



# Stanford's Green Report

## Take a hike... and enjoy the stroll

The recently-produced map of Stanford's scenic walking trail through the village is a great asset for our visitors (and many of our swallow residents) who have no idea that we have such a wonderful feature within our little village.

The reverse of the map provides interesting information on some features along the walking trail. Please make sure you have one to show to your guests, or have a few to give to your visitors. Obtainable free of charge from the Tourism Office.



*A great big "thank you" to the Wine & Wisdom supporters as it is due to their monthly contribution that Stanford Conservation had the funds to produce this map. It would also not have been possible without Siobhan Twomey's offer to do the artwork for us at a nominal fee*

### Conservation stalwart leaves town

Anka Esterhuizen is a passionate environmentalist so it is with much sadness that we say goodbye to her and wish her a happy transition to Greyton.



Anka is a previous chairperson of Stanford Conservation, and was nominated as one of only two patrons because of her devotion to 'the cause'. Before she left she was an enthusiastic member of the wandelpad team, and the one responsible for the horticultural touches to our walking trail. The invasive weed, 'Patterson's Curse', on municipal land is almost

eradicated thanks to her determination, and the lovely aloe garden next to the 47 steps is all due to Anka's creativity. In addition, she took great interest in the garden at the Queen Victoria Street entrance — now unofficially known as Anka's garden.

**Would you like to become a member of Stanford Conservation and assist us in looking after the heritage and natural environment features of the village?**  
**Membership is free... but we may sometimes ask you to assist in fundraising events (see page 4).**  
**Please contact Vicky le Roux on leroux4@mweb.co.za or text her on 083-236-0271 for a membership form.**

### Heritage Treasure Hunt

**Friday 25 September**  
starting at 11:00 from the Tourism Offices  
R20/individual or R50/family

*Learn more about Stanford's history while hunting for the heritage clues.*

# SUCCESS IN THE BATTLE OF THE REEDS

For many years Stanford Conservation has been in discussion with the municipality, the Klein River Estuary Forum (KREF), the bird club and other environmental organisations regarding the cutting down of reeds along certain sections of the river bank. We believed this would enable better viewing, as well as improve the recreational areas.

A Reed Management Plan has now been drawn up, allowing us (in consultation with the municipality) to control the landward ingress of *Phragmites australis* by means of regular cutting. The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) allows for this harvesting of reeds, but not the physical removal or spraying thereof. The areas that will now be regularly cut include the section between King and Quick Streets, certain areas in the Sillery Estate area and the entire boat launching site at the bottom of Du Toit Street.

We cannot do anything about the narrowing of the river because of the silt from upstream being retained between the reeds during strong flows and floods. We



are, however, allowed to cut back reeds falling into the river — a task we will have to tackle with the help of some volunteers, some or other float and loppers with long handles. Contact us if you have a plan. Alternatively we will let you know when we are having a river raft / reed lopping get-together.

## Low-key improvements proposed along river

Since 2011, Stanford Conservation has been pressing for low-impact improvements along the river that will enhance a visitor's experience to Stanford and ease river access for residents and recreational users.

As the proposed facilities lie within 32 metres of the river, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) is required. The construction of any facility has to be approved by the provincial environmental authority before any activities may start. Funds for the EIA were made available via the municipal ward committee projects budget, and an environmental consultant was appointed by the municipality. The first public meetings were held in July 2015.

The following improvements were discussed and approved by those attending the meetings:

- ◆ A stepped 'jetty' at King Street to allow canoeists to enter and exit the river, whilst simultaneously providing swimmers with a safe exit area.
- ◆ A floating jetty to replace the existing African Queen jetty. This will then be used by all registered boat operators.
- ◆ A viewing platform at the top of the King Street embankment (close to the '47 steps')
- ◆ A guard house and ablution facilities next to the pumping station c/o Caledon and Du Toit Street.
- ◆ Improved slipway for motorised boats.
- ◆ A wooden boardwalk at the slipway area to replace the stones next to the wall to facilitate walking between the slipway and the Milkwood grove (all part of the Wandelpad).
- ◆ A possible bird hide at the 'wasklip' area was regarded as not being necessary.

The details and sizes will be determined in the next round of the EIA process. Once these amenities are in place it will assist in demarking the surface water area for various recreational uses, enforcing the 'no wake zone' rules etc.

## Be a responsible dog owner

The increasing load of dog poo in the village and along the *wandelpad* is becoming a serious issue. To assist dog owners, Stanford Conservation has placed one dog poo bin c/o Sillery and Sannie Badenhorst Streets, and three more will soon be erected along the *wandelpad*.

Please be a responsible resident and always carry a plastic bag when walking your dog and use it to clean up after your dog. A specially made crocheted plastic bag holder is available from the local vet at R20, of which R5 goes to us and R5 to Animal Welfare.

After all... and zap it in the





# Stanford's revitalisation project full steam ahead

July 2014 saw the first public presentation of the vision of Stanford's Tourism, Ratepayers, Conservation and Heritage organisations to create a much more 'open' and welcoming ambience, improve pedestrian walkways and upgrade tourism facilities without losing our small town charm.

In discussion with local resident Bernard Oberholzer, an experienced landscape architect, it was agreed that he would be commissioned to draw up four precinct plans that would be presented to the village and the municipality for discussion and consideration. These precinct plans covered the following:

- \* The business section of Queen Victoria Street — from the main entrance to Church Street;
- \* The village green/ market square and the adjacent Shortmarket and Longmarket Streets;
- \* The Bezuidenhout Street/ community centre area; and
- \* The river front.

