



# LEARNING THROUGH NATURE

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## NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2015

Hello Everyone,

We are pleased to report that **LEARNING THROUGH NATURE** has enjoyed steady work through the first half of 2015. We continue to work with regular clients and agreements have been entered into with some new training providers and some exciting work has started with an internship programme in Mphopomeni, KZN.

**UNISA** – It is most satisfying that UNISA have re-introduced the Saturday morning tutorials. Students in Animal Studies and Fundamentals of Conservation attended tutorials. Some students travelled long distances to attend classes.



*First semester students - UNISA  
Pietermaritzburg*

E-tutoring in Animal Studies continued through the first semester as did marking of assignments and exam scripts for Fundamentals of Conservation. More students are submitting their assignments on-line which enables them to obtain results quickly instead of waiting for the postal service to deliver their results.

After developing tutorial plans for Fundamentals of Conservation Model 2 – an extended module - a version of the regular mainstream modules to be tutored over the period of a year (rather than a semester) to be offered to first year students who have been identified as requiring additional assistance. Prospective tutors were then invited to carry out the on-line training. The results of this have not yet been made known.

**WESSA** – The new intake of the DEA / YES programme in the Western Cape started early in the year. The learning programmes in Environmental Practices (Level 2) have been presented to 110 learners in the Eden Municipality (Knysna), Grabouw and Cape Town. The courses consist of understanding the natural environment; understanding and using environmental management tools; best environmental practices in the workplace; managing alien invasive plants and knowledge of the water cycle, wastewater systems and processes.

**LEARNING THROUGH NATURE** attended the **ETDP SETA** Indaba in Durban in April where the SETA reported on work done through the year and their plans for the future.

### NEW CLIENTS INCLUDE:

**The Humane Education Trust** – assessor / moderator. Unit standard - 13649 – Apply fundamental knowledge of environmental ethics to the field of work or study.

**Terra Firma Academy** – assessor / moderator – Unit standard 119909 – Explain the implications of climate change for the economic sector.

**Mahayi HRD Services cc** – assessor / moderator – Unit standard 8330 – Combat problem plants.

**Jeanette Stewart**  
**Environmental Education Specialist**



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**LISAKHANYA** – This is a pilot programme initiated by the Midlands Meander Association Education Project (MMAEP) and funded by Rotary International. This programme is aimed at unemployed school-leavers living in Mphopomeni, KZN. The aim of the programme is to teach skills and provide exposure to different career paths in order for participants to become dependable, employable people in society. Jeanette is working with Gael Taylor, Joanna Ngwenya with Jessica Dreamtime providing advice from the MMAEP.

The objectives of the first term were: team-building, creating a space, creating an identity and starting to build personal profiles. The name **Lisakhanya** was chosen by the group and loosely means “*stepping into a brighter future*” This programme is different to other similar programmes in that anything that is taught it put into action in order to gain full understanding of each concepts.

During the second term the focus has been on community projects which the participants select and run to completion. Voluntary work is an essential component of the programme. A highlight for the participants has been the guest speakers who have been invited to share their business skills and advice.



After the launch of the programme applicants were selected following an interview process. The principal, Mr. Themba Qwabe, of Umthombo High School kindly offered us the use of a vacant classroom which the group were able to clean and decorate.

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Mr. Qonidisa Ngwenya - one of the inspiring guest speakers.



The third term will concentrate on work place experiences. Exciting times ahead!

Greetings,  
Jeanette

**Jeanette Stewart**  
Environmental Education Specialist