

# Volunteers clear beach of litter

Yaseen Gaffar

**International Coastal Clean-up Day on Saturday 18 September was one to remember in Strand as organisations, businesses, companies and individuals all came together to remove a whopping total of 936 kg of litter from the Helderberg Marine Protected Area – that’s 100 kg more than last year and nearly a ton!**

The Helderberg Ocean Awareness Movement (Hoam) and The Future Kids were among the participating organisations, with Hoam founder Lisa Starr stating that one of their members, Lewana Hobbs, came across a huge plastic sheet protruding from the sand.

“It became her soul mission to remove it. Obviously doing it alone would be impossible, so with the help of her family and The Future Kids the huge bulk bag was dug out. I believe it would have been used by someone as a ground sheet or a roof in the bushes,” she said, adding that the amount of clothing and bedding retrieved by Shark Spotters from the Lourens River is shocking.

“It’s always a challenge to get all the items off the beach and over the dunes, but the volunteers came together and we managed. We were blown away to have 80 children from Strand Youth League (newly initiated by the Strand Neighbourhood Watch) also cleaning the beach.”

Starr said that participants were tired after lugging heavy rubbish bags over the dunes and across the beach, something Hoam plans to request



**Volunteers were also treated to yummy doughnuts on International Coastal Clean-up day.**

assistance from the City of Cape Town before the next clean-up.

“Everyone worked like an ant colony and got the job done. We had a wonderful turnout from many local businesses and handed out some remarkable prizes.”

Starr applauded all volunteers for their achievement, adding they received many compliments garnered more support from the other residents, who promised to attend the next beach clean.

The next planned clean up will be this Sunday (26 September) for World Rivers Day at Radloff Park. Details of the event can be found on the Facebook page of the Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club..

“Nobody needs a nanny to get stuck

in and help clean up. We can all do it in our own capacity when we visit the beach or river,” implored Starr. Whenever and wherever you see litter, please just pick it up.”

Hoam and The Future Kids also extended a huge “thanks” to everyone who participated and supported the beach clean-up.

“There’s just too many to mention, but every single business and individual who helped us is acknowledged and greatly appreciated,” said Starr.

“Lastly, we want to thank Plastics SA and International Coastal Clean-up Day for helping with pushing this day into our beautiful nation, to make our home a better one for us and, most importantly, nature.”