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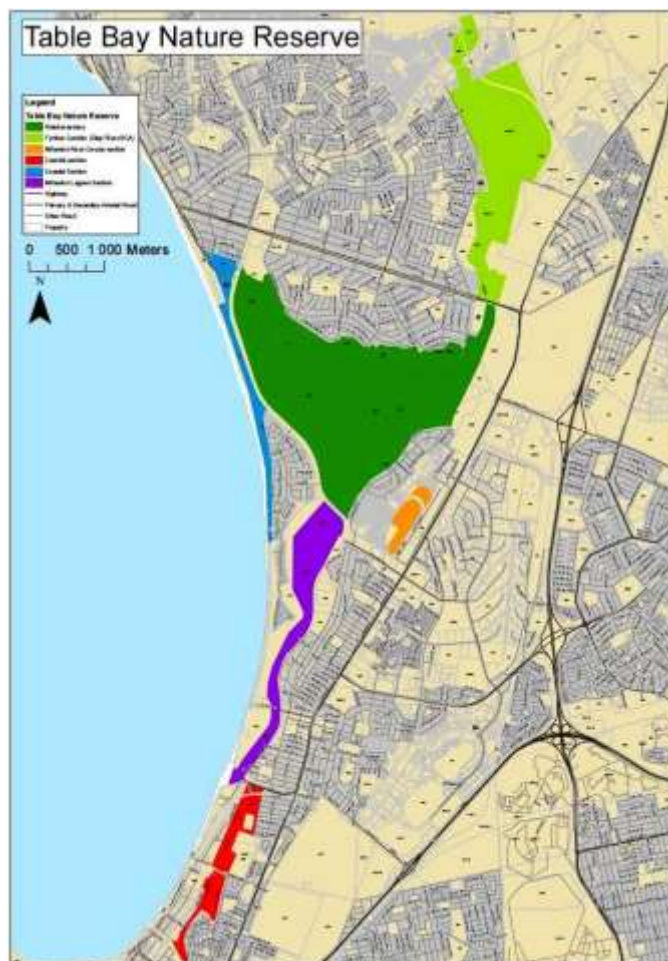
# TABLE BAY NATURE RESERVE

## QUARTERLY REPORT JULY – SEPTEMBER 2016

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For the Nature Reserve webpage, click the link or type [www.capetown.gov.za/tablebaynr](http://www.capetown.gov.za/tablebaynr) in your browser.

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Rietvlei Water Area** is a key feature in the Table Bay Nature Reserve as it is used intensively for watersport and shore-based recreation. The highlight of this quarter was the re-launching of the **City's refurbished double-jetty** which is used by water users to embark and disembark from launched vessels.

The **Milnerton Aquatic Club's** calendar of special events for the 2016-2017 season was published this quarter. The club also donated a **taxidermy mount of a Cape clawless otter** to the Nature Reserve to be used as an educational resource.

Various programmes were offered for the public's benefit this quarter, including the very popular **school holiday programmes** and the **annual Spring walks** at Milnerton Racecourse (see Figure 1 below).

The **Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC)** had its fifth meeting this quarter. Some of the issues being addressed by the PAAC includes the **poor water quality** and the associated public and environmental health concerns in the Milnerton Lagoon.

**Public health warning signs** were placed at the Milnerton Lagoon. The public can help to address sewage spills and overflows by **logging service requests with the City of Cape Town** by using the on-line form at this link: [Welcome to Service Requests](#).

Other issues that are being debated in the public domain include the **restoration of the historic wooden bridge** as well as the **allocation of sites for fireworks** near the Nature Reserve.

**Three new interns** were placed at the Nature Reserve during this quarter and will be employed for a year. Some of the issues that the interns are dealing with include the management of **compliance with Regulations**. Various non-compliant neighbours are impacting the Nature Reserve in negative ways. The Coastal Section at Sunset Beach and the boundaries at Milnerton Ridge and Table View suffer the most from illegal activities such as **encroachment from private properties** and **allowing pets in the reserve**.

The **rainfall patterns** have returned to normal and the seasonal wetlands are currently inundated with water.



Figure 1. The Milnerton Racecourse is a management section of the Table Bay Nature Reserve and protects Cape Flats Sand Fynbos.

## 2 HIGHLIGHTS & CHALLENGES

**2.1 HIGHLIGHT: The refurbished Rietvlei floating jetty** was re-launched on 27/09/2016 (see Figure 2 below). The jetty, which is about 20 years old, required the replacement of the timber decking and steel fittings. The jetty is essential to the recreational use of the Rietvlei Water Area. It is hoped that the refurbished jetty will serve the water users for another 20 years (Read more about this at [section 12](#)).



Figure 2. A crane being used to launch the two jetty panels.

**2.2 CHALLENGE: The lack of compliance with Regulations** impacts the Table Bay Nature Reserve in many negative ways. Not only is the impact of displaced people in the nature reserve becoming more intense, but private land-owners on the boundary of the nature reserve are also causing negative impacts. Various property owners are placing structures, rubble and alien vegetation in the nature reserve without the permission of the Management Authority (Read more about this at [section 11](#)).

## 3 CONSERVATION PLANNING

**3.1 The Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC)** for Table Bay Nature Reserve had its fifth meeting on 21/07/2016. The meeting was attended by 28 representatives from 19 organisations (see below):

Cape Bird Club	Milnerton Aquatic Club
Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve	Milnerton Canoe Club
CapeNature	Milnerton Central Residents Association
CCT: Subcouncil 1	Milnerton Golf Club
CCT: Biodiversity Management Branch	Milnerton Ridge Ratepayers Association
CCT: Rivers, Stormwater & Catchment Management	Paardeneiland City Improvement District
CCT: Stormwater & Sustainability Branch	SANCCOB
Friends of Blaauwberg Conservation Area	Sunset Beach Homeowners Association
Friends of Rietvlei	Sunset Links Home Owners Association
	Woodbridge Island Body Corporate

Some of the items on the agenda included:

- **Annual water quality review**, presentation by Ms Candice Haskins;
- **Milnerton Lagoon Habitat Restoration**, presentation by Dr Dirk van Driel;
- **MAC shoreline stabilisation**, feedback by Mr William Gravett;
- **SANCCOB's Chick Rearing Unit**, presentation by Ms Romy Klusener;
- **Request from small craft dealer to increase power boat length limit at Rietvlei from 18 to 23 ft.;**
- **Milnerton Aquatic Club calendar 2016-2017;**
- **Diep Estuary Action Plan**, feedback by Ms Landi Louw; and
- **South African Kite Surfing Association's (SAKA)** application for membership.

**3.2 The proposal for the restoration of the Historic Wooden Bridge** was presented by consulting engineers and heritage professionals at a public meeting held on 14/06/2016.

Several articles appeared in the local press during this quarter as a result of the public information session. Much of the comment was positive, but there were negative perceptions about the cost of repairing the bridge, which is estimated to be around R28 million.

The Table Bay Nature Reserve staff regularly attend the project management team (PMT) meetings in order to give input on the planning documents and participate in discussions. Future developments regarding the wooden bridge will be reported in future reports. See Figures 3 – 5.

### Bridge like Berlin Wall – remove it!

The letter “R28m to repair old bridge a waste”, *TB*, 13 July about the Woodbridge renovations, refers. Heritage, or no heritage. Wanting to spend R28m on the bridge is a total madness. The new bridge is running next to the old one. To rebuild the old bridge, heritage or not, makes no sense.

Remember what happened to the “Berlin wall” after it was of no use any more? Bits and pieces had been sold to collectors all over the world. We have a piece of it at the Waterfront.

My idea would be: dismantle the bridge, take the wood, still useable, and create tiny little bridges as ornaments. Attach a note of the history of the bridge. That will make the people happy who like to have a reminder (dusting it off for the next generation). Take photos of the old one before removing it. We have plenty of artists in the country who would be happy to create something to remember.

Save the R28m; spare some money for the removal. There are plenty of people around who would be happy to have just R50 for some food in a day.

**ILSE HAAS**  
Table View

Figure 3. Article in the local press.

# Progress on wooden bridge project

**MONIQUE DUVAL**  
@monique\_duval

The City of Cape Town will soon commence with a detailed design for the restoration of the historic wooden bridge in Milnerton.

Earlier this year the City hosted a public participation meeting where consultants explained the restoration project will see the entire bridge being dismantled and rebuilt in the future.

Speaking at the meeting, Mike Scurr of RennieScurrAdendorff Architects, said the bridge, built in 1901 by the Fortress Company of Royal Engineers during the South African War for military access to the island, had deteriorated significantly but remained a vital part of the history of Milnerton.

In the period between 1942 and 1972 various repair works were undertaken and in 1994 it was closed to vehicles. In 1987 it was declared a national monument and once again closed for repairs in 1990. Five years later the bridge was reopened, and in 2007 it was closed once again due to safety reasons.

#### Dilapidated

Over the years, the bridge has deteriorated further and residents have frequently raised concerns about the dilapidated state.

According to Mayco member for transport, Brétt Herron, the City’s proposals were generally well received and the conceptual planning report has just been approved by the project management team.

“The City’s professional service providers are about to commence with the detail design and preparation of tender documentation for a construction contract. The formal heritage process is still to be completed, and



The City of Cape Town will soon commence with a detailed design for the restoration of the historic wooden bridge in Milnerton.

PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL

is reliant on some of the detail which is still to come.”

Herron explains as the wooden bridge is a provincial heritage site and the only surviving structure of its kind in South Africa, the City has an obligation in terms of the Na-

tional Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) to preserve this structure.

“It is furthermore considered to be a landmark structure and once restored, will become a functional non-motorised transport (NMT) link to Woodbridge Island,” he says.

Herron added the bridge has been deteriorating at an increasing rate in recent years and due to other demands on the maintenance budget of Transport for Cape Town, the City’s transport authority, the maintenance of the wooden bridge became less of a priority once the adjacent concrete bridge was opened, which provided alternative access to Woodbridge Island.

“The wooden bridge has now deteriorated to the point where it has had to be closed for safety reasons, and given the City’s obligations in terms of the NHRA, funding has now been made available to rehabilitate this structure.”

#### R27 million

The estimated budget for this project is R27 million.

However, Herron says this amount does not relate to the restoration of the bridge only, but includes pedestrian links and landscaping at either end of the bridge as well.

Amid questions about why this bridge needs to be restored while there is an adjacent concrete road bridge, Herron says while this structure does accommodate pedestrians, the footways are relatively narrow with a high potential for conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.

“The intention is to re-open the wooden bridge as a functional non-motorised transport (NMT) link to the island that provides safe passage for both pedestrians and cyclists. It is also hoped that residents and visitors who make use of the wooden bridge will linger on the structure and take advantage of the views that this bridge offers.”

Construction is anticipated to commence in October 2017, if all goes as planned.

It will take approximately 13 months to complete.

Figure 4. Article in the local press.

## Wooden bridge has huge potential

There is controversy around the restoration of the wooden bridge at Woodbridge Island.

The City plans to restore the bridge, but concerned residents wrote letters to the paper expressing the opinion that the costs of the restoration cannot be justified.

The restoration of the wooden bridge is an initiative of Transport Cape Town

(TCT) which tends to view the bridge merely as a structure to be utilised by pedestrians to cross the river. If this is the case, it is indeed valid to ask whether the cost of the bridge can justify the utility of the bridge.

