

# ORCA Times

ORCA FOUNDATION'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**SUMMER ABSENCE OF  
WHITE SHARKS IN  
ROBBERG MPA**

RESULTS FROM CLIFF-TOP OBSERVATIONS

**BUMPER SEASON FOR  
ROBBERG SEALS?**

EVIDENCE FROM PUP COUNTS  
AND STRANDING RECORDS

**RARE STRANDING  
OF A HUMPBACK  
DOLPHIN**

**SMALL PELAGIC FISH  
DOMINATE SEAL DIET**

PRELIMINARY  
OBSERVATIONS FROM  
SCAT ANALYSIS



**INTERTIDAL FORAGING  
BY ROBBERG BABOONS**  
RARE SIGHTING

**PLASTIC REMAINS TOP  
ITEM DURING BEACH  
CLEAN-UPS**

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## SPECIAL THANKS

# RESEARCH & MONITORING

## Bumper breeding season for Robberg seals?

Between January-March volunteers assisted biologists with six boat-based counts of Cape fur seals that haul out on Robberg Peninsula. Apart from routine counts of adult seals, which have levelled off since 2012 despite seasonal fluctuations in their numbers, our biologists were surprised by the large increase in the number of pups born this year. A minimum estimate of 838 pups revealed almost twice the numbers that were recorded during last season, which was also consistent with a two-fold increase in pup mortality from stranding records. These data suggest that the Robberg seal colony experienced a bumper breeding season, most likely related to an increase in the availability of their preferred prey – small pelagic fish. Previous studies have shown how the quantity and quality of prey affects the body condition of seals, which affects the timing of puberty, implantation of embryos, mortality of foetuses and therefore reproductive rates of females. Continued monitoring of annual fluctuations in the numbers of new born pups may be crucial in studying the importance of seal birth rate as an indicator of changes in the local food-web, especially if linked to results from monthly diet analysis (see section on seal scats).



**Cape fur seal pups huddle together in large 'creches' on Robberg Peninsula while their mothers are away on short foraging trips.** © Frikkie van der Vyver

## 62 pups get flipper tags for research



**From left to right: ORCA Foundation marine biologists Frikkie van der Vyver and Danielle Conry, and their research collaborator from the Port Elizabeth Museum, Dr. Greg Hofmeyr, pose for a quick photo after returning from their successful pup tagging expedition with Offshore Adventures.**

© Offshore Adventures

In February our biologists and their collaborator from the Port Elizabeth Museum visited the seal colony where they caught, weighed, sampled and marked 62 pups with uniquely identifiable flipper tags as part of long-term research on early pup survival rates. During routine boat-based surveys volunteers helped monitor tag re-sights. Some of the tagged pups are already being spotted further

away from their birth sites as they start exploring the shallow waters of the peninsula while their mothers are away on multi-day foraging trips. Other ongoing research information that volunteers helped record during these boat-based surveys included observations of seal entanglements, shark-inflicted wounds and the presence of vagrant species such as southern elephant seals.



**A tagged seal pup spotted with its mother during ORCA Foundation's routine boat-based surveys. @ Danielle Conry**

## Small pelagic fish dominate Robberg seal diet



**Prey remains such as chokka squid beaks are commonly found in Cape fur seal scats collected at Robberg Peninsula. Prey remains of other species not pictured here include octopus beaks, crustacean pincers, seabird feathers and a wide variety of fish otoliths – the vast majority of which belongs to small pelagic species such as horse mackerel and anchovy. @**

