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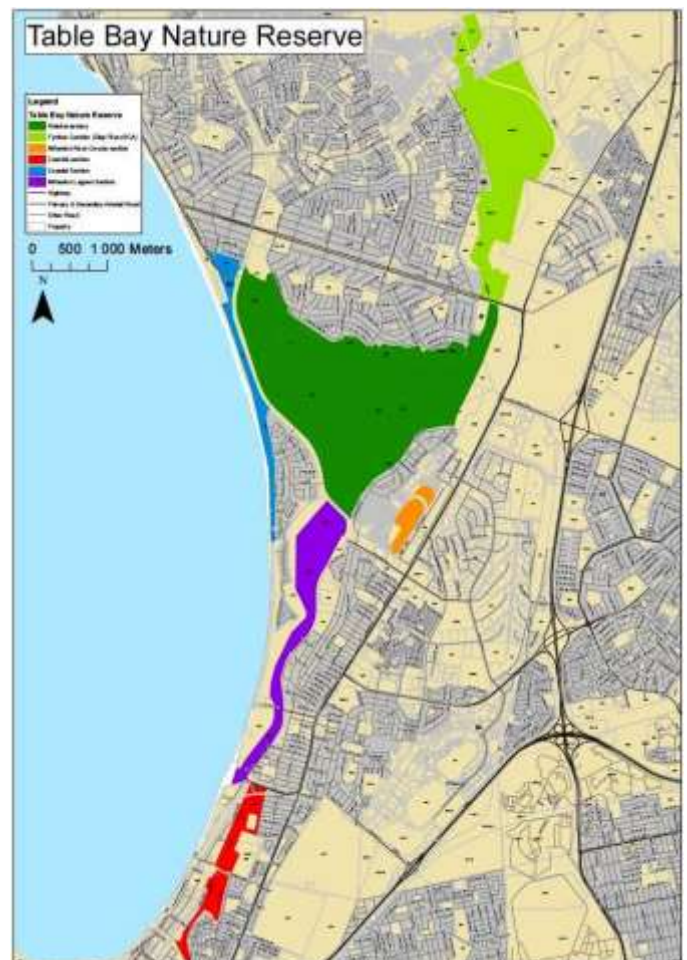
TABLE BAY NATURE RESERVE

QUARTERLY REPORT OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2016

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The City of Cape Town's Nature Reserves webpage can be accessed by clicking [this link](#).

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During this quarter the Table Bay Nature Reserve experienced several highlights, including the publication of articles about the Nature Reserve in the City of Cape Town's newsletter for staff (CONTACT magazine) as well as the SA Water Research Commission's online magazine (Water Wheel). A very rare Squacco heron was seen in the Nature Reserve, causing bird watchers to flock to see it. The Rietvlei access control point generated R30,000 more cash revenue by the end of 2016, compared to 2015.

This quarter was not without its challenges however. Several wildfires occurred in the Nature Reserve. Displaced people, illegal structures, free-running dogs and domestic cattle however impacted the Nature Reserve negatively. The discharge of fireworks at the Table View beachfront during recent festive gatherings fortunately did not spark any wildfires.

The Rietvlei Water Area experienced a fish die-off due to a severe reduction in dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Night-time poaching of fish in the Rietvlei Water Area appeared to continue after a small fishing boat was discovered.

The Nature Reserve staff however faced these challenges while developing their skills and qualifications. Two Nature Conservation work-integrated learning students based at Table Bay Nature Reserve passed their practical requirements and will graduate with a National Diploma from the CPUT. A graduate intern, who was a former work-integrated learning student at Table Bay, was placed at the Nature Reserve for a year. One of the field rangers obtained a NQF level-2 certificate in a Field Ranger Skills Development course.

The Nature Reserve's meeting facilities benefited almost 700 people over no less than 40 event days, and 316 people benefited from environmental and education outreach programmes. The Protected Area Advisory Committee met on 20 October with 28 representatives from 19 organisations in attendance.

The Nature Reserve team was involved in invasive vegetation clearing, fire-fighting, firebreak maintenance, compliance management, repair and maintenance, litter & rubble removal, as well as habitat restoration.



Figure 1. Parking area at the Rietvlei office of the Table Bay Nature Reserve.

2 HIGHLIGHTS & CHALLENGES

2.1 HIGHLIGHT: The City of Cape Town's newsletter for staff (CONTACT) published an article on the protection of the Nature Reserve's Coastal Section in the November/December edition of 2016.

The photograph in the article (see Figure 2 below) was taken during a site visit to the area by the Branch Manager, Julia Wood, and the Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator, Leighan Mossop on 12/10/2016.

The publication of this article followed a media release that was issued in a previous quarter, which highlighted the City's intention to stop illegal constructions and encroachment into the Coastal Section.

A graduate intern was appointed on a temporary basis to start improving the management of the Coastal Section and to work with various stakeholders in the area.



Life's a beach: The Environmental Resource Management team working to extend protection to the Sunset Beach reserve area, front, from left: Julia Wood, Manager: Biodiversity Management, and Koos Retief, area manager. Back: Leighan Mossop, monitoring and evaluation coordinator; Christopher Singo, reserve superintendent; interns Reward Nzuza and Kenin Matsi, and Landi Louw, reserve superintendent.

Protecting the Sunset Beach reserve

Great effort has been put into protecting the nature reserve next to Sunset Beach, which will soon become part of Table Bay Nature Reserve, giving it full protection status.

The vegetation in the area is known as Cape Flats dune strandveld and is different from both fynbos and renosterveld. In fact, less than 50% of this endemic flora is still in existence, with only 20% under protection. The protection that comes with incorporation into the nature reserve means that removal of any vegetation,

picking of plants, poaching, trapping and hunting of any wild animals in this nature reserve is a criminal offence.

According to Koos Retief, Milnerton area manager for Table Bay Nature Reserve, the City has been taking various legal actions since 2003 to address the illegal structures and constructed walkways, alien plants, lawn grass and artificial watering introduced by owners to property that is part of the nature reserve at Sunset Beach.

"The affected areas were rehabilitated at great cost to the City. Rehabilitating plant life is

very expensive because it entails the removal of the foreign plants and the cultivation and replanting of the indigenous species – something that is very costly in terms of labour," says Koos.

To protect the area, while also giving locals and tourists access to the beach, five official vehicle parking bays and pedestrian access points were built at locations along Sunset Beach, including at Isabella Drive, Hastula Way, Forata Drive, Donax Drive and Bursa Way.

A formal footpath and boardwalk route has also been constructed to link local residents at Village Crescent and Albus Drive to the beach.

Figure 2. Article in the City of Cape Town's newsletter for staff (CONTACT) about the protection of the Coastal Section.

2.2 CHALLENGE: The presence of free-running dogs in the Nature Reserve is presenting a problem to the wildlife and visitors alike.

Various dogs have been photographed by staff and visitors as they chase and killed birds and animals in the Nature Reserve.

After an incident in which a dog killed an Egyptian goose (see Figure 4 below), the owner of the dog was handed a R1000 fine by Law Enforcement.

A media release titled “Dogs ruffling feathers at the Table Bay Nature Reserve” was issued by the City of Cape Town on 22/12/2016 (see Figure 3 across).



Figure 4. A dog killed an Egyptian goose in the Nature Reserve.



Honde verjaag voëls in die Rietvlei-vleiland, 'n bewaringsgebied. Honde word nie in dié vleiland toegelaat nie, ook nie aan 'n leiband nie.
Foto: KAAPSE STADSRaad

Honde maak al meer amok in vleiland

Honde wat los rondhardloop in die Rietvlei-vleiland en die duine in Milnerton vang toenemend voëls en kleiner diere.

Die Kaapstadse munisipaliteit sê in 'n verklaring hoewel dele van die Tafelbaai-natuurreservaat oop is sodat mense met hul honde kan stap, is daar geen dele in natuurreservate waar honde los mag rondhardloop nie.

Al die dele waar honde toegelaat word, word met kennisgewingbordjies aangedui. Geen honde word in die Rietvlei-vleiland toegelaat nie omdat daar voëls is, maar ongeag daarvan kom honde van Table View en Milnerton Ridge steeds in.

Boetes van tussen R500 en R2 000 is al daarvoor uitgereik. Omdat daar otters, jakkalse en rooikatte in van die reservate is, is daar ook 'n gevaar dat hulle troeteldiere kan doodmaak of hondsdoelheid kan oordra.

Mense kan klagtes oor die Tafelbaai-natuurreservaat by 021 444 0315 aanmeld. – **Elsabé Brits**

Figure 3. Article in an Afrikaans regional newspaper about free-running dogs in the Nature Reserve.

3 CONSERVATION PLANNING

3.1 The Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC) for Table Bay Nature Reserve had its sixth meeting on 20/10/2016. The meeting was attended by 28 representatives from 19 organisations (see below list):

- | | |
|---|---|
| BVI (Consulting Engineers) | Milnerton Aquatic Club |
| Cape Bird Club | Milnerton Canoe Club |
| Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve | Milnerton Central Residents Association |
| CCT: Subcouncil 1 | Milnerton Ridge Ratepayers Association |
| CCT: City Parks Operations: Northern District | Paardeneiland City Improvement District |
| CCT: Biodiversity Management Branch | SLR Consulting |
| CCT: Stormwater & Sustainability Branch | Sunset Beach Homeowners Association |
| Dolphin Beach Body Corporate | Sunset Links Home Owners Association |
| Friends of Blaauwberg Conservation Area | Western Province Freshwater Angling Association |
| | Woodbridge Island Body Corporate |

Some of the items on the agenda included:

- **Basic Assessment for the Proposed Upgrade of the Bayside Stormwater Canal**, presentation by Mr Nicholas Arnott & Mr Sampie Loubscher;
- **Diep Estuary Action Plan**, feedback by Ms Landi Louw;
- **Water quality sub-working group**, feedback by Mr Koos Retief;
- **Repair of the two boat launch slipways at Rietvlei Water Area (proposal by Milnerton Aquatic Club)**, presented by Mr Johan vd Merwe;
- **Birds and wildlife of Rietvlei wetlands (slide presentation by Cape Bird Club)**, presented by Jan & Frieda Prinsloo; and
- **Quarterly report feedback**, presentation by Mr Koos Retief.

