STANFORD CONSERVATION

Newsletter, January 2024

WELCOME TO 2024

2023 was a hectic year for Stanford. Some of our beloved residents sadly passed away, the ABSA Cape Epic came through our village and gave us world-wide exposure, we experienced the worst flood in 75 years, and received huge national exposure all thanks to Checkers who decided to use Stanford as the venue for its Christmas 'Xtra Joy' marketing campaign.

But if there is anything that stood above all our trials and tribulations, it is the fact that Stanford has the most amazing residents who make this village such a fantastic place to live in. We are blessed to have so many volunteers willing to share their time, knowledge, and expertise towards the greater good of Stanford. There are also many new residents who are not aware of what Stanford Conservation actually does, which is why we want to share our projects with everyone.

LET US TELL YOU WHAT WE DO…

Stanford Conservation is a registered NPO with two overarching aims:

- Conserving the rural, historical and "*village*" character of the town of Stanford.
- Conserving, maintaining, and improving Stanford's public open spaces and promoting the greening of the town.

PROTECTION OF STANFORD'S HERITAGE

Heritage Committee

Reviews all **building plans** (new and alterations) in the proclaimed heritage area and forwards these on to Heritage Western Cape (HWC).

Is the custodian of the Overstrand Municipality's approved **Heritage Protected Overlay Zone** regulations, as well as the **Stanford Style guideline booklet** (online and few hard copies) and **Historical Stanford on Foot** (https://www.stanfordconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Stanford-style-2020.pdf).

Planning Group

Responsible for planning documents such as the **Stanford Revitalisation Plan** and the **Mill Stream Village Park and Greenway** master plan. Both these are adopted in the municipality's IDP.

At present busy with **signage guidelines** for the village, as well as a **master plan for future developments** within the Stanford municipal area.

St Thomas Restoration Steering Committee

Compiled a prospectus for the **Restoration of the St Thomas Church Complex** – the only buildings in Stanford graded as being of provincial significance (along with the Village Green). This R2.2 million project includes the rethatching of both buildings, the upgrade of the interior of the Oulap School/Hall, new toilet facilities, a wall of remembrance and landscape design.

CONSERVING AND IMPROVING STANFORD'S GREEN SPACES

Wandelpad

Apart from the river, the 7,4 km Stanford Wandelpad is Stanford's **main natural tourism attraction** and is utilised by birding clubs, Cape Epic, Hermanus Camino – and, of course, all residents and visitors and their furry companions, too.
In addition, Wandelpad volunteers also look after the **R43 circle**, **remove invasive** trees and shrubs – and have recently started cutting the **reeds** along the river from King to Sannie Badenhorst Streets.

Forgotten Ones

Over the years, the two **historical cemeteries** in Moore Street have been terribly neglected and overgrown (the oldest grave dates back to 1835). Last year, a new volunteer's group was formed to improve and bring dignity to the resting place of the 'forgotten ones'.
They are also taking care of the **Aeroplane play park** c/o Queen Victoria and Moore Streets.

Swop Shop

Twice a month, residents of Stanford South collect and bring **recyclable goods** to the Swop Shop. This gets weighed, and they receive tokens to **'purchase goods'** in the Swop Shop (school stationery, toiletries, household goods, clothes, and – very popular - pet food).
To raise funds for toiletries, people can 'buy', there is a **Junktique stall** at the Saturday Village Square market.
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Although all SCA's activities either take place on municipal land (environmental) or are in support municipal structures (heritage and planning), the Association receives no financial contribution from Overstrand Municipality. All working members are volunteers who offer their time, expertise, petrol, etc., free of charge. The SCA gets its funding mainly by means of membership fees, donations from individuals, the Garden Club, Art on a String, Rotary (specifically for the Swop Shop), etc; as well as from events such as the monthly 'Think & Drink' quiz evening.

What can YOU do to help us keep Stanford beautiful?

BECOME A MEMBER: It only costs R200/year (banking details to be found on the last page).

ARRANGE A FUNDRAISER: All our volunteers are so busy dedicating their spare time to being physically involved in our projects, that anyone willing to follow through with fundraising events will be welcomed with open arms. Please note, however, that we don't need ideas; we need people to arrange events!



DONATE TOWARDS THE SWOP SHOP: Good quality pre-loved household goods, linen, clothes, as well as pet food (trolley at the Agri).

