

Botfriends newsletter

September 2019



Grethe Thunberg : an exceptional human being

When Thunberg began her protest outside the Swedish Parliament in 2018 at age 15, she had two simple messages - a sign which said "school strike for the climate" and leaflets she handed out which said: "I am doing this because you adults are sh**ing on my future." As her protest gained momentum, she was invited to give speeches at a variety of forums which enabled her to expand on her concerns. So far, she has espoused four interwoven themes.



The first is that the crisis caused by global warming is so serious that humanity is facing an existential crisis, "that will most likely lead to the end of our civilization as we know it."

The second is that she holds the current generation of adults responsible, with statements such as "You are stealing our future". She is especially concerned about the impact the climate crisis will have on young people like her. Speaking at Parliament in London she said: "You lied to us. You gave us false hope. You told us that the future was something to look forward to."

Thunberg's third key message is that we need to wake up and change because very little is being done to solve the problem. She says the situation is so dire, we should all be panicking.

Her fourth point is that politicians and decision makers need to listen to the scientists pointing out in 2019 that "according to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), we are less than 12 years away from not being able to undo our mistakes."

In August, Greta sailed into New York City after her 15-day voyage by yacht from Plymouth, England.

After disembarking to a cheering crowd in lower Manhattan, Thunberg opened a press conference saying,

"Well all of this is overwhelming. The trip was surprisingly good. I did not feel sea sick once," Thunberg said.

Thunberg made the trip across the Atlantic to attend a United Nations climate summit taking place in September — and she did it without leaving a carbon footprint. She traveled aboard the Malizia II, which has its own solar panels and hydro-generators to power the yacht. [from Wikipedia and The Verge 28 Aug 2019; pic: European Parliament]

Grethe on climate change:

"Here (in the USA) it feels like it is being discussed as something whether you believe in or not believe in. Where I come from (Sweden), it's more like it's a fact."

[Interview with Trevor Noah 15 Sept 2019]

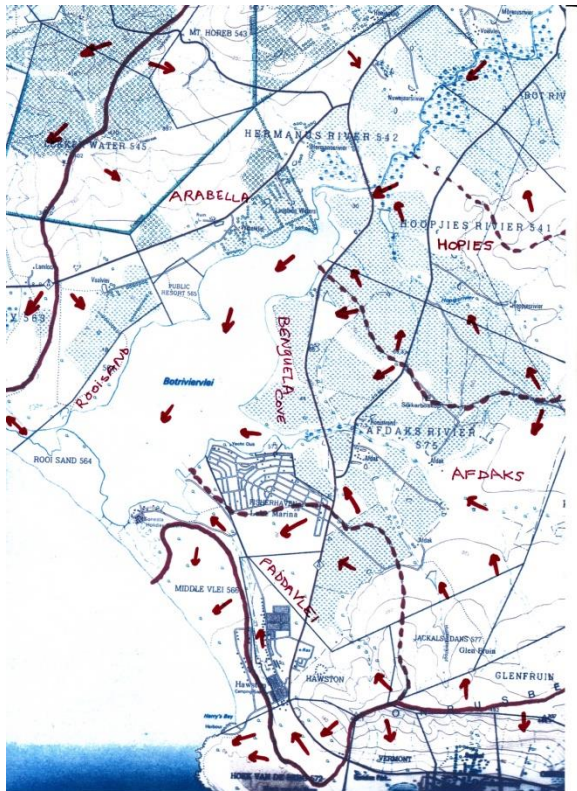
G L O B A L
**CLIMATE
STRIKE**
20-27 SEPT

This September, millions of us will walk out of our workplaces and homes to join young climate strikers on the streets and demand an end to the age of fossil fuels. Our house is on fire — let's act like it. We demand climate justice for everyone.

**WESSA Cape Town climate strike:
Friday 20 September, 12:00 - 14:00 The
greens on the corner of Cambridge &
Kaizersgracht Street, Zonnebloem**

LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS WHO WANT TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR ENVIRONMENT

If you are interested in joining Botfriends or know someone who might be interested, do let us know botvlei@gmail.com. We'd love more involvement in our projects. Thanks!!



A leap ahead for the Paddavlei



On Tuesday 17 September there was a popular cleanup of the Paddavlei and Hawston surrounds organised by Paddavlei Eco Group (PEG) who has been motivating for years to restore the Paddavlei to its former glory.

Previously, two clean-ups had been done - educational for the school children involved, publicity for the environmental department - but very little achieved on the ground. The rubbish removed was dumped illegally in the more sensitive coastal ecosystem and most of the plastic has washed or been blown down to the beaches.

The OSM put in some work before this clean-up and are continuing to remove accumulated rubbish and rubble: more than 25 tons so far. There is still a long way to go but good progress is being made. The next step is a timely and

appropriate follow-up and stopping the accumulation of pollution into the Paddavlei. At present, the Paddavlei open water is about 25% of what was maintained since 1938 - healthy and consistent in size - until 10 years ago, when severe damage was done to the ecosystem. The damage has more than doubled in the last two years. The fire hazard has become so extreme that nobody wants to take the responsibility of doing much about it.

However, a great start has been made to revive the unique Milkwood forest, increase the clean water supply through the system and re-establish a biodiverse, stable ecosystem with a vastly reduced fire hazard. The risks of an environmental disaster are still very high, but PEG is motivated, has obtained a small grant and is involving more of the local community in rehabilitating the Paddavlei and its surrounds.

M Austin



The challenge continues...

“Daphne and I would like to repeat the challenge to donate to Bot Friends for the control of alien weeds in Fisherhaven. Our first challenge raised R8 050 and this was used to good effect – but weed control needs some follow-up as there is still a massive seed bank. The earlier the seedlings are removed, the cheaper and more effective it is, then we can minimise this threat to our neighbourhood. So we have again deposited another R2000 to the Botfriends account and will be really appreciative of others who can contribute. We find it amazing that we can walk from the slipway to the Afdaks and barely see a Rooikrans or Port Jackson seedling.”
Daphne and Bruce Bayer

Are you going to take up the challenge? The more that is contributed, the cleaner and safer our surroundings will be.

Our bank details: Friends of the Bot River Estuary and Environs Standard Bank 185565549 Branch 050312.

PLEASE use your name and address as reference. Cash payments: Contact botvlei@gmail.com.

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