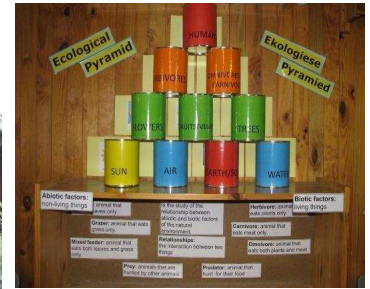


Environmental Education Centre Facelift

The Camdeboo Environmental Education Centre has needed a new look for a while and this year was the year that it got a whole makeover. At the end of May 2011, the maintenance schedule for the centre was completed. The centre buildings were sanded down; varnished; painted, had 2 new water tanks installed, New displays and new educational games were put into place.

The People and Conservation department is now geared up for new and exciting undertakings and are even planning on starting Holiday programmes for learners of Graaff-Reinet.

Park staff are eagerly awaiting the start of this year's Kids in Parks programme in August as well as an increased influx of visitors to the Education centre.



Water Week Celebrated

"Water is a vitally important resource that every person should protect"



Thembalisizwe Primary learners learn the water cycle rhyme

Water is important and we all need to conserve it!" was the message that the Camdeboo National Park People & Conservation department drummed home to learners from six Graaff-Reinet schools during the 2011 Water Week in late March. 1 031 learners from Thembalisizwe Primary, Isibane Primary, Ryneveld Primary, Narsingstraat Primary school, Lingcom Primary school and Constantia Farm school participated in the Water Week campaign, learning more about water and its importance in our

daily lives. This year, the national theme for Water Week: "Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge" was particularly appropriate for the city surrounded by a national park, with reminders of water scarcity in nearby Karoo towns such as Beaufort West fresh in everyone's minds. Various aspects were explored during the Park's Water Week campaign including the threat of water contamination and the global scarcity of water resources. Water is a non-renewable resource which is

recycled over millions of years. Once contaminated, water it is extremely difficult to clean again for human consumption. Although 70 percent of the earth's surface is covered by water, only 2.5 percent of this water is suitable for human consumption. Learners excited the campaign with the message that water should be seen as a vitally important resource that every person should protect.

Successful Annual Snare Hunt

The annual Camdeboo National Park Snare Hunt was held on 12 March 2011. Bright and early, 13 eager local 'Graaff-Reinetters' together with the Camdeboo National Park Field Rangers hopped onto the back of the Parks vehicles with the aim to

find as many snares as possible. Once on site, on the eastern side of the park known as 'Skuinsveldhoek', the Park Manager gave an introduction on how to find snares, where to find them and what they look like. The participants separated into groups and

went out into the veld on their mission. After a few hours of 'hunting', the teams managed to come across a few snares as well as wire, which they removed. Mannetje Kemp was voted 'Strikjagter' of the day.



Eager snare hunters gather

Eco-Schools in Graaff-Reinet

Camdeboo National Park is proud to announce that the town of Graaff-Reinet has a total of five Eco-schools.

The Eco-School programme is a programme presented by the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA) which aims at improving environmental management in the schools, as well as encourages environmental learning.

Camdeboo National Park People and Conservation department approached various schools around the Graaff-Reinet area and have managed to help four local primary

schools and one farm school to join the Eco-School programme for this year.

Each of these schools are working on a selected theme in helping the school become more environmental friendly. Thus far, all of these schools have established an eco-code for the school as a goal to work towards and it is hoped that they will hand in a portfolio at the end of the year to Eco-schools status by virtue of a Eco-schools Flag.

The five registered schools include: Isibane Primary School, Lingcom Primary School, Ryneveld Primary



School, Graaff-Reinet Primary School as well as Constantia Primary School.

Camdeboo National Park will be supporting the five registered Eco-school as much as possible throughout the year. All schools within the Graaff-Reinet area are encouraged to join the Eco-Schools programme as it will only benefit the schools at the end of the day.

Environmental Dates to Remember

- 5 June
World Environmental Day
- 6-10 June
World Environment Week
- 8 June
World Ocean Day
- 17 June
World Desertification and Drought Day
- 11 July
World Population Day
- 18 July
Mandela Day
- 12 August
International Youth Day

Nqweba Dam 117% Full

When living in a small karoo town like Graaff-Reinet, one of the many exciting events to happen is most definitely the Nqweba Dam over

flowing. This year was a major delight for the locals of Graaff-Reinet as the Dam was, at one stage during February, 117% full. Nqweba

Dam has a great significance for the town of Graaff-Reinet. A lot of subsistence fishing as well as recreational activities revolve around the

dam and it is one of the many significant aspects of Camdeboo National Park and the town itself.



