

Development and the environment - new guide available

Details of comprehensive new guidelines to reconcile conservation with development in South Africa have been released by the Council for the Environment.

The guidelines are based on a philosophy which the Council calls "Integrated Environmental Management" (IEM) and which has as its purpose the achievement of harmony between development and the environment.

"The idea is to provide a simple, cost-effective procedure for guiding development activities so that environmental impacts are avoided or minimized," Prof Roelf Botha, chairman of the Council said.

Amongst the environmental factors which should be taken into consideration in terms of IEM, are noise, socio-economic factors, air quality, water quality, historical and cultural resources, biotic communities, endangered species, marsh areas, flood plains, rivers and river mouths, agricultural areas and mineral resources. Prof Botha de-

scribed IEM as an environmental evaluation procedure paralleling the development process. He said it provided a code of practice which the Council recommended should be applied to any proposed action which could cause significant environmental impacts and which was subject to the approval of some authority.

"Many people believe that attempts to protect the environment will always cause major problems and delays for developers," Prof Botha said. "On the contrary -- the IEM procedure has been specifically designed to minimize costs and red tape."

He said that although there was as yet no legal requirement to apply IEM, it was anticipated that the procedure would eventually form the basis of regulations in terms of new legislation recently tabled in Parliament.

He said the Council would welcome suggestions based on practical experience as to how IEM could be improved or further simplified.

Almanak met 'n verskil

Vir die van u wat nou eers wakker geskrik het met die hoofgebied van die jaar

nut van slange oor te dra en dooddoende die onnodige doodmaak van duisende

Public Library week programme

Public Libraries throughout the country will be holding a Public Library Week from May 15 to 19 to bring the value of libraries to the attention of the public through means of the press and television. The Hermanus Library will hand out stickers to children during this period and the Mount Pleasant Library has a full programme for the week which includes a video show, visit from a clinic sister to discuss hygiene, afternoon games, a colouring-in competition, library decoration and a party at the library to end off the week. Details of activities appear in the Out and About column.

What was that?

A large fluorescent green ball with a long orange tail was seen in the sky over Stanford on Monday morning at about 5.30. Mrs Carol de Villiers, who lives in Stanford but farms just outside the village, saw what she assumed to be a meteor approaching from a north westerly direction and going in a south easterly direction. "It was very bright but passed over very quickly", she said.



Back into Antarctic gear - for some... Henry Fulton leader of the expedition (back left) now lives in Benoni, Rob Johnstone a radio technician won the trophy and is also from Benoni, local resident, Peter Sutcliffe is a physicist, Pieter König, also a physicist shows that there were a few hot and energetic moments in the snow. Hiding behind his balaclava is mechanic from Port Edward, Clive Spencer (front left), Phil Steyn, a meteorologist from Pretoria, Alphonse Grobler the medical man on the team now lives in Marienthal in SWA and Johan van der Merwe, meteorologist, hails from Pretoria.

Warm reunion for Antarctic team

The first reunion in 20 years of the Antarctic team that spent the year of 1969 at the Antarctic S.A.N.A.E. base, took place last weekend when Hermanus based physicist and member of the team, Dr Peter Sutcliffe, hosted a sumptuous braai at his home for his former colleagues.

The team of 16 men who were meteorologists, physicists, radio opera-

tors, geologists, mechanics and a doctor, were members of the team on the annual scientific expedition S.A.N.A.E.10, as in 1969 it was the 10th South African expedition to go to the Antarctic.

The two year Department of Transport contract includes one year spent in the icy wastes 2 500km from the South Pole where for two-and-a-half months the region experiences continuous sunshine in the

summer and the same long period of continuous darkness in the sub zero winter. The autumn and spring bring sunrises and sunsets which break the monotony.

Nine members of the group managed to get together from all corners of the country for a very congenial weekend - their only regret is that they had not done it years ago!

As far as they know, no

other group has organised a re-union of this nature which they all recommend highly.

Each member of the team brought along their Antarctic gear, one even hired a beard and wig to emulate his slimmer, hairier self of 20 years ago. A highly prized trophy had been made up for the "best dressed" team member and Rob Johnstone won it hands down with his beard, wig and boep!