

This little barn owl was saved after falling into an oil/water separater. The company from Saldanah Bay called us immediately to ask for advice and then rushed her through.

She required several warm soapy baths to get her clean but unfortunately we were unable to save this little one due to the toxins being absorbed into her skin.

The company have already made changes to their plant so that accidents like this can never happen again.



Please consider protecting owls in your community. Things you can do:

1. Put mesh over your chimneys – we have had many rescues this season of chicks falling through their nests and ending up on braai grids
2. Never, ever use rat poison. Not only do rats die but so do their predators – owls. This is a slow agonising death for both the rat and the owl.
3. Never remove a chick unless it is in imminent danger. Call an expert and get good advice first.
4. Build owl breeding boxes and give them a safe haven on your land



Another aviary complete, and we can now start on the extention camp

Jacques Nel

Our bird and wildlife count

The latest stats

New intakes this quarter:

- 6 kestrels
- 15 barn owls and chicks
- 3 yellow billed kites, 1 black shoulder kite
- 1 baby blue crane
- 1 duiker
- 1 mousebird
- 1 peahen (female peacock)
- 1 egret
- 1 heron
- 1 Ibis
- 2 greysbok
- 1 steenbok

Wildlife released Q1 2023:

- 4 kestrels
- 18 spotted eagle owls
- 14 barn owls
- 3 yellow billed kites
- 1 blue crane

Luckily, we are nearing the end of the breeding season so we receive less chicks. Most of the babies have now been released back into the wild.

Sadly, we cannot save all wildlife. Some wildlife have been too badly injured or are too sick to recover. We were unable to save the following;

Several owls and tortoises died, we also lost the peahen, and a baby ostrich due to the severity of their injuries.

Meet the team

Get involved

Tania Copeland

This quarter we introduce our readers to Tania, our secretary and general skivvie. Find out how you too can become involved and make a difference in your community.
Page 2

Photo gallery

Cute, cuter and the cutest

Jacques Nel

Our photo gallery is guaranteed to please. Turn to page 4 and view our birds. Feast on all the cuteness we could muster for this quarter. All creatures large and small.
Page 4

2023 and beyond

New Projects

Tania Copeland

Our work is never done. As soon as one project is completed, we move directly to the next project. Keep up to date with our projects for the year and beyond. Become informed, get involved.
Page 2

Fund Raising: Small out of season projects

Our 2023 fund-raising projects

- 1. build a fresh-water dam
- 2. buy a 5000 litre desalinator
- 3. buy a rescue vehicle
- 4. buy a camera
- 5. buy a water jet sprayer
- 6. buy a wood chipper
- 7. plant loads of trees
- 8. build more day camps

The dam would be a lovely addition for the birds, and wildlife.

A 5000 litre desalinator is needed for clean drinking water. We currently have a well but it is very salty.

We have been saving up for a bakkie during the last 12 months to transport rescued wildlife and animal food. We have a substantial deposit. If we secure a long-term volunteer, the extra car will become essential.

It may be small but buying a decent camera so we can record the images in high resolution is needed. Jacques regularly posts low resolution photos and videos on the Facebook page.

A water jet sprayer would be used to clean the aviaries once empty and before the next arrivals take over.

A wood chipper would make our lives so much easier. We could chip our own off cuts and use this on the driveway, and in the camps. We can't light fires as this disturbs the birds.

Planting indigenous trees is an environmental and personal goal at the Orphanage and this is an ongoing project. We aim to plant a minimum of 100 trees per year.

Our aviaries are almost completed but now we turn our attention to day camps for wildlife prior to release as well as flight aviaries (which are much longer).

To get involved or to make a donation, please contact Tania on taniacopeland@gmail.com



Baby Blue is getting ready for flight. Hopefully she will return next year for breeding season.

Jacques Nel

A day in the life of....a blue crane

Baby Blue came to us at around 3 weeks old. She had fallen into a water trough and nearly drowned. The farmer rescued her and contacted us for help. Upon arrival at the Owl Orphanage Baby Blue was unresponsive. We were not confident that she would make it. First, we laid her out in the sun and tried to warm up her body temperature. After an hour thawing out, she had stopped shaking. We persevered and after another hour she stood up. She was given antibiotics for 3 days – we were not sure how clean the water trough was or whether she had any water on her lungs. Thankfully she made a full recovery.