However, if this bridge is viewed in a broader context, it has much more utility than a mere pedestrian passageway. Woodbridge is a public space with lots of potential that is not unlocked due to a lack of development. It can be

argued that the Woodbridge area has the potential to become a magnificent public space similar to Mouilly Point. If this potential is unlocked, the area can become a popular destination for tourists, holidaymakers and residents, creating business opportunities with the associated jobs that will hopefully far exceed the costs of restoring the wooden bridge. The restoring of the wooden bridge is an essential component of unlocking this

potential, but it should only be the start of the process, not a singular event.

Members of the Milnerton Central Residents Association (MCRA) attended the presentation on the restoration of the bridge and conveyed this message. It is our hope that more stakeholders in the wooden bridge would view it in a broader context and take action to unlock the potential of the area.

**BOUWE VAN DER EEMS (MCRA)**  
Milnerton

Figure 5. Article in the local press.

4 FLORA

**4.1 Various Spring walks and wildflower surveys** were conducted during this quarter in the Milnerton Racecourse. More detail on these activities are reported by the Site Manager Landi Louw. Volunteers who want to become involved with future activities are welcome contact Landi Louw at 021 444 0315 or email her at [landi.louw@capetown.gov.za](mailto:landi.louw@capetown.gov.za). See Figure 6 below of an article in the local press.

# Exploring Milnerton's hidden gem

**MONIQUE DUVAL**  
 @monique\_duval

**S**pring has officially sprung and amid a variety of residential complexes is one of Milnerton's best kept secrets – Table Bay Nature Reserve.

Last week *TygerBurger* joined residents for the annual Spring Flower Walk held at Milnerton Racecourse by the City of Cape



This was the only *Moraea flaccida*, *TygerBurger* managed to find.

Town. Here a total of 259 plant species have been recorded and most of these species flower in spring. During these walks, visitors get the unique opportunity to be guided through the southern area of the reserve which is normally inaccessible.

According an information pamphlet handed at the walk, the racecourse has been the pride of Milnerton since 1904 and hosted some of South Africa's biggest racing events, attracting up to 25 000 people per day. The racecourse was eventually closed and became the Milnerton Training Centre and Stables.

When work began on the Royal Ascot development in 2000, the conservation area was given to the City to manage in 2003. By 2011, the racecourse was integrated into the Table Bay Nature Reserve.

The area comprises 19.2 hectares of critically endangered Cape Flats sand fynbos. More than 84% of this vegetation type has been destroyed.

The walk was led by Landi Louw who explained of the 16% left, only 1.5% is conserved.

"What we have behind us is very special. Every year we find something new. In 2013 we had 32 red list species; we now have 35. So there is always something interesting happening. We also have grysbok and during this year we did a count with residents."

Shortly after entering the racecourse a grysbok was spotted but it ran away quickly as the group entered. Another surprise was a snake. Throughout the walk, Louw gave interesting information on the flowers and birdlife spotted on the walk.



The group poses for a picture after a walk through Milnerton's natural wonder. PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL

Figure 6. Article in the local press.

**4.2 The Custodians of Rare & Endangered Wildflowers (CREW)** assist the Nature Reserve with finding and monitoring red listed species and other plants of special concern (see Figures 7 – 8 overleaf).

CREW visited Milnerton Racecourse on 08/08/2016 and found one new species for the Nature Reserve's plant list, namely *Ficinia secunda*.

Two additional new plant species were found by the Site Manager Landi Louw during August, namely *Nidorella ivifolia* (Bakbos) and *Ficinia limosa* (Pygmy vleibessie). The latter species is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.



Figure 7. Members of the Custodians of Rare & Endangered Wildflowers (CREW) at a site visit at the Milnerton Racecourse.



Figure 8. A flowering *Ferraria crispa* in the Milnerton Lagoon Section.

**5 FAUNA**

**5.1 An integrated water bird census** was conducted on 22/07/2016. The census was done by the Nature Reserve team, covering 11 surveys sections. The water birds numbered a total of 2,075 birds comprising of 37 species (see Figures 9 – 11 for details).

**13 species with single-figure counts (totalling 45 birds) accounted for 2,2% of the water birds,** including: 1 Yellowbilled egret, 1 Black-crowned night heron, 1 Purple swamphen, 1 Pied kingfisher, 2 Cattle egret, 2 African black oystercatcher, 3 Blackheaded heron, 4 Purple heron, 4 Glossy ibis, 5 Little egret, 6 Mallard hybrid, 7 African spoonbill, and 8 Great crested grebe.

**18 species with double-figure counts (totalling 545 birds) accounted for 26,3% of the water birds,** including: 10 Little grebe, 10 Reed cormorant, 11 Sacred ibis, 12 Spurwinged goose, 12 Swift tern, 14 Grey heron, 14 Cape wagtail, 17 Blackwinged stilt, 26 Redbilled teal, 27 Blacksmith lapwing, 29 Common moorhen, 30 African darter, 35 Cape teal, 40 Whitebreasted cormorant, 46 Southern pochard, 66 Lesser flamingo, 67 Yellowbilled duck, 79 Cape shoveller.

**6 species with triple-figure counts (totalling 1,485 birds) accounted for 71,6% of the water birds,** including: 135 Kelp gull, 147 Greater flamingo, 218 Egyptian goose, 248 White pelican, 355 Hartlaub's gull, 382 Redknobbed coot.

**Additional bush birds** included Helmeted guineafowl, Peregrine falcon, Pied crow, Cape spurfowl, and Black-shouldered kite.

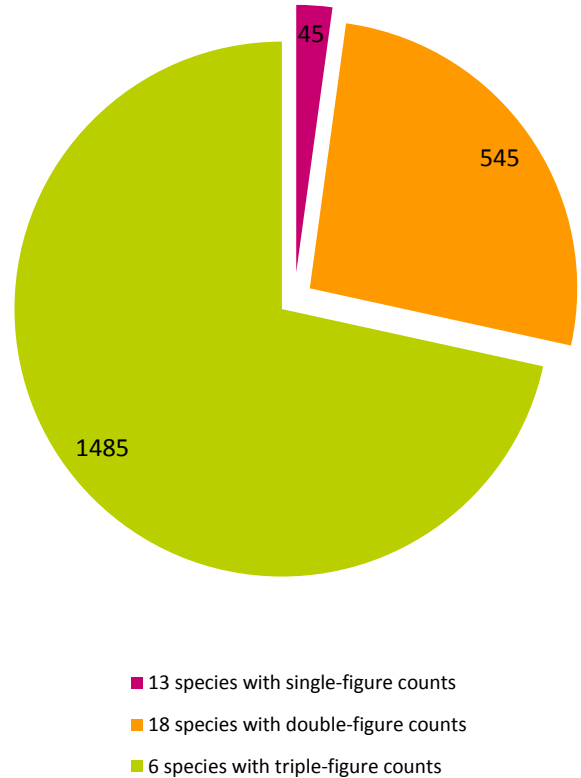


Figure 9. Relative contribution of low, medium and high counts.

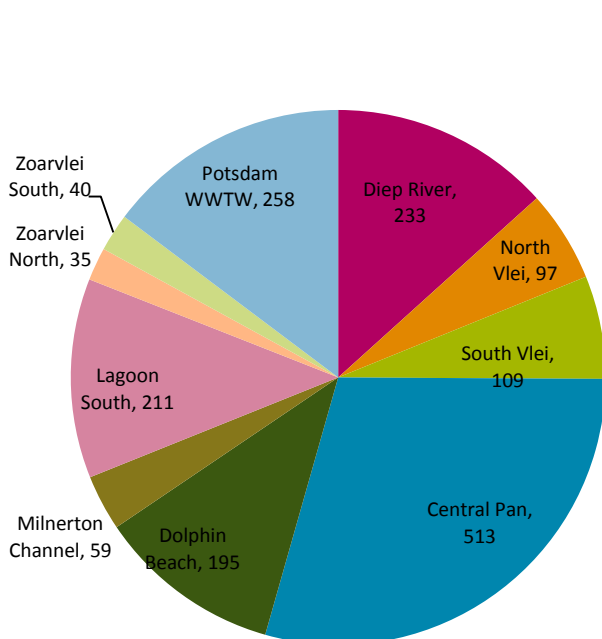


Figure 10. Relative contribution from each survey section.

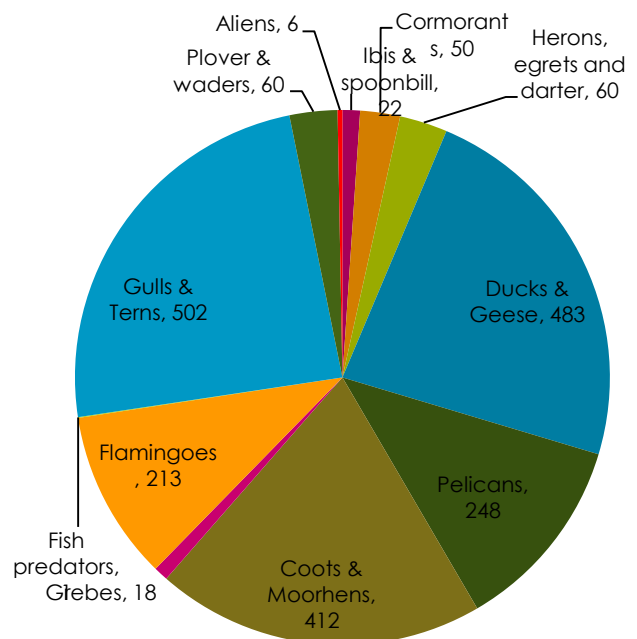


Figure 11. Relative contribution from the various bird groups.

**5.2 A rehabilitated Cape grysbok was released** at the Rietvlei Section of the Nature Reserve after it was treated at the SPCA. A local newspaper published an article about the release (see Figure 12 below).



Die Kaapse grysbok is ná 'n ongeluk weer in die natuur vrygelaat.

Foto's: KAAPSE STADSRAAD

## Kaapse grysbok weer bok vir sports ná ongeluk

**Marelize Barnard**

'n Kaapse grysbok wat in Augustus deur 'n voertuig getref is, het so mooi herstel dat hy in 'n Kaapstadse natuurreservaat vrygelaat is.

Die Kaap de Goeie Hoop-diebeskermingsvereniging het die grysbok begin versorg nadat 'n motoris die bok langs die pad gekry het.

Waar 'n grysbok gewoonlik sku is en wegkruip, was dié bok so deurmekaar nadat hy raakgery is dat hy nie eens kon weghardloop nie.

Die bok is twee weke lank versorg en daarna in die Tafelbaai-natuurreservaat vrygelaat.

Die Kaapse stadsraad sê verskeie diere word jaarliks op die pad tussen Bloubergstrand en Melkbosstrand doodgery –



Net een kyk en daar verdwyn die Kaapse grysbok weer terug in die veld.

van slange tot skilpaaie en ystervarkies.

Motoriste word gevra om stadiger te ry en veral snags,

wanneer nagdiere rondloop, op die uitkyk te wees en te deel in die verantwoordelikheid om die diere te beskerm.

Figure 12. Article in the local press.



