



# STEENBOK NEWS

## 2013 Annual Operational Review

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Steenbok Nature Reserve Trust will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesday 25 March 2014 at the Leisure Isle Boat Club.

Members and visitors are all welcome and following the formalities those present will be afforded the opportunity of voicing their suggestions and concerns for consideration by management. You are then invited to join the trustees and management for cocktails.

Audited financial statements and a budget for the ensuing year will be tabled at the meeting and we are pleased to present our operational review as a pictorial account of activities and events through the year:

\* Removal of invasive grasses north and south of Indigenous Garden



\* Restoration of grass at east entrance to seawall



\* Paved east parking area



\* In September we celebrated Arbour day with a tree planting ceremony where Leksi Elliot, who was at the time on the brink of turning 100, planted a tree as did children from the Nature Club of the Knysna Primary school. It was a very happy event with both young and aged celebrating nature together.



Later in the year we , together with other nature related NGOs and the Knysna Tourist Office, participated in the Naturally Knysna Festival. This involved information displays in the Knysna Mall and guided tours in the Reserve. We continue to host nature school outings for local schools

\* With the approval of SANParks, the removal of the non functional water valve west of the tennis court



\* Transformation of existing *Aloe thraskii* beds.



\* Completion of the Toolshed and Information Kiosk at the east of Roger's Way.



\* Issued a special pamphlet providing more information on the Reserve.



\* The removal of alien trees from areas designated as Coastal Thicket.



\* Finally we continued with our representations to have Steenbok Nature Reserve declared a formal nature reserve.

This is both a key objective and one that will still take a number of years to achieve. During this time we need to stick diligently to our mission of "Restore and Conserve".



**Progress to-date in this year**

We are now nearly half way into our new financial year and are making good progress on the implementation of this year's plan. In particular we mention the following items of interest:

\*Despite the rain on Saturday 8 February, dog lovers enjoyed a refreshing morning in Steenbok Park. The Doggy Do Raffle was the hi-light where participants exchanged a bag of doggy do for a raffle ticket. Participants were superb and by the end of the morning the Park was the cleanest one can remember. We believe that the poo situation has improved, although it is far from perfect. People now also feel free to share with their dog poo experiences both good and bad and this is healthy. Further campaigns will be arranged at intervals in the future.

\*In February Hydrologist Piet Huizinga spent time in Steenbok Park observing tide movements at spring tides, and recording tide levels at different times. His comprehensive report recommending the introduction of pipes to allow tidal inundation in the area west of the board walks has been received and is under consideration. The objective is to restore salt marsh to this area. Full details will be available at the AGM to be held on 25 March. The photograph shows Piet Huizinga on the sea wall during his visit in consultation with representatives of SANParks and Knysna Municipality.



\*Following a number of serious burglaries from boats parked at the Leisure Isle Boat Club it was found necessary, after consultation with SANParks, to severely prune the vegetation in Roger's Way

along the Boat Club fence. Unfortunately this has again opened up views of the boat yard and will necessitate re-planting to restore the magic of this delightful wandelpad.

\*Those who rely on the water pump and ponds in the Park will have noticed that these are now operational once more. We apologise to those who missed this facility for a number of weeks.

\*Many have asked the reason for the severe pruning currently taking place in the Park, especially north and west of the Indigenous Garden. The vegetation being removed is primarily *Passerina rigida* and *Searsia* species, which as a result of the very hot summer and some heavy rains, have become rampant and needed to be removed to restore the coastal fynbos.

\*The *Brunsvigia orientalis* blooms finally appeared in February and produced 392 blooms. This compares to 76 last year, about 500 in the two previous years and a best recorded 800 in the early 2000's.

**Trustees**

Keith Hollis (Chairman), James Botha,  
Peter Godsell, Myles Ruck, Brian Steele,  
Esther Townsend and Roger Voysey.

**Management Committee**

Councillor Lizwani, Councillor Hart & Jonathan  
Mabula nominated by Knysna Municipality,  
Ricky Maskew and Roger Voysey by LIRA,  
Peter Godsell by Friends of Steenbok,  
Maretha Alant by SANParks  
and James Botha and Dave Edge  
co-opted by MANCOM.

**Operations committee**

Roger Voysey (Chairman & Manager),  
Alix Coxon, Peter Godsell, Andrew Campbell,  
Esther Townsend and Leonie Twentyman Jones.

### Thanks to our many supporters

We record our thanks to our many partners, volunteers, donors and sponsors who make our work possible. Each of you play an important role in this joint initiative to preserve a wonderful part of our natural heritage.

The costs of the ongoing work, to keep this nature reserve the precious place that it is, are born mainly by four parties:

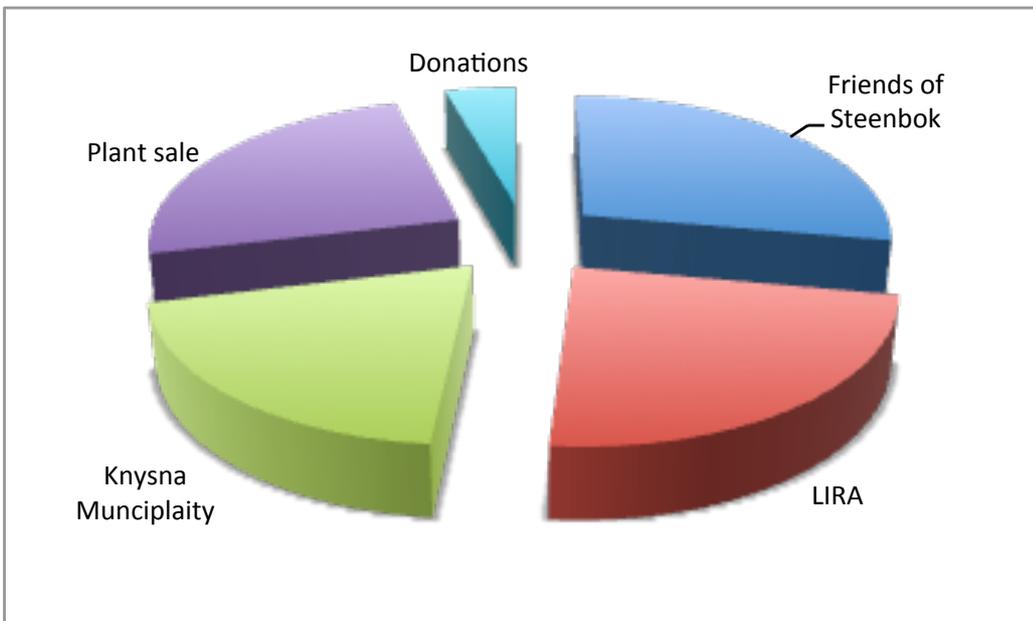
Friends of Steenbok Association - members' annual subscription fees

Leisure Isle Residents Association - an annual grant

Knysna Municipality - an annual grant

Leisure Isle Festival - proceeds from the plant sale at the Leisure Isle Festival

In addition we receive an annual donation from Gardening at Leisure and our printing costs are sponsored by Canon



The annual subscription is R 320. Alternatively Life membership is R 10,000 You can join online at <http://www.steenboknaturereserve.org.za/> or contact Sue on 044 384 1108 or Peter on 044 384 1237



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