Baby Blue was given a mixed diet of worms, crickets, broken eggshells, chicken hearts, greens, and mice and has continued to get stronger and stronger. Until recently she remained indoors at night but spent her days outside in one of our day camps. She has started practicing her flying, running up and down flapping her wings. In the wild, she would live in open fields so she could have a long runway in order to take off and escape predators. Her baby fluff has almost all grown out, and her tail feathers are busy following suit.

She was released from the day camps this week and will now spend her days foraging in the wheat fields. She continues to visit daily for her water and bath.

Cranes usually sleep near or in water for night protection from predators and the parents would normally help so it's good to keep an eye on her in the meantime.

We do have a breeding pair which visits the farm – they feed but don't sleep here (they have probably found a safe spot in the salt lakes or in the Berg River estuary). We are slowly introducing her to the breeding pair, so when her flight is strong enough, she can leave with them for her migration north.

In the wild, cranes form a flock before attempting the long-distance flight.

At this rate, she will be ready to migrate with them. They return annually to the same area so we will hopefully see her next year for breeding season.

Meet the Secretary

Tania Copeland



Tania is the Secretary(bird) of the Owl Orphanage, she is also on the Board of Directors.

If Tania is not busy playing Survivor SA (season 7 and season 9) she can be found living a quiet and peaceful life in Paternoster, on the West Coast.

Her many rainbow children have left home which she now shares with her numerous cats and dogs. Having retired from active business life she earns a living from teaching English online. In her spare time Tania is the admin hub of the Owl Orphanage.

She coordinates the newsletter, contacts, and keeps in touch with our precious donors, and accompanies Jacques on his environmental talks and awareness programmes.

She is not above doing the dirty work and can often be seen cutting up bird food, a job that entails trimming chicken hearts or getting down and dirty on the property digging holes for new aviaries, clearing the land of devil thorns, or simply just delivering wildlife rescues and bird seed to the centre. (NB Tania refuses the really disgusting job of cutting up mice and rats).

She tries to alleviate the admin pressure from Jacques as he is busy 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

Tania says she is actually scared of birds but her favourite saying is, ‘Suck it up, buttercup.’

Tania has been involved in charity work for many years, starting with Rotary and finally choosing animal rescue as her passion.

If you have any questions for the centre, or would like to book an environmental talk for your group, please feel free to contact our secretary bird on taniaecopeland@gmail.com

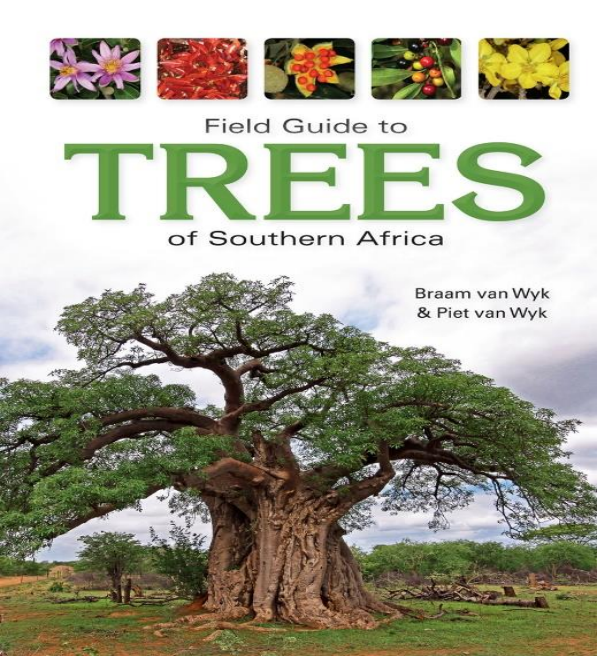
Section 18A, tax donations – we ask the experts

In the last year, we have been fortunate enough to receive a few tax donations from companies. We spoke to Marius Kotze of Roumar Accounting and Tax PTY Ltd. and asked him to explain it to you in layman’s terms.

