



TAKE SHORTER SHOWERS

A five minute shower uses approximately 70 litres of water.



TURN OFF THE TAP

While brushing your teeth or washing your hands,
do not leave the water to run.



RE-USE YOUR BATH/SHOWER WATER

Water the garden and inedible plants.



ADD FOOD COLOURING TO THE TOILET TANK

If without flushing the colour begins to appear in the bowl
in 30 minutes, you have a leak that needs to be repaired.



WATER IS SCARCE USE IT WITH CARE

Changing our habits so that we can reduce
our water footprint **BETTER TOGETHER.**



SMALL STEPS TOWARDS A BIG PICTURE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HOD



Welcome to 2017 Colleagues and my best wishes to all of you for a healthy, prosperous and successful year ahead. Indeed, the year has taken off with the same momentum that we saw at the end of 2016 and when you read this we will already be in the month of February!

PG MTEC 2 on 24 January 2017 gave us the opportunity to reflect on our progress towards achieving our 2015-2020 term goals, to assess where we are on target and where we need to make some adjustments, mindful also that we are approaching the mid-term point. Financial austerity remains a key economic driver and is expected to prevail over the 2017 MTEF period.

So, what is our vision for 2017?

VISION is not just about WHAT you see, but HOW you see. Different people can see the same picture, but have different perspectives on it. Healthy eyesight facilitates a healthy body and a healthy life - not just in physical sense, but even more so in a metaphorical and spiritual sense. We all need to adjust our eyesight from time to time - in fact, with age it adjusts itself and we need to adapt our lifestyles accordingly! Given this unavoidable physiological phenomenon, how can we adjust our perspectives? Perhaps a few pointers on this (with acknowledgement to Phil Dooley from Hillsong):

- Who and what you associate with, affects how you see.
- Changing how you see can take time, but don't give up!
- Your heart affects how you see.
- Your heart must influence and impact on

- the World around you.
- To see with the right perspective starts within each one of us.

Let us bring these thoughts into our workplace. Our Departmental Vision for 2017 remains as formulated for the 2015-2020 term: A resilient, sustainable, quality and inclusive living environment. Our Mission in achieving this Vision is to promote a resilient, sustainable, quality and inclusive living environment in support of human well-being.

Even here in 2017 our Department's Vision may, to some people, still seem like an idealistic or futuristic dream – however, it is incumbent on each one of us as practitioners and stewards in our environmental management sector and our development planning sector to lead by our examples and sometimes even as "activists"! So, if that Vision still seems somewhere in the future, how do we make strides towards progressively realising it? Quite simply, by taking small steps towards the big picture and keeping on walking forward!

It is here where our Annual Performance Plans (APPs) play a key role as a management instrument, both as a compass in terms of guiding us where we are headed to, but also as a tool to evaluate our annual performance achievements towards the progressive realisation of our Vision. Remember also that the Department is committed to delivering services according to the following values:

- Innovation
- Caring

- Competence
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Responsiveness

In closing this piece on inspiration for 2017, I want to quote from an article that appeared in the Cape Argus on 21 April 2016, on ten ways to cleanse your mind of mental "toxins":

- Mind your own business.
- Let go of the need to be right.
- Stop blaming, shaming and complaining.
- Stop trying to please and impress everybody.
- Clean up unfinished business.
- Forgive someone.
- If you are wrong, make it right.
- Let go of perfectionism.
- Let go of self-limiting beliefs.
- Stop mismanaging your emotions.

Of course these are not absolute guidelines, but I can promise you that by reflecting on them every now and then will do you the world of good!

I am convinced that 2017 will be our best year yet, notwithstanding having had an awesome preceding five years - let's go out and do it! In doing so, let us put joy into our workplace in 2017 - my wish is that we put some fun and a smile into it, even though we are very serious about what we do!

Let us also remember the wise words of President John F Kennedy: "Things do not happen. Things are made to happen".

PIET VAN ZYL



WoW! Club celebration with healthy fruit smoothies.
Cesare Chellan (WoW Member), Saretha Potgieter (WoW Club Leader), Olivia Carolisen (Gym Instructor) and Stefanie Venter (WoW Club Leader).



Congratulations to Gillian Williams who attended the most number of Pilates/fitness classes in 2016!
Alet Steenekamp (WoW Club Leader), Gillian Williams and Stefanie Venter (WoW Club Leader).



