



The Hermanus Cliff Path Management Group

9th Annual Chairman's Report

February 2011

This annual report back on the activities of the Hermanus Cliff Path Management Group (CPMG) is prepared for the supporters and users of the Cliff Path, both resident and visiting, who share a love of this coastal section of the Fernkloof Nature Reserve. It covers the 12 month period (March 2010 to February 2011) since our last annual report, with broad reference to achievements since the CPMG's inception 10 years ago and an outline of future objectives.

Overview:

We are pleased to report that virtually all of the goals that we set when we began the CPMG initiative in 2002 have been achieved and the path is now in good condition for all of its almost 11 kilometre length. However, as with all businesses and service organizations, changing circumstances, wear and tear and other demands necessitate new and revised goals as we go along. As a result, our focus has swung more from construction to maintenance and ongoing improvement of paths and boardwalk bridges and to new initiatives in co-operation with other bodies that will involve the public. Our original mission, on the other hand, remains unchanged:

To drive initiatives to environmentally enhance, conserve, maintain and secure the Cliff Path of Hermanus from the New Harbour to Grotto Beach (Piet se Bos) and Hoy's Koppie for the safe use and pleasure of the residents and visitors to this coastal community

Since 2002 the CPMG has driven the initiatives to provide the resources, both financial and physical, to completely upgrade the path, control alien vegetation and encroachment and ensure the safety of users of the path. We could not have achieved any of this without the enthusiastic help from our supporters: the Overstrand Municipality, specifically Grant Forbes and colleagues of the Overstrand Environmental Management Services; the councillors and committee members of former Wards 3 and 4; Hermanus Public Protection (HPP); the Fernkloof Advisory Board; the Hermanus Botanical Society the Overstrand Conservation Foundation and the Hermanus Ratepayers Association.

I would like also to mention Hermanus Rotary who have funded the repair of benches in certain areas, the Hermanus Times with whom we have formed a public participation programme, the volunteer helpers who have done a sterling

job in alien removal on the path and on Hoy's Koppie and the donors, from those who have contributed thousands, to those who have arranged R50 a month stop orders. You know who you are and how much even the smallest amount means to the cliff path project. Through the CPMG, the Hermanus community expresses its sincere gratitude to all of you for your generous support

During the past year one of the CPMG's most avid supporters, Executive Mayor Theo Beyleveldt, moved to a new area of responsibility in our province. We thank him for his support and wish him well in his new role. His successor Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha Guthrie has already expressed her wholehearted support for our endeavours and we look forward to working with her, as we do with the Municipal Manager, Werner Zybrands, Law Enforcement and other municipal officials.

2010/11 Accomplishments:

- Resurfacing in exposed aggregate concrete of four sections of the path in Eastcliff and Westcliff. These sections were previously laterite and, after ten years, were beginning to erode.
- Revarnishing and repair of all boardwalk bridges
- Construction of an additional 75 metres of wheelchair-friendly path on Hoy's Koppie. (Note: A final section has yet to be completed pending Municipal tender process)
- The removal throughout the year of enormous amounts of alien vegetation from the cliff path environs. Frank Woodvine, responsible for "Cliff Care" within the CPMG, and his assistant, Richard, from Zwelihle are commended for the terrific job they've done.
- Supported by the Hermanus Times, the CPMG has initiated a public participation path and alien clean-up programme and two gatherings have been arranged to date. We thank those who joined us in clearing the path and removing a huge quantity of alien static. Similar events are being planned on a regularly basis during 2011. Please join us in caring for your path. Watch the Hermanus Times for dates and times (usually a couple of hours on a Saturday morning) or contact Frank Woodvine at the number given at the end of this report.
- Vandalism continues, sadly, and a number of signs along the cliff path have been damaged or stolen. All have been replaced by the CPMG.
- The CPMG committee has met regularly during the year.
- Our entire stock of "The Cliff Path Experience" DVD's has now been sold. This project has raised over R25 000 towards the upgrading of the path.

Summary of Finances:

Since the CPMG fundraising programme commenced in 2002 the group has raised **R 2 440 139**, primarily through private contributions, but with growing support from the Overstrand Municipality through Ward budgets. Expenditure over the same period on cliff path upgrading and alien clearing has amounted to **R2 400 188**, leaving a balance of just under

R 40 000, designated for 2011 projects.

