

whatsUp!

Waterberg News, Happenings and Events May 2019

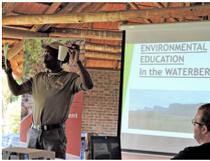


The art exhibition hosted by the Black Mamba raised ZAR40000 for the EWT Wild Dog Fund. Artists who contributed their work included **Liz Hunter, Lyn Wadley, Melanie Dijkstra, Michelle van de Wiel, Ali van Jaarsveld** and **Robin Taylor**. The exhibition over the long weekend proved a great attraction with support from both residents and visitors. The funds raised are really timeous as one of the radio collars gave up the ghost and had to be replaced at a cost of more than ZAR30000!



Conservation Education

Moji Kitsi of the Welgevonden Education Programme gave an inspiring talk to members at the last WNC general meeting. As part of the programme Moji has set up a birding club in Leseding and is in need of bird books and binoculars for the club. He is also looking for farms to host these groups. This is a great initiative and deserves our support, anyone who has any materials contact Moji on 0730317547 or mojikitsi@rocketmail.com



PS Late news, Clive Walker has already had 5prs of binoculars donated for the project as well as some bird books!

Recycling 1000kg of glass saves 315kg of carbon dioxide - so recycle!

Taking Care Of Our Old Waterberg Trees.

The marvelous indigenous trees that populate our landscape look healthy, but they have been working at it for a very long time, slow growth being one of the consequences of the Waterberg's poor sourveld soil.

In 2010 contractors rebuilding the Modimolle/Vaalwater road cut down one trunk of a huge fig tree (*Ficus burkeii*) at the half way point between the towns, a shady tree under which many travellers had rested, picniced and even outspaned.

Warwick Tarboton photographed the severed trunk then enlarged it on his computer to be able to count the rings, which showed that the tree was at least 482 years old and that the surviving part is now 491.

Developers should surely be urged to think twice before destroying this valuable heritage.

Richard Wadley



'When I was a child my mother said to me, 'If you become a soldier, you'll be a general. If you become a monk, you'll be the pope'. Instead I became a painter and wound up as Picasso.'

Pablo Picasso

Poaching - An Escalating, Never Ending Battle.

Nearly 13 tonnes of pangolin scales worth more than US\$52 million were seized by Singapore Customs in an operation mounted by them in cooperation with the National Parks Board. The shipment bound for Vietnam originated from Nigeria but it is thought the pangolin scales were from various African countries and the product of possibly as many as 17,000 animals!

Straights Times,

Africa's Wonder Plant.

Endemic to Sub Saharan Africa, Spekboom, is our own indigenous wonder plant. Edible, high in Vitamin C and loved by kudu, elephants and black rhino, this medium-sized shrub is resilient and an important 'weapon' in the fight against climate change. It can sequester more than 4 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year per hectare planted, making it more effective than the Amazon rainforest at sucking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Spekboom is especially good at photosynthesis (making plant food from sunlight), which produces a byproduct we desperately need: oxygen.



The Spekboom Foundation

Crèche Training

The WNC sponsored Crèche Training which takes place at the Waterberg Academy each month is now in its second year. This means that together we are profoundly impacting the lives of hundreds of littlies in our area. Recently, the WNC executive decided to donate to each of the faithful attendees at the training, educational materials they can use to "up their game." The handover took place at the Academy and seven local crèches benefitted.



Waterberg Tourism

The Waterberg is without doubt a hidden gem, that's the problem, it needs to be 'unhidden' and exposed to take its place as one of SA's best tourist destinations. Spectacular scenery, abundant vegetation, fabulous wildlife, great accomodation from 5 star game lodges to affordable b&bs. Activities from photographic and hunting safaris, ziplining, hiking and biking trails, bird watching more than 400 species, to cultural tours and the new Living Museum, all here in the Waterberg on good major roads just 2 hours from Gauteng.

Waterberg Tourism, on the cusp of being launched by **Ken Maud** and his team, with a new office opening soon in the Waterberg's iconic Zeederberg Centre - a magnet for all visitors to the area, is about to change all that and put the Waterberg firmly on the tourist map.

<info@waterbergtourism.com>

WNC General Meeting April 11

The meeting opened with **Moji Kitsi** whose talk is covered earlier in this whatsUp! He was followed by Waterberg Academy head **Mark Godfrey**, in his new and unexpected role of reptile expert, bringing us up to date with the very latest in snakebite survival and the idea of having much needed local anti-venom banks. For more info on this contact Mark on <head@waterbergacademy.co.za> A fascinating and informative presentation. Then for something completely different, another change of role, this time for Welgevonden CEO **Shaun McCartney** (disclaims any relationship to Paul) who donned his craft brewer's hat with a presentation of the art of brewing and most importantly, a beer tasting.



The beers went down well leading us to look forward to our 'own' craft beer being available shortly. The inside word is that Shaun has been assisting our local master brewer Clive Walker with tasting and other important aspects of the art.

The beer tasting morphed into a very convivial post meeting braai with conversation and discussion flowing as smoothly as the beer.



The WNC welcomes new members

Bianca Vogt
James Harrison
Sandra Nortje
Marie Buys
Essme Pont
Prime Crew - Lusanne Kratz

Things To Know, Places To Stay.



Next General Meeting Thursday 20th June NG Kerk 2pm

Secretary: Sue Walker <suew@africanfilmworks.com>

Editor: Robin Taylor <robt@africanfilmworks.com>

Website <www.waterbergnatureconservancy.org.za>

Facebook <Waterberg Nature Conservancy>

website under construction

Closing with good news - well done SAPS and WSI

News 24 and Business Insider have reported that the Dorset Police area is one of the four safest places in South Africa due to **SAPS**, **WSI** and the **Community** working together. The police also reported that the WSI monitoring cameras are definitely acting as a deterrent to criminals.

