjoyed the part where we put our feet in the water and they got dirty and muddy!"*

*- Khazmia, Observatory Junior Day Programme*

Through research and trial experiments, Corey plans to identify the most efficient, cost effective and logistically plausible underpass design that would be simple to implement and construct. He will host a workshop with researchers and key role players who can refine and provide insight into the underpass design. Finally he plans to survey and analyze the effectiveness of the underpass in order to determine the extent to which it is used and reduces deaths.

This will hopefully reduce road mortality and lead to many more underpasses being constructed in order to preserve and protect this species.

Welcome Corey, we look forward to the results of your research!

## Shining at the Sun Met

The Kenilworth Racecourse Conservation Area team was granted the opportunity to showcase their biodiversity during Cape Town's most prestigious horse racing event - the Sun Met (previously J&B Met). Their biodiversity exhibition on race day drew the attention of close to 300 people who were attending this event. Most visitors were stunned to learn about the existence of a conservation area within the race track. Environmental awareness on KRCA's flagship species, as well the conservation of the critically endangered Cape Flats Sand Fynbos was the main theme of the day.



The KRCA team showing off at the Sun Met.

To top things off for the visitors, the KRCA team showed off a live snake in order to educate and help alleviate the fear of wildlife for those who have never touched a wild animal before. The KRCA team and the City of Cape Town volunteers who helped on the day take pride in the number of people who were reached through their exhibition. What was outstanding was the number of people who returned for a second time to say "thank you for informing us and keep on doing the good work you do."



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## Milnerton Moves

We were very sad to say goodbye to Landi Louw, the Site Manager of the Milnerton Racecourse Section of the Table Bay Nature Reserve. Landi is going on to lecture at the Centurion Academy in Belville. She will be sorely missed for being a great friend and colleague to many CTEET and City members of staff. She has a work ethic

and dedication to admire and has been an inspiring mentor to the many students and interns placed under her care. Good luck for your new position and thank you for the past 3 years!

We welcome Kyran Wright who has been appointed the new Site Manager. Landi has left very big shoes to fill but we are confident that Kyran will successfully take on the challenge!



Landi in the field

## Wynberg Hill Restoration Project

There are three recorded extinctions of proteas where plants have not been seen in the past 50 years. We are partnering with the City of Cape Town and a private landowner to try and recover one of these lost proteas. A 2.6acre portion of private land has been under pine trees for the past 70 years, and having been cleared, will be burned with the hopes of stimulating the seeds of the extinct Wynberg cone bush (*Leucodendron grandiflorum*) that may potentially lie buried within the soil.



The Wynberg conebush

The plants were last seen in the early 1800s and little is known of them. Records indicate that seeds were collected by James Niven around 1800, but details of the seeds and their dormancy are unknown and the whereabouts of the seeds remains a mystery. According to the Protea Atlas, *L. grandiflorum* was described in 1806 from only one male plant growing in George Hibbert's garden in England. No herbarium specimen has been located and the description and the drawing are the only existing evidence that this species once lived!

The area was cleared of pines in late 2016 and the site is in the process of being prepared for the planned ecological burn in April or May 2017. Once the natural vegetation returns after the burn, regular flora surveys will be carried out in the hopes of rediscovering this remarkable species.