Some photographs of exceptional wildlife sightings during this quarter are reproduced below:



Figure 13. Steenbok ewe at Rietvlei (photo by Frieda Prinsloo).



Figure 14. African fish eagle adult and juvenile at Rietvlei (photo by Frieda Prinsloo).



Figure 15. A Cape dwarf chameleon at Rietvlei.



Figure 16. A Black-headed heron eating a Rhombic skaapsteker at Milnerton Racecourse.



Figure 17. A Cape clawless otter at Rietvlei (photo by Andy Bullmore).

## 6 SOIL

**6.1 Shoreline erosion** at Rietvlei is being monitored and stabilisation is taking place by means of planted indigenous wetland vegetation at selected sites.

## 7 WATER

**7.1 Rainfall recorded** in the Table Bay Nature Reserve (at Rietvlei Water Area and the Milnerton Racecourse) returned to normal patterns after an exceptionally dry year in 2015.

The rainfall during this quarter was 205.5mm at Rietvlei and 201.5mm at Milnerton Racecourse. The year's total rainfall to date is 430mm at Rietvlei and 403.2mm at Milnerton Racecourse. Currently the seasonal pans are flooded and there is no dust problem.

Figure 18 below indicates the monthly rainfall records of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse plotted over the average rainfall pattern for the area. Figure 19 indicates the rainfall accumulation curves of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse plotted over the average accumulation curve for the area.

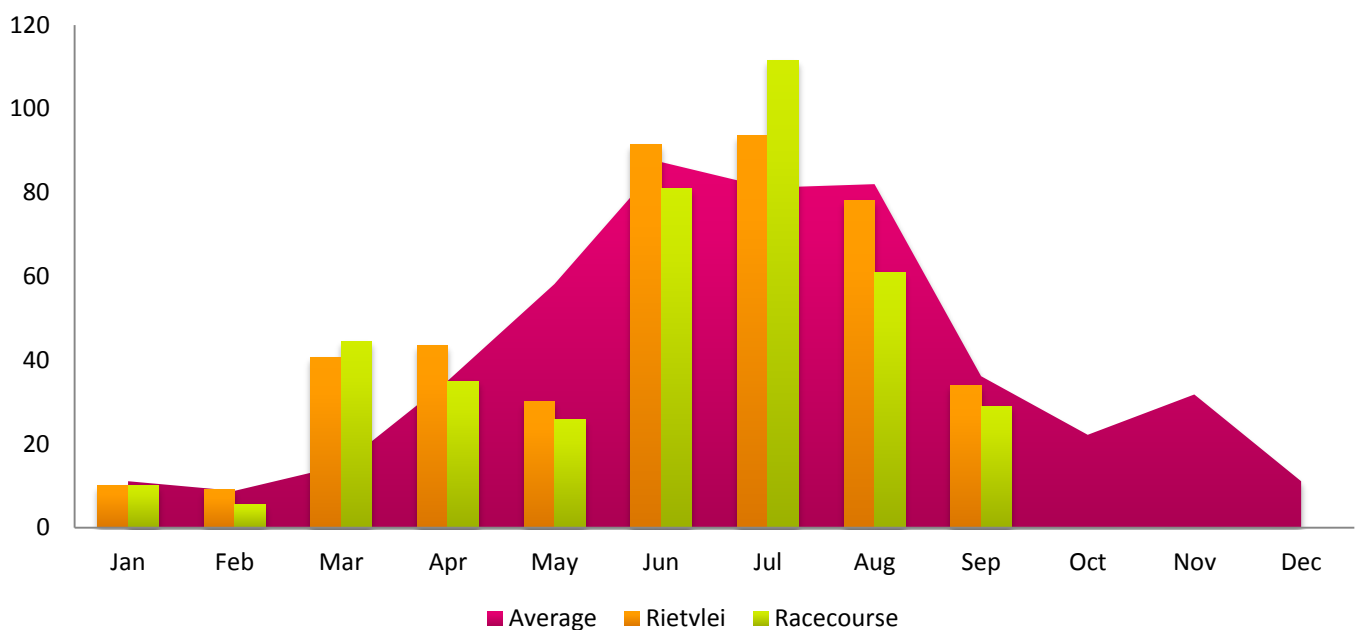


Figure 18. Monthly rainfall records of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse plotted over average rainfall pattern.

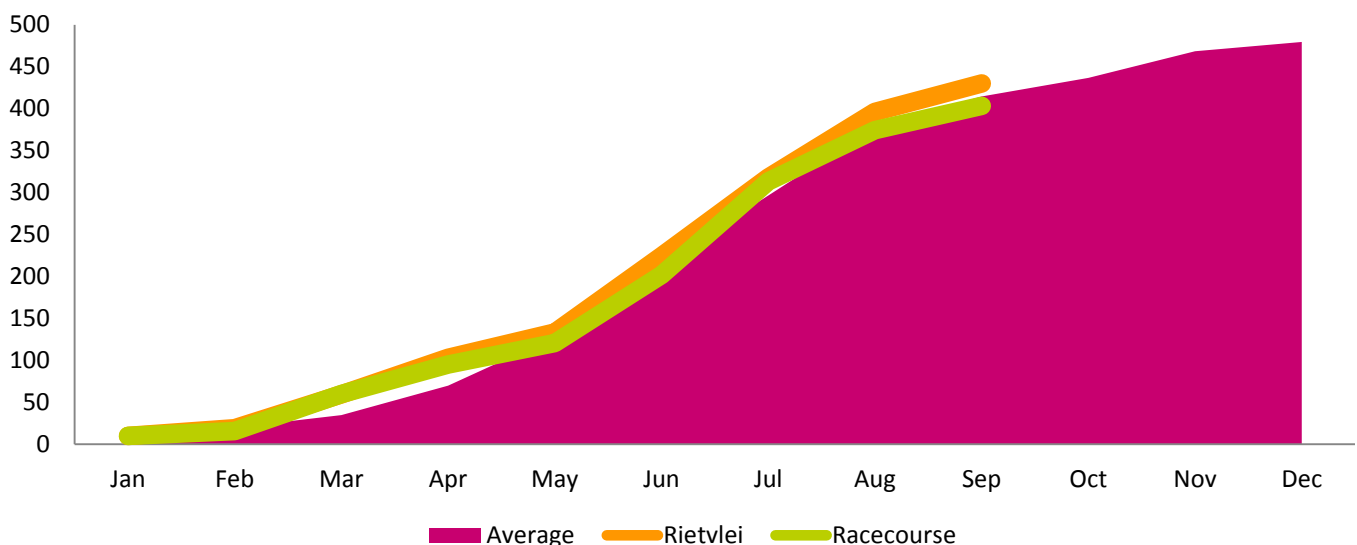


Figure 19. Rainfall accumulation curves of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse plotted over average accumulation curve.

**7.2 Water pollution** is one of the most critical threats to the natural ecosystem in the Nature Reserve and has again received much attention in the local press due to concerns about the impacts on public health and the environment. The Health Department requested the Nature Reserve staff to place public warning signs at various access points at the Milnerton Lagoon which also led to a media enquiry. Area Manager Koos Retief and various other City officials responded to questions from the media (see Figures 20 – 21).

## Brown water sparks sewage spill fears at Lagoon Beach

ATHINA MAY

Foul-smelling brown water at Lagoon Beach had Milnerton residents worried about a possible sewage spill, but the City of Cape Town has ruled that out after testing the water.

Koos Retief, the biodiversity area manager for the Table Bay Nature Reserve said the discolouration of the water was possibly caused by fine sediments in the soil flowing from the Diep River.

Residents raised a red flag when they detected a bad smell near Lagoon Beach and noticed that the water resembled sewage.

They aired their concerns about a possible health hazard on the Milnerton Neighbours Facebook page.

Milnerton resident Sharon Kaplan said the water had smelt bad for a while and resident Caroline Marx said it was an ongoing problem and residents should log official complaints with the City.

“There is much that concerns me about the state of the lagoon water. I will be having a follow-up meeting, hopefully soon, with City of Cape Town role-players.

“Report whenever something appears abnormal. Without people reporting incidents as they occur, it is difficult to force the City to take sufficient and sustained action to properly resolve the problems,” said Ms Marx.

Lagoon Beach resident Jason Smith asked whether the water was

safe for young children to paddle in and Milnerton resident Desiré Harmse posted a picture of a dead rat, which she said she had found on the beach at the weekend.

The City’s scientific services department (SSD) took samples of the water on Thursday August 4 after residents logged complaints and sent an inquiry to the Table Bay Nature Reserve calling for test to be done.

City spokeswoman Priya Reddy said the tests had found no evidence of a sewage spill. The odour, she said, was likely caused by the sea water and a smell similar to that of seaweed.

Furthermore, she said, the City had found no evidence of a rodent infestation.

“The only possible (rat) source identified is a site where there used to be a derelict property, which is now being demolished.

“While the City had found no evidence of a ‘health nuisance’, Ms Reddy said the environmental health department would “monitor the situation”.

Mr Retief said organic matter from the Diep River or fine sediments in soil dislodged during rainfall could have given the water a brown tint.

“There are 15 sampling points within the City which are reviewed on a monthly basis to ensure water safety, but sampling is done more frequently when residents request it,” said Mr Retief.

Figure 20. Article in the local press.



New signs warning residents about pollution at Milnerton Lagoon sparked concern last week.

PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL

# ‘Pollution is persistent’

MONIQUE DUVAL  
 @monique\_duval

New signs warning residents about pollution at Milnerton Lagoon sparked concern last week, but the City says these just replaced old signs.

*TygerBurger* was called out to Lagoon Beach by resident Mike Beart who said a few weeks ago the water draining into the Lagoon had a foul smell and he later spotted the new signs.

“I have never seen those signs before and after I picked up the smell I wondered if this had polluted the water and enquired whether or not residents should be concerned. I would just like to find out what is happening because this stormwater outlet smells really bad,” he said.

Two weeks prior to Beart’s email to the newspaper, *TygerBurger* was contacted by Rugby resident Matt Weisse who raised concerns about a sewage spill in Donegal Street.

In a letter to the City sent during August, Weisse advised that raw sewage was spilling into the storm water canal leading to Lagoon Beach and at the time it had apparently been flowing for four days.

“There has been a large sewage discharge for four days running non-stop into the storm water system and the canal that leads out onto the beach at Lagoon Mouth Milnerton due to a broken pump station. There are condoms (and) toilet paper floating in the water and stuck to the road. The lagoon and beach as well as the rivers and canals are blocked from all the solid waste, bulrushes and the water cannot flow. We are awaiting a disaster to happen with the next heavy rainfall,” he wrote.

*TygerBurger* questioned whether the two

incidents were linked and according to Mayco member for health, Siyabulela Mamkeli, sewage from an overflow can enter the stormwater system which would carry the pollution to the outlets downstream.

However, in this case, the new signage was not linked to a recent pollution event, but rather to replace older and damaged signage warning the public of the risks associated with the water.

Mamkeli explains pollution of the lagoon is a persistent issue, and comes from a variety of sources including being conveyed into the lagoon by means of the stormwater system, especially after it has rained, when the rain washes surface pollution that has accumulated since the last rainfall.

He says direct contact with this water carries increased risk of infection, especially gastroenteritis, upper respiratory issues and skin infections.