*Frikkie van der Vyver*

Over the last two months volunteers assisted biologists with routine processing of seal scat samples that were collected on Robberg Peninsula during spring 2018. Over 100 scats were individually soaked and prey remains from a variety of species of fish, cephalopods (squids, octopus), crustaceans (crab, shrimp, crayfish) and seabirds separated using fine meshed sieves. During preliminary processing biologists continued to identify the vast majority of prey remains belonging to anchovy, horse mackerel (maasbanker) and redeye roundherring, but remains from hake and chokka squid were also plentiful. Due to the relatively fast gut passage rate in Cape fur seals it is important to remember that these preliminary results represent the more near-shore diet of Cape fur seals. Remains of prey that

were consumed further offshore on the Agulhas Bank, where seals also go to feed for weeks to months at a time, would most likely have passed through their gut before they returned to the colony. All samples were transported to the Port Elizabeth Museum for further analyses where data will be used to update the diet of Cape fur seals that haul out on Robberg Peninsula. Results may also aid in future studies examining the role of Cape fur seals as top predators, and as important indicators of ecosystem health.

## Washed up seal carcasses provide opportunity for research

The end of January saw the close of the annual Cape fur seal breeding season on Robberg Peninsula. This was followed by the usual decline in new-born pup strandings and an increase in adult carcasses washed ashore. Volunteers continued to assist biologists in recording these natural mortality events, and many samples were collected for long-term research at the Port Elizabeth Museum. During a fieldtrip to the museum volunteers also attended a number of informative seal necropsies lead by marine mammal scientist Dr. Greg Hofmeyr.



**Volunteers attending a full necropsy on a Cape fur seal carcass at the Port Elizabeth Museum. © Melissa Nel**

## Plett's famous river seal still missing

Since January volunteers assisted field biologists during 8 boat-based photo-ID surveys in the Keurbooms River. Only one seal was present in the estuary during each survey, which stretched from the river mouth up the Bitou River and all the way up to Whiskey Creek. A vast majority of seals appeared to be yearlings and sub-adult males, all unknown to our biologists. None of the known adult males that were often present in the estuary during 2017 and 2018 were spotted again this year. Apart from the possibility that they may have left the river to join the annual breeding season during Nov-Jan, or died, their continued absence remains a mystery. Once biologists have established a more long-term dataset researchers will be able to examine the seasonal presence of specific known individuals in the estuary, their movements,



**'Stompie', one of a handful known adult male Cape fur seals who was regularly spotted in the Keurbooms River estuary during 2017 and 2018 surveys. Feeding and living almost exclusively in the estuary, biologists believe this to be a natural learnt behaviour adopted by only a few male individuals. Easily recognisable by the unique scar on his left fore-flipper, it appears that stompie has been absent in the river since mid-November last year. © Frikkie van der Vver**

behaviour and potential impact on vulnerable estuarine fish species that are also of recreational and conservation concern. Eventually long-term data can be used to place the possible impact of river specialists into context with current recreational fishing pressure, which volunteers also record during surveys.

## Summer absence of white sharks in Robberg MPA



***During winter months Great white sharks patrol the shallow waters at the Cape fur seal colony in Robberg MPA. Data from dedicated cliff-top observation sessions suggests an absence of this species in Robberg MPA between January-March. © Bettina Kaiser***

Between January-March volunteers continued to record an absence of Great white shark in Robberg MPA, based on 59 dedicated observation sessions (totalling >100 hrs) made from various cliff-top monitoring sites along Robberg Peninsula. Sightings of juvenile hammerhead sharks continued throughout January and February, but declined in March. The average group size of seals travelling to and from the colony remained very low during this time – presumably due to the absence

of white sharks. More data and analysis is however needed to test the influence of other factors potentially effecting seal traffic at the colony, such as seasonal prey availability and other behaviours associated with their annual breeding cycle. Our biologists look forward to volunteers continuing these observations throughout 2019 so that trends over two years can be assessed.

## Three new humpback dolphin calves seen in Plett



***A humpback dolphin breaches from the back of a wave. © Danielle Conry***

Since January, 11 boat-based surveys have been conducted for Plettenberg Bay's humpback dolphin project. Unfortunately, for the first time since the start of the project in June last year, one of the four monthly surveys could not be conducted during February. Despite this, we had a record number of seven humpback dolphin sightings for the month of February and a whopping 16 encounters for the entire quarter!



