

# Project: Save, Rebuild and Protect - The Caledon Wildflower Garden and Nature Reserve



Prepared by  
Beyond Black Mountain

BEYOND  
BLACK  
MOUNTAIN

NPC no: 2021/950976/08  
NPO no: 269-958

Email: [beyondblackmountain@gmail.com](mailto:beyondblackmountain@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.beyondblackmountain.co.za](http://www.beyondblackmountain.co.za)



The Caledon Wildflower Garden and Nature Reserve home of endangered flora, a natural monument and a culturally significant site.



# CALEDON Wildflower Garden & Nature Reserve

## Table of Contents



BEYOND  
BLACK  
MOUNTAIN

<b>3</b>	About Us
<b>4</b>	Project Background
<b>5</b>	Mission, Vision & Objectives
<b>6</b>	Community Impact
<b>7</b>	The Plan
<b>8</b>	Projects
<b>9</b>	Project: Alien Vegetation Clearing/Hacking
<b>10</b>	Projects: Eco Rangers & iNaturalist & Tree Route
<b>11</b>	Projects: Tree Route, Billboard & Signage
<b>12</b>	How can you get involved?
<b>12</b>	Conclusion

# About Us



BEYOND  
BLACK  
MOUNTAIN

Beyond Black Mountain was founded in 2021 as an NPC to highlight and restore our conservation and tourism sectors in Caledon and the greater Theewaterskloof.

One of our primary focuses are the conservation, protection and rebuilding of the Caledon Wildflower Garden and Nature Reserve for future generations.

This absolutely unique site is on the brink of collapse and requires urgent intervention.

Restoration of this site will serve as a bastion and a rally point around which we aim to further develop the conservation and tourism footprint within the area and the greater region to the benefit of all.



# PROJECT BACKGROUND

This impressive natural heritage together with its culturally important Khoi kraal and Natural monument (The Venster Rock formation) have come under severe pressure due to lack of resources over many years thereby causing species that have developed over millennia in a unique environment like no other in the world to come to the brink of extinction . . . it may already be too late for some species of flora. Some species have developed quite uniquely in areas so that they are so rare that they only occur within a small geographical area and nowhere else on Earth. The Caledon Wildflower and Nature Reserve which was created as a haven for these unique species is currently about 80% overrun with alien vegetation, crowding out local species and threatening water security to the area.

The once Crown-Jewel of Caledon – the now 98-year-old Wildflower Garden and Nature Reserve is situated in a 214Ha site, which was demarcated as a reserve by Queen Victoria in 1899 and placed under the stewardship of the then Caledon Municipality. In 1964 it became one of the first Nature Reserves to be proclaimed by the Department of Nature Conservation to protect the endangered fynbos and heather species only found on the slopes of the Klein Swartberg. In the Wildflower Garden itself there are water features, lawns, picnic sites and walkways throughout 56Ha of trees and plants under cultivation - against a backdrop of the nature reserve's and privately managed Klein Swartberg conservancy's mountainside. Some say that it is more impressive than Kirstenbosch, because it demonstrates the ability of plants to survive in adverse conditions.

Into this background, Beyond Black Mountain NPC aims to partner with other like-minded organisations to bring this area back from the brink and reinvigorate this unique biosphere to preserve it for future generations and thereby also kickstart other initiatives that can tie into this vision.

During November 2021, the Theewaterskloof municipality signed into action a Memorandum of Agreement that would allow Beyond Black Mountain NPC to start work in the Caledon Wildflower Garden and Nature Reserve in conjunction with the municipality to look at various conservation projects to revitalise the gardens and the nature reserve. . . all the while, time is running out for the many potentially critically endangered species.

We want to create a network with the Caledon Wildflower Garden and Nature Reserve as the centre of a web spanning various conservation, eco-tourism, learnership, tourism, local-economic development and other programs to present a holistic picture of what is possible when people unite with conservation at its centre.



## Vision

To develop the Caledon Wildflower Garden, Nature Reserve, Tourism, Information Centre and Businesses to benefit the community at large.

## Mission

- To utilise and develop the Caledon Wildflower Garden and Nature Reserve to centre around community and small business development
- To conserve our community culture and the environmental heritage
- To re-invigorate responsible tourism
- To provide training and development programmes to the community and the youth
- To promote a carbon positive footprint through green initiatives
- To attract investment and new business developments in the region

## Objectives

Our objectives are to use that great heritage with the Wildflower garden as the nexus to launch several initiatives to bring people back to Caledon and by that same token, revitalise the local economy thereby creating jobs through skills development, empowerment and small business support programmes, while conserving our cultural and environmental heritage



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

A photograph of a field of aloe vera plants. The plants are in the foreground and middle ground, with their long, pointed leaves and serrated edges clearly visible. The background shows a dense forest of trees under a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is warm and natural.