Asked whether the City tests E.coli levels at the beach and lagoon, Mamkeli says the City tests E.coli levels at various sampling stations once a month.

“The results can be used to interpret long-term trends, but the monitoring frequency is not such that spikes in the levels of E.coli after individual spillages are picked up between sampling periods.”

Ernest Sonnenberg, Mayco member for utility services, says the Diep River estuary at the mouth (near Wang Tai) forms part of the Rietvlei and Diep River catchment.

The water quality is measured for its suitability for intermediate contact using the 1996 South African National Water Quality Guidelines for recreational use.

“The limit for faecal coliforms (including E.coli) is set at 1000 counts per 100 ml. Above this limit the likelihood of the occurrence

of infection increases.”

He says E.coli results over a one-year period – from September 2016 to August 2016 – were evaluated using a statistical method to work out a median value which is used for compliance. The median value of 4850 counts per 100 ml for E.coli was calculated and exceeds the recommended limit for intermediate contact.

“For seawater, the site that is monitored is situated 50m downstream from the Milnerton Lagoon mouth as it drains into sea. Using a different compliance guideline (South African Water Quality Guidelines for Coastal Marine Waters, volume 2: Guideline for Recreational Use, DEA 2012) used for seawater bathing, a criteria for E.coli and Intestinal enterococci allows less than or equal to 500 and less than or equal to 185 counts per 100 ml, respectively. Above these limits the public health risk increases.”

For this site, both E.coli and Intestinal enterococci were above the recommended limits at 13 320 and 1600 counts per 100 ml, respectively.

“Both counts exceed the limit,” he says.

“Both these areas are not designated for swimming, hence the presence of signage to warn the public of possible public health risk. At these counts intermediate contact is not recommended.”

Sonnenberg also says in terms of addressing the water quality, the City would like to call on residents to refrain from littering and allowing potential blockages such as rags and cooking fats to enter the sewerage system. “Doing so is illegal, and can contribute to environmental health concerns as described above,” he concludes.

▶ What are your thoughts? Send your letter to [briewe@tygerburger.co.za](mailto:briewe@tygerburger.co.za).

Figure 21. Article in the local press.

**8.1 The allocation of the Table View beachfront as a site for fireworks** resurfaced as a topic of debate in the Table View community. The local press published an article about this issues (see Figure 22).

The Nature Reserve suffered a wildfire in the Rietvlei Section on the night of Guy Fawkes celebrations a year ago. A letter was sent by the Area Manager to Subcouncil 1 to request that the allocation of sites for fireworks displays be reviewed.



Figure 22. Article in the local press.

**8.2 Controlled burning of brush material left over from invasive vegetation clearing work** was undertaken at a stewardship conservation area near Pella (Atlantis) from 26 to 27/09/2016.

Table Bay Nature Reserve staff assisted on both days with the burning operations (see Figure 23).

The proactive burning of brush material left over from invasive vegetation clearing programmes assists with the recovery of the indigenous vegetation as well as removing of a potential fire hazard by reducing the fuel load.

Controlled burning must be undertaken in terms of a permit issued by the local authority and in accordance with strict guidelines on permissible weather conditions.

## It's a 'free for all' at Guy Fawkes

fireworks aftermath," November 11, 2015).

At the TVRA's information session on Thursday evening, vice chairperson George Zaverdinos, asked those at the meeting what their stance was on the "emotional subject" and invited them to ask questions.

TVRA exco member Roy Fuller-Gee said he would support the fireworks if they were managed as a professional event such as the fireworks show at the V&A Waterfront.

"But the way it has become, it's a free for all and we are encouraging people to break the law in terms of gunpowder licences," said Mr Fuller-Gee.

He also said that if fireworks were allowed on the beachfront for Guy Fawkes then they should also be allowed for other events such as New Year's Day and Diwali.

"If it's allowed for one event, it should be allowed for another," he said.

Mr Zaverdinos said fireworks brought with them noise pollution, air pollution as well as the risk of fire.

He said there was no question fireworks harmed pets and that because fireworks happened so infrequently, pets were not used to them.

"There are wildlife issues as well. Birds of a certain species frightened by the noise of the fireworks fly off in the direction of the ocean and they drown according to the experts," he said.

Ward 107 councillor Nicky Rheeder said she has been doing site visits in her ward with the Milnerton fire station commander and they had been unable to find a safe place to discharge fireworks.

"I cannot seek sites that are not in my ward and I have looked for alternatives in Ward 107 but there is no alternative site," said Ms Rheeder.

According to guidelines governing site selection, no persons may use

fireworks: within 500 metres of any airport, explosives manufacturing work place, petroleum depot, gasometer, hospital or old age home; within 500 meters of a police station; and in any building or public thoroughfare.

Someone in the meeting asked whether suitable sites would not be available further up the coast, but Ms Rheeder said there was a fire hazard due to the fynbos up the coast.

Another speaker on the fireworks subject was Gayl Basson from the animal shelter, Fallen Angels in Melkbosstrand.

Ms Basson said she would like the area to be put on the map for banning fireworks altogether.

She said although fireworks were allowed around three nights a year, they put the animal shelter back by months.

"Sometimes fireworks go on for weeks before and after celebrations. It provokes a fight or flight response in animals and they sustain the worst injuries which are self-inflicted when they try to escape," said Ms Basson.

She said most people in Table View get medication for their animals, which she applauded.

She said people also injure animals with fireworks and gave a few examples of what she has seen first hand.

She referred to case where people had put fireworks in a dog's mouth and forced it closed. The dog's jaw was blown off.

Ms Rheeder said she would ask the City of Cape Town to put a pause on the fireworks matter until Sub-council resumes.



Figure 23. Controlled burning of brush piles near Pella.

9 PEOPLE, TOURISM & EDUCATION

9.1 Stakeholder Engagement

9.1.1 A taxidermy mount of a Cape clawless otter was funded by the Milnerton Aquatic Club and donated to the Nature Reserve's Rietvlei Education Centre to be used for educational purposes.

We are grateful for this generous donation from the Milnerton Aquatic Club and can assure that this new resource will be used to good effect to the educate children about the wildlife in the Nature Reserve.



Figure 24. The Cape clawless otter taxidermy mount, funded by the Milnerton Aquatic Club.

9.1.2 The annual Spring walks at Milnerton Racecourse was again hosted by Site Manager Landi Louw during this quarter. Over 120 people participated in Spring walks at Milnerton Racecourse this quarter.



Figure 25. One of the Spring walks at Milnerton Racecourse.

**9.1.3 Volunteering** is a vital part of the activities at the Table Bay Nature Reserve. During this quarter, the following volunteers assisted the Nature Reserve:

- **13/07/2016:** Kirsty Marais and Sandiso Ziduli did alien clearing at Milnerton Lagoon
- **14/07/2016:** Sandiso Ziduli did environmental education during the holiday programme "Hack and Hike Blaauwberg Hill"
- **14/07/2016:** Kirsty Marais did fixed-point photography and measuring of water levels at Milnerton Racecourse, as well as logging sightings on the biodiversity database
- **23/07/2016:** Greg and Thomas did red listed plant monitoring at Milnerton Racecourse
- **25/07/2016:** Olivia did red listed plant monitoring at Milnerton Racecourse
- **04/08/2016:** Susan painted buildings at Rietvlei
- **17/08/2016:** Susan did boardwalk maintenance (carpentry) at Milnerton Racecourse
- **27/08/2016:** Steven McCue and Greg Pool did firebreak maintenance in Coastal Section (see Figure 26)
- **24/09/2016:** Steven McCue, Susan Wishart, Greg Pool and Thomas Meisinger did invasive vegetation clearing at Milnerton Racecourse.



**Figure 26. Greg Pool and Steven McCue working on the fence-line firebreak at the Coastal Section.**

**Table Bay Nature Reserve staff engage with various stakeholders, both internal and external, by means of meetings and other platforms. Below is a summary of the meetings that were attended by staff this quarter.**

#### 9.1.4 Internal Meetings

Table Bay Nature Reserve staff attended no less than 13 official internal meetings during this quarter:

- 01/07/2016: CTEET Interns' induction meeting at False Bay Nature Reserve;
- 27/07/2016: CCT Nature Conservation Skills Development Programme – Phase 4 Induction;
- 04/08/2016: Visitor Control Officer interviews for Tygerberg Nature Reserve;
- 12/08/2016: North Region management meeting at Maitland head office;
- 15/08/2016: Individual Performance Management meetings;
- 25/08/2016: Biodiversity Management Branch meeting at False Bay Nature Reserve;
- 06/09/2016: Physical assessments for Visitor Control Officer for Tygerberg held at Maitland;
- 09/09/2016: Practical assessments for Visitor Control Officer for Tygerberg held at Tygerberg;
- 14/09/2016: Verbal interviews for Visitor Control Officer for Tygerberg held at Maitland;
- 20/09/2016: Storm-water Maintenance Management Plans review;
- 28/09/2016: City Manager's directive on reporting of serious occupational health & safety incidents;
- 30/09/2016: North Region health & safety meeting at Blaauwberg; and
- 30/09/2016: North Region management meeting at Blaauwberg.

#### 9.1.5 External Meetings

Table Bay Nature Reserve staff attended no less than 8 official external meetings during this quarter:

- 15/07/2016: David Reed Daily regarding environmental education opportunities;
- 21/07/2016: Table Bay Nature Reserve Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC) meeting;
- 10/08/2016: Work-integrated learning student interviews for the City for 2017 at CPUT;
- 15/08/2016: PAAC Chairman Gordon Laing regarding sub-working groups;
- 24/08/2016: PAAC sub-working group on water quality in the Milnerton Lagoon;
- 31/08/2016: Handover of Rivergate Development restoration area at Diep River;
- 07/09/2016: Table Bay NR staff enrichment day at Inthaka Island; and
- 20/09/2016: Procurement site meeting for maintenance of Rietvlei ablution block.



## 9.2 Benefit to People

### 9.2.1 Rietvlei Education Centre Usage

The usage of the Rietvlei Education Centre, excluding visiting school groups, generated 65 person days of benefit to people over three event days.

DATE	GROUP	ACTIVITY	PERSON DAYS
25/07/2016	WESSA	Interviews	25
04/08/2016	Blaauwberg Development Area: Environmental Liaison Committee	Meeting	15
18/08/2016	Friends of Rietvlei – evening talk	Environmental talk	25
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>65</b>

### 9.2.2 Rietvlei Boma Usage

The usage of the Rietvlei Boma generated 554 person days of benefit to people over 20 event days.

DATE	GROUP	ACTIVITY	PERSON DAYS
04-06/07/2016	Holiday group	Holiday programme	96
08/07/2016	Holiday group	Holiday programme	32
11/07/2016	Khoisan Implementation	Training and skills audit	20
21/07/2016	TBNR PAAC	Quarterly meeting	28
26/07/2016	BMB P&C officers	Edu-week workshop	17
11-12/08/2016	NCC Environmental Services	CCT Skills programme training	18
26/08/2016	NCC Environmental Services	Learner support day	9
01-02/09/2016	DEA Operational support and planning directorate	NRM Systems Discussions Meeting	20
03/09/2016	WC Wetlands Forum	Wetlands day event	98
08-09/09/2016	Social Development and early childhood development	Training	40
26-28/09/2016	Social Development and early childhood development (Service Delivery Dept.)	Youth development / life skills	108
29-30/09/2016	ERMD	Smart driver training	68
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>554</b>



Figure 27. Enviro-lectric holiday programme.