PLEASE NOTE: *All donations must have a reference indicating what you are giving money for, e.g., Swop Shop, Wandelpad, cemeteries, school bags, a membership, etc. If possible, kindly send proof of payment to stanfordconservation1992@gmail.com, or via WhatsApp to 0832935512.*

2023 in Pictures

SWOP SHOP



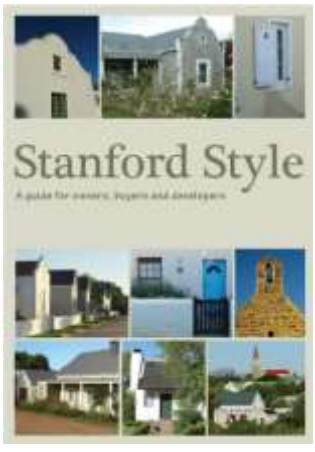


Twice a month on a Monday, bags full of recyclable materials are brought by Stanford South residents to the Swop Shop container situated at 'Die Stoor' (the community hall) in Bezuidenhout Street. Bags are carried, dragged, carted by wheelbarrow, or brought by bakkie from early morning… all to be weighed in return for tokens to buy goods at the Swop Shop.

During the year, tokens are mainly exchanged for household goods, clothes, and toiletries. In January, however, the Swop Shop provides stationery to learners in need. Swop Shop volunteers liaise with local schools at the end of the school year to determine the requirements for each grade. Purchasing stationery (exercise books, school bags, calculators, etc.) is often way beyond the financial means of parents, which is why Stanford Conservation assists towards providing a better education for Stanford's disadvantaged learners.

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE: Stationery: R40 000 * Toiletries: R20 000**

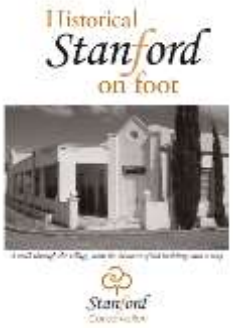
HERITAGE



Stanford Heritage Committee is a commentary panel made of volunteers who live or work in the village. Plans submitted to the Municipality are reviewed monthly by the committee after which comments (either supporting or unsupportive of the plans reviewed) are sent to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) for final determination. In 2020, the Heritage Protected Overlay Zone (HPOZ) was promulgated into law.

The regulations fit hand-in-glove with the Stanford Style Book (stanfordconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Stanford-style-2020.pdf) and provide property owners/developers with the guidelines to be followed prior to any work begins. Additionally, the Overstrand Heritage Committee (OHAC), reviews the plans and forwards its comments to HWC. HWC weighs the comments from SHC, OHAC and HWC heritage professionals when making its

determination of plans. *HWC approval of plans is required prior to a build certificate is issued by the Municipality.* HWC will not approve any plans that have not been reviewed by both SHC and OHAC. Attempts to circumvent the heritage approval process will be met with a stop-work-order issued by the HWC and enforced by the Municipality.



Anyone with questions about the HPOZ, Stanford Style Book or the heritage process are encouraged to email stanfordheritage@gmail.com and a representative of the SHC will gladly assist.

To find out more about our wonderful heritage village, consider purchasing the Historical Stanford on Foot brochure (R10) from the Stanford Tourism office.
A historical walk can also be booked through Strandveld Adventures (contact Stanford Tourism for further information).

WANDELPAD

It has been a busy year for our eight volunteers and for Ernest Chikomo, who assists the team once a week. The past three months, Patrick Kwezani has also been assisting every second week. Here are just some examples of work done throughout the year – bearing in mind that maintenance is an ongoing process. We also had to employ an additional helper, Simba, to get the Wandelpad in shape after the September flood. NOTE: All this work is done with SCA funds and equipment (which needs to be maintained), and no municipal contribution, with the exception of minor contributions such as gravel received for the OK garden and removing some cut branches and reeds.

R43 BRIDGE TO MEMORIAL FOREST

Removing invasive species such as Port Jackson and Patterson's Curse and 'derocking' the area after the flood.







MEMORIAL FOREST (before the flood)

General maintenance includes cutting the pathway (usually with SCAs weedeater) and looking after the trees and irrigation system.





MEMORIAL FOREST (after the flood)

"Undressing" trees and pulling 70 trees up straight, staking them and bringing in soil to cover the roots again; fix the irrigation; and concreting in benches that were uprooted and were swept away down the river.






RIVERSIDE WALK (Sannie Badenhorst Street to Quick Street)

General maintenance included demarcating and keeping pathway clean, removing invasive vegetation, pruning trees, etc. After the flood, major clean-up operations took place to remove flood rubble (reeds, branches, people's belongings and mud!), rebuilding bridges (see 'before' and 'after' below, re-demarcating pathways, as many poles had flooded down the river, and fix MUCH more.







SHORTMARKET STREET (King Street to Quick Street)

This section is low maintenance, and the grass is cut by the municipality. HOWEVER, in December we started cutting the reeds along the riverbank as is currently being done along Riverside Walk. Riparian owners are contributing towards the cost of reed cutting (R1 000/day typically) – and the municipality has assisted in taking away a huge pile of reeds.