The highlight during our surveys was seeing three new calves! Although humpback dolphins can give birth to calves throughout the year, there is a peak calving period during the summer months from December to February. The calves are born at a length of around 1m and are pale grey in colour. They may remain closely associated with their mothers for up to four years after their birth.

We hope to see these young dolphins in the months to come and that they will grow up to become a valuable contribution to the population numbers of this endangered species.



**Two of the humpback dolphin calves seen over the last quarter.** © Danielle Conry

During our surveys we also saw some beautiful breaches and interesting behaviours, such as a bout of feeding off Lookout beach. We were also saddened to see a Bryde's whale along Keurbooms beach with a large scar on its back, this most likely the result of a boat's propeller.



**A Bryde's whale surface with a large scar visible on its back.** © Danielle Conry

This project, run in collaboration with Nelson Mandela University, aims to add to previous data collected on Indian Ocean humpback dolphins in this area in order to better understand and conserve this species. The data will be used to better understand aspects such as trends in population numbers, movement patterns and

social structure. We are ever grateful for the use of Ocean Blue Adventures vessel, Gaia, as well as the

contribution towards the costs of the launch fees by Plett Tractor Services. We also thank our volunteers and the NVT Marine Team interns for their hard work at sea!

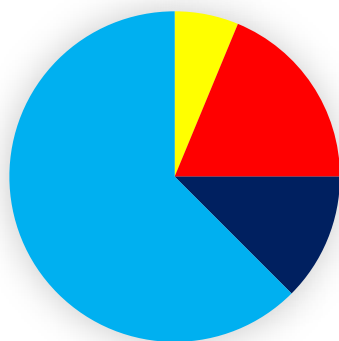


**Volunteers watch a beautiful sunrise as we prepare to launch for a humpback dolphin survey (Photo: Danielle Conry).**

## No doubt, it's dolphin season

During the past quarter we managed to conduct only 8 opportunistic surveys with Ocean Blue Adventures to collect data on the cetaceans and marine life of Plettenberg Bay. During this quarter we had 16 cetacean sightings. Not surprisingly, as it is dolphin season, the majority of the sightings were made up by our two inshore dolphin species, with the bulk of the sightings being of Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins (10 sightings) and only 3 sightings of Indian Ocean humpback dolphins. There were only three sightings of our offshore cetacean species, with 2 sightings of Bryde's whales and one sighting of a beautiful group of Common dolphins.

### Cetacean sightings



Common Dolphin    Humpback dolphin  
Bryde's whale    Bottlenose dolphin



**Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins were the most commonly sighted species between January-March. © Danielle Conry)**

## An unusual visitor in Robberg MPA

On Wednesday 27 February, our volunteers saw an unusual visitor at Robberg Peninsula. A southern right whale! While these whales are normally sighted here during the winter months when they come to mate and calve, it is very unusual to see one so far up the coast at this time of year. Most migrate south to sub-Antarctic waters to feed during the summer months, while many also remain in the waters around the Cape. Our volunteers were happy for the surprise!



*A southern right whale swims along Robberg Peninsula... in February?! © Tatjana Eichelbaum*

## Rare stranding of a humpback dolphin

Although our volunteers only assisted with one cetacean stranding during this first quarter, it proved to be an exceptionally important one. On Monday, 18 February the Plett Stranding Network was notified of a dead dolphin in Buffalo Bay. As photos of the animal were sent through, it became clear that this was no ordinary bottlenose dolphin stranding, but an exceptionally rare stranding of one of South Africa's endangered Indian Ocean humpback dolphins.

