

Candlewood burns! An ecological success story 20 years in the making

THE burning of Candlewood in Knysna on Tuesday April 8 was successful, according to a statement released by Nandi Mgwadlamba of Garden Route National Park last Wednesday.

And what's so cool – or hot – about this news, you may ask?

“Well,” says John Stanwix, a landowner in the area, “fynbos in Candlewood was last burnt 20 years ago. In the early 90s the area was vastly overgrown. The last time we organised a burn was 1992, and that resulted in a magnificent revival of fynbos plants and flowers.”

He adds that at least a 4-5 hectare island of fynbos in

Candlewood is particularly rich in biodiversity.

SANParks environmental planner for Garden Route National Park Maretha Alant says the success can be attributed to a partnership with the local Fire Protection As-

sociation, Knysna Fire Brigade, the Working on Fire teams and land owners, all of whom met in Candlewood to start the fire.

Of the world's six floral kingdoms, fynbos is the smallest yet richest per unit of area. A major threat to fynbos in the Southern Cape Region remains the spread of invasive alien species, such as wattle and acacia.

While scientific debates on ‘to burn or not to burn’ continue, Knysna locals are thrilled about Candlewood's successful revitalisation and anticipate seeing a full show of colour here next spring.

Call Maretha Alant on 044 302 5600 for more info.



LET IT BURN: The Candlewood area will have been fried into new life during this month's control burn