47 STEPS

Maintain the aloe garden – remove kikuyu, add aloes – and after the flood: 'de-mudding' the walkway and steps.







BOAT PARKING AREA AND SLIPWAY



Commercial boat owners water the trees at the parking area, but the pruning, composting etc. is done by the SCA. The launching area is supposed to be maintained by KRAB, but fortunately the SCA managed to get the services of the municipal 'bossieslaner' to cut the reeds.



MILKWOOD GROVE

Maintenance in this beautiful fairy forest includes keeping the pathway tidy keeping a watchful eye on the invasive woolly Plectranthus. While the area took a serious hammering during the flood, it has since been reinstated to its former glory (except for the reed growth!).







VLEI STREET SERVITUDE TO DE BRUYN



This popular section of the Wandelpad remains a problem due to the excessive reed and grey poplar growth. The SCA is only prepared to maintain the pathways; the rest is the responsibility of the Overstrand Municipality and will be taken up with them during this year.

MOUNTAIN VIEW AREA



Cut and maintained pathways, and even paid for cutting the ex-rugby field (which belongs to Public Works). To save the many tortoises, a tortoise rescue mission took place before the tractor arrived. SCA also maintained Stanford's favourite swimming spot next to the nature reserve.







AEROPLANE PARK

Maintained and upgraded by the residents in the area, the SCA assisted with grass cutting (if not already done by Oz, waving in the photograph on the left), maintained the Spekboom hedge, etc.







MOORE STREET CEMETERIES

Overgrown, neglected and hardly maintained, the residents in the 'Heights' started the "Forgotten Ones" group just over a year ago. They have done an amazing job at cleaning up, finding overgrown graves and maintaining Stanford's historical cemeteries – the oldest grave dating back to 1835. The SCA assists with labour and cuts the grass once a month.







DE BRUYN AND BEZUIDENHOUT STREETS



Removed invasive vegetation (especially Spanish Broom) and cleared around trees to prevent the municipal workers from ringbarking the trees. Replanted two trees from the Ou Meul parking area and cleaned around and mulched the new trees planted next to the soccer field, as well as all other trees along De Bruyn Street to prevent them from being ringbarked.



NEIL MC KENZIE

Stanford Conservation Association would like to express our gratitude to Neil Mc Kenzie for his five years of tireless and unwavering commitment to the Wandelpad and Stanford. His impact on the protection and upkeep of the Wandlepad is immeasurable and he will be sorely missed.

Neil has chosen to stand down from the team and enjoy a more relaxed life in our village.

The next time you see Neil, please thank him for his service…the man deserves a *Bells*!

OTHER PROJECTS

Removed invasive species (Brazilian Pepper, Spanish Broom, Port Jackson, Black Wattle and Syringa) from Daneel Street, created a garden opposite the OK (with a contribution by the OK),replanted trees in Sillery Street after the Plane trees were poisoned, reported the 50+ year old trees that were poisoned in Shortmarket Street, placed memorial benches along the walkways, prepared the Wandelpad for events such as the Cape Epic, the Stanford/Hermanus Canoe race, the "Race to Stanford" triathlon and the Rotary Penguin Plunge. The Wandelpad is also part of the Hermanus Camino walk.






R43 CIRCLE

After requesting the provincial Roads Department to not pave the circle, the SCA was told that the maintenance thereof should then be done by the SCA. This was done, irrigation was installed (watered by the Agri), and the first plants were put in (to be competed when it is cooler). Security cameras recently erected by the municipality did, however, result in some gardening and irrigation challenges!




PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE BUILINGS

The Village Green and the St Thomas Church (and adjacent Oulap School) are the only sites in Stanford that are graded as being of provincial significance. Due to its importance to our heritage village, and therefore heritage tourism, the SCA plays a pivotal role in protecting these assets for future generations.

Late 2022, the SCA was approached by the congregation to assist with fundraising – specifically to rethatch the roofs. Realising that neither the congregation nor the Diocese had any maintenance funds at their disposal, the Stanford Heritage Committee agreed to assist, but only on condition that the Oulap School, once restored and upgraded, would be used as a multi-functional venue, and revenue made should be kept aside for future maintenance.

During 2023, more than R500 000 was raised through various fundraising initiatives and donations received. Through funds received, the church Oulap were rethatched; rethatched, three palm trees that were damaging the roof were cut down, and Oulap was completely rewired and painted, floorboards were fixed/replaced, doors were sanded down, fixed and repainted, and the kitchenette will be completed by the end of February 2024.







STANFORD CONSERVATION CONTACT INFORMATION

To find out more about Stanford Conservation, please visit our website:
www.stanfordconservation.org
Email: stanfordconservation1992@gmail.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stanfordconservation

BANKING DETAILS
(for donations or membership renewal)
Nedbank Savings Account
Hermanus
Account Number: 238 300 1805

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