4 FLORA

4.1 Invasive and alien vegetation follow-up clearing was undertaken in various management sections of the Nature Reserve, including at:

- Milnerton Ridge boundary (various species, including re-growing Port Jackson, palms, and yuccas);
- Milnerton Racecourse Section (invasive weeds including *Vicia*, *Echium* and *Kikuyu*);
- The R27 boundary of the Rietvlei Section (re-growing Port Jackson);
- Zoarvlei Section (various species including re-growing Port Jacksons);
- Coastal Section (various species including re-growing Rooikrans);
- Table View boundary (various species including re-growing Port Jackson); and
- Milnerton Lagoon Section (various species including re-growing Port Jackson, palms and water hyacinth in the estuary).



Figure 5. Possibly a *Hyobanche sanguinea* growing in the Coastal Section.

4.2 Plant seed collection in Milnerton Racecourse Section was conducted as part of an approved method statement for a restoration project associated with the re-alignment of the Milnerton Racecourse's horse running track.

As a result of the approval to re-align the running track, a portion of the racecourse property will be donated to the Nature Reserve, while a smaller portion of the Nature Reserve's land will be lost in a trade-off. The area that will be gained will require to be restored by transferring topsoil, plants and seeds from the area that will be lost under the new running track.

Reserve Supervisor, Landi Louw, arranged seed collecting operations on 26, 27, and 31 October, and 7, 9, 10 and 23 November, as well as 14 December 2016. Landi worked with various volunteers, students and an Expanded Public Works Team from the Westlake Nursery to collect the plant seeds (see Figure 6 below).

The plant seeds had to be extracted from the seed casings to prevent microscopic insects in the seed casings from consuming the seeds. The seed stores were treated with insecticide in order to preserve the seeds until they can be broadcast at the planned time into the receptor site at Milnerton Racecourse.



Figure 6. Volunteers assisting with plant seed collection at the Milnerton Racecourse Section.

5 FAUNA

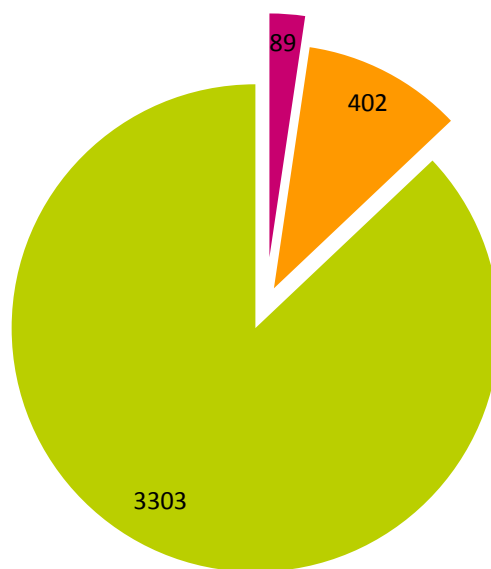
5.1 An integrated water bird census was conducted on 21/10/2016. The census was done by the Nature Reserve team, covering 11 surveys sections. The water birds numbered a total of 3,794 birds comprising of 47 species (see Figures 7 – 9 for details).

25 species with single-figure counts (totalling 89 birds) accounted for 2,3% of the water bird census, including: 1 Yellowbilled egret, 1 Squacco heron, 1 African spoonbill, 1 Southern pochard, 1 Purple swamphen, 1 Black crane, 1 Three-banded plover, 1 Water thicknee, 1 Giant kingfisher, 2 African fish eagle, 2 Greenshank, 2 Swift tern, 3 Hadedda ibis, 3 White-faced duck, 3 Mallard hybrid, 4 Whitebacked duck, 4 Cape teal, 4 Caspian tern, 6 Black-crowned night heron, 7 African marsh harrier, 7 Cape wagtail, 8 Purple heron, 8 Glossy ibis, 8 Pied kingfisher, and 9 Cattle egret.

14 species with double-figure counts (totalling 402 birds) accounted for 10,6% of the water bird census, including: 12 Little egret, 13 Little grebe, 16 Redbilled teal, 17 Common moorhen, 18 Great crested grebe, 21 Grey heron, 24 Pied avocet, 25 African darter, 25 Blackwinged stilt, 30 Reed cormorant, 30 Sacred ibis, 48 Whitebreasted cormorant, 49 Kelp gull, and 74 Blacksmith lapwing.

8 species with triple-figure counts (totalling 3,303 birds) accounted for 87,1% of the water bird census, including: 102 Cape shoveller, 161 Egyptian goose, 161 Yellowbilled duck, 270 Lesser flamingo, 486 Redknobbed coot, 489 Greater flamingo, 655 Hartlaub's gull, and 979 White pelican.

Additional bush birds included Helmeted guinea fowl, Karoo prinia, Southern masked weaver, White-throated swallow, Pied crow, Cape spurfowl, Orange-throated longclaw, Spotted thicknee, Red bishop, Paradise flycatcher, and Pintailed whydah.



- 25 species with single-figure counts
- 14 species with double-figure counts
- 8 species with triple-figure counts

Figure 7. Relative contribution of low, medium and high counts.

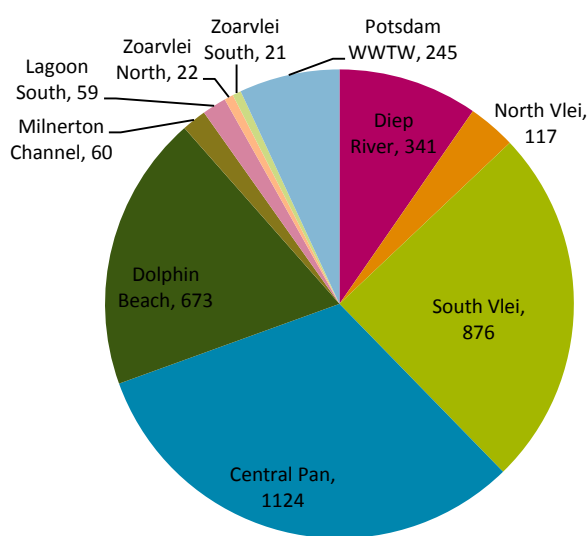


Figure 8. Relative contribution from each survey section.

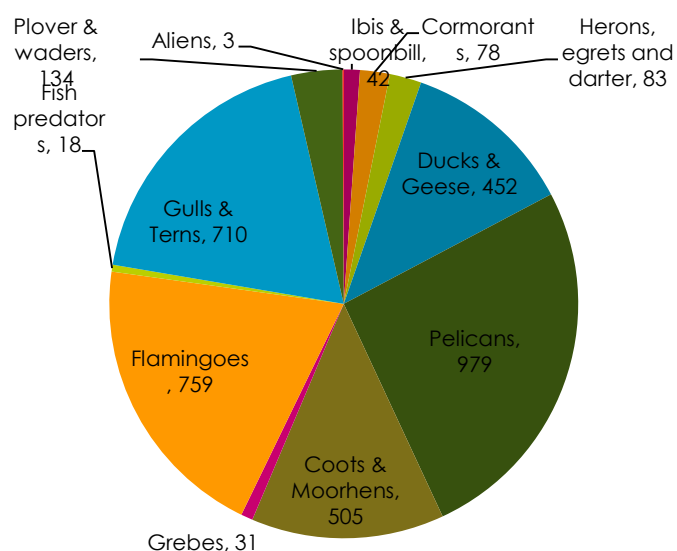


Figure 9. Relative contribution from the various bird groups.

5.2 A rare bird sighting of a Squacco heron at the Waves' Edge Wetland (a portion of the Table Bay Nature Reserve) was reported by various bird watchers in October. Subsequent reports indicated that the Squacco was moving around since it was also seen in Rietvlei.

The Wave's Edge Wetland and Dolphin Beach Pond have been managed over several years to suppress bulrush reed growth. The removal of the reeds opened up water areas for more birds to utilise the wetlands.

Trevor Hardaker, a local bird expert, confirmed the sighting of the very uncommon bird. Mr Hardaker posted a notice on the SA Rare Bird network, and soon many more bird watchers flocked to see the bird.

The media raised an enquiry and an article subsequently appeared in the local press (see below Figure 10).

Unusual squacco heron sighted at Rietvlei



PICTURES: FRIEDA PRINSLOO

■ Pictured from left is the area where the Squacco Heron was sighted, the Squacco Heron in the water and in flight near Rietvlei.

ORIELLE BERRY

Causing considerable excitement to twitchers at the end of last week, a squacco heron was spotted on the northern side of the two Dolphin Beach pans.

On the weekend, dozens of bird enthusiasts came out in the hope of sighting this bird known in Afrikaans as a *talreier* and by its Latin name, *Ardeola ralloides*.

However, the heron, which measures about 43cm in height, remained at large and elusive to hopeful bird watchers who waited patiently at Rietvlei and around the Dolphin Beach pans.

But it was again spotted on Monday morning, when Friends of Rietvlei member Frieda Prinsloo, who lives in Parklands, notified Tabletalk it had been seen close to the Rietvlei portion of the Table Bay Nature Reserve near where the picnic sites are. According to her husband, Jan, the word have been put out initially by another bird enthusiast, Steve Williams when he spotted the bird while at Dolphin Beach.