Despite being highly coastal in nature, there have only been four strandings of the species along the south cape coast previously that we are aware of. The low frequency of



*Indian Ocean humpback dolphin stranded on Buffalo Bay beach. © Sofie de Win*

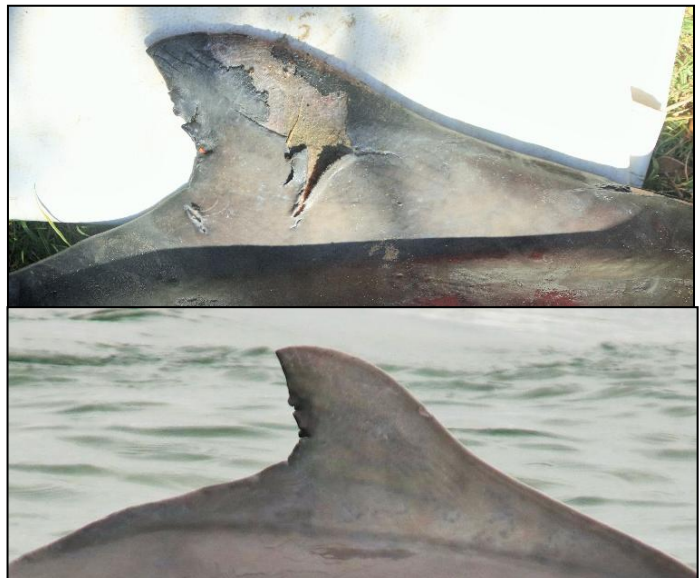
strandings for the species is most likely a result of their low population numbers and densities off South Africa, with only 500 believed to occur in our coastal waters. A full dissection of the animal was therefore extremely important and staff, volunteers and interns from both the ORCA Foundation and NVT's Marine Team rushed through to Goukamma where the dissection was to take place.



**Taking standard measurements of the humpback dolphin.**  
© Melissa Nel

The humpback dolphin was an adult male, measuring 2.58 m, and was very thin with a number of shark bites over its body. Standard photographs, measurements and samples for pathology, toxicology and stable isotope analysis were collected during the dissection on behalf of the Port Elizabeth Museum. The samples collected will be processed at a later stage and will help us gain insight into why the animal died and the biology of the species.

Photographs of the animal's dorsal fin were checked for any matches within the regional and national catalogue for the species by our cetacean biologist and Els Vermeulen, both members of South Africa's SouSA consortium. The animal was quickly matched to an individual known as Tracy, a name given to the animal prior to knowing its sex. Tracy was first photographed in January 2015 during our cetacean biologist's masters project on the species along the Garden Route. He was seen on two different occasions in that first month, first within Plettenberg Bay and two days later, slightly further east, within the Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area. The last sighting of Tracy was on 18 December 2018, two months before he was found dead on the beach. During this final sighting, he was again seen in Plettenberg Bay, this time during one of the surveys for the Plettenberg Bay Humpback Dolphin Project. No signs of illness, injury or emaciation were noticed during the sighting of him.



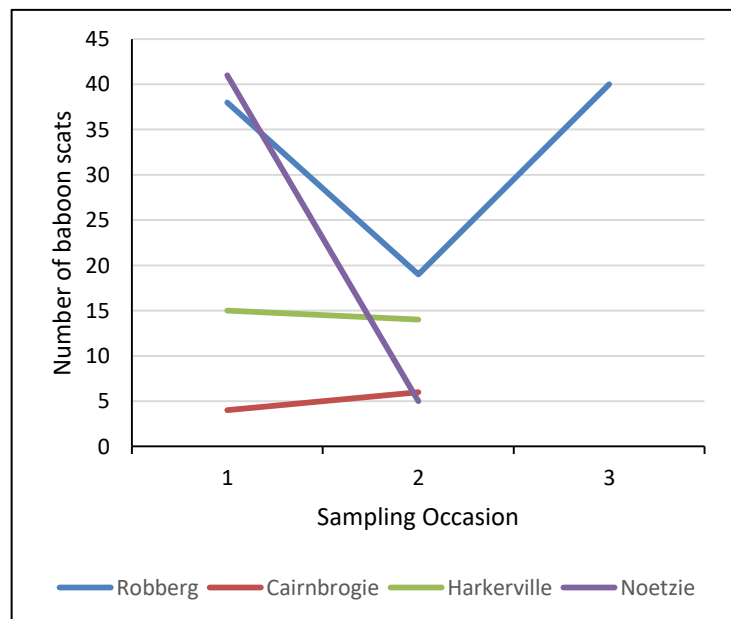
**The dorsal fin of the stranded dolphin was matched to an individual known as "Tracy".** © top: Melissa Nel, bottom: Danielle Conry