Section 18A of the Income Tax Act allows for any Taxpayer: Natural person, trust, companies or close corporation to deduct amounts donated to any Section 18A approved organisation up to a value of 10% of their taxable income

This donation does not need to be money. It can be in the form of an asset other than trading assets. But, it can be food for the animals, and the value of the food can be claimed. It could be material for repairs and maintenance on the farm or even fuel for Jacques's vehicle, which is mainly used for the NPO.

The process is easy as you only need to select the donations tab on efilng and fill in the details on your existing certificate.



Make a donation and plant a Tree of Memory in our day camp

We receive many requests for tree planting in memory of a loved one. We have decided as this aim is in line with our environmental policy to plant as many indigenous trees as possible, we have decided to open our farmland, day camps and gardens to this great cause.

Trees are essential to the well-being of our wildlife and at the sanctuary it is no different. Trees provide a safe nesting area for breeding birds, as well as a resting area for all birds. They also provide much needed shade on the West Coast. Make a donation of R1000 and we will do the rest.

What is the fastest growing indigenous tree in South Africa?

The Hard Pear Tree (*Olinia ventosa*) is a large tree that can grow up to 25 m. One of the fastest growing of indigenous trees and a forest pioneer. Its distribution is restricted to the Western and Eastern Cape of South Africa. It can survive in sandy soil.

National tree of South Africa

The national tree of South Africa is the Real Yellowwood (*Podocarpus latifolius*). It is a medium to tall evergreen tree and can grow to a height of 33m. It is protected in SA.

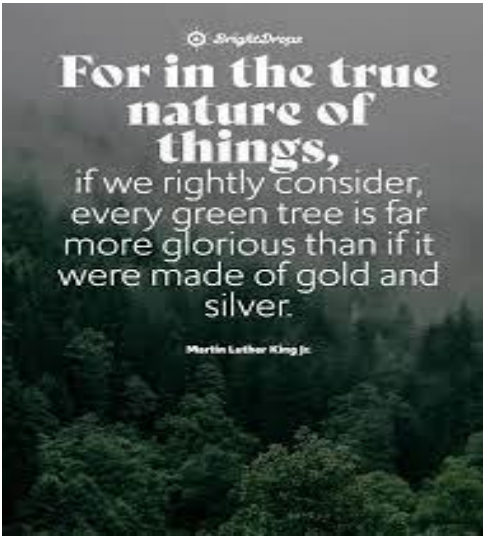


The Owl Orphanage is not a petting zoo, it is strictly off limits to the public as Jacques releases all wildlife back onto this and other farms. It is not in their interests to become familiar with people.

Look after our environment and the environment will look after us

The rate of development is out-stripping our ability to save wildlife and their natural habitats. What can we do to ensure future generations have something to look forward to?

Development, progress, pollution.... It seems everything is conspiring against the natural and wild environment. We need to plant more trees. Teach our children to respect nature and all wildlife. Report abuse of the environment, illegal dumping and water pollution immediately. We cannot be everywhere and see everything but together we can make a difference. Take the initiative at work or at your school. Start projects that uplift your community. Protect wildlife and spread awareness. Ask us to come and give a talk.



The Owl Orphanage is run solely from private donations. The National Lottery Fund did not consider any animal charities last year and we will only find out in April 2023 if we can put in an application for 2024. Please consider making a tax donation at the end of your financial tax year. Contact us for more information on our NPO status. If you would like to become more proactive in the environment contact us to discuss how you can get involved.

West Coat Environmental Project Fund t/a Owl Orphanage

NPO 236-007 Bank ABSA

Account: 4098603515 Branch: 632005

Our AGM is planned for the end of March 2023 and more projects may be discussed for the 2023 / 2024 period.

CONTACT DETAILS

Bird and wildlife rescues:
West Coast, contact Jacques on 072 040 5465
St Helena Bay call Rou on 064 5156100
Paternoster call Tania on 072 7103481