NICHOLAS KEARNS
Directorate: Environmental Law Enforcement,



WORLD WETLANDS DAY

2 FEBRUARY 2016

World Wetlands Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on 2 February. The Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, was adopted on 2 February 1971. It is an inter-governmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international co-operation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

On this day, people around the world, including government departments, non-governmental organisations, civil society at large and academia, come together to celebrate WWD with the aim of creating and raising public awareness on the value of wetlands and its vital link to human well-being.

The 2017 theme for WWD is "Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction". This has been selected to demonstrate the impact of natural disasters on

natural ecosystems. The objective of this theme is to raise awareness and to highlight the vital roles of healthy wetlands in reducing the impacts of extreme events such as floods, droughts and cyclones on communities, and in helping to build resilience.

This came at an opportune time where South Africa is currently experiencing drought as well as recent floods of which Gauteng Province was the most affected. Therefore, this demonstrate the benefits of wetlands, in particular the provision of ecosystem services such as water and their resilience to drought and flood events.

South Africa is a water scarce country, and the water in many streams is polluted. Both droughts and floods are common. In this regards, wetlands play a vital role by removing toxic substances and sediment from water, while also improving

downstream water quality and the overall health of communities.

Wetlands are able to reduce the severity of droughts and floods by regulating stream flow. They also help to purify water and provide habitat for many different plants and animals. Besides these indirect benefits to society, wetlands provide many direct benefits in the form of resources such as fibre for making crafts as well as recreational opportunities. However lack of community awareness on the value and benefits of wetlands often leads to their transformation by humans.

Wetlands also produce goods that have a significant economic value such as clean water, fisheries, timber, wildlife resources and tourism opportunities.

To celebrate WWD, our Department's Communication Services team in collaboration with CapeNature, hosted six primary school groups from the Overstrand from 1 – 3 February. The day's events started at Malkopsvlei (also referred to as Bass Lake), Betty's Bay where the learners were introduced to the wetland area and informed about the importance of wetlands and the future preservation of it.



The visits continued at **Stoney Point Nature Reserve**, that is home to a unique colony of African penguins. At the visitor's centre, the children learnt all about penguins and afterwards had a chance to see these wonderful flightless birds up close in their natural habitat.



SUMMER 2017 PILATES/FITNESS CLASSES

Rules: You have to be an existing DEA&DP WoW member or sign up for WoW by completing the Consent and Indemnity form. Forms are available from Saretha Potgieter, 3rd floor, Utilitas or email her, Saretha.Potgieter@westerncape.gov.za

As WoW forms part of our Department's Wellness Concession, you have to first get permission from your manager/supervisor in order to join.

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT:

STEFANIE VENTER: ext 4643 | Stefanie.Venter@westerncape.gov.za

ALET STEENEKAMP: ext 2823 | Alet.Steenekamp@westerncape.gov.za

Let us create a culture of wellness **BETTER TOGETHER.**



MONDAYS 08:00 - 09:00

TUESDAYS 08:00 - 09:00

WEDNESDAYS 11:00 - 12:00

Meet at reception, Utilitas.

Remember to wear your active gear and bring along your water bottle and sweat towel.

SHOULD YOU WANT TO JOIN THE PROVINCIAL GYM, YOU CAN CONTACT THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

NEIL NAIDOO:	Neil.Naidoo@westerncape.gov.za
OLIVIA CAROLISEN:	Olivia.Carolisen@westerncape.gov.za
THANDI NKATU:	Thandi.Nkatu@westerncape.gov.za

TEL: 021-483-0833

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: R480.00

6 MONTH MEMBERSHIP: R264.00

3 MONTH MEMBERSHIP: R138.00

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2017

QUARTER 1 ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN

Photo categories should broadly represent all the key functional areas of our Department:

People at work in the environment

Water, rivers, estuaries and the coast

Air quality

Landscapes

Development and infrastructure

Entries must be submitted by **31 MARCH 2017**.

IMPORTANT: Provide a brief description of your entry, and label each photograph by category and location. You are also encouraged to add a title to each photo.

Submit your photographs individually via email to **Alet Steenekamp** or via a memory stick.

Expressing our creativity **BETTER TOGETHER.**





2017

FEBRUARY - MAY

Click on the highlighted dates to find out more about each event

FEBRUARY

- 2 February** World Wetlands Day
11 February International Day of Women and Girls in Science
20-21 February Sustainable Settlement Innovation Summit

MARCH

- 3 March** World Wildlife Day
13-19 March National Water Week
22 March World Water Day
23 March World Meteorological Day
25 March Earth Hour

APRIL

- 22 April** Earth Day
25 April World Penguin Day

MAY

- 13 May** World Migratory Bird Day
22 May International Day for Biological Diversity
23 May World Turtle Day



FEBRUARY

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

MAY

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

