Stanford Conservation Trust

NEWSLETTER 03/2019



TANFORD

Buzzy Beez SAVED!!!

The plight of the Buzzy Beez building, a late 1800 "nagmaalhuisie" on the premises of the Okkie Smuts Primary School, came to the attention of the SCT's Heritage

Committee (SHC) in 2017 when new classrooms were planned for the beginner phase learners. The Department of Education planned to demolish this historical building and build an unsympathetic face brick building in its place. Fortunately, the Department did not follow due process, and the demolition was stopped by Heritage Western Cape on the recommendation of the SHC. Numerous negotiations followed, and the result was 2 lovely new classrooms built in the Stanford Style and that Buzzy Beez was saved from demolition.

However, this posed the following problem; the building has to be restored as it has been declared unfit for human use, mainly because of roof problems and a few structural issues. With the help of local engineer Louis Roodt and heritage architect Greg Goddard, a proper assessment was made of what needs to be done. This report was presented to the school, and an undertaking was made that the SCT / SHC would help raise funds for the restoration thereof.

Last year, the SCT applied for funding from the Rowland and Leta Hill Trust, a trust fund set up specifically for improving buildings and the environment. As an aside it needs to be noted that in 2008 the SCT successfully applied for R80 000 to restore the St Thomas Anglican Church on the market square.

Ten years later another application was made, and the SCT is proud to announce that it has received R77 000 from this fund, and that the money is already in the bank! The SCT will keep you informed regarding the progress of this project, as the school still needs to raise more or less the same amount to fix the structural problems in order for it to be used as the future school library, a 'luxury' the school does not have at present. Join the Stanford Conservation Trust and follow us on <u>Facebook</u> or our <u>website</u> for updates and news relating to the Village of Stanford.

NB!

Please diarise the following event to find out about all the wonderful things Stanford Conservation has done during the past year! You may just be pleasantly surprised...

AGM

9 April 2019 at 18:00 In the Municipal Boardroom

Also visit our <u>website</u> to download our online application form from our Contact Page.

Aims, actions, achievements and challenges

Leiwater registered as a heritage asset



The SCT submitted a request that The Eye (Die Oog) and its water furrow (leiwater) system be regarded as a heritage asset and be protected within the overlay zone. This application has been submitted to Heritage Western Cape and has just been approved!. Watch this space for more information.

Well done Dirk!

Stanford youth Dirk Troost is a scout with the 1st Hermanus scout group. He is currently working on his Springbok Scout award. As part of this, he will be taking on part of the restoration of the Wandelpad as a community service project.

He and a team of scouts will be working on:

- Repainting and sealing the wooden "Wandelpad" signs.
- Cleaning up and replacing rusty nails on some of the bridges.
- Building and installing more "Poo bag" dispensers.
- Installing identification signs on several of the trees. These have been provided by a knowledgeable resident.
- Restoring the "42 Steps". This will involve shuffling some the more worn treads with less worn ones and resealing the wood.
- Mounting the dogs on leash signs on backing boards to prevent them from being bent or damaged.
- Repainting the white feet markers all along the trails. The ones on concrete pillars at the entrances to the trail.

This project is entirely for the community, and thus it's important to him that the locals are behind it.

Dirk Troost and his group of volunteers



Grateful community thanks municipal workers

Stanford Conservation Trust and Stanford Ratepayers' Association sponsored a thank you braai for their amazing team of Overstrand



Municipal Workers. They always put in maximum effort when dealing with fires, blockages, burst water pipes, potholes, snakes — and loads of other requests and complaints!

The braai was a small token of appreciation for their committed service toward making Stanford such a well-kept village.

Wandelpad update

Since October last year, the Wandelpad is being maintained and enhanced by a small group of SCT volunteers under the leadership of Dave Hagen. Neil McKenzie and Getrud Lomas-Walker are the other main role-players who assist in supervising Ernest Sitsha twice a week. Funds raised by the monthly Think & Drink evenings are used for this purpose, which costs the SCT on average R2 000 per month.

The team maintains the full length of the Wandelpad by removing litter, removing ongoing obscene graffiti, cutting back overgrown bushes and trees, policing illegal vegetation dumping, fixing bridges and signs, filling dog poo dispensers, removing dangerous bee hives, clearing out large sections of dead blue gums, removing rubbish from the cemetery and ongoing alien removal.