A week after his stranding, Dr. Gwen Penry, also a member of the SouSA consortium, and our cetacean biologist, along with their respective teams from NVT and the ORCA Foundation, dissected Tracy's stomach with high hopes of finding prey remains. To our knowledge, this is only the third humpback dolphin stomach dissected for the south coast population which meant the contents thereof would be very important for gaining more knowledge into the population's diet. Unfortunately, the stomach was empty of prey remains, but contained a large number of parasitic worms. This, possibly due to a weakened immune system. The outside surface of the stomach was also covered in a number of hard lumps and a large ulcer was observed in the first stomach compartment. Samples of the parasites, stomach lining of the three chambers and all abnormalities were taken for further analysis at the Port Elizabeth Museum.

Overall it appears that Tracy was in poor health and had not eaten in the time before his death. Although it is sad to lose one of these endangered dolphins, and one that is locally known to researchers, we hope that the samples taken from him will provide insight into his cause of death, the biology of the species and the threats faced by these endangered marine mammals.

## Baboons forage intertidally on Robberg's wildside

During this quarter we conducted a total of nine intertidal baboon scat surveys at four different sites between Plettenberg Bay and Knysna. These sites are surveyed monthly for baboon scats as part of a PhD study by Maxine Whitfield-Smit based at the Centre for Coastal Palaeoscience at Nelson Mandela University. Maxine's study aims to determine whether Chacma baboons forage intertidally along certain stretches of the Cape South coast and what factors influence their preference for certain areas of the coastline.



**Figure showing the number of baboon scats found at the four sampling sites at various occasions between January-March.**

The highest numbers of scats were found at Robberg Peninsula and Noetzie this quarter. This indicates higher usage of these two areas in this last quarter. Our last baboon scat survey for the quarter took place at Robberg Peninsula on 26 March. We managed to find and record 40 scats while enjoying a beautiful hike through



the fynbos with spectacular views and sights such as the beautiful orange-breasted sunbird. We were also amazed to find a troop of 23 Chacma baboons foraging intertidally on the wildside of the Peninsula. This is the first time we have observed the baboons foraging intertidally in this area and it was definitely the highlight of our morning!



**Volunteers watch from the cliffs as a troop of baboons forages for mussels on the wildside of Robberg Peninsula. © Danielle Conry, Melissa Nel & Verena Schottl**

## CONSERVATION

### Five African penguins go back home



Our volunteers had the amazing opportunity to assist Nature's Valley Trust and Tenikwa Wildlife Rehabilitation and Awareness Centre with the release of five Endangered African penguins at Lookout Beach this quarter.

These five penguins were found in poor condition along various beaches in the Plettenberg Bay area and were rescued and taken to Tenikwa Wildlife Centre for rehabilitation and subsequent release. Once the penguins had passed certain necessary health checks they were given the green light for release at the event.

The event was well supported with many people attending to see the release of the penguins and to show thanks to the great work done at Tenikwa. It turned out to be a beautiful morning and all of the penguins were successfully released! Our volunteers did a great job assisting with crowd control during the release in order to make sure none of the public got too close to the penguins, as this would cause them stress during their release back into their natural habitat.



**Top: Volunteers carry the penguins to their temporary holding pen. Bottom: Five young African penguins eagerly await release.**

A special thanks to Tenikwa Wildlife Rehabilitation and Awareness Centre and Natures Valley Trust for the great work they do and for letting us assist in this special event.

