



Eco-Schools are tops!

All 13 schools in the Helderberg region were successful in obtaining their Eco-Awards. Five schools were awarded the prestigious Green Eco-Flag and Bronze and Silver Certificates were obtained by others. The schools worked very hard and should be commended for championing environmental causes so effectively!

The Eco-Schools Programme operates in over 48 countries worldwide and more than 1 000 schools have thus far registered in South Africa. The programme is curriculum based and teaches Environmental Education across various Learning Areas.

With the help of the Node Co-ordinator, Freya Brett, exciting programmes are presented, Eco-Camps are arranged and field trips undertaken.

If you would like more information, please contact Freya on ☎ 021 852 8831.



The Value of Fynbos 31 May – 4 June 2010

Every year during the first week of June, World Environment Week is celebrated around the globe. It is during this time that the EEC participates in the City of Cape Town's Youth Environment School Programme – YES.

This year our YES Programme, *The Value of Fynbos*, will follow on from and incorporate our Biodiversity Exhibition, providing a wonderful opportunity for learners to explore the important value of Fynbos. The programme will again highlight the medicinal, food, cultural, economic and aesthetic values, as well as the conservation of our natural heritage.

The programme is geared for learners from Grade 4 and up and will last three hours. To ensure a place in this informative and exciting programme, please contact the EEC. Booking is essential.



Mike Woods

Environmental Education Centre Helderberg Nature Reserve



"Every 20 minutes another species is pushed to extinction."

2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Every 20 minutes another species is pushed to extinction. But 2010 could mark the most ambitious species protection initiative ever seen from the global community.

The UN declared this year the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), which makes it a very important year for our natural environment. It will be a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth: biodiversity!

Throughout the year countless initiatives will be organized to disseminate information, promote the protection of

biodiversity and encourage organizations, institutions, companies and individuals to take direct action to reduce the constant loss of biological diversity worldwide. The celebrations for the International Year of Biodiversity are led by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The climax will come in October, when the world's governments meet in Japan to agree on a mutual goal to stop any further extinctions.

The Environmental Education Centre plans to support this special year through various educational programmes as well as the dissemination of information to our schools.

Biodiversity Exhibition at the EEC 3–28 May



Each year the Centre celebrates one of our special calendar days through an interactive environmental exhibition. As 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, the Centre will host a Biodiversity Exhibition during May to highlight this important topic.

The exhibition will focus on the following four important aspects:

- What Biodiversity is
- Its importance to Man and Life
- Biodiversity in Crisis
- Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Living.

Firstly, we aim to expose our learners

to the beautiful and fascinating natural world around them and how it sustains our livelihoods. Secondly, we want to create an awareness of the causes and consequences of biodiversity loss and, thirdly, through hands-on activities and projects, empower our learners to take positive, conservation action in saving our biodiversity.

The programme, including the walk, will last three hours. Transport can be arranged for those schools that cannot afford to get to the EEC. To book contact the EEC on ☎ 021 852 8831.



Learners from Strand Secondary School marking the waypoints.

Youth, Urban Nature and GIS Schools Programme

Last year was an exciting GIS year, a wonderful experience for participating learners. For some, it was the first time they had walked in the Reserve, for others it was the discovery of the Reserve's fascinating animal life. Narusha Solomon from De Kuilen High School commented, "It was fun. I learnt a lot of things and could see nature in a different way."

Five high schools took part in this programme during the past year and, following on their recommendation, it was decided to close several of the paths in the Reserve, which ran parallel to others in the self-same area. The management of the Reserve thanks all the learners for their contribution.

For those schools which could not participate last year, 2010 is full of fresh opportunities for learners to become part of this programme which helps equip the youth of today with practical GIS and GPS experience.

For more information contact the EEC.



New Coastal Programmes

The City of Cape Town has embarked on a new and exciting Rocky and Sandy Shore Programme. The Sandy Shore Programme is available for the Pre-Primary, Foundation and Intermediate phases, while the Rocky Shores Programme is for the Foundation and Intermediate phases.

The programme takes place on the Kogel Bay beach, within the Kogelberg Nature Reserve. Learners will explore a variety of unique coastal creatures, their ability to survive in and near the sea and how they interact with each other. They will also learn the importance of conserving our coastal ecosystems and appreciate nature through interactive and fun activities.

The EEC will co-ordinate the programme, so contact ☎ 021 852 8831 for more information.

Please Note: The number of Rocky Shore programmes is determined by the number of low tides which take place during school year. Programmes are also dependent on the weather as no indoor facilities are available.

Eco-Centre Flag flies high

Early in 2009 the Environment Education Centre was awarded the Eco-flag. An official flag raising ceremony was held on 28 October – a proud moment for all concerned.



With the flag are the EEC's Education Officers (l to r): Andreas Groenewald, Freya Brett and Elzanne Burger.

Stats 2009

During 2009, 5318 learners and 786 adults participated in the EEC's programme. 129 School visits were recorded. In addition, there were visits from several scout and youth groups, as well as an Eco-Group that met weekly for environmentally related activities.

EEC Contact Details

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Library Exhibition Lwandle March 2010

In keeping with the EEC's Eco-Code, we are reaching out to the Lwandle community in March by hosting a Water Week Exhibition at the Hector Petersen Library. The exhibition will highlight issues such as the Importance of Water, Water Conservation and the Value of Wetlands. It will also include a water feature. The exhibition coincides with National Water Week 15–19 March 2010.

Resource Centre

The EEC has an extensive, well stocked and professionally catalogued Library/Resource Centre with a wide range of material to assist educators and learners alike. This includes well illustrated books, magazines, newspaper articles, posters, pictures, videos and slides.

Do pay it a visit. You can browse at your leisure and will be given assistance in sourcing the information you need. The Resource Centre is open...

Monday to Friday
08h30–13h00 and 14h00–15h30

Sugarbird Camp Site

We regret to advise you that our overnight facility is still closed and will remain so until further notice. This is due to the planned harvesting of the remaining pine plantations in the Reserve. Only when this has been completed, can plans for the re-location and upgrading of the camp site be considered. We will keep you updated.

For more information about alternative sites, contact Freya at the EEC.



Transport

Various NGOs sponsor a transport service which is available to those schools which cannot afford to get to the EEC. For more information, please speak to Freya Brett at the EEC ☎ 021 852 8831 (office hours).

Special Days, Weeks & International Years 2010

For details please see the enclosed chart. The EEC has programmes and a wide range of resources to help you celebrate the environmentally related special days. Do contact them for further information.