On Friday, at least 20 people gathered to observe the bird.

Trevor Hardaker, who is the chairman of SA Rarities, and also an avid bird twitcher who runs the SA Rare Bird News and the Rare Birds Public Facebook group, says the squacco heron is common in the eastern part of the country and may have migrated here due to being caught in strong winds or flew across the country due to drought in search of food.

"The squacco heron is generally a sedentary bird and there is not really a reason as such why it would turn up here as it sticks to its own territory in

Natal or may cross over into the Free State," he said, adding, "hence the excitement at it being sighted, as it is a rare occurrence."

A squacco heron was also spotted in the West Coast National Park recently but may not have been the same bird and last month one was spotted in Paarl.

Mr Hardaker said: "Obviously it looks different to what we have here and while it was spotted, it's a very wide area for people to cover and those that spotted it were fortunate. I went on Sunday afternoon but was not so lucky although there were quite a few people there, in wait for it."

According to Roberts Birding Information, the Squacco Heron belongs to the *Ardeidae* bird family group, which includes birds such as egrets, herons and bitterns.

It has a height of 43cm and weighs around 300g. The head is coloured brown while the bill is coloured greenish yellow.

With a white coloured throat, red legs and a brown coloured back, its eyes are yellow and the male *Ardeola ralloides* has physical features that are slightly different from the female bird.

The bird forages for food on the ground and has a specially adapted bill which helps it hunt for fish, crabs, shrimp and other aquatic animals in the water.

It also eats insects such as butterflies, bees, wasps, locusts and ants. A monogamous bird, it finds and breeds with one partner for the rest of its life and is found in wetlands, riverine forests and moist grasslands and close to water bodies such as lakes, dams and streams.

Figure 10. Article in the local press about the Squacco heron.

5.3 A Common duiker was rescued by Reserve Supervisor, Christopher Singo, after it was discovered stuck in a residential palisade fence in Parklands by the Table View Neighbourhood Watch. Christopher Singo took the Duiker to the Good Hope SPCA in Grassy Park, where it was kept overnight in the wildlife rehabilitation centre (see Figures 11 – 12 below).

The following day the animal was released in a portion of the False Bay Nature Reserve, and not in Table Bay Nature Reserve. The management policy for small game animals in the City promotes the movement of animals between isolated fragments of natural habitats. These movements assist with promoting genetic health of future generation of animals by preventing in-breeding between related animals.



Figure 11. Common duiker stuck in a palisade fence.



Figure 12. Reserve Supervisor, Christopher Singo, removing the Duiker.



Figure 13. A Cape dwarf chameleon found in the Nature Reserve.

5.4 Notable species sightings by visitors and residents include an African snipe in the Rietvlei Section by Jan and Frieda Prinsloo, as well as a Mole snake swimming in a dam in the Milnerton Racecourse Section by Cliff Smith (see Figures 14 – 15 below).



Figure 14. African snipe (photo by Jan and Frieda Prinsloo).



Figure 15. A swimming Mole snake intimidating a Red-knobbed Coot in a dam in the Milnerton Racecourse Section (photo by Cliff Smith).

6 SOIL

Nothing to report.

7 WATER

7.1 Rainfall recorded in the Table Bay Nature Reserve (at the Rietvlei Water Area and the Milnerton Racecourse) decline to below-average.

The rainfall during this quarter was 20mm at Rietvlei and 35mm at Milnerton Racecourse. The total rainfall of 2016 was 450mm at Rietvlei and 439.2mm at Milnerton Racecourse.

Figure 16 below indicates the monthly rainfall records of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse in 2016 plotted over the average rainfall pattern for the area.

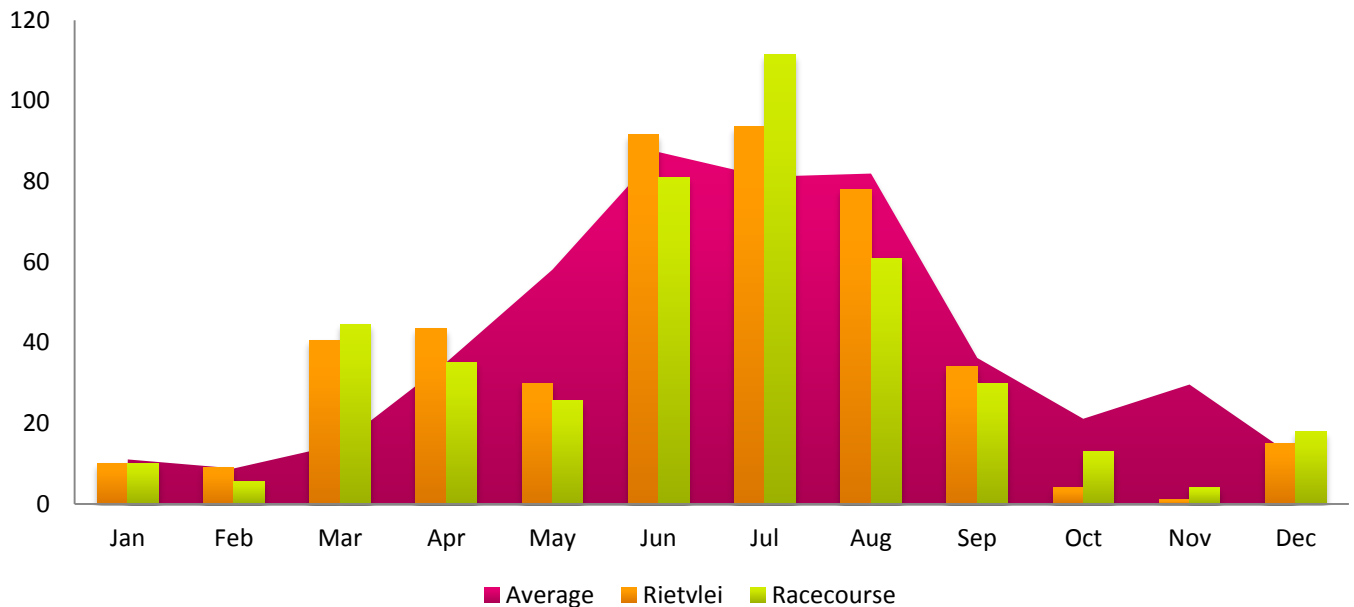


Figure 16. Monthly rainfall records of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse in 2016 plotted over the average rainfall pattern.

Figure 17 below indicates the rainfall accumulation curves of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse in 2016 plotted over the average accumulation curve for the area.

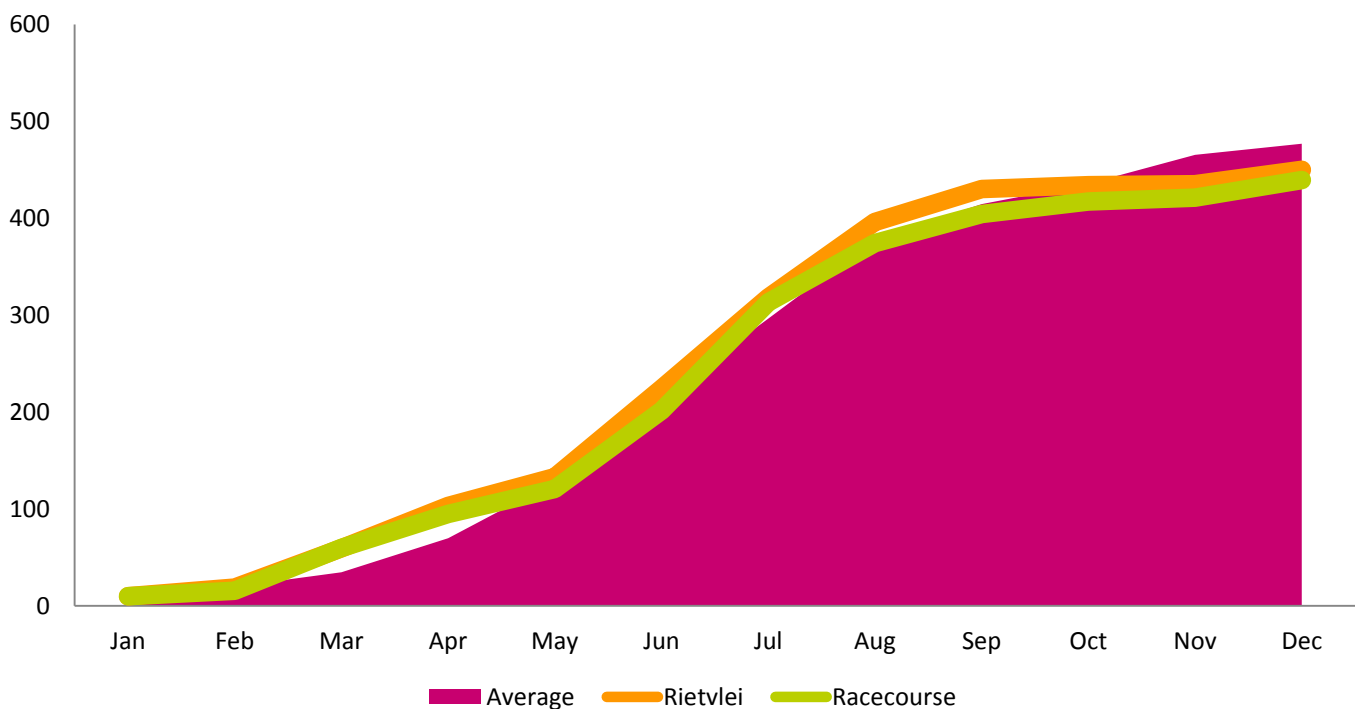


Figure 17. Rainfall accumulation curves of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse in 2016 plotted over the average accumulation curve.