## Achievements to date

### Queen Victoria Street

The concept was presented to the top municipal echelon in September 2014. It was fully endorsed by all, and noticeably by the municipal manager, the director of Local Economic Development and the deputy mayor.

The concept was forwarded to the National Roads Department for consideration within the design of the R43 upgrade being done at the moment — which includes a traffic circle at the R43/R326 intersection (incidentally a proposal made by Stanford Conservation to the department ± 9 years ago!).

The concept was presented to the new owners of the Evergrine site, and all proposed renovations are sympathetic to the future vision.

It is acknowledged that it will take many years to achieve the proposed improvements, but some business owners have truly embraced the idea... watch things develop!

*Mission impossible to open up an enclosed area and make it user-friendly?*

*Not necessarily. All it needs is some creative landscaping when next upgrading the area around the church.*

*It can be done!*



### Community Centre/ Bezuidenhout Street

Work has started on Phase 1: the construction of a 2-metre wide pavement that will not be used for any municipal service requirement: i.e. no road signs, no electrical boxes, no lamp poles etc.

This road that carries the largest volume of pedestrians and the pavement will be welcome relief to everyone going to and from the clinic and the centre of town. The pavement has been planned to align with the proposed road to be surfaced at a later stage. The electricity poles have been moved in line with the new alignment and the pavement will be at street level along the entire community centre area. This will facilitate the proposed piazza area around the community centre.

The pavement is laid as part of a job creation project with funds obtained via the national Greenest Town Award.

### Market Square/ Village Green

The entire area (which includes the sections of street adjacent to the square) was surveyed this year and suggestions have been made on how to improve drainage, provide sidewalks, direct the flow of traffic and possibly surface the area. A presentation is being compiled and will be presented at a public meeting envisaged for end August 2015.

### Riverfront

Refer to the progress article on page 2.

## Creative fundraising increases conservation visibility

Stanford Conservation's visible involvement in the village is mainly due to its successful fund-raising initiatives and the volunteers who cannot wait to spend this money to improve the village. We do not charge a membership fee, so where does the money come from?

### Monthly Wine & Wisdom evenings

Every first Thursday evening of the month there is loads of fun and laughter as members become wiser as the juices start to flow. Participants each pay a R50 'entrance fee' grossing us an annual income almost equal to the budgeted *wandelpad* expenses. This is our main fund-raiser and every participant is automatically a member of the association. Phone Annie Ranger on (028) 341-0984 if you'd like to join us — everyone is welcome!

### "Fishing for prizes" children's event

Successfully inaugurated late 2013, we are looking for volunteers (2 a time) who will continue with this activity at every Friday evening market. Everything is provided; all we need is your time and willingness to source 3 small prizes for the evening. Contact Bea Whittaker on (028) 341-0430.

### Treasure hunts

We will have an annual Heritage treasure hunt in September, and intend to have another (different) one during the December holidays.

### What do we use the money for?

Apart from our *wandelpad* expenses, we also buy and plant trees; dog poo bins; develop, print and update information material (*Wandelpad* map, Stanford Style and Historical Stanford on Foot) etc. Our other main expense is the cost of the precinct plans discussed on page 3. Although the tourism and ratepayer associations are our partners, the brunt of the cost is borne by us. When available, funds are also allocated for specific causes, such as the taps and concrete slab recently installed at Die Bron Primary School.

## THANK YOU, MUNICIPALITY

Despite its differences, Stanford Conservation has built an excellent relationship with the municipality over the past year. We would like to thank especially Kat Myburgh (manager) and Jean de Villiers (engineer) from "our" main office, and Petronella Ferreira from the Stanford office.

Most of the changes you have recently seen would not have been possible without their assistance: from the wood chips on the *wandelpad* to embracing our precinct plans.

## Green team update

The contract of our helpful "Green Team" that assists the municipality and Stanford Conservation in maintaining the village, including the green areas, has not yet been renewed. This is



a great blow for the entire Overstrand, as this "Working for the Coast" job creation project has been of immense help in cleaning and improving the environment over the past four years.

Not only do they pick up litter, they are hands-on in assisting us in improving your *wandelpad* experience by making pathways, mowing the open areas, eradicating evasive plant species etc.

The national government-allocated funds are managed by a implementing agent, who then appoints a project manager in every qualifying municipal area. All funds are spent in conjunction with the municipality, but the municipality has no control over the spending. It seems that the Department of Environmental Affairs is battling to get the funds released from National Treasury, and without this money there is no project and no Green Team. Once the funds are released it takes at least two months to appoint an implementing agent... so we will need to look after our environment ourselves for a quite a while.

### In the mean time...

Stanford Conservation has budgeted to employ two of the team once a week for approximately two months. As there is little to do at the moment, we will contract them once spring has sprung.



## School playground joy

Drinking water during break at Die Bron has become a joy since Stanford Conservation replaced the only one playground tap with three taps and had a slab laid (kindly done at no cost by Barry Ferreira) to replace the mud pool leaners had to content with.

### STANFORD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Bea Whittaker (Chair); Penny Paddick (Treasurer); Vicky le Roux (Secretary); Martin Ranger and Liz Hochfelden (Heritage committee); Tony Coates (*Wandelpad*); Tracy Paton (Trees and general environment); Viv von der Heyden (Communications and birding)