



## SOUTHERN AFRICAN NETWORKING

The annual Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) conference took place during the first week of April. The conference was hosted by Treverton Preparatory College near Durban, South Africa.

During the four day conference, I attended a variety of workshops given by environmental educators throughout the southern African region. Presentations included activities done at environmental education (EE) centres, teacher-training programmes and EE programmes for the general public. The conference also offered a field trip on one afternoon to see various environmental education projects in the local area. I participated in a walk through the Treverton Preparatory College Wildlife Area which serves a dual purpose. The area aims to protect and restore native habitat in a primarily farming area and is a wonderful hands-on learning tool for the students.

A highlight of the conference for me was the keynote address by Danish professor, Karsten Schnack, about the Action Competence approach to environmental education. Schnack's address sparked many lively discussions among the conference delegates focused on the importance of the motivating factors behind an environmental educator's own work. As an environmental educator who is striving to improve the relationship between humans and the natural environment, one is constantly faced with the issue of teaching values. How does one appropriately and effectively teach values that will benefit and promote positive behaviour towards the environment?

NaDEET shared its project at the annual "Market Place" with a display and informational sheets. Many participants were excited to hear the progress NaDEET has made since last year's conference. Next year's conference is due to be held in



Viktoria with the Botswana Network Coordinator

## TWO THOUSAND KILOMETRES

One of the questions that I am constantly asked is... "But it is so far, will the schools really travel so far to come here?"

YES! Although some schools have a distance of only 500-600 km round-trip to NaDEET Centre, one group drove 2000 km! The NamGreen Environmental Club from Olukolo Combined School in Ondangwa in the northern part of Namibia came all the way to NaDEET during the May school holidays. What a trip!

The *Golden Mole* is produced by

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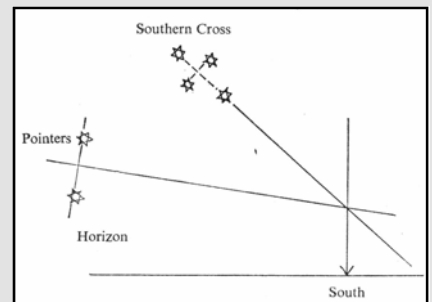


## SEEING STARS

We have been very fortunate this year as two guest astronomers have presented programmes at NaDEET Centre. Sossusvlei Mountain Lodge, one of our neighbours on NamibRand Nature Reserve, hosts resident astronomers throughout the year. On two occasions, the lodge has been able to 'lend out' the resident astronomer to NaDEET Centre.

In March, Di Kinloch from Australia, conducted an evening programme with a grade 6 class from a Windhoek primary school. She explained many of the basic principles behind our solar system to the schoolchildren including the rotation of the moon, Earth and other planets around the sun. Di also showed the children many of the different constellations in the night sky.

In June, Dr. George Tucker from the United States, spent an evening at the Centre with a group of grade 11 and 12 learners from a local school. George answered many of the learners' questions, explained the phases of the moon and shooting stars (See article "Namibia's Space Rocks!"). Both Di and George explained to the groups the



How to find south using the Southern Cross and the two Pointers  
From the survival guide *Don't Die in the Bundu*

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## RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATE

After four months of working on my In-Service Training project “The Perception and Acceptance of Alternative Energy Sources for Cooking”, I have completed my data collection. I am now busy analysing the data gathered for the project at NaDEET Centre to write up my final report. I will submit this report to the Polytechnic of Namibia and will be presenting my findings on the 22-23 July to my fellow colleagues and lecturers. Thank you to everyone who has made my research project a reality. Check out my results in the next *Golden Mole*.

*Michaella Phemelo*



*Michaella conducting an interview with Rebecca, a grade 12 learner schooling in Gibeon*

## NAMIBIAN NETWORKING

In the last few months, NaDEET has been asked to assist other environmental education programmes on several occasions.

### SKEP

At the end of May, Andreas (NaDEET’s former Building Manager) and I went to Lüderitz to attend a planning workshop for the Succulent Karoo Environmental Programme (SKEP). The Succulent Karoo ecosystem is one of the world’s leading biodiversity hotspots. It ranges from southern Namibia to northern South Africa. SKEP plans to implement an environmental education programme in the town of Lüderitz to get local people involved in protecting this unique biodiversity. NaDEET has been asked to assist with this project with our experience in setting up a new programme that is appropriate and effective.

### ECO-SCHOOLS

The international Eco-School project has been piloted in Namibia this year. The project strives for schools to incorporate environmental education into the whole school structure. The programme is currently implemented in over 10 000 schools worldwide. Many aspects of the Eco-School project fall in line with NaDEET’s “At-School-Project” which aims for school groups to extend their environmental learning from NaDEET Centre back into their home and/ or school community. Look in future newsletter for potential developments with NaDEET and the Eco-School project in Namibia.

