

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY



Festive Newsletter

This year has gone by in a semi-blur. Considering how busy we have been, there was never a dull moment. The highlights for these last few weeks were the visit by the delegation from the University of Oldenburg and members from their Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity, and the CMR's annual research symposium. Our 2018 Glossy Report is also available now, and can be downloaded from the following link:

<https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/cmr/media/Store/documents/About%20Us/CMR-Glossy-Report-2018.pdf>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank CMR members for their continued support. Congratulations on all the excellent outputs and achievements. I wish all postgraduate students who have handed in for examination, all the best. Well done for seeing it through to this last moment in the journey that for many, is the hardest. For those continuing, there is an ending and hard work will pay off. We look forward to welcoming new postgraduate members to CMR next year. I also invite members to share ideas with us on how members can actively engage with the CMR.

We hope you enjoy our last newsletter, where we share what we have been up to during these last few weeks of a busy 2019. May you all have a good break! If you are travelling, please take care. May we all return with renewed energy in 2020!

Berny Snow

Director: Institute for Coastal and Marine Research



International Visit

Since first contact in 2017, the CMR has forged a strong relationship with the **University of Oldenburg** in Germany, and particularly with members from the **Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity**. A CMR delegation of nine members had the opportunity to visit the University of Oldenburg in June to participate in a symposium and workshop, as detailed in the CMR's previous newsletter. In November, it was the University of Oldenburg's turn to send a delegation to the Nelson Mandela University. The CMR's research group for this collaboration hosted ten academics and two postgraduate students from 11-14 November. The programme for their visit was extremely full and busy, with day one consisting of an afternoon meeting to catch up on the progress of developing an exchange programme, as well as further discussions around a number of co-authored publications. Day two gave our German guests the chance to sightsee and visit a few of the local environmental attractions. The Schoenmakerskop stromatolites, Sardinia Bay, the Swartkops estuary and the Sundays River beach were visited. The CMR's research symposium took place on day 3, and three German delegates presented key talks. The last day was set aside for final discussions. This has been a very successful collaboration to date, with one high-profile article under development that will be published in an international academic journal. We look forward to future exchanges, and seeing how this collaboration grows.

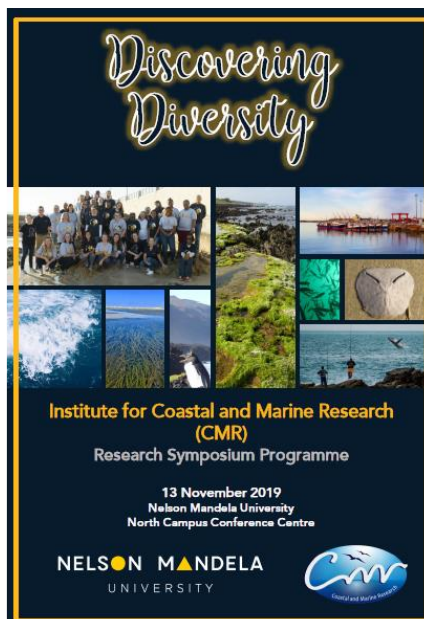


Discovering Diversity Symposium

This year, the CMR decided to celebrate **Diversity** at its annual research symposium. It took place on 13 November at the North Campus Conference Centre, and we are thrilled that the venue was filled to capacity from beginning to end. The Faculty of engineering displayed drones used for marine research for guests to look at during comfort breaks, and a cheese-and-wine function followed the day's programme to conclude the CMR's events for 2019. This was the last CMR event that Professor Andrew Leitch (DVC: Research, Innovation and Internationalisation) would attend in his capacity as the DVC: RII and as the Chair for the CMR's Advisory Board, and we were thankful that he was able to join us for the last session.