Figure 28. Enviro-lectric holiday programme.

**9.2.3 Environmental Education and Outreach**

**Environmental Education and Outreach** generated 633 person days of benefit over 14 event days.

DATE	GROUP(S)	LEARNERS	TEACHER +ADULTS	PERSON-DAYS	PROGRAMME
04/07/2016	Holiday programme	24	4	28	Dragons and Damsels
05/07/2016	Holiday programme	29	4	33	Colossal fossil
06/07/2016	Holiday programme	27	8	35	Enviro-lectric
07/07/2016	Holiday programme	26	4	30	Egg-stravaganza
08/07/2016	Holiday programme	27	5	32	Bird of prey
20/07/2016	Rylands primary school	87	7	94	Water pollution (with SANCCOB)
21/07/2016	Wolraad Woltemade	86	3	89	Biodiversity gr.5 (off site)
02/09/2016	West coast Christian School	15	2	17	Importance of Wetlands
03/09/2016	WC Wetlands Forum, Sophakama & Dunoon Primary	82	16	98	Importance of wetlands talk, guided walk, miniSASS activity
05/09/2016	Table View Brownies	11	5	16	Guided bird walk
07/09/2016	TBNR staff enrichment	0	13	13	Visit to Intaka Island. At TBNR discuss saving water, importance of wetlands, do miniSASS activity
09/09/2016	Table View Girl guides	7	5	12	Guided bird walk
15/09/2016	Rondebosch East primary	90	9	99	Wetland birds & Minisass (with SANCCOB)
22/09/2016	CBC St Johns	35	2	37	Biodiversity & Wetlands
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>

Below and overleaf are photographs of some of the groups that visited the environmental education programmes at the Nature Reserve during this quarter (see Figures 29 – 36).



Figure 29. Site manager Landi Louw at the Egg-stravaganza holiday programme at Milnerton Racecourse.



Figure 30. Rylands Primary at the water pollution programme.



Figure 31. Egg painting at Milnerton Racecourse.



Figure 32. Dragons and Damsels holiday programme.



Figure 33. Biodiversity programme at Wolraad Woltemade Primary.



Figure 34. West Coast Christian School at the Heritage & Wetland programme.



Figure 35. Rondebosch East Primary at the wetland programme.



Figure 36. CBC St Johns at the Biodiversity & Wetland programme.

9.3 Visitors and Income

9.3.1 **Income from visitors** at the Rietvlei Water Area during this quarter was R75,940 from 3,727 recorded visitors. Figure 37 below compares the total cash incomes from the first nine months of each calendar year since 2010, showing a continued increasing trend.

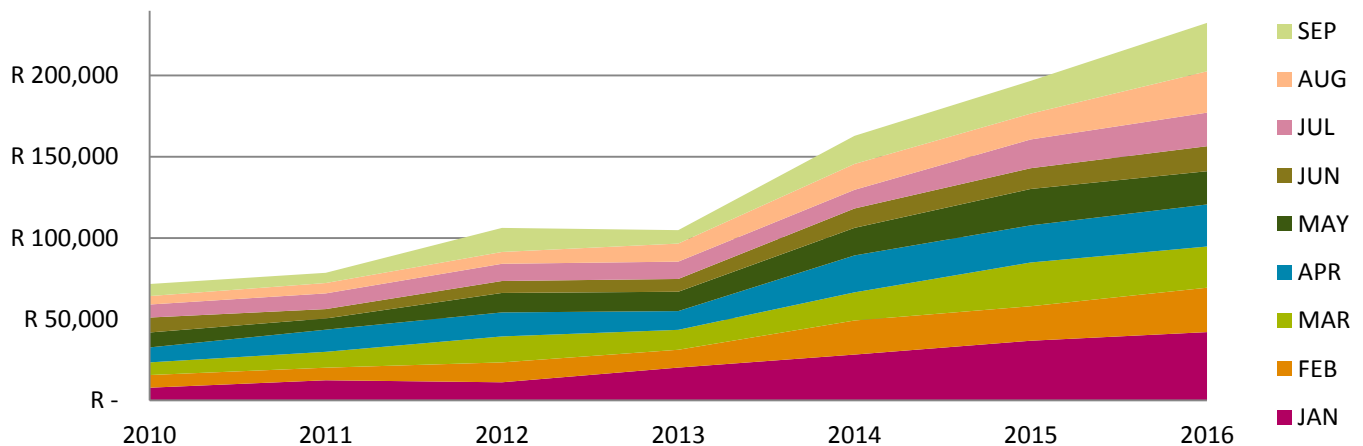


Figure 37. Total cash incomes from the first nine months of each calendar year since 2010.

9.3.2 **The Milnerton Aquatic Club's annual calendar of closed events** was advertised in the local press in terms of the club's lease agreement for the Rietvlei Water Area. The club can reserve a maximum of 12 days per annum for exclusive events. During the below advertised events, the club will have exclusive use of the water, but the Nature Reserve will still manage access and charge spectators the usual entrance fees.

## Rietvlei closed to public for special events

Table Bay Nature Reserve's Rietvlei Water Area will be closed to the public during upcoming events to be held on site.

According to a statement by the City of Cape Town, the public is, however, invited to attend the Milnerton Aquatic Club's (MAC) events over the next few months in celebration of their 40th anniversary.

This year's exclusive water sport events will include:

- MAC's opening cruise on Saturday 27 August.
- MAC's 40th anniversary combined with Anything That Floats event on Saturday 24 September.
- The 12-hour sailing challenge on Saturday 29 October.
- A windsurfing speed challenge on Saturday 3 December.

Access to these events will be controlled by the City's Environmental Resource Management Department.

All spectators and visitors will need to support the nature reserve by paying conservation fees to enter the reserve. Only event participants and club members holding valid membership cards will be allowed free access.

The fees are R15 per adult and R8 per child or senior citizen, as well as R21 per vehicle entering the nature reserve. Only cash transactions will be accepted. Spectators are encouraged to use public transport or to arrive on foot to save parking costs as parking space is limited. No dogs or alcohol may be brought into the nature reserve.

Table Bay is one of 16 nature reserves managed by the City's Environmental Resource Management Department. The reserve protects about 880 hectares of a variety of permanent and seasonal wetlands, as well as Cape Flats dune strandveld and Cape Flats sand fynbos vegetation types. The usual operating hours for this area will apply to all days outside of these scheduled events.

The Rietvlei Water Area is open to the public daily from 07:30 to 16:00 and can only be accessed at the main entrance gate at 10 Sandpiper Crescent, Table View. Additional fees are payable for fishing and water sports.

Call the Table Bay Nature Reserve on 021 444 0315 or email [tablebay.naturereserve@capetown.gov.za](mailto:tablebay.naturereserve@capetown.gov.za) for more information.

Figure 38. Article in the local press.

## City's Rietvlei water area closed during upcoming events

The Table Bay Nature Reserve's Rietvlei area will be closed to the public for water sport use during seven upcoming events, says the City of Cape Town.

Milnerton Aquatic Club (MAC) is staging several events over the next few months to celebrate its 40th anniversary, and all are welcome to attend:

- MAC's opening cruise on Saturday August 27.
- MAC's 40th anniversary combined with the Anything That Floats event on Heritage Day, Saturday September 24.
- The 12-hour sailing challenge on Saturday October 29.
- Windsurfing speed challenge on Saturday December 3.

In 2017, several exclusive water sport events will be held:

- Another windsurfing speed challenge on February 4.
- The 24-hour sailing challenge from March 18 to 19.
- Battle of the Vlei paddle event on May 21

Entry to the reserve is R15 for adults and R8 for children, as well as R21 a vehicle. No dogs or alcohol is allowed in the reserve.

The reserve is home to about 412 plant species, 31 mammal species, 196 bird species, 33 reptile species, nine amphibian species, and 14 fish species. The Rietvlei water area is open daily from 7.30am to 4pm, and can only be accessed at the main entrance gate at 10 Sandpiper Crescent, Table View.

Figure 39. Article in the local press.

**10 STAFF**

**10.1 Staff establishment**

**10.1.1 Two Nature Conservation Graduate Interns, Lenin Mpapatsi Matsi and Mthokozisi Reward Nzuza,** were placed at the Table Bay Nature Reserve for a period of a year from 01/072016 to 30/06/2017.

These placements are part of the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust's (CTEET) graduate internship placement programme.

Lenin will be working in the Coastal Section and the Table View boundary of Rietvlei. Reward will be working in Zoarvlei and the Milnerton Ridge boundary of Rietvlei.

Lenin is also studying towards his B.Tech degree in Nature Conservation at the moment.

**10.1.2 A Bachelors of Earth Science Graduate in Geology from the University of Pretoria, Phathutshedzo Dalcy Mundalamo,** was placed at Table Table Nature Reserve from 01/09/2016.

Phathu is currently registered for a BSc Honours Degree in Environmental Management with the University of South Africa (UNISA).

She will be working on water quality and hydrology issues in the Diep Estuary component of the Nature Reserve. She will also collaborate with the Water Fund as well as with the University of Stellenbosch research team on the data collection for the hydrology and geohydrology study of Rietvlei.



Figure 40. Lenin Matsi and Reward Nzuza.



Figure 41. Phathu Mundalamo.

**10.6 Training of permanent and temporary staff** at the Table Bay Nature Reserve amounted to no less than 10 person days over 8 training event days, including the following interventions:

Date(s)	Course	Number of days x	Number of learners =	Person days
11-12/08/2016	CCT Nature Conservation Learnership: Apply a systems approach to decision-making	2	2	4
16-19/08/2016	Events Safety Management Course	4	1	4
26/08/2016	CCT Nature Conservation Learnership: Learner support	2	1	2
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>10</b>



Figure 42. Ferika Yamile with her field ranger certificate.

## 11 LAW ENFORCEMENT

**11.1 Displaced people and illegal structures** were removed from the Table Bay Nature Reserve and surrounding areas on various dates and locations during this quarter, including the following interventions:

- 10/08/2016: Diep River, Zoarvlei and Marine drive;
- 11/08/2016: Marine Drive, Sunset Beach and Zoarvlei;
- 25/08/2016: Koeberg Road;
- 01/09/2016: Paardeneiland;
- 13/09/2016: Diep River and Theo Marais Park; and
- 24/09/2016: Brooklyn.

The Nature Reserve staff work with officers from the Displaced People's Unit, Anti-Land Invasion Unit, Blaauwberg Law Enforcement and Social Development (see below Figures 46 – 46).



Figure 43. Washing being dried along Marine Drive at Milnerton Lagoon.



Figure 44. Illegal structures along the railway line near Boundary Road at Zoarvlei.



Figure 45. Illegal structure near the Sunset Beach MyCiti stop.



Figure 46. Old discarded clothing littering the nature reserve.

**11.2 Residents and visitors that release their dogs into the Nature Reserve** are committing an offence in terms of the Department of Environmental Affairs Notice Nr 99 of 8 February 2012 "[NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003, REGULATIONS FOR THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF NATURE RESERVES.](#)" Section 45 of the Regulations sets out how a management authority can deal with pets in a nature reserves:

### **Pets in nature reserves**

**45(1)** No person may, except on conditions determined by a management authority from time to time, allow any dog, cat or other pet belonging to or under the care of that person to enter or remain in a nature reserve.

