

Dear Members,

1. Saturday 15th September 2018 is International Coastal clean-up day. Cape Nature, in conjunction with WARA, is appealing to you - if you are walking on the beach this coming weekend, please take a bag with you to collect waste that has been deposited on our shores.

Every year thousands of tons of garbage winds up in the oceans, with 60% of that being composed of plastic material. Plastics especially last a very long time in the ocean, and are in such abundance that there are 46,000 individual pieces of plastic litter for every square mile of ocean. Plastics are very hazardous to marine life, killing more than a million birds and over 100,000 seals, turtles, and whales, and an immense number of fish in our ocean. Coastal Cleanup Day encourages us to get out to our beaches and help to limit this problem by cleaning up the garbage that has washed up on shore, and that left by visitors every day.

2. In addition - there is good news from our National Parks, with FREE ENTRY during the following weeks in September 2018:

CAPE NATURE PARKS 17th – 23rd September 2018

SAN PARKS 24th – 30th September 2018

3. Further exciting news - Whales in abundance off our coast :

Jean Tresfon, a marine conservation photographer recently shared some exciting news about all the whales being spotted off the coast of the Western Cape.



Jean says:

The next hotspot was at the [De Hoop Collection Nature Reserve](#), from Skipskop Point to Lekkerwater, where we spotted an incredible 1,116 whales, or 558 cow/calf pairs, highlighting the fact that Koppie Alleen is without question the most important nursery area for southern right whales on the South African coast.

Please go to the following links to read this incredible story:

<https://www.goodthingsguy.com/environment/jean-tresfon-marine-conservation/>

<https://www.iol.co.za/travel/south-africa/western-cape/a-whale-of-a-weekend-at-de-hoop-16653526>

Enjoy the good news, the spring weather and the news that our dams are nearly 70% full !!

Kind regards,

Margot Rudolph
WARA Secretary