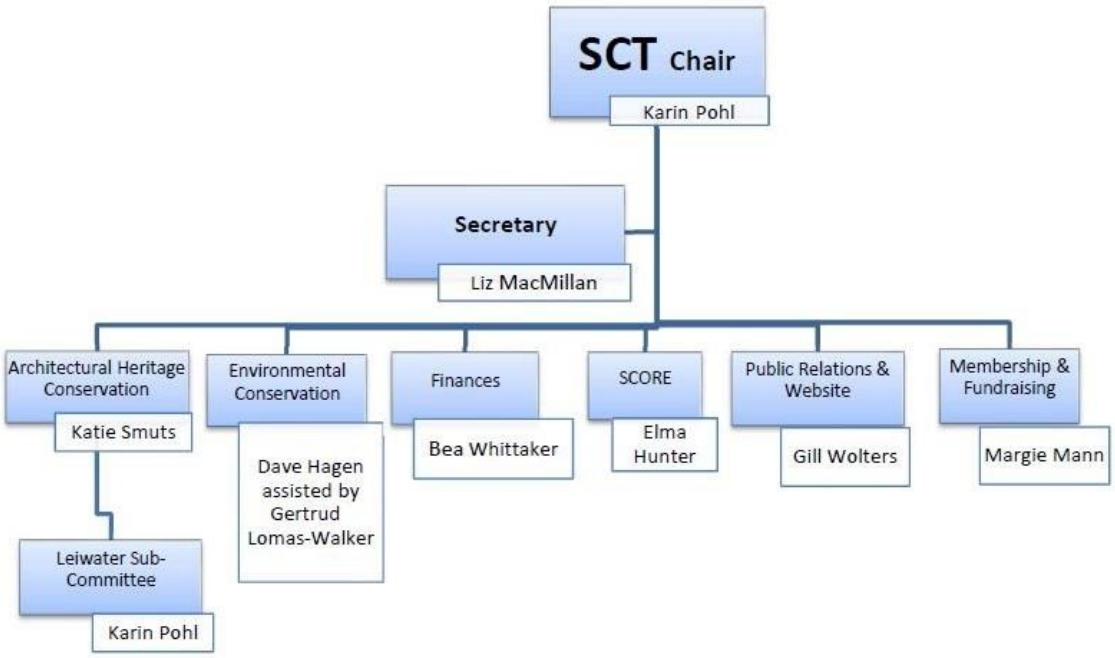
JUNE 2019

STANFORD CONSERVATION

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2019



COMMITTEE NEWS

- The Committee is in the process of revising the Stanford Conservation Constitution. Notice will go out in the near future informing members of proposed amendments, where after a Special General Meeting will be called to discuss and adopt these changes. This will happen as soon as the Committee has finalised the amendments.
- **Back by popular demand!** Our exciting monthly "Evening talks" will be coming back. We're planning them for the second Thursday of the month, with a host of fascinating topics. More info to follow soon.

STANFORD ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FEEDBACK

In the past, Stanford Conservation's **Wandelpad Team** has focused largely only on the Wandelpad itself – maintenance and repair, clearing, cleaning, replanting, stocking and cleaning of dog poo bins, and more. Its remit has now been expanded to address environmental conservation for the greater Stanford. To this end, we are fostering strong relationships with both the Overstrand Environmental Management team and Whale Coast Conservation.

A key aspect of this partnership will be to realise the vision for Stanford's water source, the Eye (Die Oog), and the Mill Stream. This project involves clearing of invasive alien plants, rehabilitating the stream, and building stronger connections and safe, shared spaces with our Stanford South community. Members will be kept apprised of progress.

KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR 2019

- Large scale reed cutting and re-growth prevention
- Estuary water quality and flow rates – long term strategy is being planned
- Alien removal with improved community education and awareness campaigns

CLEARING OUR RIVERBANK OF INVASIVE ALIEN 'WOOLLY PLECTRANTHUS'



The Environment team recently tackled the Category 1b 'Woolly **Plectranthus' (*Plectranthus* barbatus)** that had infested the Wandelpad along the old cemetery.

These plants look similar to the indigenous Plectranthus or spurflower. These large, almost succulent, hairy shrubs are thought to originate from India. The Woolly Plectranthus has noticeably hairy, greyish leaves, and spikes of purple flowers. Environmental legislation categorises these aliens as illegal to have on your property, but sadly, many properties around Stanford still have them growing in the garden. They are **extremely difficult to eradicate and if left unchecked, will overpower all natural vegetation and invade the riverbanks**. The Woolly Plectranthus can be easily treated or pulled out by hand, but if you leave even one broken-off piece of the plant, it will regrow, so special care must be taken to dispose of it.

These aliens not only damage our fragile ecosystem but devalue our village as a natural bird haven and river sanctuary, so please check to see if they are perhaps in your garden, and replace them with a non-invasive Plectranthus.