**(2)** Any dog, cat or other pet contemplated in subregulation (1) which is not in the care of any person, may either be caught and removed or destroyed at the discretion of the management authority.

**(3)** Any dog, cat or other pet not in control by a leash in a nature reserve may be impounded or destroyed at the discretion of the management authority during or after such act.

**11.3 Encroachment from bordering private properties** into the Nature Reserve is a growing concern in the neighbouring affluent communities of Table View, Milnerton Ridge and Sunset Beach. The following incidents were addressed during this quarter and will be monitored into the future:

- **The occupant at Cape Sunset Villas, 5 Winkle Way, Sunset Beach** was warned to stop the alleged removal of natural vegetation in the Coastal Section in front of the property (see Figures 47 – 48 right).

The occupant stated that the removal of the vegetation was required because of “snakes that live in the nature reserve.”

Once it was explained what potential penalties could be imposed for this activity, and that even the snakes are protected in the Nature Reserve, the occupant then agreed to stop the removal of the vegetation.



Figure 47. Illegal removal of vegetation.

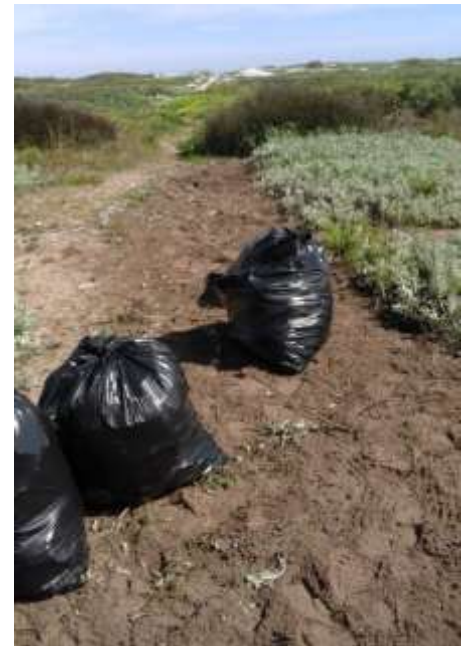


Figure 48. Illegal removal of vegetation.

- **The occupant at 6 Newbury Crescent, Milnerton Ridge,** was warned to stop extending his private garden into the Nature Reserve property. The property has no wall and has apparently been targeted by robbers previously.

During a routine boundary patrol by one of the Nature Reserve staff members on 01/09/2016, the occupant at this house allegedly thought the staff member was a robber and pulled out a firearm. The matter was reported to the SAPS.

The transformed portion of the Nature Reserve still needs to be rehabilitated by removing the garden plants.

- **The occupant at 15 Venus Circle, Sunset Beach,** was warned to stop the alleged dumping of construction materials and sand in the Coastal Section.

The occupant kindly agreed to remove the materials at their own cost.

Follow-up site inspections will be done to ensure compliance and to monitor recovery of the natural vegetation.



Figure 49. Private gardening in the Nature Reserve.



Figure 50. Sand and material in the Nature Reserve.

- **The occupant at 6 Greyville Close, Milnerton Ridge**, was warned to stop the alleged dumping of disused materials such as a trampoline and paving bricks in the Nature Reserve.

The occupants kindly complied and removed the materials at their own cost without any further action having to be taken.



Figure 51. A trampoline in the Nature Reserve.

- **The occupant at 6 Sandown Crescent, Milnerton Ridge**, was requested to remove a swing structure that was allegedly placed in the Nature Reserve without permission.

The occupant kindly gave permission for the structure to be removed and disposed of at a landfill site by the Nature Reserve staff.



Figure 52. A swing structure in the Nature Reserve.

- **The occupant at 9 Milnerton Drive, Milnerton Ridge**, was warned to removed two bee-hives that were illegally placed in the Nature Reserve without permission. Various trees and garden plants were also planted in the Nature Reserve.

No response was received from the occupant.

This matter will be investigate further and follow-up will be reported.



Figure 53. One of two private bee-hives in the Nature Reserve outside this property.

- **The occupant at 45A Milnerton Drive, Milnerton Ridge**, was warned about a local building inspector's investigation into the alleged illegal construction of a boundary fence in the nature reserve. The matter was also referred to the fire department as the fence lies in the area that is intended to be maintained as a fire break.

The matter is being investigated and follow-up will be reported.



Figure 54. A private boundary fence extension into the Nature Reserve.



**11.4 The negative impacts and edge effects from private properties at the Milnerton Ridge boundary** has led to a proposal to construct fencing along the entire boundary. It is currently impossible to maintain a fire break and security zone along this boundary due to the private garden extensions into the Nature Reserve land (see Figure 55 – 56). A similar problem occurred along the Sandpiper Crescent boundary in Table View which was addressed by means of a similar fence to what is proposed for Milnerton Ridge. A five meter strip between the fence and the houses is being maintained as a fire break (see Figures 57 – 58 below). The proposal is being considered at the moment.



Figure 55. Private garden extensions into the Nature Reserve along Milnerton Ridge make it impossible to maintain a firebreak.



Figure 56. Proposed delineation for a fence line along Milnerton Ridge.



Figure 57. Nature Reserve fencing at Sandpiper Crescent.



Figure 58. Example of a good firebreak at Sandpiper Crescent.

**11.5 A media release** was issued to raise awareness and to educate neighbouring landowners of the status of the Nature Reserve and to warn against illegal and destructive impacts.

The media release was published in two local newspapers during this quarter (see Figures 59 – 60).

The City of Cape Town's internal staff magazine CONTACT is also planning to publish a similar article during the next quarter to raise more awareness within the organisation.

**Neighbouring landowners are urged to treasure the Nature Reserve and to report any illegal activities, such as extensions of private gardens, illegal constructions, private infrastructure and planting of any plants (especially plants that are not native to the natural vegetation).**



■ Illegal structures on the coastal property in Sunset Beach have led to the City declaring the area part of the Table Bay Nature Reserve.

## Rangers to ramp up reserve patrols

STAFF REPORTER

The City of Cape Town has included the Sunset Beach coastal protection zone in the Table Bay Nature Reserve to stop residents encroaching on the area with decking, portable pools, trampolines, irrigation systems, lawn extensions, alien plants and water features.

Including the land in the reserve means it's now protected by environmental law – the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act. Removing plants or hunting animals in the reserve is a crime, as is unauthorised development.

"Conservation rangers will intensify their patrols in this coastal zone to prevent illegal activities, as well as to remove illegal overnight structures and put out open fires," said Johan Van der Merwe, the City's mayoral committee member for energy, environmental and spatial planning.

The City has removed many of the alien plants along with irrigation systems in the area and they're busy clearing illegally built walkways.

"After various court actions, the lawns and non-indigenous plants have been removed and the vegetation rehabilitated to resemble the natural West Coast form of the Cape Flats dune strandveld, which is an endangered vegetation type," said Mr Van der Merwe.

The City is providing five parking bays and pedestrian entry points to the beachfront at Isabella Drive, Hastula Way, Forata Drive, Donax Drive and Bursa Way.

"These access ways are used by local residents and visiting tourists and allow surfers, kite-surfers, paddlers and sunbathers to access the water. A formal footpath and boardwalk route has also been constructed to link local residents at Village Crescent and Albus Drive to the beach," said Mr Van der Merwe.

"All Sunset Beach residents are urged to assist in conserving the Sunset Beach coastal protection zone. Absolutely no private development or construction work may be done on protected land inside a nature reserve."

## 'Help to conserve coastline'

The City of Cape Town has taken various legal and management steps over a period of several years to protect the natural resources along the Table Bay coastline adjacent to Sunset Beach.

In a statement, the City appeals to residents in Sunset Beach to take pride in the fact that they live alongside a protected nature reserve which safeguards an endangered vegetation type.

The City is clamping down on damage to the environment as a result of unauthorised developments outside private properties.

Some of the illegal developments that have taken place in the coastal protection zone include the planting of lawn garden extensions and non-indigenous plants of various types, as well as construction of private walkways, portable pools, trampolines, wooden decking, water features and irrigation systems by neighbouring Sunset Beach property owners.

Residents are urged to assist in conserving the Sunset Beach coastal protection zone by reporting these illegal activities to the City.

"After various court actions, the lawns and non-indigenous plants have been removed and the vegetation rehabilitated to resemble the natural West Coast form of the Cape Flats dune strandveld, which is an endangered vegetation type. All irrigation systems were removed to stop the spread of invasive alien plants and lawn grasses that thrive on artificial watering. Illegal structures and constructed walkways have been, and are still being removed, since neighbouring residents continue to build these without permission," says Mayco member for energy, environmental and spatial planning, Johan van der Merwe.

The City reminds all residents living alongside the Table Bay Nature Reserve that absolutely no private development or construction work may be done on protected land inside a nature reserve.

Figure 60. Article in the local press.

Figure 59. Article in the local press.

## 12 INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT

**12.1 The refurbished Rietvlei floating jetty** was re-launched on 27/09/2016.

The two timber-decked panels of the jetty were removed from the water on 14/10/2015 for refurbishment. All the old timber was removed and replaced with new timber. The steel fittings (nuts and bolts) were also replaced with marine grade stainless steel fittings.

The procurement of the materials took some time as the availability of timber in 6,5 m lengths was limited. The skills required to repair the jetty could not be procured, and therefore the work was done by staff from the Biodiversity Management Branch (see Figure 61 right).

The Electricity Department's fleet management section provided a crane and two crane operators to lift the two separate jetty panels onto the six plastic floats.

Once the two panels were attached to the floats, they were launched into the water separately. The first panel was attached to the steel catwalk with bolts, and then the second panel was attached to the first panel with more bolts.

The two panels were then attached to existing anchors to stabilize the jetty. The work required Area Manager Koos Retief to swim underneath the jetty to attach the bolts and anchors below the jetty.



Figure 61. Cedric Riddle, Koos Retief, Clinton Roux, Trevor Rieb, and Kyle Kelly on the refurbished jetty.



Figure 62. One of the two jetty panels being lifted onto the floats.



Figure 63. The two jetty panels attached to the catwalk.

**12.2 The assets of the Table Bay Nature Reserve** were verified by Barbara Stadler on 23/09/2016 during the asset verification process.

**12.3 Vehicle repairs and maintenance** was initiated for two vehicles at the Table Bay Nature Reserve. Site meetings were held with contractors at the following dates:

- 02/08/2016: Vehicle CCT 31132
- 22/09/2016: Vehicle CCT 32313

**12.4 Office blinds** were installed in the Rietvlei office's boardroom and the reception area by a contractor that is retained on a tender by the City of Cape Town.

**12.5 Broken paving slabs around the public ablution block at Rietvlei** were lifted. A decision was made to allow the grass to grow back in the area where the paving slabs used to lie. The remaining usable paving slabs are being stored off-site at the Van Schoordsdrift storage yard.

