

PRESS REPORT FOR GANSBAAI COURANT

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BABY BOTTLE NOSE DOLPHIN

My parents have lived in Pearly Beach for over 30 years and after my dad died 6 years ago Charlie, my husband and I left the city and moved in with my mom. As an animal and nature lover I soon realized that the natural surround was amazing and beautiful. My very limited knowledge of the fauna and flora of this area is improving. I have also joined the Strandveld hiking club and along with summer beach walks and winter mountain hikes I am getting familiar with the area in which I live. About 3 months ago, my friend Jenny and I were on one of our early morning walks when we had a once in a lifetime experience. We were walking along the beach on the Pearly Beach Resort side when we came across a beached baby bottle nose dolphin thrashing about in the sand and crying pitifully. With the tide receding it was already about 6 meters from where the waves were breaking and where the rest of the pod were calling and swimming up and down just beyond the breakers. I could not pick it up as it was too heavy and wriggling and I did not want to hurt it. Very gently I dragged it to deeper water. At first it was disorientated and swam back to shore. I had to hold it upright for some time and then it swam away toward the pod. We spent some time walking up and down the beach to make sure it did not swim back. What an awesome experience! I touched and stroked a baby dolphin! Unfortunately neither of us had a camera so there are no photos of our rescued dolphin. Needless to say we always walk with one now! I would like to encourage all who can to join a hiking group and the conservancy and by so doing you will get to understand the importance of protecting the environment in which we live so that our children and their children will also be able to enjoy it

Written by Jeanette Bent

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