OTHER GARDEN ENEMIES

Other invasive species also found in many of our gardens as well as on pavements and ledges in and around Stanford include the perennial red Valerien or devil's beard (*Centranthus ruber*, below left) which is also a category 1b invasive alien plant. The law tells us that this plant, as pretty as it may be, **must be controlled and where possible, removed and destroyed. Any form of trade or planting is strictly prohibited. It is particularly dangerous when growing near water as that helps to spread the seeds.**





*Catheranthus roseus (*above right) commonly known as Madagascar periwinkle or Begrafplaas blommetjie (graveyard flower, previously *Vinca rosa)*, was introduced to South Africa as a garden ornamental. It is an erect perennial herb growing to a height of 1 metre and has either pink or white flowers with a deep pink centre. The flowers have 5 petals which fuse together and form a tube at the base. The oval shaped leaves are bright green and glossy with a prominent central mid rib. **All parts of the plant are poisonous. It is also poisonous to dogs.**

The plants are categorized 1b under NEMBA and must be removed and destroyed. They have a weak root system and are easily removed by hand pulling.

REMOVAL OF OLD ABLUTION BLOCK





Before and after!

The old ablution block was recently removed after many complaints were received due it being unsafe because of an open septic tank and generally being used for unsavoury behaviour and drug abuse. Thanks also go to the group of residents who contributed financially to this endeavor.

SCORE

Under the auspices of the Stanford Conservation Trust (SCT), the Stanford Community Recycling project (SCORE) – also known as the Stanford "swop shop" – seeks to promote recycling and consequently reduce solid waste by giving Stanford's disadvantaged and economically challenged residents the opportunity to exchange recyclable plastic, glass, tins and some paper for tokens which can be used to 'purchase' items from the Swop Shop.

The items consist of school stationery, reading books, toys, second-hand clothing, household linen and goods, shoes, toiletry items including sanitary pads (both disposable and washable, re- usable). One of the aims is to instill an ethic of having to 'work' to be able to 'buy' what you need – no free handouts.

The introduction of sanitary pads is an additional aim to enable the disadvantaged female youth to regularly attend school and receive the education they are entitled to.

As usual, thanks go to the villagers who constantly donate items and to those who put in hard work to manage and run the shop.

Read more about the SCORE organization on our website!



Queuing patiently for shop to open



Starting young

WESTERN LEOPARD TOAD - BREEDING SEASON STARTS IN JULY



Stanford is incredibly fortunate in that the **Western Leopard Toad** is found in our area. These toads are most active from late July to September but especially during August, when large numbers of adults congregate in water bodies to breed. The development of the eggs into tadpoles and then into baby toads takes more than 10 weeks. The tiny 11 mm long toadlets leave the water in October-December in their thousands. However, very few of them unfortunately reach adulthood and most fall victim to predators and other threats, including being run over by cars. Like all toads, Western Leopard Toads devour many insects and are useful pest controllers.

The distribution and conservation status of the Western Leopard Toad is monitored by CapeNature. This species is **protected by the Nature Conservation Ordinance of the Western Cape Province**. For example, it is illegal to collect and translocate this species. Please help us to protect our lovely frogs – more information will be posted on our Facebook page closer to breeding season.

Information taken from https://www.capenature.co.za/fauna-and-flora/western-leopard-toad/

CAN STANFORD BECOME A TRANSITION TOWN?

There is growing interest in Stanford joining the global network of Transition Towns, which are community-driven local initiatives in response to climate change, electricity grid failure, inequality and other social disruptions. Transition is a movement of communities coming together to reimagine and rebuild our world. As a historic market village, Stanford should be well placed to benefit from this initiative. If anyone is interested in more information or to discuss this further, please contact Gertrud.

For more information please contact Gertrud glomaswalker@gmail.com

'THINK AND DRINK'

'Think & Drink' aka Quiz Night continues to be a well-supported social event in Stanford and one of Stanford Conservation's primary fundraisers.

This fun Quiz evening always takes place on the last Thursday of the month, starting around 18h30 for 19h00. A meal and small donation to Stanford Conservation is included in the evening's fee. Stanfordians are encouraged to make up teams of 6-9 (or just tell us if you're keen and we'll add you to a table). From August, the restaurant venue will regularly change.

For more information about "Think & Drink" or to book your spot, please email Margie on membersscT@gmail.com.





MEMBERSHIP

We encourage Stanfordians to join Stanford Conservation. Membership fees are only R200 per year, per individual or family. The Trust is a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) run entirely by unpaid volunteers. We raise funds through outside grants, donations and membership fees, as well as specific fundraisers like 'Think & Drink'. These funds are used to support the various SCT environmental, architectural and social initiatives.

For more information, please visit our website on www.stanfordconservationtrust.org.za