7.1 Rainfall (cont.)

Figure 18 below compares Rietvlei's rainfall of 2016 with the wettest and driest years since recording started in 2002. It is evident that the rainfall in 2016 overall stayed true to the average rainfall pattern.

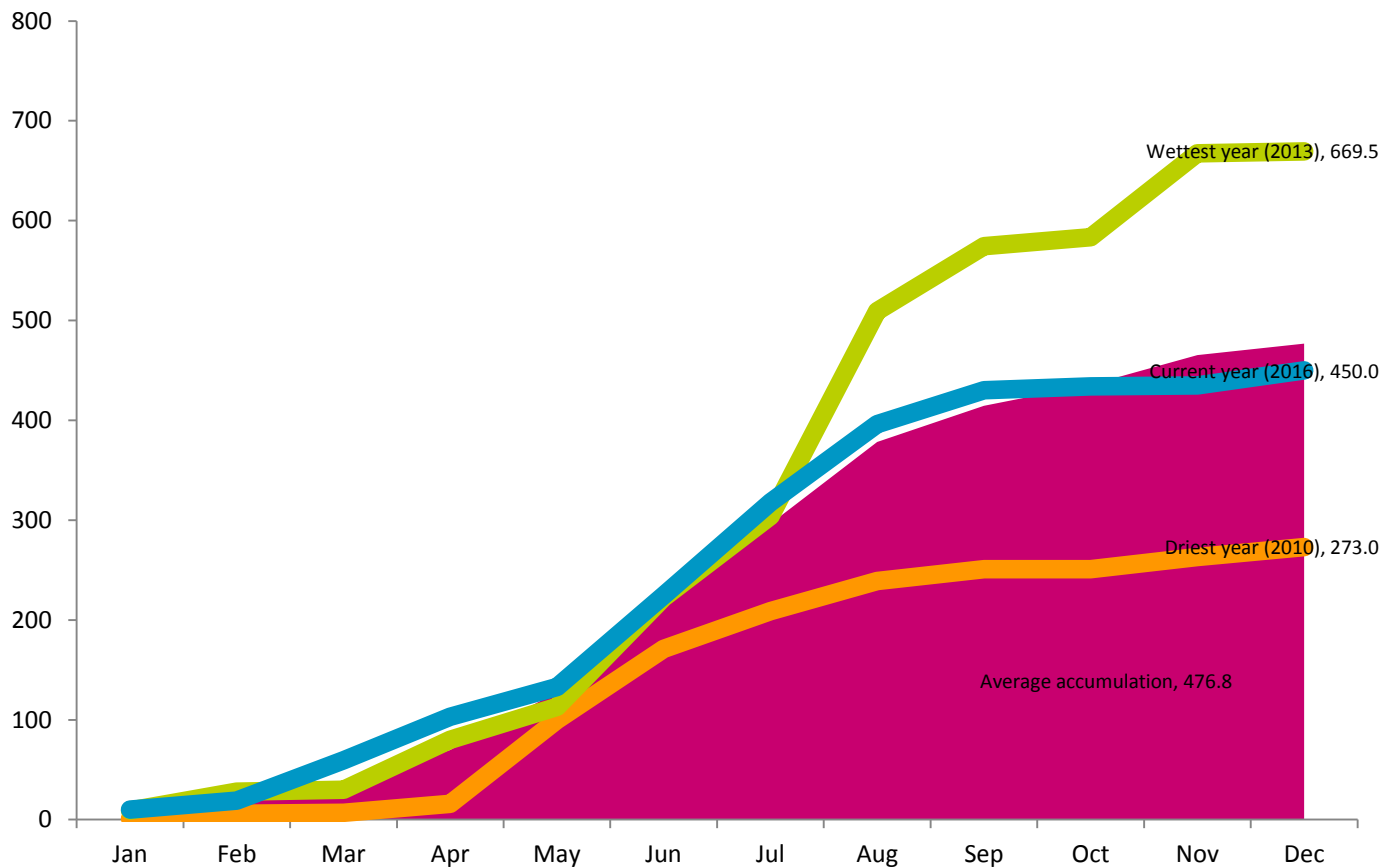


Figure 18. Comparison of the rainfall in 2016 to the wettest and driest years recorded at Rietvlei since 2002.

7.2 An article titled [“Plans afoot to save Cape Town’s largest estuary”](#) appeared in the SA Water Research Commission’s on-line magazine called Water Wheel. The article was written by Sue Matthews.

7.3 **Water quality at the Rietvlei Recreational Water Area** came under scrutiny during this quarter due to the occurrence of a fish die-off. The media raised an enquiry and an article subsequently appeared in the local press (see Figure 20 overleaf).

Ad hoc water samples were collected and dissolved oxygen levels were monitored over several weeks.

It was found that the oxygen in the water was depleted, placing the fish under severe stress. The factors that caused the low dissolved oxygen levels included high ambient temperatures and no wind.

There was no evidence of contamination from any foreign sources. The wind started to increase again, which assisted with re-oxygenating the water.

Most of the dead fishes were collected and disposed of at a landfill site. Various water birds such as pelicans, cormorants and sea gulls however benefited from the fish die-off by consuming large quantities of dead fish.



Figure 19. Photo caption in the local press.



■ Dead fish washed up at Rietvlei Nature Reserve.

PICTURE: FRIEDA PRINSLOO

Birds feast on dead fish

SUMMER JACOBS

The fish that washed up at Rietvlei Nature Reserve may have been unsightly for residents but for the birds it was a welcome feast.

Johan van Der Merwe, mayoral committee member for energy, environmental and spatial planning, said low oxygen levels caused the fish to die.

"The fish population at Rietvlei consists of a combination of freshwater and marine fish (harders and springers) species. The marine fish species use Rietvlei as a nursery site to escape predation and grow large enough to go back out to sea.

"Rietvlei is, however, often isolated from the sea for several years at a time, and only connects with the sea in very high flood levels, around the magnitude of about a one in 10 year flood.

"While the fish are trapped in Rietvlei, they grow to considerable sizes. During low dissolved oxygen conditions, the fish com-

pete for the remaining oxygen. Often the marine fish are more vulnerable to very low oxygen levels and tend to die before the freshwater species," said Mr Van der Merwe.

He said the wind had since picked up, re-oxygenating the water and returning oxygen levels to normal.

"The numbers of fish that have washed out are actually very small when compared with the live stocks that remain in Rietvlei, which could be estimated at over a hundred or even several hundred tons," he said.

"The fish that washed up did, however, cause an upsurge in the presence of marine birds, pelicans and herons at Rietvlei as the fish are taken as a food source by the birds."

Frieda and Jan Prinsloo visit the reserve frequently. Mr Prinsloo said the dying fish was a "natural tragedy".

"Sacred Ibises and some seagulls ate most of the dead fish and pelicans feasted on the still

alive fish in the water. Just before the fish started dying, thousands of gulls feasted on newly spawned harders in Rietvlei. What a sight. We saw the same thing happening two months back in the Hartenbos Lagoon at Mossel Bay," said Mr Prinsloo.

Mr Van Der Merwe added there are no signs that the birds are negatively affected by eating the dead fish, as the fish were not contaminated. "We would, however, not recommend that people eat any fish that wash out," said Mr Van Der Merwe.

He further added it is important to note that if a significantly high enough flood was to occur to temporarily connect Rietvlei to the sea, most of the larger marine fish species would swim out to sea.

"They will be replaced by younger spawn of the harders and springers that will go into the Rietvlei again, and they will be trapped there again for as long as it takes for another flood to return," he said.

Figure 20. Article in the local press relating to a fish die of Rietvlei.

8 FIRE

8.1 Firebreak maintenance was undertaken along various reserve boundaries during this quarter, including along the Table View boundary, Dolphin Beach boundary, Heron Waters boundary, and in the Diep River Section. Firebreaks are intended to prevent the spread of wildfires over property boundaries.

8.2 Several wildfires occurred in the Table Bay Nature Reserve during this quarter, including:

- A two-day reed and grass fire on 16-17/11/2016 in the Diep River Section that was presumably started by a private person welding or grinding on a metal fence bordering on the Nature Reserve;
- A small grass fire in the Zoarvlei Section on 24/11/2016 with no known cause of the fire; and
- A small grass fire in the Zoarvlei Section on 14/12/2016 that was started by a private contractor that was welding on an advertisement sign board near Marine Drive.

At least two wild fires during this quarter were started by private persons and private contractors who either grinded or welded on construction projects adjacent to dry vegetation in the Nature Reserve. In all these situations there were no precautions taken, such as ensuring that a fire extinguisher or water hose is available. Fires can be very expensive to contain and court cases can result in large claims.

We urge private persons and contract workers to take due consideration of fire danger in dry vegetation, and to always have fire-fighting measures on hand.

8.3 A two-day wild fire started in a power-line servitude near the R27 inside the Dassenberg Coastal Catchment Partnership area from 4-5/12/2016. Staff from the Table Bay Nature Reserve assisted in controlling this fire.

8.4 Several articles and photo captions about recent fires in the Table Bay Nature Reserve appeared in the local press during this quarter (see Figure 21 below and Figures 22 – 23 overleaf).

