



**E-News / E-Nuus van**  
**Hiking Organisation of Southern Africa**  
**Voetslaan Organisasie van Suidelike Afrika**

Happy New Year!!  
Happy New Year!!  
Gelukkige Nuwe Jaar!!

Indaba 2013

**NUUSBERIGGIES/NEWS ITEMS**



Hierdie klompie mense het onlangs die opleidings kursus vir roete ontwikkeling te Groenkloof, Pretoria, bygewoon en dienoreenkomstig sertifikate ontvang! Baie geluk aan almal!

*These are the guys and girls that did the training course for trail development held at Groenkloof, Pretoria. Congratulations!*

**SANParks on board!**

As custodians of our national parks where natural and cultural heritage is protected, SANParks adheres to the principle of providing responsible (socially, environmentally and economically) high quality products to our guests and as such is in favour of objective auditing of our tourism facilities. In this regard we have embarked on the auditing of (some of) our hiking trails through the HOSA-run, *Green Flag Accreditation system*, which we regard as a suitable system to ensure that our products are run in a responsible manner and are of good quality.

JOEP STEVENS, GENERAL MANAGER, STRATEGIC TOURISM SERVICES, SA NATIONAL PARKS.

**Check out this webpage!**

**[Green Flag Trails in SA - English Blog | By South Africa Channel](http://www.southafrica.com/blog/green-flag-trails-in-sa)**

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**Fish River hike**

I came upon an old newspaper article, way back from 1998/9! It is about two 13-year old boys, Wehan van Greunen and Isak Liebenberg, who did the extended Fish River hike over 145 km in seven and a half days! They were part of a group of 10 that did the hike under the watchful eye of Frik Olwage.

*"When the boys returned, their exhibited manly virtues and strength faded in to tears of relief. "It's so nice to be in my own bed" was Wehan's reaction when he returned home. He then promptly fell asleep, exhausted. Tears by no means signal dishonour. The hike was no light feat for the youngsters. The tow trained with five-kilogram day-packs in preparation. Both are good cross-country runners, but the equation alters somewhat when you are lugging half your body weight. Each of them carried food for 8 days and their own equipment, with the backpacks weighing 15 kilos. Both weigh around the 30 kilo mark!*

*Stomaching violent movies in the city is one thing, but the fear of the absolute darkness of the canyon's night was something that Isak and Wehan had to overcome. By the end of the hike the boys transformed their fear into a comfort."*

Do you know them? Were you part of this group?

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. African proverb

### Green Flag

The concept behind Green Flag is to encourage hikers to give feedback so as to help die trail owner to ensure a value for money experience to hikers and thus get positive word of mouth marketing. It also helps him in his daily monitoring inspection process. In the light of this positive attitude we are happy to give feedback from the hiker Carel Davies who hiked Lindani trails on 29 September 2012.

His main comments were that they enjoyed the trails but requests more markers. There was a similar request with the comment added that seemingly the baboons have been tampering with the signage. It implies that you might consider putting in not merely more markers but ensuring that they are steadfast (baboon proof – if that is possible at all!).

Thank you for providing an excellent hiking product to the hiking fraternity. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

This is but one example of how we try to improve the hiking products.



### Streekkantore/Regional offices:

Baie geluk met die stigting van ons eerste Streek! KZN is tops! Congratulations with the first Regional office!

Die volgende persone word geluk gewens met hul verkiesing:

Voorsitter/chair person --Marizelda Breet

O-Voorsitter/Vice chair person—Annie Kleinloog

Sekretares/Secretary –Roda Breet

Tesourier/Treasurer –Malcolm Drummond

Lid/Member – Sonja Krüger

Lid/Member – Eduard Goosen



Vossie



Fossie

### Wat wil u graag in die nuusbrief lees? What would you like to read in our newsletter?

My e-pos adres is [jackdo1@vodamail.co.za](mailto:jackdo1@vodamail.co.za) indien u enige nuusberig wil stuur, vir plasing in ons e-nuusbrief.

*Please send me your hiking story!*

*Jackie*



If life hands you lemons, squeeze out a smile!