



STANFORD CONSERVATION

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019

**WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR!**



NOTICE OF SPECIAL AGM

A notice will be published in due course regarding amendments to the constitution of the Stanford Conservation Trust.

BREAKING NEWS! WANDELPAD RECEIVES 'CHRISTMAS PRESENT'

Stanford Storage4All has kindly provided a ground floor storage unit FREE OF CHARGE to Stanford Conservation as from 1 December. This will enable the SCT, and especially the Wandelpad team, to store all their equipment and materials in one place, which will make life so much easier for the volunteers who assist with the maintenance of the wandelpad twice a week.



Our sincere thanks to Zelda van Wyk and the Storag4All owners, and our own Dave Hagen for planting the seed!

BUZZY BEEZ UPDATE

On Wednesday 27 November 2019, Okkie Smuts primary school paid homage all those people, businesses and organisations which enabled them in the past year to send children on camps, donate books, renovate buildings etc.

The Stanford Heritage Committee (part of Stanford Conservation) was thanked for their contribution towards renovating the historical Buzzy Beez building, which was in danger of being demolished due to neglect. The building is one of the village's few Grade 3a buildings. It was originally a 'Nagmaalhuisie' (used mainly every three months when the farmers came to communion at the NG Church). In addition to the charm of its simple construction it is therefore also of social historical interest. Until new classrooms were built on the property in 2017, it served as the preschool for the adjacent Okkie Smuts Junior School. Due to deterioration of the thatching, and the failure of the plaster, urgent repairs were necessary to the structure to prevent rain damage to the fabric of the walls and further failure of the plaster.

Seen in the photograph are Katie Smuts, past chair of the heritage committee; architect Gregg Goddard who assisted with the required heritage application and plans; Bea Whittaker who successfully motivated for R77 000 from the Rowland and Leta Hill Trust, to renovate the building; and Anton Duivestein, contracted by Stanford Conservation for the re-thatching and minor exterior restoration work. The interior changes required to change the building's use into a much-needed library, is being carried out by Andrew Williams by means of a grant from the Grootbos Foundation.



'WANDELPAD' ROCK ART

Environmental Improvements lead to Spontaneous Outburst of Art on Stanford's 'Wandelpad'



Walkers have encountered with delight, rock art painted by local artists along a new stretch of Stanford's Wandelpad. As Stanford's environmental team began rehabilitating this long stretch of neglected land bordering the **Melkboschkraal Private Reserve**, appreciation has expressed itself in art.

The newly named Mountain View trail forms part of Stanford's Wandelpad, popular with locals and tourists alike, which is a 6km trail along the Klein River and around the village's border. While the listed invasive Eucalyptus are slowly being harvested, a meandering rock-lined trail has been created through

them. As with any derelict piece of land, it was littered with glass shards, litter and builder's rubble, which has now been cleared. At the top of Queen Victoria street, locally indigenous groundcovers and shrubs have also been planted.



Apart from the rock art, walkers are also likely to encounter African Hoopoe, tortoises and catch a glimpse of the new additions to the Bontebok herd in the reserve.



Local artists Oliver Botha captures small creatures in beautiful detail. Other artists including Linda Bosman, Su Wolf and Tracy Paton have joined in the decorations. Walking the trail encourages one to look down to spot a delicate outline of a centipede drawn on a rock, and up to see the handmade spiders' webs.

Anyone wishing to be creative and add to the collection is welcome to do so.





SCORE

Thank you to Howard Krut for helping with the weighing at the recent Swop Shop session. More volunteers, particularly men, are being sought so that when members are ill or away, we have a reserve of people who have shadowed the people manning the different sections. The sorting team are to be thanked for their hard, dedicated work in sorting, washing and pricing donated goods so that shelves can be restocked after each session. To all the Swop Shop team a big thank you for donating your time and energy to this project.

The dog and cat food are proving to be extremely popular and are usually sold out within the hour. Thank you to animal lovers Nina, Veronica and Claire for organising donations of bags of food, packing and selling. Thank you too to the Butterfly Centre for help with packaging. Children are especially keen to buy food for their pets, which is gratifying to note.

The audited financial statements have been completed and submitted to the Municipality and the much-awaited Grant-in-Aid was paid into the SCT bank account end November.

