



Nama Karoo Foundation

Summer 2011

### From the Chairman

Karoo News is now being emailed to you from our webmasters in Port Elizabeth in order to ensure a more reliable cyberspace delivery to the Karoo network.

Please be reminded that you have until Friday, February 18 to register as an I&AP (Interested & Affected Party) in the proposed natural gas exploration which could lead to frack mining in all 3 Karoo Cape provinces. Open the links on Pg.2.

Until next time!

Grahame Lindop

### Did you know...



Bees have magnetite in their bodies to aid navigation. Scientists have found cell phone radiation (*electrosmog*) to be a major factor in the decline of bee populations.

Pesticides and certain combinations of chemicals (which affect bees' brains) may be equally damaging. [FARMER'S WEEKLY](#)



### High Karoo Park Blue Cranes, Wetlands & Wildlife

We wait to hear from the EWT/Eskom Powerline Partnership if the most problematic Blue Cranes spans in the country will be buried. New studies show that burial of SA's worst spans will save more cranes than putting faulty line devices on every span that causes bird mortalities. Blue Cranes are valued at R15-20,000 for an individual and R30,000 for a breeding pair. The value of cranes killed in the HKP spans in the past 2 years alone is more than enough to cover the cost for the spans to be buried.



Meanwhile, improvements on the now-famous spans came with the addition of solar lighting devices in our ground visibility experiment. [Soltech](#) 082-552-2003 in Cape Town has the import licence for solar devices from the USA with a phenomenal 36+ hour charge time. They are extremely durable, have a 5-year guarantee and can be easily installed on posts. Ornithologist Richard Dean advised white, rather than coloured, lights for the HKP spans.

We're trying 9 white flashing on one span & 9 non-flashing on another span and believe (at this stage) the white flashing to be extra-effective.



Another successful Blue crane rehabilitation & release was helped by Dr. Roland Larson of Graaff-Reinet. Young Trevor the Crane befriended people, herons, geese and flamingos during his recovery after a fence entanglement. NKF had a 2:2 success rate with recoveries in 2010.

Trevor the Blue Crane & Greater Flamingo friend wade in the water

### Karoots Karoo People & Culture



[CLICK HERE](#) to read Prehistoric Livestock Herders by Prof. Garth Sampson

Inspired by the Bushmen people who have the world's oldest DNA, Garth began the Zeekoei Valley Archaeological Project in the 1970's. The ZVAP is a long-term, large-scale project comprising the largest surveyed archaeological site in Africa. It is the Karoo's most well-known research project, spanning hundreds of thousands of years of hominid history. He hasn't found the oldest human remains...yet.

This 1st paper takes us 'recently' back in time to when livestock farming was taking place in the Karoo long before the arrival of settlers from Europe.

*Were ancient stone walls such as the one pictured left made by European ostrich farmers, Khoekhoe livestock herders or by Bushmen/San for hunting Springbok, possibly during Springbok stampedes?*

## Trekbokke Africa's Greatest Game Event



Dr. Fred Roux, pioneer of Seacow Valley game farming, has created an exclusive (& delicious!) 100% pure Upper/Bo Karoo venison range of products. See more of the immaculate facilities at [www.Qsafari.com](http://www.Qsafari.com)

[CLICK HERE](#) for the 4 page document (English & Afrikaans) about how the **R5 billion biltong hunting industry** grew 20% in 2009, despite the global economic downturn. Prof. Mellville Saaymann from the University of the North-west Province has new research & data guaranteed to delight Trekbokke enthusiasts.

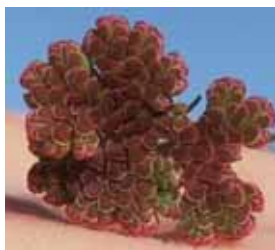
## Learn More...



Meet Africa's most endangered cats at the farm of Richard & Marion Holmes located between Craddock & Graaff-Reinet.

[www.karocats.org](http://www.karocats.org)

Alien Plant Expert Lesley Henderson has an amazing free e-newsletter called Southern African Plant Invaders Atlas (SAPIA) of the South African National Biodiversity Institute. Email to subscribe: [L.Henderson@sanbi.org.za](mailto:L.Henderson@sanbi.org.za)



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## Seacow Hippo River Valley

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the exciting story about how Endangered smallmouth yellow fish returned to two Upper Seacow River locations in October 2010!



## Proposed South Western Karoo Basin Gas Exploration Project by Shell Exploration Company B.V



[CLICK HERE](#) to register as an I&AP, obtain background information document & maps of the 90,000 km<sup>2</sup> area and see the towns and farms in the proposed exploration zone. Anyone from any where can register in *all 3 'precincts'*

[CLICK HERE](#) to read a short article on 'fracking' or 'frack mining' for natural gas

Tax deductible contributions welcomed via cheque (to postal address left) or electronic funds transfer:

Nama Karoo Foundation  
First National Bank  
Business Cheque Account 6208 447 4916  
Graaff-Reinet FNB Branch Code 210216  
Reference: *your name or email*



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