

Science Expo's best

The Eskom Expo for Young Scientists has become part and parcel of school life. Every year young minds produce the most amazing ideas - some more successful than others.

This year the Cape Town finalists of the Eskom Expo International Science Fair, were treated to a visit to Koeberg Nuclear Power Station. The eager young minds were fascinated with the inner workings of Koeberg. They enjoyed several presentations about the Operator Training Programme, the Weather Station, how a pressurised water reactor works and even Koeberg's Emergency Preparedness Plan.



Grabbing every 'atom' of information - the group of Eskom Expo International Science Fair finalists at Koeberg's Visitors Centre

Every bit counts

Who does not love the ocean? Covering more than 70% of earth's surface and one of our most valuable natural resources. It governs the weather, cleans the air, help feed the world, and provide a livelihood for millions. It is home to most of the life on earth, from microscopic algae to the majestic blue whale - the largest animal on the planet.

Despite this, as humans, we are continually polluting it. The majority of the garbage that enters the ocean is single-use plastic; grocery bags, water bottles, drinking straws and yogurt containers. Of the eight million metric tons of plastic entering the ocean every year - instead of being recycled, it will not biodegrade. For decades it will continue to pollute our beaches, entangle marine life, and get ingested by fish and seabirds.



Koeberg's Conservation Team regularly participates in beach clean-ups. Lately staff members have noticed an increase in polystyrene food containers. Polystyrene is a petroleum-based, non-biodegradable foam. It has a serious impact on human health, wildlife, the aquatic environment, and the economy. Polystyrene is technically 'recyclable' but there is, to date, no meaningful solution.

How can you help?

1. Refuse food that is packaged in polystyrene. It's not good for you or the environment.
2. Take a reusable container when you collect takeaways and ask that your food be placed in your own container.
3. Dispose of polystyrene in a responsible manner.

Bags of rubbish collected by the Conservation Team from Koeberg's beachfront



Koeberg's wildflowers

This year the wildflowers in the Koeberg Nature Reserve did not disappoint. The photos below illustrate some of the highlights of the season. The flower diversity on offer will now decrease as Summer continues.

Be sure not to miss out on the wildflowers next year.



Babiana nana
'Baboon Flower'



Lobostemon fruticosus
'Pajama Bush'



Leucospermum hypophyllocarpodendron
'Green-snakestem Pincushion'



Gladiolus carinatus
'Blou Afrikaner'



Dorotheanthus bellidiformis
'Bokbaavygie'



Ferraria crispa
'Starfish lily'

Cape Bulbul nest and eggs

Breeding season

Many birds are currently breeding and raising their young. It is not uncommon to see chicks that have lost their way from their parents or that have fallen out of their nests.

Chicks are very vulnerable in such situations. If you happen to see a chick out of its nest, please inform the Conservation Department as they might be able to assist.

Birds often venture into buildings. It is best to open a window or door - the bird will find its way out eventually.

Do not feed the birds as they will become habituated and will continue to enter the building for the feeding opportunity.

If given the opportunity, some birds, such as the House Sparrow (Mossie), will nest and breed inside buildings as well. It is therefore very important to make sure they exit the building and close off any entrances or windows. To capture a bird inside a building is very challenging, especially if the ceilings are high. It is also stressful for the birds and the practice is not recommended.

For any further information or advice, contact the Conservation Department.

Rock Kestrel chick



Spotted Eagle owl