First-ever Junior Honorary Rangers in Training



Proud Junior Honorary Rangers in training

Camdeboo National Park is proud to announce the establishment of the first group of Junior Honorary Rangers-in-training.

South African National Parks'

Honorary Rangers are groups of volunteers who assist national parks across the country with fundraising, awareness creation and operational support.

Junior Honorary Rangers particularly assist with awareness creation among their peers, as well as practical tasks on the ground.

The Junior Ranger Program is an outreach orientated awareness and environmental education programme which aims at building a constituency of knowledgeable and competent South African youth on, and about the country's national parks in particular and environmental issues in general.

The seventeen youngsters who have become the first ever Junior Honorary Ranger applicants were formerly associated with the Park via the

Ekko Club. These young dynamic boys from the local area of Kroonvale, Asheville and Spandau in Graaff-Reinet.

After an orientation course, the group assisted with clearing the Eerstefontein Trail. Later, under their own initiative, the youngsters cleaned Impala Street and the surrounding area in Selbou.

The applicants should graduate as official Junior Honorary Rangers by the end of the year, taking on the task of assisting the national park wherever needed and of acting as ambassadors for the Camdeboo National Park.

Discovery Excites Archaeologists

A discovery of an archaeological relic earlier this year in Camdeboo National Park has sparked the interests of archaeologists.

The so-called "cupule boulder" was discovered near the Gannaleegte boundary of the Park by Park Manager Peter Burdett while on a routine patrol.

The relic consists of a large granite boulder on which a number of shallow circular depressions have been ground into the upper and lateral surfaces. The boulder is located in an otherwise flat surrounding, making it appear out of place.

Archaeologist Celeste Booth of Grahamstown's Albany Museum was 'wowed' by photographs of the find and com-

mented that the discovery was a first for the Karoo, which was otherwise only well known for rock engravings and paintings.

Booth advised that the circular depressions known as cupules are previously well documented from the Limpopo region of the country where they are generally found on sloping or vertical rock faces or on large boulders within rock shelters.

Although archaeologists are not certain of the exact function or purpose of cupules, research which takes into account their orientation on rock faces and boulders suggests that they may have been made for ritual and symbolic purposes rather than more mundane functions.

Cupules date back to the days of hunter-gatherers.

The find is an important cultural heritage asset which hopefully will become the subject of further research.



The cupule boulder



"The find is an important cultural heritage asset"

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www.sanparks.org/parks/camdeboo

"The Park on Your Doorstep"

Have your say on our popular website forums at
www.sanparks.org/forums/

Find Camdeboo under "Frontier Parks" topic

Union Fair

Camdeboo National Park held a stall at the Union Fair on Saturday- 26 June 2011. Geared with displays of the park and its activities, as well as a 'verspog' competition, both the staff and its participants had great fun. The Park Manager set the pace of the competition at 7.9m early in the morning.

The Competition proved to be a challenge to meet. Mr. Willie Coetser managed to beat the record in the early afternoon, setting the new record at 8.4m.



Verspog prize for Union High

With the aim to empower the community, a community member was given the chance to sell 'roosterkoek' on the day and managed to make some money for herself.

Thank you to all who participated, especially the children, who tried their utmost to meet the distance as well as Mrs. Rose Wright for organizing the event. The Camdeboo Staff are indeed looking forward to next year's fair and cannot wait to find the next 'verspog' winner.



Ma Poppie making roosterkoek

New Staff at Camdeboo National Park

Camdeboo National Park extends a hearty welcome to a number of new staff members on board:

Miss Rosemary Scheepers (Assistant People and Conservation Officer),

Mr. Denis Marais (Field Ranger), Mr. Luthando Haas (Supervisor),

Christel Prinsloo and Mdoda Ngwenya (both Conservation Students from NMMU).



Rosemary Scheepers
Assistant P&C Officer

Denis Marais
Field Ranger

Luthando Haas
Supervisor

Christel Prinsloo
Conservation Student

Mdoda Ngwenya
Conservation Student