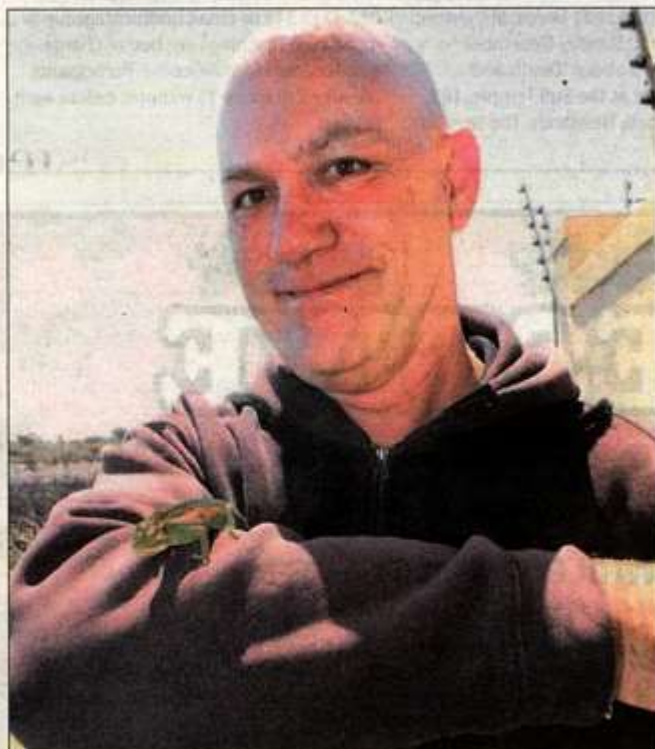


PICTURE: ORIELLE BERRY

■ Firefighters douse the flames of a fire that flared on the patch of land on the corner of Boundary Road and Marine Drive on Thursday November 24 at noon, fuelled by strong winds.

Figure 21. Article in the local press about a wildfire in the Zoarvlei Section on 24/11/2016.

■ The cause of a fire that swept through the Table Bay Nature Reserve on Wednesday November 16 is still unknown, says Theo Layne from the City's fire and rescue service. Firefighters responded to the fire just before 1pm on Wednesday and were still dealing with flare-ups on Thursday and Friday. Bothasig resident Mark Russell was passing through Gie Road on his scooter on Thursday when he stopped to rescue a Cape dwarf chameleon crossing the road. "It's probably moving away because of the fire," he told Tabletalk.



■ Bothasig resident Mark Russell with the Cape dwarf chameleon he rescued.

Swift action

Men working on the signboard at the corner of Boundary Road and Marine Drive put out a raging grass fire by hand. The fire brigade arrived just in time to blow the smoke away.



PICTURES: COLIN BROWN

Figure 22. The article in the local press about the fire in the Diep River Section neglected to report that the Table View Neighbourhood Watch alleged that the fire was started by a person welding or grinding on a boundary fence.

Figure 23. The article in the local press about the fire in the Zoarvlei Section neglected to report that the private contractor working on the advertisement sign board caused the fire by welding together steel parts on the ground.

8.5 The City of Cape Town approved designated sites for the discharge of fireworks. Alderman JP Smith, Mayoral Committee Member for Safety and Security, issued a statement to this effect in a media release on 23/10/2016. An article appeared in the local press following the release (see Figure 26 overleaf).

The previous year a wildfire started in the Rietvlei wetlands between the R27 and Pentz Drive, on the evening of Guy Fawkes (5/11/2015), presumably due to a Chinese lantern that fell in the vegetation.

During a previous quarter the Table Bay Nature Reserve's Advisory Committee recommended that a letter be written to the local Subcouncil 1 to reconsider the designation of sites for fireworks discharge near the Table Bay Nature Reserve, due to the fire hazard and threat to people, wildlife and infrastructure.

Notwithstanding the letter to Subcouncil 1, the site at the Tourism Centre on Athens Road at Table View beachfront was nevertheless allocated as one of 12 designated sites in the City.

The matter of the allocation of sites for the discharge of fireworks is also hotly debated in the social media. Several articles about this debate appeared in the local press during this quarter (see more articles in [Annexure B](#)).

The City of Cape Town announced that, following a review of designated sites for the discharge of fireworks, it approved 12 sites for the discharge of fireworks during Guy Fawkes, Diwali and New Year's Eve of 2016. This was up from eight sites in 2015. The list was approved after consultation between emergency services, law enforcement, and the various subcouncils. The increase in the number of sites intended to minimise the temptation to discharge fireworks from unsupervised areas.

A proposed site at Theo Marais Park in Milnerton (also close to the Table Bay Nature Reserve) was rejected following objections from the public. The sites that were approved included:

- Tourism Centre, Athens Road, Table View beachfront
- Wesfleur sports field, Reygersdal Drive, Atlantis
- Bishop Lavis sports field, Lavis Drive, Bishop Lavis
- Metropolitan sports grounds, Melkhout Street, Bonteheuwel
- Delft Central sports grounds, Main Road, Delft
- Swartklip sports complex, Swartklip Road, Mitchells Plain
- Athlone Stadium parking area (eastern side), Klipfontein Road, Athlone
- Maiden's Cove parking area, Victoria Road, Camps Bay
- Strandfontein Pavilion, Strandfontein
- Sarepta sports complex
- Blue Downs sports field
- Macassar Beach parking area, Macassar Road, Macassar

All designated fireworks areas were patrolled by City Law Enforcement and Metro Police as well as a fire inspector. No one under the age of 16 was permitted to discharge fireworks and 23:00 was the cut-off time on both Guy Fawkes and Diwali, with New Year's Eve being the exception.

8.6 We strongly discourage the irresponsible discharge of marine distress flares and Chinese lanterns anywhere near natural areas. A person has almost no control over where these items will land.



Figure 25. Example of Chinese lanterns.



Figure 24. Example of marine distress flares.

Safety outlined for T'View fireworks sites

MONIQUE DUVAL
 @monique_duval

As fireworks along the Table View are scheduled to go ahead on Guy Fawkes Day, the City of Cape Town says approximately 60 safety and security staff are set to be on site.

Just over a week ago, the City's Mayco member for safety and security, JP Smith, announced the site near the old tourism office will once again be used for fireworks.

At the time and amid an uproar among residents, Smith explained after exhausting all options they were left with only one viable option. Following a meeting with ward councillors Nora Grose and Nicky Rheeder and officials, Smith said the site used last year was the only suitable site.

The team discussed alternative sites such as the Killarney Race Track, but Smith says the venue will not be available on Saturday 5 November. He says they considered the option of having no designated site in Table View, but a variety of factors make this impossible.

Last year the City issued a statement indicating that an estimated 7000 people attended the fireworks display, and this year they expect 20 000 people.

Responding to questions posed by *Tyger-Burger* on the operational plan for the night, Smith says Law Enforcement, Traffic Services, Metro Police, Disaster Risk Management and Fire and Rescue Services have been activated for the proceedings.

He says Otto du Plessis Drive, from the

Dolphin Beach Hotel to Marine Circle, will function as a one-way.

He says the event will be overseen by approximately 60 safety and security staff and approximately 50 neighbourhood watch members from Table View.

According to Table View Neighbourhood Watch (TVNW) spokesperson, Lee McBride, they have not officially been asked to assist.

"As an organisation dedicated to public safety we will be asking our members to assist as we have done at previous events, but are not committing to any specific number of volunteers," she says.

"Discharge of fireworks from designated sites will be allowed from sunset until midnight. Staff will inform the public at 23:00 that the site will close at midnight," says Smith. Questioned about searches conducted by Law Enforcement officers when entering the firing point, Smith says individuals are searched for alcohol, narcotics, dangerous weapons, Chinese lanterns and distress flares.

Speaking during a radio interview on OneFM on Monday night, Smith said the City was in an awkward position that they could only regulate the discharging of fireworks and did not have the authority to ban it.

"What we cannot do is ban the sale and manufacturing of fireworks and the only thing the City can do is manage what is in circulation."

He said personally he did not like fireworks and did not appreciate the impact on animals.

"Unfortunately just like I can't wish crime away, Guy Fawkes and even Halloween have become part of our local culture even though it has very little to do with our history. So there are these practices that you wish would not come into being. In some parts of the city, Guy Fawkes comes with smearing people with paint.

"There are all sorts of things that come into being that you can't magically make disappear but you can try and police it as best as you can."

In addition, Smith says the following rules are applicable on the night:

- No letting off of fireworks outside the designated area is permitted;
- No alcohol or glass bottles on the beaches are permitted;
- No person under the age of 16 is to be in possession of fireworks;
- No selling of fireworks is permitted;
- No people will be permitted on the sand dunes due to ecological concerns.



The City's Mayco member for safety and security, JP Smith, during a radio interview on One FM.
 PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL

Figure 26. Article in the local press about the designation of sites for fireworks discharge.

9 PEOPLE, TOURISM & EDUCATION

9.1 Stakeholder Engagement

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.

9.1.1 Internal Meetings

Table Bay Nature Reserve staff attended no less than 23 official internal meetings during this quarter:

- 12/10/2016: Branch Manager's annual site visit at Table Bay Nature Reserve;
- 13/10/2016: Protected Area Expansion planning meeting;
- 17/10/2016: Field Ranger Skills Programme Certification Ceremony;
- 18/10/2016: Cllr Nicky Rheeder of Ward 107 regarding reed infestations;
- 20/10/2016: Transversal Coastal Working Group meeting;
- 24/10/2016: Visitor Controller job description meeting with employee;
- 25/10/2016: Competence assessment with student Jack Nortjé;
- 26/10/2016: Competence assessment with student Julia Hollander;
- 28/10/2016: Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee;
- 28/10/2016: North Region Management meeting;
- 01/11/2016: Medical aid annual freedom of association meeting;
- 02/11/2016: Site meeting with Stormwater Department at Dolphin Beach pond outlet to Rietvlei;
- 07/11/2016: Legal compliance assessment of the Nature Reserve;
- 11/11/2016: Biodiversity Management Branch team building and performance recognition day;
- 14/11/2016: Stormwater management in Blaauwberg district meeting;
- 25/11/2016: Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee;
- 25/11/2016: North Region Health & Safety and Management meeting;
- 01/12/2016: Biodiversity Branch meeting;
- 12/12/2016: Staff conflict resolution meeting at Maitland;
- 13/12/2016: Flora Management Committee meeting;
- 15/12/2016: Staff conflict resolution meeting at Rietvlei office;
- 15/12/2016: Emergency evacuation drill at Rietvlei office; and
- 15/12/2016: Staff year-end function.