The Junktique continues to be successful in raising petty cash for the Swop Shop and team member Denise is to be thanked for her efforts in this regard. Any donated items which are unable to be sold to Swop Shop customers are always very welcome for the Junktique table. Electrical goods, books, bric a brac etc.

Soap, deodorant, toothpaste, sanitary pads, black shoe polish and Vaseline are always needed. A request for the Christmas season is for puzzles, baby dolls and balls. Household goods are always in big demand as well.

Generation Schools Hermanus donated well sorted and marked children's clothing and have offered to have another drive for uniforms and other children's items in the coming year. This gesture is much appreciated, and the connection made with the school is a valuable one.

THANK YOU once again to all who so generously donate to the Swop Shop.

LEIWATER UPDATE

The leiwater main nodal map has been completed. Thanks to Bernie Oberholzer for his assistance in this regard. Areas have been identified where repairs are needed, where sluices need to be fixed or replaced, where residents are creating problems and the like. Problems regarding blocked pipes were identified and fixed.

A formal meeting was held with Mr Kat Myburgh, where the upkeep and maintenance of the leiwater system was discussed. Mr Myburgh confirmed that the Municipality is and remains responsible for the upkeep of the system as such, but not the running of the 'leiwater beurte', which remains with Jan Troost (now assisted in this regard by Karin Pohl and Lyn Pullen). The nodal



map was presented, as well as ideas around small information boards at main intersections, and around communication, specifically around proactive communication should water not be running as per usual.

ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

The first tranche of grant funding from the Table Mountain Fund via Whale Coast Conservation has been received. Start of work is contingent upon the Municipality clearing large invasive aliens from the identified areas. We aim to put in benches and bollards early in the new year.

Our contractor Ernest Sitha attended a fynbos propagation training session at Grootbos. The plan is to start propagating our own locally indigenous plants for planting around the village.

The Mountain View trail (new cemetery/old rugby field) artwork which was stolen and then returned has been mostly well received by hikers and more artists are now getting involved.

A Memorandum of Understanding is close to being finalized with the Overstrand Municipality, Environmental Department's Mr Benjamin Kondoktor. This is necessary as SCT are working on municipal land. In discussion with Dave Hagen of SCT, Benjamin has undertaken to get the Green Team to work along the Wandelpad two days per week at this stage.

Our volunteer Neil McKenzie has dedicated two days a week for months to take care of various aspects of Wandelpad maintenance and this deserves special recognition. Two other volunteers are also now involved, namely Neil Eberhardt and Debbie Alexander. Team members will start sharing the load especially on the King/Sillery/boat launch parts of the Wandelpad. If you wish to join the volunteers, please contact Dave Hagen.

A special note regarding garden refuse! This may not be left on the pavement. Please chop and put it into green bags to be collected by the municipality. Large branches must be removed at your own cost and transported to the local dump.

Please note the following from the Overstrand Municipality:

“Protecting your Property - reducing fire risk in gardens

Fire Season is here and Overstrand Municipality calls upon property owners to clear vacant land of young ‘alien trees’ and other vegetation that pose a safety and fire hazard to neighbouring properties and the general surroundings.

In light of the safety requirements set out in Section 34 of the Community Fire Safety By-Law, it is imperative for all property owners to take cognisance of their responsibility to prevent an accumulation of combustible material, including vegetative matter, on their premises.

Landowners wishing to clear their properties accordingly can obtain information on clearing contractors from Fire Department or the respective administration offices. More information can



be obtained from the Plot Clearing Administrator at 028 313 8000 or e-mail enquiries@overstrand.gov.za

Guidelines for minimum standards for clearing vegetation:

- Grass and groundcover vegetation must not be higher than 500mm.
- Invasive alien vegetation, such as Port Jacksons, must be removed and controlled by regular cutting and may be treated with herbicide at the discretion of landowners to prevent re-growth.
- Contractors appointed by the municipality for clearing of private erven are not permitted to use any herbicides.
- All garden refuse, cuttings and excess combustible material (irrespective of the clearing process) shall be removed from the property and dispose of at the relevant municipal refuse transfer stations.
- Garden refuse may be chipped and spread over the cleared area as mulching in order to prevent soil erosion and to replenish soil nourishment.

Download the Clearing and Maintenance of Vegetation creating Fire Hazards Policy from www.overstrand.gov.za click on Documents, click on Policies.”

MEMBERSHIP

We encourage Stanfordinians 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