## River Health Evaluation (miniSASS)

As part of a citizen science project, our volunteers conduct river health evaluations at two locations along the Bitou River. In order to conduct these evaluations, they make use of the miniSASS (Stream Assessment Scoring System) protocol. This is an activity which can be done by anyone in order to monitor the health of a river. The sampling method is easy - you collect and identify the different macroinvertebrates in the river. These animals are broken down into different groups, namely damselflies, minnow mayflies, true flies, etc. Each group is given a score based on their sensitivity to disturbance. The score that you achieve is then divided by the number of groups which was discovered in the river. This will then give you the rivers sensitivity score which in turn tells you the health class of the river, and this ranges from very poor condition to natural condition. The first site which we routinely test is located up the Bitou river, near the Wittedrift Primary school. Most recently we found it to be in a fair condition, obtaining a score between 5.7 and 6.1. However, the second site located near the Keurbooms caravan park is currently in a very poor condition, obtaining scores of less than 5.3.



**Volunteers using the dichotomous key to help identify the macroinvertebrates.**  
© Laura Bakker

## Alien plant clearing



**Volunteer Hollie Brown showing off the Port Jackson Willow she removed.** © Laura Bakker

Our efforts to remove the *Acacia Salignas* (Port Jackson Willow) continues. This evergreen shrub, a native to Australia, invades our indigenous Fynbos and coastal dunes. Originally introduced into South Africa for dune stabilization this shrub has spread and become a problem in our Eastern and Western Capes. Our aim of eradication is to remove as many of the plants as possible using garden implements. For the bigger plants, this task is a lot more difficult, given their strong tap roots. Here the use of pangas (machete) and poison is necessary. Our Volunteer Heather Jackson calls this “Going full on lumberjack”. The poison slowly infiltrates the plant in order to kill it. A few individual plants have been found with fungus galls on them. This is an indication that biological control was introduced into the area. These galls are formed by the introduction of the gall-forming rust fungus *Uromycladium tepperianum*. This fungus can be found wherever the Port Jackson Willows

are growing due to them being dispersed by the wind. This fungus reduces the number of flowers and seeds that the plant may produce. Therefore, the likelihood of the Port Jackson Willow dispersing its seeds becomes limited.

## Beach Clean-ups

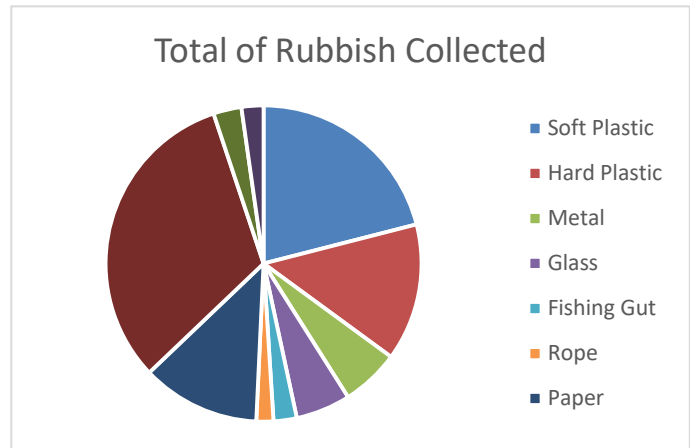


**Previous volunteer Monica Ehberson and her family with our volunteers conducting a beach clean-up along Central Beach.** © Melissa Nel

Since January volunteers have conducted ten beach clean-ups along Central Beach, Lookout Rocks and Robberg Beach. In total 6535 pieces of rubbish were collected with plastic dominating the findings at 2291 pieces. Cigarettes came in at a close second with 2091 individual cigarette butts found. Central Beach was our main source of cigarette butts, bringing in 1161 individual butts. Along Lookout beach rocks, we collected 149 pieces of fishing gut, as this is a popular fishing spot. We also stumbled upon some interesting finds during our clean-ups including diapers,

condoms, toothbrushes, shoes and batteries. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, a beach clean-up was conducted along Central beach by our volunteers. They were joined by one of our previous volunteers Monica Ehberson, and her family (husband and two sons). She had brought her family to Plettenberg Bay to enjoy a holiday but asked

if they could be involved in an activity to teach her sons about conservation. We thought a beach clean-up would be a great idea. They were a great help and managed to pick up over 300 individual pieces of plastic and 237 individual cigarette butts, all in the span of 45 minutes!