9.1.2 External Meetings

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

- 14/10/2016: Bayside Stormwater Canal Upgrade meeting with consultants;
- 20/10/2016: Protected Area Advisory Committee meeting;
- 26/10/2016: De Haarlem shipwreck survey between Dolphin Beach and Sunset Beach;
- 01/11/2016: Site inspection of Dolphin Beach pond and Waves' Edge wetland with HENCHEM;
- 17/11/2016: Historic Wooden Bridge Restoration project management team;
- 21/11/2016: CTEET interns' induction day and monitoring & evaluation meeting;
- 22/11/2016: Paardeneiland City Improvement District conservation project;
- 28/11/2016: Sunset Links dunes site inspection; and
- 01/12/2016: Cape Town Environmental Education Trust (CTEET) year-end function.

The parking area at the Rietvlei office and Rietvlei Boma was a hive of activity this quarter. More than 600 people attended no less than 34 events here, ranging from training courses, meetings, workshops, and various work functions.

Due to the close proximity of the Boma to neighbouring residents, commercial events are not catered for, but only environment and conservation-related functions are allowed.

Bookings for the Rietvlei Boma can be made by contacting the Nature Reserve at 021 444 0315.



9.2 Benefit to People

9.2.1 Rietvlei Education Centre Usage

The usage of the Rietvlei Education Centre, excluding visiting school groups, generated 80 person days of benefit to people over six event days.

DATE	GROUP	ACTIVITY	PERSON DAYS
21/10/2016	NCC environmental services	Training	9
27-28/10/2016	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	Training	6
27/10/2016	Friends of Rietvlei	Evening talk	30
17/11/2016	Blaauwberg Area Development: Environmental Liaison Committee	Meeting	15
24/11/2016	Friends of Rietvlei	Evening talk	20
TOTAL			80

9.2.2 Rietvlei Boma Usage

The usage of the Rietvlei Boma generated at least 611 person days of benefit to people over 34 event days.

DATE	GROUP	ACTIVITY	PERSON DAYS
6-7/10/2016	NCC environmental services	CCT skills programme training	18
12/10/2016	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	Training	12
13/10/2016	Protected area expansion planning	Meeting	10
20/10/2016	TBNR PAAC	Meeting	28
21/10/2016	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	Training	12
24-28/10/2016	Social Development and Early Childhood Development (SDECD)	Youth empowerment readiness work skills workshop	180
4, 7, 10, 14, 18/11/2016	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	Training	33
17/11/2016	Biodiversity Management Branch	Fire Training	20
21-25/11/2016	MBA team from DTU Denmark	Workshop	12
29/11/2016 – 1/12/2016	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	Work-integrated learning evaluation interviews	64
2/12/2016	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	Work-integrated learning award ceremony	25
6/12/2016	Planning & Building Development	Final PBDM GIS meeting	17
7/12/2016	Radio section – SPEARS	Farewell / retirement function	50
8/12/2016	Transport for Cape Town Contract Operations	End of year function	50
12/12/2016	SANCCOB	End of year function	30
13-14/12/2016	SDECD youth development special projects	Youth development workshop	25
15/12/2016	Planning & Building Development	End of year function	25
TOTAL			611

9.2.3 Environmental Education and Outreach

Environmental Education and Outreach generated 316 person days of benefit over 9 event days.

DATE	GROUP(S)	LEARNERS	TEACHER +ADULTS	PERSON-DAYS	PROGRAMME
12/10/2016	Nature@heart (6-9 yrs.)	19	10	29	Wild@heart programme/wetlands
13/10/2016	Al Azhar Primary (Gr. 6-7)	66	5	71	Wetlands programme
03/11/2016	Albow Gardens Children's Mission (see Figure 27 below)	49	1	50	Milnerton Racecourse and snakes awareness
09/11/2016	Sinai Academy, Blouberg (Gr. 1-3)	11	2	13	Wetland habitats
2-4/12/2016	Milnerton Sea Scouts (see Figure 29 overleaf)	51	9	60	Overnight Environmental education programme
5/12/2016	Deutsche Internationale Schule Kapstadt, Parow (Gr. 1-4) (see Figure 28 overleaf)	36	4	40	Wetland birds and aquatic invertebrates
5/12/2016	Seeskulpie EDC, Langebaan (Gr. R)	47	6	53	Joint programme with SANCCOB
TOTALS		279	37	316	TOTALS



Figure 27. Vard Aman of the Cape Reptile Club, and Intern, Reward Nzuza, promoting snake awareness at the Albow Gardens Children's Mission (photo by Reserve Supervisor, Landi Louw).



Figure 28. Deutsche Internationale Schule Kapstadt, Parow, outside the Rietvlei Education Centre.



Figure 29. Various images of the Milnerton Sea Scouts at Rietvlei.

9.2.3.1 The Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee (EMC) donated funding for the taxidermy preservation and mounting of a Cape grysbok that had died (see Figure 30 below).

The taxidermy mount of the grysbok was received during this quarter and it will be used for environmental education and display purposes in the Rietvlei Education Programme.

We want to thank the Milnerton Racecourse EMC for their generous donation.



Figure 30. Taxidermy mounted Cape grysbok, funded by the Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee.

9.3 Visitors and Income

9.3.1 Income from visitors at the Rietvlei Water Area during this quarter was R84,329 from 3,997 recorded visitors. The total income from 2016 was R316,773 from 17,085 visitors.

Figure 31 across compares the total cash incomes of each calendar year since 2010, showing a continued increasing trend.

The problem of visitors entering the Rietvlei Water Area outside of the public operating times and without paying the entrance fees has increased, especially during the busy summer season.

Steps will be taken to address this problem.

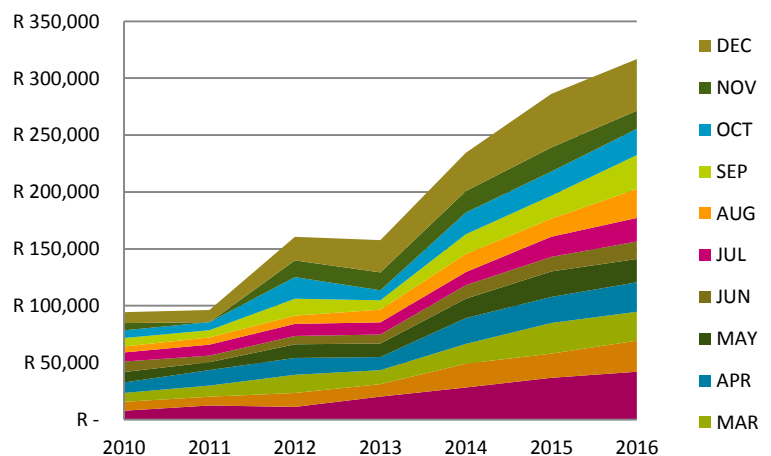


Figure 31. Cash incomes of each calendar year from 2010 to 2016.

10 STAFF

10.1 Staff establishment



Figure 32. A group photo of some of the Table Bay Nature Reserve staff (see key below).

Back Row: **Jack Nortjé** (Student), **Clinton Roux** (Assistant Conservation Officer), **Christopher Singo** (Reserve Supervisor)

Middle Row: **Landi Louw** (CTEET Reserve Supervisor), **Sakhile Luhani** (Field Ranger), **Kyle Kelly** and **Trevor Rieb** (Assistant Conservation Officers), **Phathutshedzo Mundalamo** and **Andiswa Ngcai** (Interns), **Derick Coetzee** (Visitor Control Officer), **Koos Relief** (Area Manager)

Front Row: **Allan Gargan** (Foreman), **Fabrice Turikumwe** (CTEET Student), **Reward Nzuza** (CTEET Intern), **Bulelwa Nomna** (Field Ranger), **Julia Hollander** (Student), **Sonwabile Shilinga** (Field Ranger)

Absent: **Fundiswa Sigwayi** (General Worker), **Qalile Lisa**, **Ferika Yamile** (Field Rangers), **Lenin Matsi** and **Hester Pentz** (CTEET Interns).

10.1.1 A Nature Conservation Graduate Intern, Hester Pentz, was placed at the Table Bay Nature Reserve for a period of a year from 14/11/2016.

Hester (see Figure 33 across) could however only start working here on 14/12/2016 due to delays with examinations at the Nelson Mandela Metro University. The delays were caused by student protests as part of the #FeesMustFall campaign.

Despite this adversity, Hester completed her B.Tech degree in Nature Conservation at the NMMU and will be graduating soon.

Her placement at Table Bay Nature Reserve is part of the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust's (CTEET) graduate internship placement programme which is funded in partnership with CATHSSETA.

Due to Hester's placement, the roles and geographical responsibilities of other colleagues will be adapted. Hester will be working in the Coastal Section of the Nature Reserve, which will allow Lenin Matsi to focus on the Rietvlei Section.

Hester was based at Table Bay Nature Reserve in 2015 as a work-integrated learning student from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), which allowed her to complete the National Diploma in Nature Conservation at CPUT.



Figure 33. CTEET Intern, Hester Pentz.

10.2 Training and development

10.2.1 Two Nature Conservation work-integrated learning students from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) were placed at the Nature Reserve during 2016. **Jack Nortjé** and **Jullia Hollander** successfully completed the requirements of the work-integrated learning programme and will graduate with the National Diploma in Nature Conservation from CPUT.