A total of 18 speakers delivered presentations, of which four were international guests. This event consisted of four sessions:

- Biological Banter
 - Guest speakers: Professor Helmut Hillebrand (University of Oldenburg) & Professor John Largier (University of California, Davis)
- Economic Energy
 - Guest speaker: Professor Ulrike Feudel (University of Oldenburg)
- Social Signals
 - Guest speaker: Dr Magda Minguzzi (Nelson Mandela University)
- Management Marvels
 - Guest speaker: Dr Dario Fiorentino (University of Oldenburg)



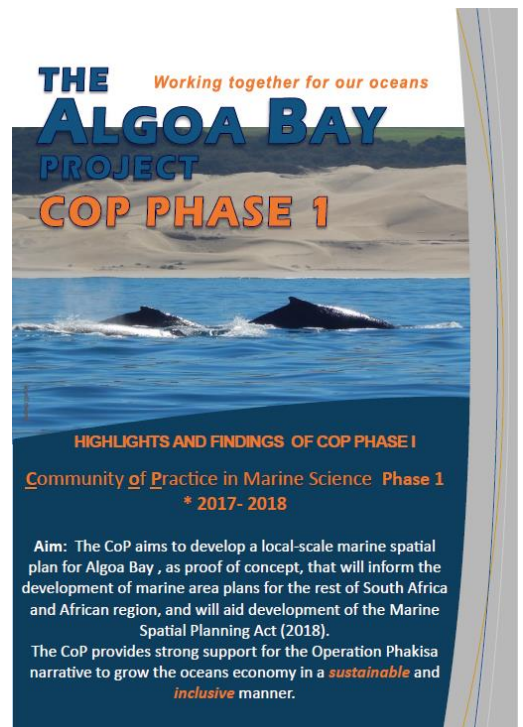
Tributaries Project

Professor Andrea Hurst and her SARChI Identities and Social Cohesion in Africa hosted a series of **Sea-to-Source Pilgrimages** during 2019. The CMR's Dr Berny Snow and Ms Danai Tembo were invited to participate in the pilgrimage that took place from 21-23 June. This project promotes transdisciplinary, co-operative engagement and creativity in order to understand and find creative ways to address social and environmental problems and challenges. Emphasis is placed on connections between ecological and social problems. To celebrate this unique project, the Chair hosted a series of events from 20-21 November. The first was a colloquium for presentations, and the second was for reading poetry and narratives. An art exhibition for this event ran from 19-25 November.



Algoa Bay Project Stakeholder Meeting

The Algoa Bay Project invited stakeholders to attend the **Community of Practice Phase 1** feedback meeting on 25 November. Scientists, researchers and stakeholders involved in the project were given the opportunity to provide feedback on Phase 1 developments and progress. The stakeholders played an important role in assisting with the identification of gaps in Phase 1, and how the process for Phase 2 can be improved.



MAPRU Celebrations

The **Marine Apex Predator Research Unit (MAPRU)**, a research Unit under the CMR, enjoyed another very successful year. Close to 30 academic articles were published in high quality, internationally recognised journals. Two in particular are worthy of special mention:

- Dr Malcolm Smale, a Research Associate and key research team member for MAPRU, was a co-author on a **Nature** publication: *Global spatial risk assessment of sharks under the footprint of fisheries*.
- Although unrelated to marine apex predator research, Dr Maëlle Connan, a Research Fellow with the CMR and MAPRU, was a co-author on the article *Rapid increase in Asian bottles in the South Atlantic Ocean indicates major debris inputs from ships*, as published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116(42): 20892-20897. This is significant, and contributes to the growing **plastics research** expertise under the CMR.



Towards the end of October, a female **Southern Elephant seal**, named Zelda, visited the Cape Recife area and gave birth to a pup named Ziggy. Both were monitored closely by Dr Greg Hofmeyr from Bayworld and his team of assistants, as well as volunteers from SANCCOB. After Ziggy weaned, Zelda returned to the sub-Antarctic and Ziggy was relocated to Bayworld, to be released offshore as soon as he was fit and big enough to survive in the wild. MAPRU students Jonathan Botha, Tegan Carpenter-Kling and Grace Botha assisted with the transfer to Bayworld.

