



Newsletter 170 March-April 2021

FORTHCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

Every third Tuesday of the month

Next Meeting: 20 April 2021

18h30 for 19h00

Wanderer's Club

Come early and join us for supper in the restaurant.

Good food, great company!

SPEAKERS

Organiser: John Blackmore

083 302 3929

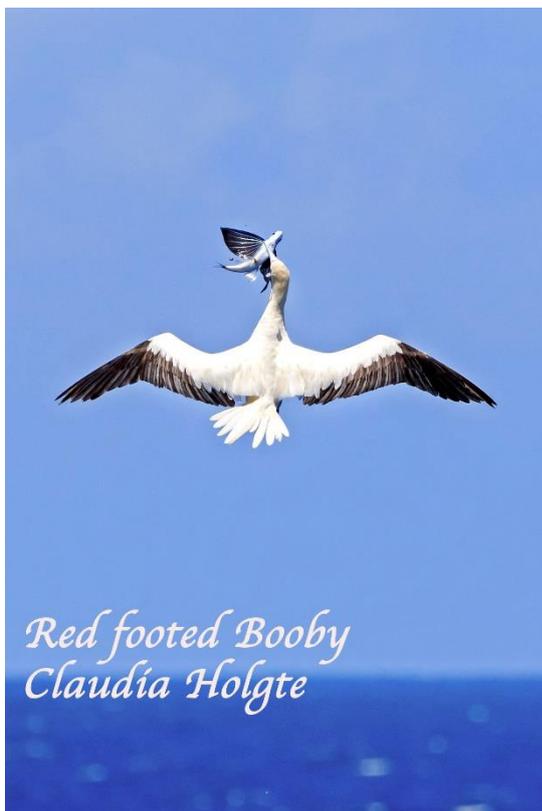
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Tuesday 20 April

Claudia Holgate



Around the world in 80 days – COVID version



When Claudia Holgate joined her expedition ship in New Zealand on 16 February 2020, she expected an amazing trip through the Ross Sea, from New Zealand to South America. The trip was to visit the New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands to the Ross Sea side of Antarctica, with Scott's hut and the Dry Valleys, around to the Antarctic Peninsula and finishing off in Ushuaia in South America. Events did not go according to plan as the world was tossed into a COVID-19 turmoil, unbeknown to the passengers and crew, who were out of satellite internet range for most of the voyage. When the ship reached a latitude far

enough north to pick up internet, it became clear that we may have difficulty being able to disembark in Ushuaia. The second part of the journey was being shunted from pillar to post as one country after another shut their borders. Finally, when the end was in sight, the South African Government went into hard lockdown and Claudia was stuck on the ship for an additional month, sailing across the Atlantic to The Netherlands in the hope of being able to get home.



Claudia eventually arrived back in South Africa exactly 80 days after leaving. During this time, she travelled to five continents, covering 26 000km, four hemispheres, 14 time zones, crossing the International Date Line, the Antarctic Circle, the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer and the Equator.



Join Claudia for a talk on her experience and some of the sights and wildlife she encountered on this incredible journey.

Claudia Holgate is an international expedition leader and polar guide, working on small tourist expedition ships in very remote areas. She has a background in physical geography specialising in climate change and she lectures in climatology, geology and ornithology. Her love of birds started shortly after she hatched, and she started bird ringing shortly before fledging. This passion for birds and her background in geography, led her to becoming a naturalist guide on expedition ships and subsequently expedition leader, which has taken her to untouched wilderness areas around the world. In Claudia's 'other life', she is a critical care paramedic and teaches advanced cardiac, paediatric and trauma life support courses when she is home in South Africa.



Claudia believes she has the best job on the planet and delights in sharing her experiences and knowledge with others. Her work in teaching, research and outreach resulted in her being accepted as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

18 May 2021

Armin du Preez



Presentation Name: Scorpions and Scorpionism of Southern Africa
Presented by Armin du Preez, Director of Africa Scorpion Research

Armin du Preez is a renowned scorpion arachnologist who has a deep interest in the ecology and conservation biology of scorpions. His journey started almost eight years ago when he started field work alongside mentor and friend, Dr Ian Engelbrecht. He has travelled many kilometres looking for scorpions and doing research on these magnificent animals. He has a passion to educate the public about these fascinating creatures and to raise funding for scorpion research by presenting these talks and courses.

Africa Scorpion Research is the largest and only endorsed training provider for scorpion identification and first aid courses in Africa. Africa Scorpion Research gives talks for the general public and at corporate events.



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