## Economically

- Project investment
- Tourism
- Job creation
- Socio-Economic responsibility programmes and funding
- Development and infrastructure

## Education

- Healthy bodies build healthy minds
- Environmental and conservation training for employment
- Environmental and conservation youth education
- Plant and soil studies
- Heritage appreciation
- Tourism training

## Environment

- Conservation of environment and heritage
- Plant and soil studies
- Water security
- Green energy



# THE PLAN

- Refurbish Tea Garden, Tourism and Information Centre and Ablution Blocks
- Provide opportunities for learnership, educational programmes and training
- Green conservation, with the intention to become carbon neutral (100% green)
- Removal of alien vegetation
- Promotion of water security
- Bring awareness to and conservation of our heritage
- Plant and soil studies
- Upgrade and maintain gardens, walkways and trails.
- To introduce initiatives to attract tourists, visitors and locals
- Development and construction of an indigenous Nursery
- Establish Caledon as the business hub and commercial area
- Develop the region as an events destination
- Building partnerships and community through various projects and programmes
- Make the Caledon Wildflower Garden accessible and friendly to all

the future is *green*



# Projects

The beginning of great things

## Current Projects

- Alien Vegetation Clearing/Hacking
- Full Environmental Report - with the use of iNaturalist we are doing a species census.
- Establishment of the Eco Rangers (youth development)

## Future Projects

- Security
  - PPE & Equipment
  - Repairs to fences and gates
  - Re-establishing of water and electricity across gardens
  - Retarring of roads at entrance
  - Refurbishing of gardens at entrance
  - Refurbishing of Tourism Info Office
  - Refurbishing of Ablution blocks
  - Re-establishment of a tree route
  - Signage & Billboard at entrance
- 
- Training on removal of Alien vegetation for job creation
  - Training for Baboon monitors
  - Refurbishing of Nursery
  - Refurbishing gardens - this will include installing a water pump and re-establishing of irrigation systems.
  - Training for propagation of Fynbos
  - Development of walking and hiking trails
  - Volunteer Fire Fighting training
  - Plant and soil laboratory

\*This is a long-term timeline is the start of the larger vision and subject to change



# WHAT IS ALIEN VEGETATION CLEARING/ HACKING?

We invite community-based volunteers to assist in the removal and/or management of Alien vegetation of which predominantly Black Wattle, Port Jackson, Pine and Blue Gum make up the bulk.

Our hacks run every last Saturday of the month and we give our volunteers training of the identification of Alien vegetation and how to effectively remove and/or manage it.

We make use of a variety of tools, including Tree Poppers, saws, axes and plain old elbow grease.

We will in future have chainsaw training and tackle the mature alien trees as well.

## WHAT IS OUR NEED?

We currently need funding to purchase or donation of the following items:

- Tree Poppers:
  - Mini - R1740.00 each
  - Small - R2600.00 each
- Handsaws: R400+
- Hand Axes / Hatchets: R150+
- Bowsaws: R400+
- First aid kit: R400+



## WISHLIST ITEMS

- Chainsaws (heavy duty): R8500+
- Woodchipper (Industrial size): R400 000+
- John Deere Gator: Second hand R168 000  
New R400 000+

We are currently busy with the PBO process and can unfortunately not issue a 18A tax certificate as yet but will inform donors as soon as this changes.

# WHO ARE THE ECO RANGERS?

The Eco Rangers are a group of primary and high school aged learners with a love of nature and who would like to learn more about it. They will be facilitated on a weekly basis with nature and environmental based activities, workshops, talks and events.

# WHAT IS OUR NEED?

We currently need funding to purchase or donation of the following items:

- T-shirts: R200 per member
- Taxi rental: event depending
- Lunch packs: R50 per member
- Workbooks: R150 per member
- Botanical Society of Society membership: R50 per member
- Event charge: event depending

# INATURALIST

We are currently running a census programme on the iNaturalist application to assist us in recording the fauna and flora within the Caledon Wildflower Garden and Nature Reserve. This is community volunteer based and anyone can join by joining the project on the app. Link: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/caledon-wildflower-garden-and-nature-reserve>

# RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TREE ROUTE

We, alongside the Botanical Society of South Africa Southern Overberg branch, CREW and the renowned Geoff Nichols are currently re-establishing a tree route for visitors to enjoy.

We are currently busy with the PBO process and can unfortunately not issue a 18A tax certificate as yet but will inform donors as soon as this changes.

# WHAT IS OUR NEED?

We currently need funding to purchase or donation of the following items:

- Printing of maps for guest use: R2000

We will be doing the design and layout for printing at no cost to company.

# BILLBOARD AND SIGNAGE

We are in dire need of signage throughout the Caldon Wildflower Garden and Nature Reserve to indicate routes, house/use rules etc, as well as to replace the old faded billboard .

We will be designing all signage and the billboard with layout with no cost to company.

# WHAT IS OUR NEED?

We currently need funding to purchase of the following items:

- Printing cost of Billboard: +/- R9000
- Printing cost per sign: +/-R2500 +

# REFURBISHMENT OF INFORMATION OFFICE AND ABULTION BLOCK

This project is busy being costed and we will revert back with a budget on request.

We are currently busy with the PBO process and can unfortunately not issue a 18A tax certificate as yet but will inform donors as soon as this changes.



# HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

"Do what you can, from where you are, with what you have in your hand"

See the different options on how you can help us make this dream a reality

01

Donate towards a project  
see Banking details below

02

Volunteer your knowledge and time

03

Sponsor Training, PPE and Equipment

04

Support our events

05

Follow, like and share our social media

## Banking details:

### Beyond Black Mountain

FNB Hermanus

Branch code: 200412

Account number: 63044633386

Reference: Project name and your business or personal name

Please email POP to [beyondblackmountain@gmail.com](mailto:beyondblackmountain@gmail.com)



BEYOND  
BLACK MOUNTAIN NPC no: 2021/950976/08  
NPO no: 269-958



# THANK YOU

Contact Us:

+27 71 121 4428

[beyondblackmountain@gmail.com](mailto:beyondblackmountain@gmail.com)

[www.beyondblackmountain.co.za](http://www.beyondblackmountain.co.za)



**CALEDON  
Wildflower Garden  
& Nature Reserve**

the future is *green*