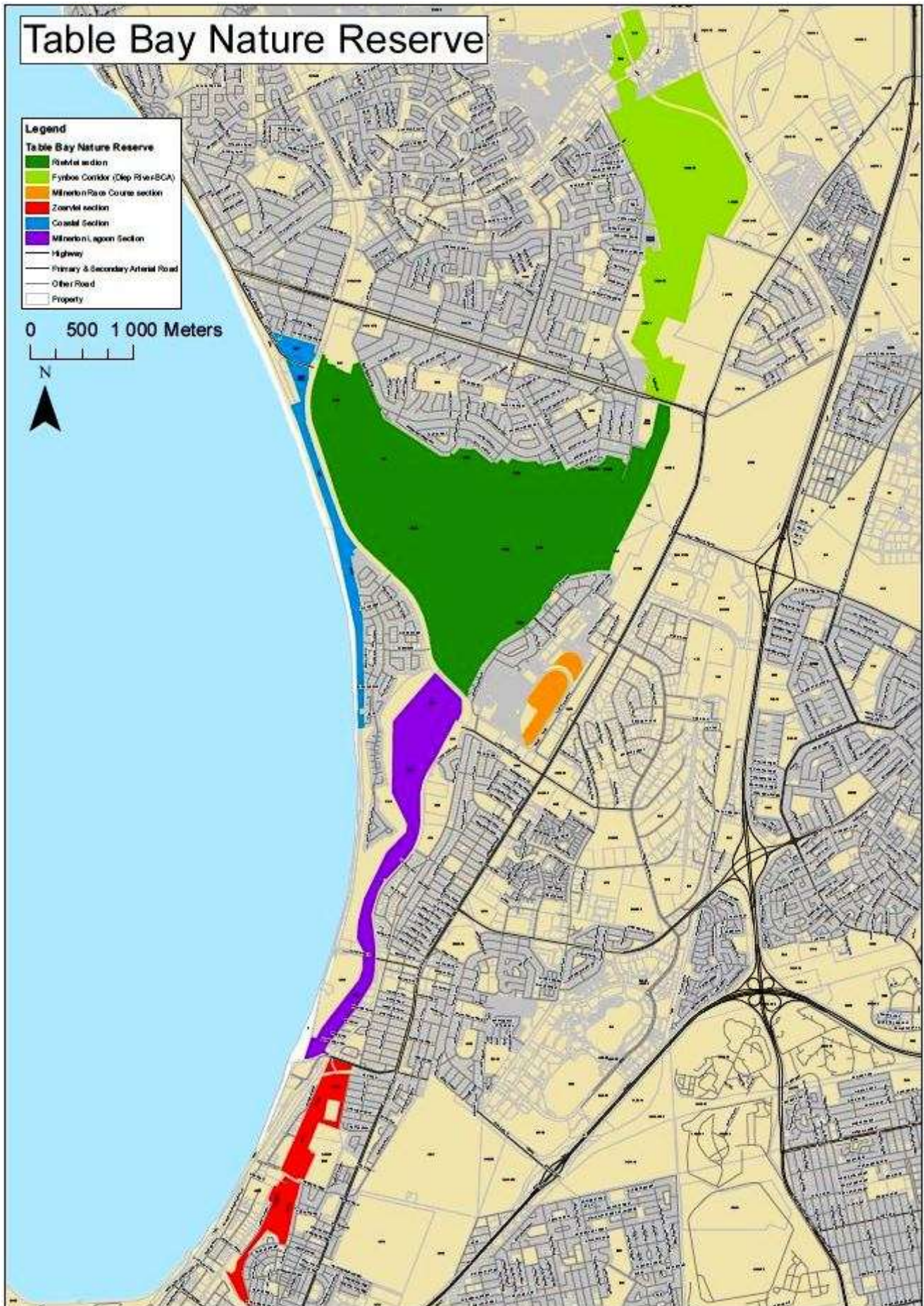


Figure 64. Some of the blinds fitted in the reception area.



Figure 65. Paving slabs being removed at the ablution block.

APPENDIX A: MAP OF RESERVE (for a detailed view of the map click this [link](#))



APPENDIX B: PRESS ARTICLES



■ Left: Jos Baker is surrounded by her two Pekinese Mirri and Tufar.

■ Right: The house as it looks today.

■ Below: A national monument plaque is affixed next to the front door and part of the original wall in the east flat-roofed wing.



# Staunch custodian of living history

ORIELLE BERRY

With its thick thatch roof and sturdy structure, positioned at the end of a cul-de-sac on the edge of the Zoarvlei wetlands, Klein Zoar squats like a sentinel, upholding a rich and colourful past.

The house that once belonged to folk hero Wolraad Woltemade dates back to the early 18th century. For more than 300 years, it has stood there in Yezer Plaas, as the Dutch called the suburb (named after the thick layer of koffiekliip or ferrocrete that covers the area) but later called Brooklyn after World War I. The house has withstood decay, surrounding urbanisation, neglect but finally, in the last three decades it has seen the attention and preservation it deserves.

Jos Baker and her late husband, David, much to the concern of friends and associates, who thought they were slightly touched, bought the house in 1984. At that time, it was in a state of disrepair, despite attempts at restoration over the years, including plans drawn up by architects Gwen and Gawie Fagan in 1974 when it was bought by David Evans and his wife Annette, who, as Jos says, "played midwife to the rebirth of the cottage".

David and Jos made it their mission to make the house their own, taking curatorship of a house that, as Jos refers to in her book *Preserving a House* (2009), as "crying out for help". In their keen and sensitive restoration, the couple assiduously researched anything and everything to do with the house, going through hundreds of old Cape records and sourcing many paintings done of the house over



the years. This included enduring a nail-biting session in which they bid for *Storm Approaching Farm*, the painting based on impressions of the house by Edward Roworth (1880-1964), that now hangs over a window in Jos's bedroom.

Jos is an award-winning food and wine writer and restaurant critic and was dubbed a national treasure when she garnered the Eat Out Lifetime Achiever Award in 2007 for her contribution to food and wine journalism. And while she may be turning 80 in a few months, she's adamant that she's not going to budge from her beloved house.

In her book, she writes, "Rescuing the cottage was in no small way heroic," which is both an accurate and romantic notion of her passion for maintaining this bastion of Cape history.

The last decade has seen a greater challenge for Jos as she has soldiered on alone, since the death of her husband, yet she has been determined to carry on his work. The surrounding urban decay has seen several moments that have not been easy, and Jos described how her sleep was often interrupted by the sounds of the local sex workers "plying their trade" outside her



bedroom window.

Today the immediate area has been cleaned up with a MyGITI park-and-ride area, but further up Wemyss Road there still remain problems (see page 8, "Neighbours at loggerheads in Brooklyn".)

Recently, with the help of friend, Dirk Odendaal, Jos put out the appeal, on The Cape's Threatened Buildings Facebook page for the public to help contribute to the hefty bill for a new thatch roof.

"As a restaurant critic, I've shared my views with you for some 20 years. Dubbed a 'living national treasure', it seems fitting that I live in a national monument, Klein Zoar. Now Klein Zoar and I need your help in preserving the living past.

"My 300 year-old home, is reputedly the home of folk hero Wolraad Woltemade. But with ownership came curatorship. I have written a book about the house to raise money; have let the main house, sold treasured possessions and downscaled into the east wing. But as a pensioner... I have had to borrow the crippling R198 000 to re-thatch Klein Zoar."

She has also created a web page dedicated to help keeping up the

house and maintaining it.

A couple of years ago, Jos moved to the flat-roofed east wing of the cottage, which was built in 1820, and has made it as charming as the main homestead. While thinning down on her furniture and much-loved collections, she carefully placed her antiques and paintings of Klein Zoar in the smaller space.

With the recent onset of thyroid problems, Jos admits she is feeling rather fragile and often "has absolutely no energy".

"The other side got too big, and it seemed more sensible to move in here. I regard it as my home, but David gave his whole life for the house," she relates, as we sit in the lounge which is dominated by a large fireplace that was obviously a hub of activity in its heyday and today keeps the smaller space warm with wood fires.

"I've been here so long; it's a lengthy period to live in a house, and, yes, I will have to be carried out of here in a box," she jokes, as she talks of the future.

The larger house is now rented out to a younger couple, but the air of history surrounds it, particularly in the thick thatch; the national monument plaque and the low typical Cape wall that edges the cottage.

According to Jos's book, meticulously researched, archive records point to the fact that the simple thatched dwelling was built in the early 18th century, with architect Dirk Visser putting the date around 1710 with the addition of the flat-roofed wing 110 years later.

As Jos writes, "It literally grew out of the ground with building materials sourced from the surrounding area. The koffiekliip, and stones,

weathered by the sea formed the walls and reeds and clay from the nearby vlei provided thatch and mortar and the fragile construction was limewashed inside and out to hold it together."

Of the moment when they moved in, Jos writes, "Once ours and stripped bare, Klein Zoar was able to breathe. Freshly painted with beams, doors and windowsills fed with oil and floors resmeared with dung, the cottage revealed rooms with classic proportions and inviting vistas".

It must take a dedicated preserver indeed to annually resurface the dung floor that is dotted with salvaged peach pips, and that is what Jos and her husband did year in and year out in the years they lived in the main cottage.

The house's back faces against the south-easter and, as can be seen from the paintings and the current photographs is a typical longhouse with a single row of interlocking rooms, again making the custodians very special people to be able to live in a house where you move through one room to get to another, compromising on privacy.

Doors were a luxury in the old days and, as Jos writes, were probably introduced in the 1950s.

Talking about the bid for funds to keep the house in a good condition, Jos says, "I believe the house is worth saving. It's got a wonderful vibe and was the house of a hero. That might sound fanciful and the constant maintenance, especially when David was ill, was a hell of a burden. But it's worth it."

If you can help, email josbaker@adept.co.za or visit [www.backabuddy.co.za/charity/profile/klein-zoar](http://www.backabuddy.co.za/charity/profile/klein-zoar)

# Councillor retires after 19 years

SUMMER JACOBS

As South Africans head to the polls next month, Ward 55 councillor Bernadette le Roux bows out of politics satisfied with the job she has done.

With a career spanning 19 years, Ms Le Roux first served as a New National Party councillor in Ward 3 (Summer Greens, Sanddrift and Tygerhof), and later, after that ward fell away when Cape Town became a "Unicity" in 2000, in Ward 55 (Century City Residential, Sanddrift, parts of Marconi Beam, parts of Milnerton South, Milnerton Coastal Development, Paarden Eiland, Tygerhof, Rugby, Ysterplaat, Brooklyn, parts of Salt River, parts of Woodstock and the Waterfront.

The mother of four and grandmother of six, who later joined the DA, said she had fought hard for projects she believed in and still managed to spare time for the aged and disabled whom, she said, would remain a priority for her after her retirement.

Ms Le Roux worked for three members of parliament in the early 1990s and jokes that she was coerced into becoming a councillor.

"The Ward 3 councillor had passed away at the time and a by-election was coming up. The people I worked for, particularly Annette Reinecke, insisted I apply for the position. I said no way and



■ DA councillor Bernadette le Roux retires after 19 years.

they approached my family to talk me into it," said Ms Le Roux.

Of the three MPs she had served, she said Louis Pienaar had been the most interesting.

"What an amazing man. He was the attorney general at the time of the transition of South West Africa to Namibia. If there were issues in his area of work, he would tackle them head-on. He inspired me to continue in politics," she said.