10.2.2 Four new work-integrated learning students have been selected to work at the Nature Reserve in 2017. The students are **Fabrice Turikumwe**, **Matthew Gatinho**, and **Waseem Parker** from CPUT, as well as **Angelique van der Berg** from Centurion College.

10.2.3 Field Ranger, Ferica Yamile, graduated in the Field Ranger NQF level-2 Skills Programme. She received her certificate at a graduation ceremony on 17/10/2017 (see Figure 34 across).



Figure 34. Director Osman Asmal, Field Ranger Ferica Yamile, Area Manager Koos Retief, and Branch Manager Julia Wood at the Field Ranger Skills graduation ceremony.

10.2.4 Additional staff developments included:

- Renewal of professional driver's permit (PrDP) of Area Manager, Koos Retief.
- Driver's medical for Phathu Mundalamo (12/10/2016).
- Competence assessment of Jack Nortjé (25/10/2016).
- Competence assessment of Julia Hollander (26/10/2016).
- Medical Aid Freedom of Association meeting (1/11/2016).
- Fire-fighting fitness tests at Maitland (18/11/2016).
- CTEET interns induction day and monitoring & evaluation meeting (21/11/2016).
- Area Manager, Koos Retief, served on the CPUT's evaluation panel of all it's registered work-integrated learning students of 2016. The panel met from 29/11 to 2/12/2016 to evaluate portfolios of evidence and conduct interviews.
- Rietvlei office emergency evacuation drill (15/12/2016)
- Nature Reserve staff year-end function (15/12/2-16).

10.6 Training of permanent and temporary staff at the Table Bay Nature Reserve amounted to no less than 11 person days over 4 training event days, including the following interventions:

Date(s)	Course	Number of days x	Number of learners =	Person days
6-7/10/2016	CCT Nature Conservation Learnership: Apply knowledge of statistics and probabilities	2	2	4
21/10/2016	CCT Nature Conservation Learnership: Learner support	1	2	2
17/11/2016	Basic Fire Fighting	1	3	3
	TOTALS	4		11

11 LAW ENFORCEMENT

11.1 Illegal overnight structures were removed from various management sections of the Nature Reserve, including from the Zoarvlei, Milnerton Lagoon, Diep River and the Coastal Sections.

Eleven (11) joint operations were arranged during this quarter, in which the Nature Reserve staff worked with various other stakeholders, including the Law Enforcement Department, the Roads Department and the Paardeneiland City Improvement District (PECID) (see Figures 35 – 37).

The joint operations were conducted on 4 and 26 October, 3, 10, 17, and 24 November, as well as 2, 8, 14, 22, and 29 December 2016.

No less than 10 “five-tonne” tipper truck loads of waste and demolished materials were disposed of at a local landfill site during these operations.



Figure 35. Two displaced people being removed from the Zoarvlei Section by field rangers, PECID staff, and Law Enforcement.



Figure 36. Illegal structures next to the R27 at Milnerton Lagoon.



Figure 37. Illegal structure in a tree at Zoarvlei Section.

11.2 A small fishing boat was discovered during a routine water patrol. The boat was hidden in shrubbery on the shoreline of Rietvlei.

It is suspected that the boat was used by fish poachers who accessed the Rietvlei Water Area during the night to set illegal gill nets to catch fish.

It is illegal to access Rietvlei outside operating hours, and to fish from a boat or with gill nets in the Rietvlei Water Area (see Figure 38 across).

There was evidence of fish scales in the boat, which is indicative of fish being removed from gill nets. No gill nets were found on site however. It may be that the alleged poachers removed the nets the same night, but only left the boat hidden in bushes.

The boat was held on site for about a month, but nobody came forward to claim the boat. The boat was disposed of at a local landfill site.



Figure 38. A field ranger loading the small fishing boat onto the Rietvlei patrol boat.

We request the public to report any suspicious activity, such as illegal structures and fishing boats on the water at night, to the Nature Reserve office at 021 444 0315.



Figure 39. A herd of cattle illegally grazing in the Diep River Section near Du Noon.

11.3 Illegal cattle grazing in the Diep River Section has resurfaced after initial attempts to negotiate with the cattle owners delivered mixed results. After the cattle owners initially agreed that they would stop this practice, patrols during weekends and after-hours exposed the continued grazing in the Nature Reserve.

Follow-up meetings with the cattle owners were facilitated by the local Ward Councillor in Du Noon. These meetings were intended to delineate the boundary of the Nature Reserve and to dissuade the cattle owners from sending their cattle onto the land (see Figure 39 above).

Table Bay Nature Reserve staff will continue to monitor the area after-hours and on weekends to determine whether compliance is taking place. Residents can report cattle in the Nature Reserve to 021 444 0315.

11.4 Free-running dogs have become a challenge in the Nature Reserve (see also the report section on [Highlights & Challenges](#)).

Several animals and birds have been chased and killed by dogs that were illegally allowed to enter the Nature Reserve and run off-leash or unattended.

There are areas around Rietvlei where dogs may be walked on a leash, such as along the Table View boundary and the Coastal Section, but these are not free-running dog areas.

The Rietvlei by-law also prohibits dogs in the Rietvlei Water Area itself, however dogs still manage to enter the Water Area by escaping from private properties and from people who purposely bring them into the reserve.

Fines have been issued to dog owners whose dogs attacked other animals, including the wild animals in the Nature Reserve (see Figure 40 across).

A media release was circulated by the City of Cape Town to advise dog owners of the restrictions relating to domestic animals in the Nature Reserve. The media release resulted in a live on-air interview being hosted by 567 Cape Talk radio station on 22/12/2016, as well as an article appearing in a local Afrikaans regional newspaper.

Dog owners are requested to abide by sign-posted notices where domestic animals are concerned.

City of Cape Town Law Enforcement Services

COMPLIANCE NOTICE

01 Hang Ten Drive, Big Bay, Development 1441
 Ask for: Tel: 021 554 8888, Fax: 021 554 1336

01 Hang Ten Drive, Big Bay, Development 1441
 Call: Urmers: 021 554 8888, Res: 021 554 1336

01 Hang Ten Drive, Big Bay, Development 1441
 Ask for: Tel: 021 554 8888, Fax: 021 554 1336

By Law Regulation: ANIMAL BY-LAW 2016 AL 6876/2011
 Section: Sec/At 32(b)
Animal attacking another animal.
which is the amount of R1000.00
(one thousand Rand only).

To: [Redacted]
 Address: Table view, 1771111111111111

You are herewith directed to comply with the lawful instruction issued by the undersigned authorised officer as set out in this notice, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the by-laws of the City of Cape Town indicated above, within (1) days to take the following steps to abate such nuisance or contravention.

Steps: The owner has promised that she will practice safety steps and monitor the dog in future.

NE: A Peace Officer may without a warrant arrest any person who wilfully obstructs him in the execution of his duty – Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977, Section 40(1)(j)
 Acknowledgement of the abovementioned provision and the consequence thereof have been explained to the recipient.

Signed: [Redacted] Date: 4/12/2016
 Signature of Authorised Official: [Redacted] Staff number: 0411212016
 Print Name, Surname: Michael P. Shing Date: 04/12/2016

Figure 40. A R1,000 fine issued to a dog owner.

12 INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT

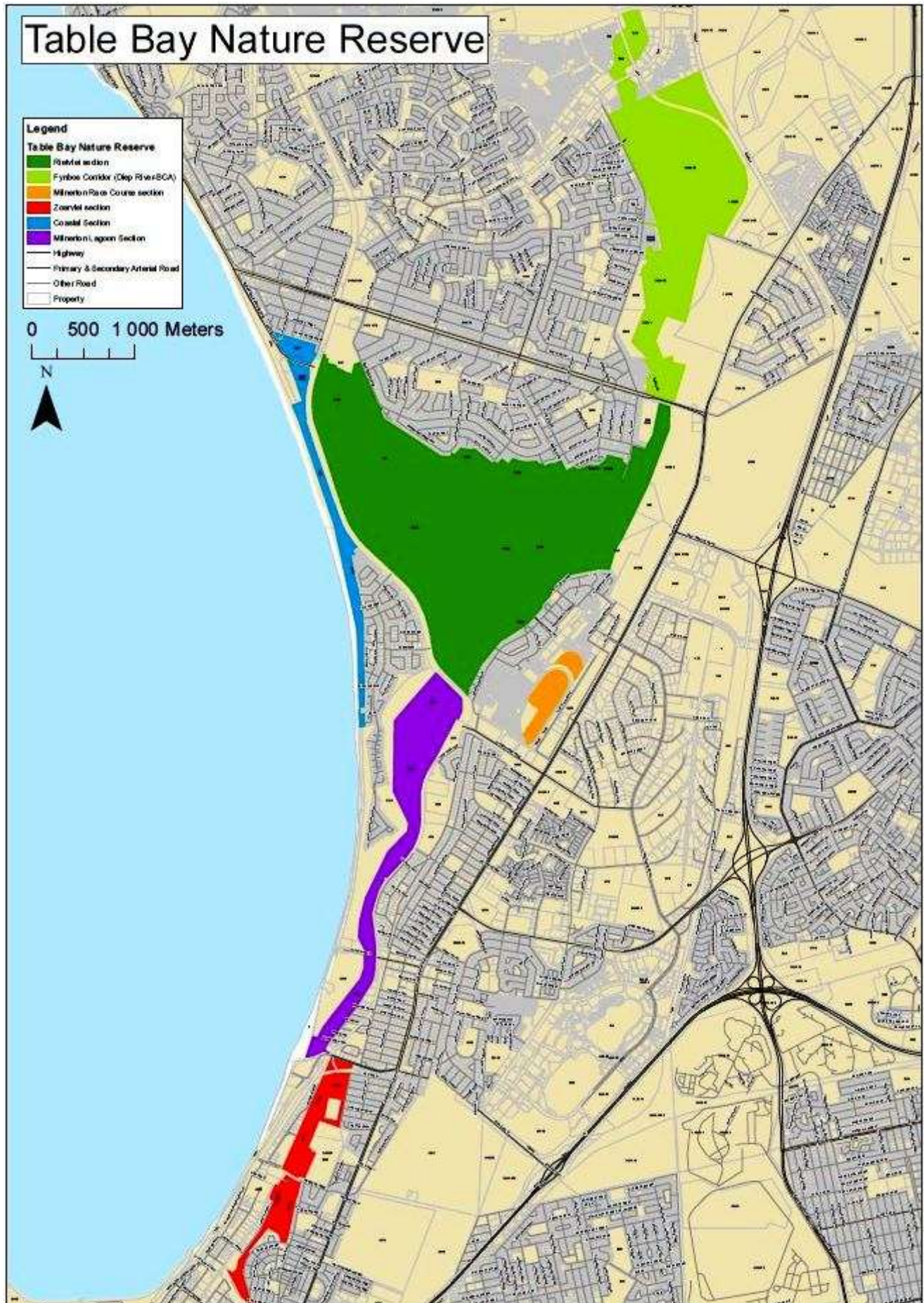
12.1 Maintenance of Nature Reserve infrastructure during this quarter included the following activities:

