



STEENBOK NEWS

NEW MANAGEMENT CONTRACT CONCLUDED WITH KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY

Following negotiations with the Knysna Municipality the Council has decided to extend by 10 years the agreement with Leisure Isle Residents' Association (LIRA) covering the joint management of Steenbok Nature Reserve.

The revised agreement, which will run until 2021, provides for a more equitable sharing of maintenance costs between the Municipality and LIRA.



In addition the managements structure has been simplified. A single management committee will guide the affairs of the Reserve. Representation on this will be two nominated by the Municipality, two by LIRA, one each by the Steenbok Nature Reserve Trust and SANParks.

This decision by the Council nearly doubles the tenure of the arrangement (from six to nine years and eleven months). It also provides a significant increase in the Municipality grant and is a huge affirmation of the success of the joint management arrangement between Knysna Municipality

and LIRA - tangible evidence of private/public initiative success and the rewards of cooperation!

Our members continue to offer appreciation of and satisfaction with the new developments that are being implemented in the Reserve. The annual contributions of our members, as well as the annual plant sale, provides the funding to enable these new projects, whilst Municipal and LIRA grants cover maintenance costs.

Thank you members so much for your continued interest and support. Our next issue will provide details of new projects planned and completed during the year to September.

Diary note:

A new bench, to honour the contributions of Robin Midlane, Mac Bunyard and others, has been placed in the Park. A short memorial ceremony will be held to mark this event on **Tuesday 5 July at noon.**

All are welcome to attend. We will meet under the Milkwood tree at the north end of the brick path in Steenbok Park.

Oyster Festival

The organisers of the 2011 Pick n Pay Kiddies cyclist races have decided to stage these races again in the Park of Steenbok Nature Reserve. Last year 370 children in 3 categories up to age 11 competed and every child was a winner receiving a medal and a bag of goodies. The response from the public was most heartening and it is expected that numbers will swell considerably this year.

We look forward to welcoming the children, parents and supporters back to the Reserve and know they will all love the amazing ambience of the recently upgraded Park. The races are organised by Knysna Rotary and will be held this year on Sunday 3 July. Join us for a happy and fun-filled morning.

Medicinal plants in Steenbok Nature Reserve

Since ancient times plants were the primary source of all the medicines in the world, and even today they continue to provide remedies to mankind. Southern Africa is blessed with a huge variety of medicinal plants, and throughout the ages traditional healers have passed on by word of mouth from one generation to the next the magical properties of plants.

Medicinal plants found growing in Steenbok Nature Reserve include:

Arctopus echinatus, Siektetroos, Kaapse platdoring: The roots have a long history of recorded medicinal use. Decoctions, infusions or tinctures of the roots have traditionally been used to treat bladder ailments, venereal diseases, as a blood purifier and as a general tonic.



Cotyledon orbiculata, Pig's ears: The fleshy part of the leaf is applied to corns and warts to soften and remove them. The warmed leaf juice is used to treat earache and toothache. Also applied in the form of a hot poultice to treat boils or inflammation.

Geranium incanum, Vroue-tee: An infusion of leaves can be used as a tea substitute. Also said to be useful for treating diarrhoea, bladder infections, venereal diseases and menstrual problems.

Hypoxis hemerocallidea, African potato or Star flower: Infusions of the corms and/or leaves are used. Traditionally it is used for the treatment of testicular tumours, prostate and urinary infections and is said to be beneficial in the treatment of cancer, HIV-AIDS and inflammation.

Leonotis leonurus,

Wild Dagga: The leaves or roots are widely used as an antidote for snakebite and also to treat bites and stings. Externally, decoctions have been applied to treat boils, eczema, skin diseases, itching and muscular cramps. It has been taken internally to treat coughs, colds and flu, bronchitis, high blood pressure and headaches. Leaf infusions have been used for asthma and viral hepatitis.



The full article will be found on our website

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