*Total of rubbish picked up during beach clean-ups*

## Aquarium Maintenance

Ocean Blue Adventures houses a small aquarium which is maintained by our volunteers. The aquarium holds a collection of fish which represent species commonly found in the bay. Volunteers regularly collect mud prawns in the Piesang river to feed the fish. They are also responsible for the cleaning of the aquarium. During maintenance they climb inside the tank clean the glass and walls.



**Volunteer Hollie Brown cleaning the aquarium.** © Laura Bakker

# EDUCATION

## Siyakula Creche

The Siyakula Creche in Qolweni township is visited by our volunteers on a monthly basis, where they teach young students basic English. Volunteers show them pictures and ask them to identify it, once the picture has been identified correctly, they teach them how to spell the word, for example, “whale”. The students then write out the word on their chalkboards while our volunteers walk around helping them where they can. This task can sometimes be difficult as the students English may not be the greatest. This is the reason why we teach them in English (translated by the teachers into isiXhosa) because we want them to develop that skill before they graduate from the creche and head off to the first grade, as a second language is of great importance. Our volunteers also read the students a story and afterwards ask them questions to help with the development of their comprehensive skills. The school also provides its students with a cooked lunch, of which our volunteers assist with the plating up of about ninety odd plates of food.



**Volunteer Romani Jo De-Morgan conducting the lesson on sharks for the song baby shark. © Sofie De Win**

This term volunteers taught the students the worldwide phenomenon “baby shark” whereby they had to sing the song and perform the actions that go with the lyrics. We were very pleased to see how the students enjoyed the song, wanting to sing it more than once. They enjoyed it so much that whenever our volunteer coordinator goes to the school, they start to sing it to her. The children at the creche really love it when our volunteers visit them, they shower them with lots of hugs and affection, our volunteers in turn absolutely love being able to make the difference they are making in the children’s lives.

## Die Sterreweg

At Die Sterreweg every week the kids learn about something new. The final week of the first term they were being taught about pollution. Their occupational therapist, Heidi Berger, approached us with an amazing idea. She wanted the students to experience pollution for themselves. So on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, our field assistant, volunteer coordinator and volunteer Holly Rodger went to the school where they found the excited awaiting students. We demonstrated to them the different types of rubbish which they might come across on the beach, from plastic to metal and more. This form of litter is one of the biggest sources of both land and water pollution. Once they knew what it was that they would be looking for the students and 3 of their staff members joined us at Central Beach where they assisted us with a mini beach clean-up. The students were very happy to be at the beach and it was heart-warming to see just how excited they got about helping us to clean the beach.



**The students from Die Sterreweg with field assistant Melissa Nel. @ Laura Bakker**

## Lunchbox Theatre

The ORCA Foundation is a proud sponsor of the Lunchbox Theatre, a group of actors who perform for schools to teach them about various environmental issues. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February two of our volunteers, Heather Jackson and Robin Olds attended the Lunchbox Theatre's "Waste show" at the Craggs Primary School. This show was very informative in teaching the students about waste, but also about recycling. Some of the students were taken onto the



**The Lunchbox Theatre actors performing the "Waste Show". @ Laura Bakker**

stage and asked to sort through the rubbish and to throw it into the corresponding bin. The students did an amazing job and we were very happy to see how excited they were about the show.

## **EXTRAMURAL ACTIVITIES**

When the volunteers aren't busy saving the planet, one beach clean-up or alien plant at a time, they keep themselves busy with some of the amazing variety of activities that Plettenberg Bay has to offer. From bungee jumping to sky diving, hiking to birding & so much more! These are some of the activities that our volunteers chose to indulge in over the past couple of months.

