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CSF Resort to host Expedition Africa 2017

Cape St Francis Resort will be the host and prize-winning venue for Expedition Africa Baviaans 2017, a 500km non-stop international adventure race over 7 days next May.

The route for this internationally acclaimed race is always kept secret until race day and huge numbers of racing teams are expected to participate and visit Eastern Cape areas, including Kouga.

Race organisers, Stephan and Heidi Muller, of Kinetic Events, are excited that their 7th consecutive race will include true wilderness areas, such as the Baviaans and the unspoiled beauty of the Kouga region. The event is part of the World Series Adventure Race and the Mullers are pleased the Kouga Local Tourism Organisation invited them to bring the event to the area.

Teams of four navigate in unknown territory through the Baviaans, Kouga, the Klein Karoo and Tsitsikamma, with only a map and compass. Teams, including some international elite teams, will participate in paddling, cycling, hiking, abseiling and some rope work between checkpoints.

Teams are equipped with GPS trackers, which enable viewers around the world to follow and support the event live 24/7 during the race. The winners receive entry into the World Championships in the US in August 2017.

Cape St Francis Resort is sponsoring the accommodation and owner, Fasiel Malherbe, has welcomed the event to the area. Teams, organisers and media crews will stay at the Resort.

The Mullers say the Resort offers top class accommodation for the teams, plus facilities, such as airport transfers, spa treatments, shuttle services to local shops and 'an amazing restaurant and bar'.

Sarah Baartman District Municipality, the Kouga Municipality, Kouga Local Tourism Organisation and Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency are in full support of the event.

The Mullers will spend several weeks in Kouga and surrounding areas to ensure Expedition Africa 2017 will be a world-class and highly successful adventure. They have already started route scouting adventures with media crews.

Letter To The Editor

Thyspunt Alliance commits to appeal and oppose a green light for Thyspunt

While nuclear power is being hotly debated at national level the Thyspunt Alliance (TA) has been questioning the suitability of Thyspunt for a nuke site.

Koebeg and Thyspunt have, by law, undergone environmental impact assessments (EIA) for the nuke. The TA reviewed the first 700-page draft EIA report, which had many inaccuracies and omissions that a second draft was compiled. Now after several years the still contentious report awaits a decision early next year. If positive, the TA has committed to appeal the decision, and if necessary, oppose it in a court of law.

The construction of a nuke at Thyspunt will irreversibly change our village life – as is clear from the EIA. Hundreds of heavy duty trucks will travel from the N2, via Jeffreys Bay, Humansdorp, and St Francis and on a new road opposite Sea Vistato the site. There overlying sand of up to 6 million cubic meters has to be dumped in to the sea, which will decimate chokka catches, impacting on one of our biggest employers.

This sand will also disturb the surfing waves at Seal Point. Other impacts can be inferred from the Medupi Power Station, where, at the adjacent town Lephalale, crime and prostitution increased, local civics and schools were overburdened and thousands of work seekers moved in: all these impacted most heavily on the poor. As happened there our sanitation, water and waste disposal will be overwhelmed. Eskom will be unable to help as it is a power supplier, and not responsible for any other services.

The EIA's concluding preference for the pristine site at Thyspunt is incomprehensible. The massive new infrastructure required, eg roads, transmission lines and undersea pipelines will be costly and time consuming – whereas at Koebeg, this infrastructure already exists. Especially concerning are the latest research findings (<http://aocn.org.za/%20aocn-publication-senior>) from one of South Africa's most eminent geologists. It shows that Thyspunt is geologically unstable and highly unsuitable for a nuclear plant, a fact that Eskom is refusing.

- Letter submitted by Shirley Cowling of the Thyspunt Alliance.

Note: Opinions expressed in letters written to the editor are those of the letter writers themselves and this does not necessarily mean they are the opinions of the Editor

Tsitsikamma Falls Adventure

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