There is little support from the municipality at present. The only noteworthy contribution they currently make is to cut the grass at the Sillery Street area and some of the Wandelpad entrances. The SCT team also maintains the shockingly sad state of our Village entrance; picking up bags of litter weekly, cutting the grass and weeding the STANFORD entrance wall areas. We are grateful to announce that Stanford Tourism has joined the effort and is cleaning the village centre on Saturday and Sunday mornings, picking up on average 10 bags of litter every Saturday morning!

Other activities include the curtailment of the extremely invasive grey Poplar growing

prolifically along our waterways, removing Port Jackson by means of a tree popper, as well as removing large amounts of woolly Plectranthus on the upper section of the Wandelpad.

The pending demolition of the derelict ablution block on the school rugby field was approved by the school Governing board. However, this has been delayed by a bureaucratic process which will hopefully be resolved shortly.

There is a close working relationships with Whale Coast Conversation, especially with regard to the reed cutting along sections of Vlei Street. There are on-going trials to use the cut reeds for composting, cattle feed and fire pellets. Thanks to our small team of dedicated Wandelpad volunteers and the SCT fund raising teams and initiatives to support and fund the upkeep of Stanford's local community and tourist asset, the WANDELPAD!





Scout volunteers hard at work

Your ideas are important!

What would you like the SCT to spend funds on? We are looking for input from the community – keeping in mind that we work on municipal land, have to abide by municipal rules and need municipal approval, especially if it includes anything structural. Our constitution does state that we strive to protect the environment in all its form (hence SCORE falls under our banner as well) and our heritage resources. Please s e n d t h o s e i d e a s to stanfordconservationtrust@gmail.com.

Also... do consider to volunteer your time and energy at the next AGM! We continually need new ideas and skills to make Stanford a better place for all of us.

Fundraising News

Martin Mans organ recital



Seizing the opportunity to use an organ recital in Hermanus by an internationally acclaimed Dutch organist Martin Mans, to raise funds for the

SCT, proved to be a very clever idea. The event raised just short of R6 000 for very little effort. SCT would like to thank Bea Whittaker for this idea, as well as all the hard work behind the scenes.

Think & Drink success!



The revamped monthly quiz evening under the banner Think & Drink has been a roaring success since it started in January. It is held every last Thursday evening at Tikka Palace at a set cost of R100 for food and R50 for the SCT. The bargain is that you bring your own tipple at no surcharge!

SCT would like to thank Marian Binder-Williams and Simon Upton for all their enthusiasm. The venue can only take 40 people, and we are over -subscribed every month. The event is advertised in Tourism's What's On newsletter and the Stanford Notice Board, but please send an email to <u>stanfordconservationtrust@gmail.com</u> if you would like to be on the mailing list.

Junktique market

The monthly Junktique stand run by Denise and Stuart Anderson continues to flourish and takings each month go a good way to covering essential toilet items like soap, toothpaste and deodorant as well as black shoe polish which is very sought after in the Shoe Shine Kit on sale at the SCORE Swop Shop. Janet Wyngaard, Fay Carver, Yvonne Jordaan, Linden Morris, Cheryl Garrod and Claire Walker are the regular 'helpers'.

Recycling towards a better future!

Stanford Rotary recently donated R10 000 towards the annual purchase of school stationary for the SCORE Swop Shop. We would like to thank them for this generous donation, which helps tremendously in improving the lives of Stanford's disadvantage residents.

For those who do not know... every second Monday afternoon (weather permitting) people queue up at t h e S t a n f o r d Community centre to exchange their bags of recyclables for tokens with which they can 'buy' items from the Swop Shop.



Problems have arisen with Swop Shop notices being removed from

the wall outside the Swop Shop. The team are now including a 'word of mouth' system, as well announcements at the primary schools, to communicate with the community. A more permanent notice board is being planned at the Swop Shop gates.

SCORE is also very grateful to Pierre du Toit, our previous champion "Bag Man", for allowing SCORE to use his outside garden storage facility. The sorting and marking team have an excellent system worked out and Linda Strydom is to be thanked for her superb organisational abilities in getting the goods ready to be packed out onto the shelves in the Swop Shop.

Once again Brian Prehn of READ has been a generous sponsor of books and stationery; without which SCORE's eager little customers would go away empty-handed. Other donations include soap offcuts from Antjies, which are then creatively wrapped in offcuts from Kiwinet. Dante and Cliff Ruben have been a welcome source of good second hand clothing and a sizeable donation of goods was made recently by Stanford River Lodge. Marga van Klavern must be thanked, as well as all the anonymous donors who drop off bags for collection from Tourism Office.

Mention must be made of the stalwart volunteers who just press on regardless and keep the SCORE Swop Shop running very smoothly. What at team!