### **Bloukrans bungee jump**



The ultimate thrill, the Bloukrans Bridge is the highest commercially operated Bungy Jump from a bridge in the world. Volunteers Mike & Greg decided to take the leap and did not regret a second of it.

**Volunteers Mike & Greg  
moments before  
walking onto the  
bridge to jump. ©  
Melissa Nel**

### **Black water tubing**



**Megan & Hollie enjoying the views while  
floating down the river. © Melissa Nel**

A delicate negotiation with the phenomenal Storms River Gorge took us on an unforgettable downstream journey to the Tsitsikamma National Park and Storms River Mouth Suspension Bridges. Fully kitted with specialised equipment and local expert guides, the Red Route tubing adventure delivered the complete Package. We then enjoyed a South-African braai for lunch at the Tsitsikamma Blackwater tubing headquarters. With all

the highlights including the walk down Goesa forest and the optional cliff and tube jumps that we definitely took advantage of, this unforgettable experience elevated our relationship with Nature whilst having all the fun.

## Two Oceans Aquarium Turtle Road Trip

The Two Oceans Aquarium undertook a "Turtle Road Trip" to visit locals and communities, beginning in Muizenberg, and ending off in Plettenberg Bay. Some of these stops along the way are the most likely places to find stranded turtles, with the purpose to educate the people and equip their communities with network points that are able to care for and transport these hatchlings to the Aquarium's turtle rescue, rehab and release centre. We got to hear some amazing stories of previous turtle stranding recoveries, how the Two Oceans Aquarium turtle rehabilitation program is run, and most importantly:

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A STRANDED TURTLE?

Stranded turtles aren't rescued by professionals, they are rescued by people just like you. Here's how you can save a distressed turtle if you find one on your next beach visit:

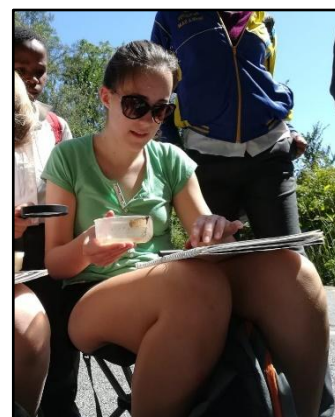
- ✗ Don't put it back in the water!
- ✓ Contact your nearest Turtle Network Point, like the NSRI (list at link)
- ✓ Put the turtle in a dry container, with a soft towel and air holes
- ✗ Keep the turtle out of the sun and wind
- ✓ Get the turtle to the Aquarium or Network Point as soon as possible.

## VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS



"I have travelled & volunteered for many years all over the world but finding the Orca Foundation in Plettenberg Bay highlighted to me how much this project has to offer. I felt that I gained knowledge & experience with a variety of marine research tasks plus working with the local conservation & education programmes. I found the experience worthwhile & rewarding. It inspired me to further my free time with other marine based projects & I would consider returning to Orca. Plettenberg Bay is simply a wonderful place to visit & stay." Romani Jo De-Morgan

"My favourite moments during my time at The Orca Foundation were the data surveys. I really enjoyed the Humpback Dolphin survey and getting the chance to view the animals so closely. The Noetzie baboon scat hike was another highlight which was sometimes challenging but offered beautiful views!" Holly Rodger.



# SPECIAL THANKS

From all of us here at ORCA, we would like to thank the following volunteers who contributed their time to assist with our work between January and March 2019. We appreciate your motivation and hard work to help further our projects, sometimes during physically and mentally challenging conditions. The success of our projects would not be possible without your contributions.

Suraj Suresh  
Greg Andricopulos  
Michael Andricopulos  
Megan Barsby  
Romani Jo De-Morgan  
Agatha Soto  
Heather Jackson  
Sofie De Win  
Hollie Brown  
Robin Olds  
Tatjana Eichelbaum  
Holly Rodger  
Pia Schmitz  
Eva Marechal  
Verena Schöttl