*Viktoria Keding*



## ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PROJECT

Since the beginning of 2004, the youth mini-magazine, the *Bush Telegraph*, has been in need of a new sponsor. For the past two years, the British High Commission kindly sponsored the widely-read publication. Approximately 6 000 children and educators from throughout the whole country subscribe to the tri-annual *Bush Telegraph*. It provides information about various environmental topics that are locally relevant and written in easily understood language.

The first issue of this year was about vulture conservation in Namibia. It was co-sponsored by the Namibia Nature Foundation/ Swedish International Development Agency, the Vulture Study Group and the AfriCat Foundation.

The second issue, which is currently being developed, will be about the plant kingdom and its role in the maintenance of ecological processes. This issue is generously being supported through the Southern African Development Community-Regional EE Programme based in South Africa.

The Wildlife Society of Namibia has also taken an active interest in the publication as it is distributed together with its own magazine, the *Roan News*, as an environmental magazine for kids. The Wildlife Society has offered to co-sponsor an issue of the *Bush Telegraph*.

We are working at securing long term sponsorship for this very valuable project. Environmental literature that is about the Namibian environment and written for Namibian children is key to developing a more literature-orientated population and ultimately in addressing environmental issues.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the *Bush Telegraph*, please contact NaDEET.



*Viktoria Keding*

## THANK YOU!

*Elsita Kiekebusch-Steinitz* for volunteering with us again this year for three weeks.

*Daniela Amrein* for continuing to manage, update and sponsor our website. Your contribution is highly valued.

*Michaella Phemelo* for a wonderful (first) six months! We are very happy to have you with us for the rest of the year. You are a very responsible and independent thinker. It is great to have you as part of the NaDEET Team!



## MAKING AN IMPRESSION

I have spent a total of six months at NaDEET and have worked with seven schools at NaDEET Centre. I want to give NaDEET Centre and everyone that's involved credit for what they are truly giving to the Namibian youth. I believe that their experience here has changed many youths' attitudes, which will hopefully make them better leaders in the future.



*NaDEET Centre in June 2004*

As a young Namibian, my own understandings and desire to learn have increased during my time here. I hope that all people that have visited NaDEET Centre are taking the knowledge and skills they have gained here and applying it in their lives to make it a reality. I have been observing a lot of the learners and they really feel positive about NaDEET. They never regret having come but rather they want to stay as long as possible. That is the good spirit that this Centre has left in many young people.

I encourage schools and youth groups to take their learners to environmental education centres.

*Michaella Phemelo*

*(Continued from page 1)*

usefulness of the Southern Cross constellation in this part of the world in case one gets lost. Many Namibian children, although there is a beautiful sky above them, know very little about the stars. Much of the knowledge from their forefathers has unfortunately been lost as most people spend their evenings inside. Nowadays "modern living" of watching TV is part of everyday life.



Both groups had the opportunity to look through a telescope to see the moon, some of the planets and Alpha Centauri (the closest stars to us besides the sun). The grade 11 and 12 learners also looked at the sun using a special solar filter.

For NaDEET staff, both evenings were very enriching. We have adapted many of the astronomers' activities into our own evening programme on the night sky. We are very lucky to have a small, low-powered telescope that was donated to us last year. George has given us a short course on handling and setting up the telescope as well as using a solar filter correctly. This telescope, together with star and planet activities allows us to conduct a fun and exciting programme with all visiting groups at NaDEET Centre.

*Thank you very much to Di, George, Sossusvlei Mountain Lodge and the Kiekebusch-Steinitz family for your support!*

*Viktoria Keding*

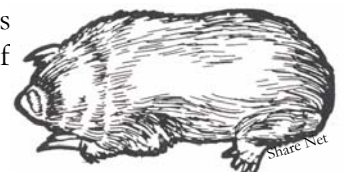
- • • • •
- **NAMIBIA'S SPACE ROCKS!** •
- Namibia not only has a beautiful sky for stargazing due to the lack of light pollution, but it also •
- can boast several meteorite occurrences. Mete- •
- orites are believed to be unchanged fragments •
- of either stone or iron that have hit the Earth. •
- They are believed to be the same material as our •
- moon and the planets. •
- **HOBA WEST METEORITE** •
- The largest meteorite in the world is located in •
- Namibia near the town of Grootfontein. It •
- weighs about 60 metric tons. •
- **GIBEON METEORITES** •
- Small meteorites hit the Earth in the Southern •
- part of Namibia in the town of Gibeon (about •
- 200 km due East of NaDEET Centre). Some •
- of these are on display in Windhoek. •
- • • • •

### THE MOLE FILE

#### Fact No. 15

#### "Travelling"

Grant's Golden Mole travels mostly by swimming through the loose Namib dune sand. It can be easily identified as it leaves behind a clear trail. The Golden Mole will however also walk on the sand's surface in search of food.





# NADEET thanks all of our supporters!

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Suzanne van Vliet  
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***Thank you very much! Your help is greatly appreciated!***

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