

Craig's Chirp

January 2016

Here we are well into the new year and I wish you a splendid and happy 2016.

Our birding year has kicked off with the Challenge. Don't let the word frighten you away, as there are experienced and inexperienced birders participating. There are no prizes to be won – just good fun to be had and experience gained.

This is a great chance for everybody to learn more about the birds and their habitat in our area. Even though we are part-way through January it's not too late to enter. Margie Ogston will accept your late entry – margie@bigideascc.co.za

Margie is sadly stepping down from the committee and away from the Oystercatcher. The Club website will now take over from the bi-monthly newsletter to bring you birding and Club news more quickly and effectively. Changes to the website have already been made and there will be more.

Our AGM is on 10 February, and we will have a speaker with something very different to tell.

Don't forget the monthly walks. The first one is the Swartrivier Road and Elgin Valley on 4 February, while in March we will do the Onrust Coastal walk. Both are in sync with the Challenge and should provide some new species to add to lists.

We have had an informal discussion with the Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary team from Kleinbaai and intend to support them to make this a success story. Ways to help them include collecting newspapers and towels and having a donations bottle for them at our monthly meetings. We will also be asking for volunteers to be trained by them to help when needed. Details will be announced soon.

Two interesting pelagic trips should be advertised soon – one from Kleinbaai to Dyer Island through Shark Alley which will last for two hours, and hopefully a 7,5 hours cruise for the serious pelagic birders. Watch your email for details.

Craig Holmes
Chairman