Besides Ms Le Roux, there were three other men gunning for the post and she laughs as she recalls that they had all attended the same church.

"I felt confident, and it was a great feeling when I won. I had the support of the whole sitting council," she said.

In 1998, Ms Le Roux was elected as the deputy mayor of Blaauwberg. She said it had been during that time that she truly got to know what poverty was.

"I enjoyed working in Atlantis. I enjoyed the people, and I learnt how they coped with the little they have and how everyone helps one another in order to survive," she said.

Talking about the different areas she managed as a councillor,

she referred to Century City as the baby that grew up in front of her.

"I joined council at a time when Century City was nothing more than bush and wetlands. I had been councillor for two weeks when I was invited by Martin Wragg, the chief executive officer of Moxex Development, to take a drive around the area. I remember driving through bush in his Jeep. And while he was telling me about his plans and dreams for the area, I thought 'impossible'. Now whenever I see Century City, I think 'doubts have more failures than dreams ever will'. I'm sure by 2020 it will be a ward on its own because of the number of people living there."

The Koeberg spaghetti interchange is something else Ms Le Roux is proud of. Even before she became councillor, it frustrated her that nothing was being done about the traffic congestion at the interchange, and although she insists she only played a small role in the upgrades, she is glad to have been part of the fight to find a solution.

"My first motion to council was that intervention was needed there. I went to members of parliament to beg for intervention. There was even an article written in the paper with the headline 'Councillor has dander over interchange'. However, with the increase of vehicles today, greater intervention is needed now."

After the 2000 municipal elec-

tions that ushered in the Unicity, Ms Le Roux found herself in charge of a much larger ward, with greater challenges and a budget that needed to be spread even wider than before.

"Where I previously put my budget into only three areas I now had to juggle it around to give each area a bit. The only problem is you can't be everywhere at once and people expect you to be visible all over. But I managed without the help of a proportional councillor or secretary."

Ms Le Roux said she had had excellent relationships with all officials and she would miss them dearly, but she is looking forward to her retirement and the prospect of catching up on some reading.

"When you sit with agendas of 1500 pages, the last thing you want to do is read. So now there are two books in particular I would like to get stuck into. They are both by the educationalist Professor Jonathan James."

James Vos, a member of parliament, who worked closely with Ms Le Roux for several years said: "You will be missed, but never forgotten. You've done so much for all of us and especially your community, which you served with passion and resolve. You were truly an amazing councillor for your ward - you always displayed compassion and concern. These characteristics will define your tenure as a public representative."

# Sparks still flying over fireworks

MONIQUE DUVAL

@monique\_duval

Will the Table View Beachfront be a site for fireworks on Guy Fawkes Day?

This is the question many residents are asking as November draws near.

The contentious issue was tabled at the Table View Ratepayers' Association (TVRA) meeting last week. The association also conducted an online poll to gauge the response from residents.

The designation of the beach as a suitable site for the discharging of fireworks in 2015 was at the centre of controversy between the TVRA and local councillors and even led to the TVRA serving legal papers on the City in December last year.

Their main concern was the designation of the area near the old tourism office not meeting the City of Cape Town's safety re-

quirements. According to reports issued to the subcouncil, the designated site needs to be 500 m from a petroleum depot.

In April this year, the ward 23 committee made a submission to the Blaauwberg Subcouncil that no site along the beachfront from Dolphin Beach to Melkbosstrand be deemed as suitable for the discharge of fireworks on Guy Fawkes Day, Diwali and New Year's Eve. Residents waited for councillors to make a decision, but the submission was delayed as Atlantis councillors noted that the submission needed to be tabled at all ward committees before councillors could make a decision.

Prior to the local government elections, no report on the matter was tabled at the subcouncil meetings that followed.

According to the poll, 179 residents said no to fireworks, followed by 107 residents who also said no and questioned the impact on pets. It also shows only 38 residents said yes.

TVRA vice chairperson George Zaverdnos opened the matter up to debate at the meeting, where various residents raised their views.

Addressing residents, ward councillor Nicky Rheeder said as the area fell in ward 107 and not ward 23, she had met with various City officials in the fire department about the site.

"I am not here to say whether fireworks are good or bad; my opinion does not matter. Currently the site that is being considered is in my ward and I have gone with the Milnerton Fire Station Commander to the specific sites in my ward and we have both concluded that with the safety checklist, the site is not suitable for fireworks."

"This is not the end; we have only found that it is not suitable. In my mind if it is not safe, then as a councillor I must push for it not to be at that site," she said. Residents applauded.

Rheeder said that in the entire ward 107, she could not find a suitable site.

The councillor added she has now taken all the relevant information, including reports from various City departments that managed the fireworks last year, to create one report she can submit to the City.

The problem, however, is that subcouncil meetings are only expected to resume mid-November, meaning Rheeder cannot push the matter through subcouncil for a decision before then.

"What I have asked them to consider - and I don't know if I am going to get it right - is to ask if the fireworks can be stopped until the report is pushed through."

"So we put a pause on it until we have an answer from subcouncil. They have acknowledged that it is a contentious issue."

Resident Martin Essl commented that despite fireworks not having been given

the thumbs up by various departments last year, councillors still voted for fireworks even going against their own bylaws.

► What are your views on the councillor's proposal? Send your letter to [Briewe@tygerburger.co.za](mailto:Briewe@tygerburger.co.za).



A local councillor has proposed fireworks along the Table View beachfront be put on "pause".

PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL



■ The Table View beachfront strewn with dirt was captured on Thursday November 5 last year, after fireworks were set off there.

## Editorial

### Fireworks ruffle residents' feathers

Most Table View residents support banning fireworks in Table View, according to the TVRA's Facebook page survey on the issue.

The City of Cape Town is playing the part of the responsible parent, urging people to be cautious with fireworks, and it goes further by trying to find designated areas for pyromaniacs to have their fun.

But as more and more cities in America and Europe ban fireworks, it seems Cape Town is soon to follow – or Table View anyway.

Fireworks on the beachfront may be a tourist attraction and a fun night out for the family but the consequences on the environment and animals outweigh this fleeting fun.

The horrendous effects fireworks have on animals should be enough to shut the entire matter down altogether, especially knowing that Table View is a pet-friendly area. In years gone by, fireworks may have been a pleasing spectacle for all, but increasingly it seems they are seen as a nuisance admired only by inconsiderate, ignorant folk.



■ The City of Cape Town's Table Bay Nature Reserve will have its daily annual spring flower walks at Milnerton Racecourse from Monday September 12 to Sunday September 18. A total of 259 plant species have been recorded in this area and most of these species flower in spring. Visitors can expect an informative and interesting walk through the reserve which will be guided by the site manager. Participants will get to see the southern area of the reserve which is normally inaccessible. Booking is essential. Entry is free. Children are welcome but no pets are allowed. Email [landi.louw@capetown.gov.za](mailto:landi.louw@capetown.gov.za)





Temporary shelters like this one erected in the nature reserve along Gie Road has sparked concern. PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL

**HOMELESS CENTRE: CITY INVESTIGATES ATLANTIS PROPERTIES**

# Finding shelter

MONIQUE DUVAL  
@monique\_duval

The creation of camp sites in a section of the Table Bay Nature Reserve has sparked fresh concerns about the need for a homeless centre in the greater Table View and Milnerton communities.

Plans for a centre were first revealed a few months ago when the City of Cape Town communicated their plans to lease the Global School of Theology near Potsdam Road for the new centre. However, the deal fell through when the institution called off all negotiations with the City claiming the public statements were premature as the lease had not been finalised.

This week, Mayco member for social development and early childhood development, Suzette Little, revealed the City has

identified properties in Atlantis for the establishment of a homeless centre.

The presence of homeless people in the greater Table View community is a continuous bone of contention among residents due to the dumping of unwanted waste, sourced from wheelie bins and dumped in public parks and green belts.

Each month, residents gather to clean these areas as a temporary solution, but have continually called for authorities to find a long-term solution to the problem.

Last week, Table View resident Leon Alhadeff invited *TygerBurger* on a walk of the section of the nature reserve along Gie Road which he says has generated many complaints from surrounding residents.

Here there are concerns about an increase of homeless people moving into the area. Alhadeff says the only signs of human habi-

tation is the smoke seen floating above the thick vegetation.

"We took a walk there a few weeks ago and found many 'nests' between the bushes. You drive past and you cannot see anything, but once in the bushes we found so much litter, camp sites and even tik pipes."

During the walk a man and woman were seen heating milk on a fire. They told *TygerBurger* they have been living on the streets for many years. Asked why they came to Gie Road, the pair from Atlantis said the area is quiet and they are trying to get away from larger groups of homeless people.

Their reasoning is they are on an honest search or "*eerlike skarrel*" for food and valuables. This, they explain, means to take valuables which have been discarded in bins to sell for money they use to buy food and daga. Larger groups, they say, are known for

breaking into homes or cars.

The pair has been in the area for several weeks now and say they have seen some of the larger groups moving in.

Alhadeff says residents living nearby have noticed the camp fires and raised the alarm about the degradation of an ecologically sensitive area. He raised his concerns with the Mayco member for safety and security, JP Smith. Alhadeff says to date the area has been cleaned up substantially.

According to Smith, there were about four people removed from the area. He says in most cases building material and waste were collected and removed by the nature reserve's staff.

However, when *TygerBurger* visited the site last week, evidence suggests more than four people have taken shelter in the area.

► To page 2.

He confirms the City has been informed of people moving into the area and adds: "The City has an ongoing dialogue with the nature reserve's staff. In most cases they will engage directly with those who have settled on their land, who will normally collect their belongings and move on if requested."

*TygerBurger* further questioned Little on what the progress was with the centre and she explained the City was in consultation with the property management department to identify additional properties in other areas around the Cape metro. At this stage they are looking at available City-owned buildings.

Little says during the daily engagement with street people in the greater Table View and Milnerton communities, an initial assessment is being conducted by the Reintegration Unit officials of the City.

"The City will then put together a development plan based on this assessment. It is im-

portant to note that many of the people in the Table View area are not homeless, but are job seekers who are thought to be street people by the public. These people come to the area from Atlantis, Elsies River, Vredenburg and surrounding areas in the hope of securing employment. When a street person is identified, they have the choice of securing a place at a shelter, or being reunited with their family. Street people are also given the opportunity to add themselves to the City's Expanded Public Works Programme job opportunity database."

She says when homeless people are found and agree to being helped, they are referred to a shelter, but which shelter depends on where space is available.

*TygerBurger* questioned what the success rate was to reintegrate people found on the streets of Table View and Milnerton.

Little explains most of the people are not homeless, but enter these areas in search of

employment or with criminal intentions.

"Those who are not street people return to their place of origin during weekends." In terms of the success rate in dealing with actual homeless people, during July four people returned to Atlantis with the help of our officials, while one returned to Macassar. Please note, however, that some of the street people identified do not want any services from our Street People Programme. If this is the case, the matter is referred to the City's Law Enforcement Department to issue compliance notices."

Asked how the situation in Milnerton and Table View compared to other communities, Little admits the City has challenges in these areas, but says the problem is not merely homelessness, but is compounded by social issues.

► What are your thoughts on plans for the centre in Atlantis? Send your letter to [Briewe@tygerburger.co.za](mailto:Briewe@tygerburger.co.za).