2010/11 Income and expenses:

Income –

Donations	R 9 900
DVD sales	R 700
Capitalised interest on Investec account	<u>R 4 479</u>
	R15 079

Expenditure –

Cliff Path and boardwalk bridges	R27 730
Hoy's Koppie path	R22 800
Alien vegetation clearing	R 5 270
Fees (OCF)	R 200
Printing	<u>R 25</u>
	R56 025

The CPMG does not seek membership subscriptions, nor does it levy any fees for any of its voluntary services. We rely entirely on funds from the community we represent.

Contributions are vital. They can be made by cheque made out to **Investec Bank** and sent or handed to the CPMG chairman or a committee member.

Electronic transfers can be made as follows:

Bank: **Investec Private Bank**

Branch number: **580105**

Account name: **Hermanus Cliff Path Management Group**

Account number: **5000 211 5857**

2011/12 Projects:

- Fundraising is an ongoing necessity that becomes more and more of a challenge every year, so we're relying increasingly on Municipal and Ward budgets, but these are already being stretched in many directions. Continued public support is therefore still necessary and a top priority.
- The Cliff Path is subject to heavy daily usage, particularly during the traditional holiday periods. As a result of this and also because of erosion due to rain and wind and damage by high seas where the path comes close to the high water mark, we have identified sections of the path for urgent attention. As we did in the past year, degraded sections will be replaced with hard-wearing, maintenance-free exposed aggregate concrete. This will also prevent the formation of large puddles after heavy rains. Estimated cost of surface upgrading in the coming year is R80 000.
- Hoy's Koppie access on the southern (Checkers complex) side via the new parking area is now complete and all that remains is the completion of the wheelchair access path, delayed due to problems with the Municipal tender process, and to finalise and erect information signage at both

access points to the koppie and at the mouth of the Klipkop cave. This is a high priority CPMG project.

- A joint OCF/CPMG environmental awareness and education project to take place at the Grotto picnic area adjacent to Piet-se-bos is being planned for 2011/12.
- Alien Control in the coastal Cliff Path section of the Fernkloof Nature Reserve is also an ongoing task. Under CPMG member, Frank Woodvine, an alien identification and removal programme is being developed that is intended, as mentioned above, to involve as many members of the community as possible. Pending available funding, we also plan to continue to employ and train previously un-employed members of the community.
- Cooperation with Hermanus Times in promoting a greater involvement by the community in CPMG maintenance projects on the path will be given greater attention in 2011/12 under project coordinator Kari Brice.
- The Grotto picnic area proposal, covered in last year's report, has unfortunately been placed on hold due to Municipal concerns about the restoration of a small wetland area and cost considerations. The Municipality has undertaken to get a professional opinion on the wetland restoration. The steering committee awaits this report, pending which the continuation of the cliff path around the Grotto picnic area, the establishment of an open-air amphitheatre and upgraded picnic facilities are held in abeyance.
- Plans to extend the Cliff Path to the Scout Camp at the lagoon remain on the CPMG's "to do" list, but because of the lagoon water issue and lack of funding, we have been forced to give this project a lower priority

Challenges facing the CPMG:

- Vandalism, particularly during school holidays, continues. The CPMG is working closely with the Overstrand Law Enforcement department and HPP.
- The "Dog Poo" issue has been the subject of numerous letters to the Hermanus Times from both residents and visitors and of phone calls and e-mails to the CPMG. The CPMG, working with Fernkloof Nature Reserve Environmental Management is investigating possible new signage to encourage dog owners to show greater consideration for all path users and to pick up after their animals.
- Funding is always our biggest challenge. We welcome help from more people and businesses who appreciate the increasingly patronized cliff path. Continued private and public contributions are needed to enable us to fulfill our ongoing objectives.
- Misuse of the path by cyclists is still a challenge!
- Eradication of garden escapees and alien control requires not only vigilance, but willing hands. Our challenge is to recruit a greater number of concerned citizens this year.

The Cliff Path Management Group:

Late in 2010 we were delighted when Lauren Rainbird accepted our invitation to join the committee. Lauren's horticultural experience and her enthusiasm will provide the group with an added dimension. To all of the hard-working CPMG members, my heartfelt thanks for their support and contributions toward making the Cliff Path a showpiece of the Overstrand and Hoy's Koppie the crown jewel of Hermanus.

Questions, suggestions and offers of support are, as always, most welcome and can be addressed to any of the CPMG committee members listed below.

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David Beattie – Chairman
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