

NEWS

April to August 2015

5 year review: The SRU team received a favourable report of their 5-year review which is now awaiting approval by the Science Faculty. The panel (image below) consisted of Prof Andrew Leitch (NMMU DVC), Prof Eileen Campbell (Associate Professor Botany), Dr Andrew Kaniki (Executive Director NRF), Prof Josh Louw (Director: School Natural Resource Management NMMU), Dr Christo Marais (Chief Director DEA) and Professor Cedric Mclelland (Acting Dean: Faculty of Science NMMU).

The review panel supported the SRU's 5-year goal to become a *"compact, focused national and internationally relevant Centre for Ecosystems and Society; with strong collaborative links with mandated organizations and other national and international research groups; with an emphasis on decision making, governance and capacity development for a Good Anthropocene; that uses the Garden Route as a social-ecological systems laboratory."*



Thanks to our members, communities and funders (the National Research Foundation, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Environmental Affairs' NRM programme, the Water Research Commission & NMMU) the SRU has once more had a quarter of sustained intellectual growth.

This newsletter focuses on:

- SRU wins NMMU Engagement Excellence Award (right)
- Academic Capacity Development: [Kaboega Journals](#)
- Community Engagement: [Kaaimans- To- Touw Eco-Restoration Forum Blog](#) & [Our Rivers, Our Future Dialogue](#)
- [SRU Strategic Goals](#)
- New members: [Post- Doctoral Fellow & Research Associates](#)
- [Recent Publications](#)
- [Guest Lectures](#)

SRU wins NMMU Engagement Excellence Team Award 2014

The award aims to recognise and reward a team that:

- Show evidence of integrating engagement into teaching and learning and research and scholarship
- Make an outstanding contribution to advancing the NMMU's engagement strategic priorities and goals over a sustained period of time
- Are able to provide examples of best practice in the field of engagement

Read more [here](#).

Academic Capacity Development:

Kaboega Journals

Three SRU members joined students and lecturers from the Port Elizabeth's Faculty of Science, Arts and History to motivate bridging the divide between disciplines and faculties. The field trip acknowledged and explored the numerous challenges facing humanity and the environment and the need for interdisciplinary solutions for these.

The students thoroughly enjoyed being in nature (right) and exploring and developing their creative side with the use of various art mediums.

An exhibition is planned for later this year to showcase the artworks produced by the excursion.



Some of the recently discovered Khoi San rock paintings viewed on the Kaboega field trip to encourage a dialogue and a link between history, art and science.

Community Engagement: KTT blog

The SRU, in collaboration with the Southern Cape Landowners Initiative (SCLI), facilitated the establishing of the Kaaimans-to-Touw (KTT) Eco-restoration forum.

Kaaimans to Touw River (KTT) is a laboratory to learn about strategies for invasive weed management in a manner that promotes ecological restoration and green economic development.

A blog to encourage conversation around the Invasive issues in the Kaaimans to Touw River section is being run by SRU members.

Find the blog at:

www.kaaimans2touwktt.wordpress.com

In order to develop stakeholder capacity to cope with sustainability issues within the Garden Route, high quality scientific information, models, and strategies are required and need to be transferred to relevant stakeholders. Goals are to:

- [illegible]



Recent Publications:

Barendse J, Francis J. 2015. [Towards a standard nomenclature for seafood species to promote more sustainable seafood trade in South Africa](#). *Marine Policy* 53: 180-187.

Bohensky, E., Evans, L., Anderies, M., Biggs, D. and Fabricius, C. 2015. Principle 4: foster complex adaptive systems thinking. In: *Principles for Enhancing the Resilience of Ecosystem Services*, edited by R. Biggs, M Schulter and M Schoon. Cambridge University Press. <http://www.cambridge.org/za/academic/subjects/life-sciences/natural-resource-management-agriculture-horticulture-and/principles-building-resilience-sustaining-ecosystem-services-social-ecological-systems>

Cundill, G., D. J. Roux and J. N. Parker. 2015. Nurturing communities of practice for transdisciplinary research. *Ecology and Society* 20 (2): 22. [online] URL: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol20/iss2/art22/>

Fabricius, C., and B. Currie. 2015. Adaptive Co-Management. Pages 147–179 in C. R. Allen and A. S. Garmestani, editors. *Adaptive Management of Social-Ecological Systems*. Springer Netherlands. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-94-017-9682-8_9

Fabricius, C., and T. Pereira. 2015. Community Biodiversity Inventories as Entry Points for Local Ecosystem Stewardship in a South African Communal Area. *Society & Natural Resources*:1–13. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2015.1014591>

Phair, N., Barendse, J., Smith, M.K.S. & von der Heyden, S. 2015. Molecular analysis confirms genetically distinct populations of two indigenous estuarine fish species in isolated coastal lake: implications for the management of introduced ichthyofauna. *Conservation Genetics* [doi:10.1007/s10592-015-0701-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10592-015-0701-9)

Pittock, J., *et al.* (2015) '[Managing freshwater, river, wetland and estuarine protected areas](#)', in G. L. Worboys, M. Lockwood, A. Kothari, S. Feary and I. Pulsford (eds) *Protected Area Governance and Management*, pp. 569–608, ANU Press, Canberra.

Roux D.J., Kingsford, R.T., McCool S.F., McGeoch M.A. and Foxcroft L.C. 2015. The Role and Value of Conservation Agency Research. *Environmental Management*. [doi:10.1007/s00267-015-0473-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-015-0473-5)

Guest Lectures: Dr. Harry Biggs and Prof Richard Kingsford

On the 8th and 22nd of June, the SRU hosted prestigious researchers at NMMU George Campus.

Dr. Biggs gave a lecture entitled: **Conservation, Complexity and Adaptive Management** while Prof Kingsford lectured on: **Restoring and protecting rivers - an Australian experience**. Read about the experience [here](#).

