

Volunteers clean Witsand coastline

■ Dianne Chapman

The Lower Breede River Conservancy Trust (LBRCT), in partnership with the Sustainable Seas Trust, recently hosted their annual clean-up in Witsand under the umbrella of the International Coastal Clean-up.

A group of 48 volunteers consisting of 35 adults and 13 children removed a whopping 90kg of litter from the area

ranging from The Blokke to the Breede River mouth.

LBRCT Manager, Jason Oxley, said some of the most common litter items found included the following: plastic and glass bottles, foam and plastic packaging, chips and other food packaging, as well as fishing line and rope.

Oxley thanked the local prize sponsors for the milkshake and ice cream vouchers for the children, as well as food and

drink vouchers for the adults. Some of the sponsors included: Anchorage Beach Restaurant and Bar, Nella se Winkel, Ellie's on Main, The Sands, Spasie on Breede, and WJ Crafts - Koffie 'n Kletz.

Furthermore, Oxley encouraged the public to keep their eyes out for the clean-up event next year so this worthwhile event can continue to grow.

"This annual event is hosted every year around the 3rd Saturday of September

as it is World Clean-up Day. Our efforts contribute towards Witsand and Hessequa maintaining its Blue Flag beach status during the busy December and January school holidays which benefits tourism and the environment," he said.

The LBRCT office is listed as a collection site where members of the public can collect refuse bags for other public or private clean-up efforts throughout the year.



The team of volunteers who filled 23 bags of litter (90kg). Photo: Jason Oxley

Inemar Tess crowned SA African Sheepdog Champion

"Tess is very active and friendly. She is always ready to work and to please me, a real pleasure to have. I started working her with sheep at six months and am still at it."

2024 SA National Sheepdog Champion, Ragni Pretorius with her Border Collie, Inemar Tess.



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WITSAND - The South African Sheepdog Association (SASDA) recently presented the 63rd South African National Sheepdog Championships at Rhenosterfontein Farm outside Witsand and awarded Inemar Tess as this year's South African National Champion.

Tess's owner and handler, Ragni Pretorius, explained that the weather conditions during the sheepdog trials/competition posed a challenge. "The sheep were quite challenging, the dogs really had to work hard to contain and control them. The

finals was very difficult for handlers, dogs and sheep because there was a gale force wind with little showers all day, and it was very cold."

Over the years Pretorius has won the nationals four times. She started working with Border Collies (Sheepdogs) in 1986 when she got her first trial dog named Flitz. "We farmed with cattle sheep and crops in Mooi River, Kwa-Zulu Natal."

Furthermore, Pretorius has won Reserve National Champion a few times with Tess's father, Shepherds Own Jack.

For Pretorius, working with Border Collies is a pleasure. "With my second dog I entered a

local sheepdog trial and the bug bit – I will never work sheep again without the help of a dog. Trialing is the cherry on top," she said.

Pretorius started working Tess - who will be four years old on 28 October 2024 - at the age of six months.

"Tess is very active and friendly. She is always ready to work and to please me, a real pleasure to have. I started working her with sheep at six months and am still at it."

For more photos of this year's winners in other categories, visit The South African Sheepdog Association's website at www.sasda.za.net or visit their Facebook Page.

Soetfontein Senior Burger Klub vier Erfenisdag

■ Johan Victor

STILBAAI - Die raakvatter vroue van Soetfontein Senior Burger Klub het die Melkhoufontein-gemeenskapsaal gevul met nostalgie toe hulle op Woensdag 25 September Erfenisdag gevier het.

Die lede en hulle gaste het een na die ander ingestroom en kort voor lank was elke beskikbare stoel gevul.

Op elke tafel was 'n item of twee uit toeka se tyd en die lag en gedruis van stemme het die saal gevul.

Albert Cloete, voorsitter van die Soetfontein Senior Burger Klub, het in sy opening gesê dat elke groepering in die land 'n kultuur en 'n verlede het waarop hulle trots is en alhoewel daar verskillende kulture is moet een en almal dit

laat voortbestaan en bewaar vir die nageslag.

Dit is dus baie belangrik dat dit oorgedra word van geslag tot geslag.

Phillip May, wat in Melkhoufontein grootgeword het, het daarna die teenwoordiges bietjie teruggevat na vervloë dae met sy skaapskêr, vleismeul, ossewa sweep en ander interessante goed.

Vandag se kinders ken net die moderne elektriese ware en kan hulle nie indink in 'n ander manier van werk nie.

Nadat David October op sy kitaar getokkel het, het Sharon Davids, ondervoorsitter van Soetfontein Senior Burger Klub, en die dames die een na die ander erfenisdis bedien.

Daar was heerlike sop en tuisge-maakte roosterkoeke met kaas en

konfynt wat opgevolg is met wors en stywepap met 'n heerlike sousie.

Die vis- en lewerkoeke asook gebakte vis was net soos wat dit jare terug gemaak is.

'n Heerlike poeding het gevolg en die ete is afgesluit met 'n stukkie koek. In daardie stadium het niemand meer plek gehad vir enigiets ekstra nie en almal is tevrede huis toe.

Sharon en haar span was uitgedoes soos die tannies van toentertyd en het die dag nog meer spesiaal gemaak.

Albert het agterna gesê dat die span al die bestanddele uit hulle eie sakke aangekoop en gemaak het en dat hulle geen bydrae van die klub gevra het nie. Dit is hoe ernstig hulle voel dat die kultuur moet voortbestaan en oorgedra word.



Die 91-jarige Johanna Daries (links), en Elizabeth Riddles is gebore en getoe in Melkhoufontein en hulle kan jou vertel van die lag en seer van 'n hegte gemeenskap se trotse verlede.