



## District 410B

Welcome to the first edition of

# enviroNEWS

August 21, 2006



This rather unpromising gully cut into the hillside at Kloofendal led to events that changed the history of South Africa and the world. It marks the spot where the search for gold in southern Africa met its first payable lode...with its consequences....

Further down the cutting is the first hole to be dug following the gold bearing quartz vein. The rich conglomerates that characterize the reef start a little further on. The mines of this area provided gold for little over a year. Kloofendal is an interesting site for geology, botany, and wildlife observation, and we hope to have a couple of Lions walks there later in the year.



## Bacteria

...the first detectable life form on the planet... they were your (and everything living's) ancestors. Your life depends on them. Half your body weight is bacteria. They outnumber your body cells 100:1. You have at least 400 species helping to digest your food. Not unsurprisingly, many of them have a very short lifespan. However, analysis of deep core samples reveals that they also have species that may be the longest lived of any living thing on earth! They can survive extremes of heat, cold, pressure, and they eat rocks for lunch. Slowly.

About a quarter of all mammal species are bats.

## Arbour Week (26 Aug-1 Sept)

Plant some native trees this year! **Conspicuously** with a Lions plaque is good! The big easy one is Mountain Sringa (*Kirkia Wilmsii*), and the difficult & pretty one is the Hiccup Nut (*Combretum bracteosum*).

A few contact details for those who want to explore a bit:  
Wwf.org  
Nature.org  
Greenpeace.org  
Ewt.org.za  
Sanbi.org  
Scorpions.co.za  
Archaeology.org.za  
Footprint.co.za

**Watch out!**  
We'll be letting you know about walks, talks, hikes, weekends, and lots of stuff!  
**9.30 19 Aug:**  
**Butterfly walk**  
**Walter Sisulu Botanical Garden (Nestle Centre). See you there!**

We're organizing an environmental training weekend for young people in the autumn. Now's the time to start thinking of likely candidates! Watch this space for details and emerging news! PS you can come too!!

Aug 27<sup>th</sup> 12.30 am: Mars will be at its closest to earth for 281 years: 34.65 million miles away. Remember to duck!

YIL: DC Lion [Tony Rushton](#)