

Outdoor Cinema in Celebration of Blue Flag

The Knysna Municipality will be screening an episode of David Attenborough's documentary series *Blue Planet II* on 20 December in celebration of Brenton-on-Sea Beach once again being awarded the coveted Blue Flag status.

Blue Planet II is a 2017 British nature documentary series on marine life produced by the BBC Natural History Unit that runs for approximately 50 minutes. It is narrated and presented by well-known naturalist Sir David Attenborough, while the main music score was composed by Hans Zimmer. The documentary is a follow-up to the 2001 award-winning show *The Blue Planet*. It is a breath-taking exploration of the world's vast oceans, which captures animals and other living organisms in their natural habitat.

Entrance to the event is free and will take place at the Brenton-on-Sea Park, State President CR Swart Road. The film will start shortly after sunset, around 19:50, and movie goers are requested to make their way to the park by 19:30. Viewers can bring their own picnic basket and a blanket. No alcohol will be allowed and no camping chairs permitted to ensure uninterrupted viewing for all.

Besides Brenton-on-Sea beach receiving Blue Flags status, two Knysna marinas: Thesen Harbour Town and Thesen Island also received Blue Flag status. Ocean Odyssey was certified as a Sustainable Tourism Boat Operator with its whale-watching vessels.

South Africa was the first country outside Europe to be granted Blue Flag accreditation for its beaches. The programme has been locally managed by WESSA since 2001 in partnership with participating coastal municipalities. This programme accredits beaches that meet high standards in water quality, environmental management, environmental education and information as well as safety and services.

The Blue Flag programme offers the benefits of encouraging tourists through better facilities and management of coastal ecosystems, with increased awareness of the coast's delicate environment. In South Africa, the programme is implemented by the Wildlife Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA).

There is ample parking within walking distance of the movie venue.

All are welcome to join in the fun celebrations and are reminded bring blanket and cushions; snacks and drinks (no alcohol).

For further information pertaining to the Outdoor Movie 20 December, call Lauren Josias on 044 302 6375 or email on ljosias@knysna.gov.za

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Caption: In celebration of the beach at Brenton-on-Sea once again receiving Blue Flag status, the municipality invites all to join them for an open-air screening of an episode of David Attenborough's *Blue Planet II* on 20 December. Entrance to Brenton Park is open from 19:30 and screening starts after sunset, around 20:15.