

Project Update: December 2010

On 27th October 2010 Renu-Karoo won the “most innovative business” section of the South African Small and Medium Enterprise Awards at a ceremony in Johannesburg. Prof Mary Scholes of the University of the Witwatersrand accepted the award on behalf of Renu-Karoo (to reduce the carbon cost of 1000 km travel), and the editor of the local newspaper (Prince Albert Friend) photographed the Renu-Karoo team with the award at our nursery. Additional progress toward making Renu-Karoo Veld Restoration economically viable included repairs to a small building on a main road plot that Dr Richard Dean will hire to Renu-Karoo as a retail outlet for its plants and seeds; upgrading of our website, offering discount vouchers at guest houses to advertise our products and services; as well as actively marketing our indigenous plants via telephone and e-mail to specialist indigenous nursery shops in Cape Town and George.

A major step in formalising the conservation of the local endemic plants and 120 ha of land where Renu-Karoo is based was made in November 2010 when we were invited to sign a legal agreement making Section 2 of the farm Wolwekraal a Private Nature Reserve for perpetuity. The basis of this agreement with The Western Cape conservation agency “Cape Nature” is as follows (a) Property contains vegetation types which are not yet conserved anywhere else; (b) Vegetation is in very good condition (not grazed for a period of at least 25 years; (c) Property falls within an important Ecological Support Area; (d) Contains excellent populations of some highly localized and rare species; and (e) That the property is in need of long-term protection for the maintenance of its biodiversity and for the provision of environmental goods and services. At a ceremony on 27th October 2010 Cape Nature recognised the contribution that Drs Richard Dean and Sue Milton-Dean have made toward conservation in the southern Karoo and presented them with an award certificate [see <http://www.renu-karoo.co.za/news.htm>]

Renu-Karoo contributed to conservation awareness in a number of ways in the last quarter of 2010. In October 2010 Sue and Richard Dean presented a talk on practices to be avoided at a workshop convened by the Roads Department of the Western Cape to design best practice guidelines for management of vegetation on roadsides. The workshop entitled “*Towards a Holistic Approach for Vegetation Control on the Roads of the West Coast Region*” developed guidelines to make safely regulation compatible for flora and fauna conservation along roads. In November 2010 Renu-Karoo teamed up with Conservation Management Services to provide a three day field course on practical restoration of natural vegetation following alien vegetation clearing for Working-for-Water teams managed by Calvinia municipality.



Working for Water teams participate in land rehabilitation training offered by Conservation Management Services and Renu-Karoo