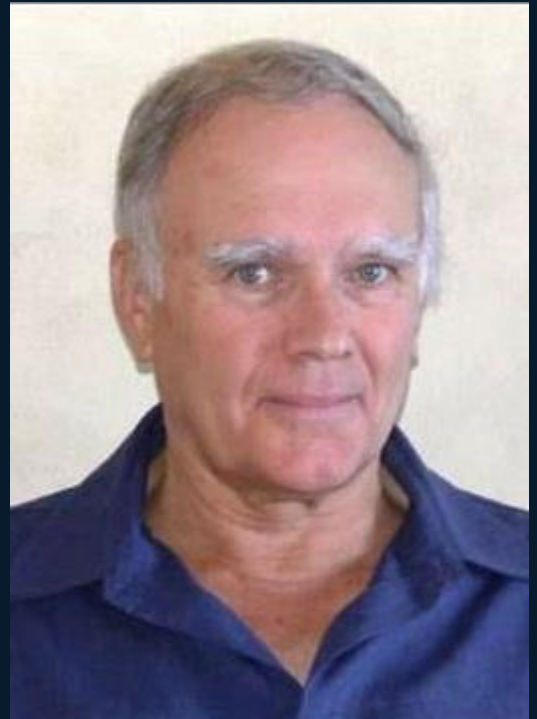


Farewell

It is with great sadness that the CMR shares the news of the passing of Mr **Peter Myles**. Peter was regarded as one of South Africa's leading tourism professionals and he was a giant in the industry. As a Professional Associate with the CMR, he contributed significantly to the CMR's research initiatives. He was a fantastic link to the Nelson Mandela Bay Maritime Cluster, and his inputs on the National Coastal Assessment were invaluable. His cheerful personality and enthusiastic spirit will be sorely missed.

Please see this link to read a tribute to him, as posted by Nelson Mandela Bay Tourism:

http://mype.co.za/new/rip-peter-myles/126761/2019/12/?fbclid=IwAR1nbNS0TVKxc3biw5GPUFOe5XM9W7_KtjuJ6jSkVB0zq8QpDZUvGrOFVXE



A memorial service for Peter will be held on Tuesday, 10 December at 12:00, at the Walmer Methodist Church (83 Main Road). We send our sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones.



Upcoming Events

In collaboration with the South Africa-Sweden University Forum (SASUF), the CMR is hosting a workshop for **rural, community-driven, small-scale aquaculture solutions for food security**. This will take place from 14-16 January 2020, at the InnoVenton Boardroom. We look forward to further collaboration with our colleagues from the University of Gothenburg at this event. This event caters for a small group of researchers only. Please enquire with cmr@mandela.ac.za regarding available space.



The **Transformed and Transformative Ocean Governance Conference** will take place from 22-24 January 2020 at the North Campus Conference Centre, with the cocktail function being held at the Ocean Sciences Campus on the first evening of the conference. This event is hosted by the CMR, the SARChI Law of the Sea and Development in Africa, the SARChI Marine Spatial Planning, One Ocean Hub, and the International Ocean Institute. The programme will be circulated early in 2020. Please see the CMR website for details on the conference, confirmed speakers, and to download the registration form:

<https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/Events,-Initiatives-and-News/Transformed-and-Transformative-Ocean-Governance-Co>



Housekeeping

CMR Members are kindly reminded to include the CMR in all affiliations and addresses. This is particularly important with regards to academic publications. Please use the full **Institute for Coastal and Marine Research** title.

Information on CMR membership and templates for documents and presentations are available at: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/Members-Page>

Thank You

If you have any news or exciting events to share in our first 2020 newsletter, please send details to Liza by e-mail (Liza.Rishworth@mandela.ac.za) early in the new year.
See you in 2020!

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