

Sea Point Rotary Environmental Sustainability Project

Climate change is a global crisis that is caused by a build-up of CO² in the atmosphere as a result of manmade pollution. South Africa is ranked 6th in the world for the highest emissions of carbon dioxide, releasing 1.5% of total global carbon dioxide emissions. It contributes to 40% of total carbon dioxide emissions in Africa. Our country's carbon emissions have increased by 24% since 1996 from the consumption and flaring of fossil fuels.

With so many major social challenges facing South Africa, our nation's carbon footprint has been overlooked. Most citizens and corporations don't have active plans to reduce carbon emissions and very few people are aware of the fantastic carbon sequestering abilities of the Spekboom tree.

Some of the important benefits of planting the Spekboom Tree are :-

- The easiest and most effective solution to mitigate Carbon Crisis
- Purify air
- Prevent soil erosion due to the nature of its roots
- It absorbs carbon from the atmosphere
- It is frost and fire resilient
- It can last for 200 years
- Environment Importance of living in harmony with Mother Earth

Previously, hundreds of trees have been planted in the Western Cape by Rotary but lacked education in managing how to plant and maintain the growth of the trees.

This time the project will also be a tree-planting educational program based on environmental sustainability. Rotary in the Western Cape has 45 clubs which have Interact Clubs in 100 schools and EarlyAct Clubs in 50 schools, and we hope to engage the schools in our areas with this program.

What is really appealing about making this a school project is the educational and environmental awareness and the incentive it can generate :

So Meet "Captain Wonder Plant" (A Poem for children)



*I am a mighty Spekboom Tree
I have the power to remove 10 times more CO²
from the atmosphere than any other tree on the earth,
I have the amazing ability to replicate myself.*

Buy me!

*When my shoots are 10cm long,
snip the stem and plant me again,
and I can replicate again!*

- We can introduce to the schools not only through Interact and Early Act Clubs but through parents, who leave a carbon footprint behind when dropping their children in vehicles to school from home.
- Bringing into action a project for Environmental preservation and Climate Change and making it accessible, easy and affordable for people to get involved.
- Having a mascot, Captain Wonder Plant, who arrives in all its glory at the assembly.
- Launch the product through posters and school stickers.
- Recruit a team of learners and teach the learners how to plant the trees and look after them.
- Wonder plant, a social enterprise will buy the trees from the school once they are grown to a certain size which will generate an income for the school and can serve as an incentive to kickstart and create an environmental economy.
- The more privileged schools can twin with an underprivileged school and share with the learners propagation of Spekboom and experience living in a less polluted atmosphere which we all share regardless of our backgrounds.

All are welcome to join us on Mandela Day at the Blue Train Park, Mouille Point, which is the environmental sustainability hub for Sea Point Rotary, on Mandela Day, 18 July at 2:30pm to roll out the first educational environmental project. Please feel free to bring your family, children or students.

We will be demonstrating with Wonder Plant, a social enterprise, the Spekboom planting initiative.