- Trimming vegetation along internal roads, around footpaths as well as at visitor facilities such as the Rietvlei Education Centre, picnic sites and the public ablution block;
- Internal road maintenance at Rietvlei and the Diep River Sections;
- Litter pick-ups along the R27 boundary as well as in the Coastal and the Milnerton Lagoon Sections;
- Cleaning of offices and windows;
- Asset inventory verifications from 29 September to 5 October 2016;
- Various repairs and maintenance of the Nature Reserve's vehicles, tools and machinery; and
- Removal of cement slabs around the Rietvlei public ablution block. The cement slabs were being undermined by mole holes and sand movement. It was decided that it would be safer to remove the slabs and allow the grass to grow flush with the building (see Figure 41 below).



Figure 41. Removal of cement slabs around the Rietvlei public ablution block.

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



APPENDIX B: PRESS ARTICLES

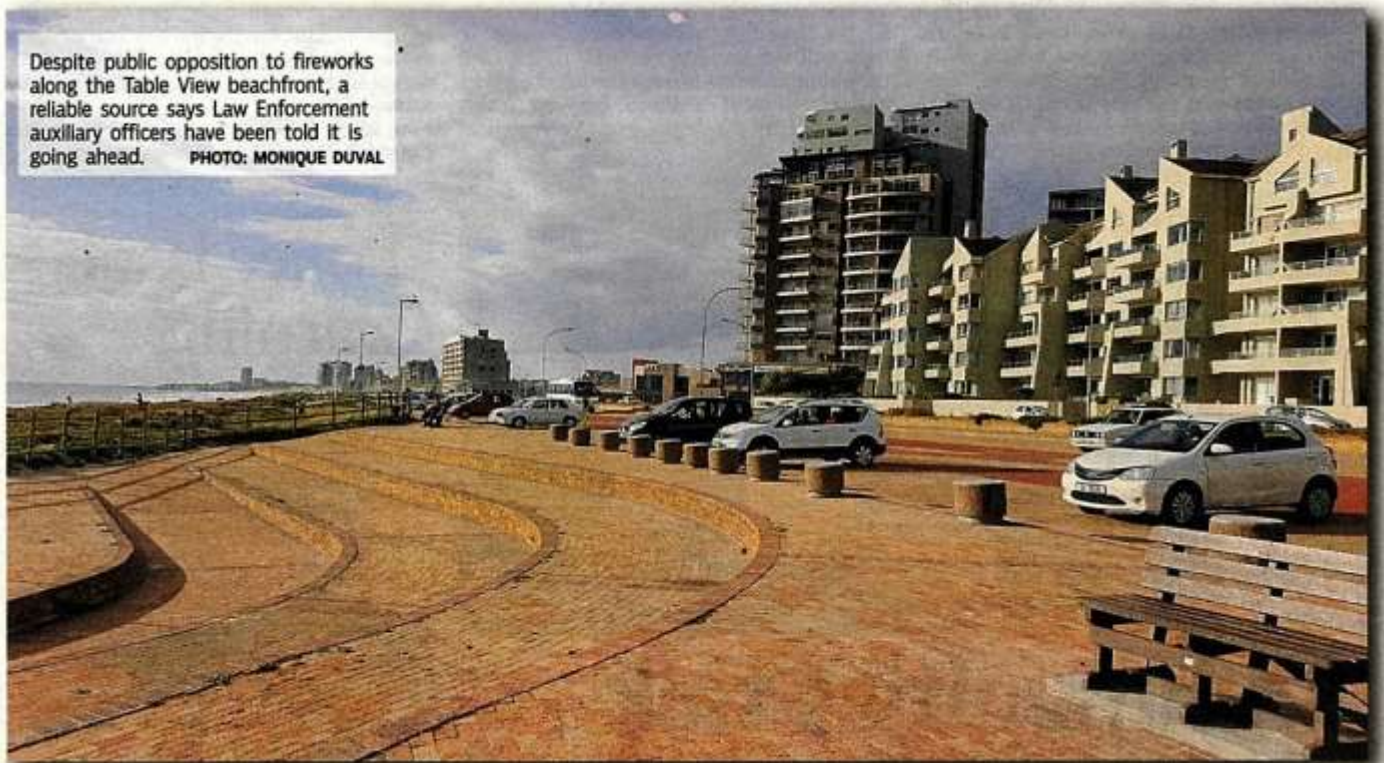


TABLE VIEW BEACHFRONT: 'PLANS GOING AHEAD'

Fireworks furore

MONIQUE DUVAL

[@monique_duval](#)

The City of Cape Town has remained mum on plans for fireworks at the Table View beachfront this coming Guy Fawkes Day.

Despite a public statement by ward councillor Nicky Rheeder several weeks ago that the site near Marine Circle was not suitable, a reliable source told *TygerBurger* fireworks will be going ahead at the same location on Guy Fawkes Day on Saturday 5 November.

According to the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, Law Enforcement auxiliary officers were called into an Area North meeting on Tuesday 4 October in Brackenfell.

The source claims at this meeting they were told by Johannes van Schalkwyk of Law Enforcement that fireworks were going

ahead at the same site on Guy Fawkes Day.

"Those present were told that Law Enforcement had met with all the relevant officials including Fire and Rescue Services and ward 23's Nora Grose, who all said the site was suitable. The fire chief has approved the site as safe and suitable and to appease complaining residents a fire engine would be placed at the petrol station."

The source also says auxiliary officers will be required to be on duty on Guy Fawkes Day to help bolster the safety and security contingent.

TygerBurger sent the City a list of questions trying to establish whether or not fireworks will go ahead but the City did not answer any questions despite extra time being given to formulate a response.

In a written response, City spokesperson Priya Reddy says: "The City is in the process of finalising the Table View fireworks site

and will advise once the process is completed."

The contentious issue, however, sent tongues wagging on social media last week when the Table View Ratepayers' Association (TVRA) released an online poll questioning whether residents supported legal action against the City.

Asked why this was done, TVRA chairperson Mandy Da Matta said the municipality is leaving the community no other choice as the City "goes against their own safety regulations".

Various fireworks reports tabled at the Blaauwberg Subcouncil meetings throughout 2015 list various criteria for a site to be deemed suitable. Among these requirements are that any fireworks site needs to be at least 100 metres from homes or buildings and 500 metres from a petrol depot.

► To page 2



The City says no final decision has been made on a site in Table View for the discharging of fireworks on Guy Fawkes Day.

PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL

No finality on fireworks

MONIQUE DUVAL

[@monique_duval](#)

No final decision on the designated site for fireworks on Guy Fawkes Day has been made.

While the debate on whether or not fireworks should be allowed on the Table View beachfront rages on, the City's Mayo member for safety and security, JP Smith, says no final decision has been made. Following the publication of an earlier article ("Fireworks furore", TB, 12 October), Smith contacted *TygerBurger* explaining a meeting was held with officials and ward 23 councillor, Nora Grose, to discuss the matter.

Smith says ward 107 councillor, Nicky Rheeder, could not attend the initial meeting where it was decided that the current site near the old tourism building was

deemed suitable.

"Councillor Rheeder was not happy and we will be going into another meeting to find a solution."

This meeting was held on Monday and Smith says no conclusion could be reached.

He says Rheeder provided eight alternative sites, many of which had been turned down by officials years ago as not suitable.

Of the suggested alternatives, a site further up the beachfront opposite Doodles was proposed and at this stage Smith says this is the only viable alternative.

"At this stage we have three options. We can use the same site as last year, find an alternative, or have the no-go option for no fireworks. Option three is not an option because the people wanting to let off fireworks will come anyway and then we

will have a bigger problem," he says.

Meanwhile, a group of residents are planning to host a peaceful human chain along the beachfront on Guy Fawkes Day.

Resident Tracy Edwards says concerned residents who feel the fireworks are being forced upon them, will be gathering at the beachfront on the day with placards to express their sentiments.

She says many have expressed their views on the impact on pets and the environment.

"We are there to make a statement to the City. If people come to set off their fireworks we will not interfere or stop them. There will be no violence and as residents who are directly affected, we want to express how we feel about this event."

Smith says the Table View site is the most popular, yet the most contended fireworks site in Cape Town.



The City of Cape Town has announced that the Table View beachfront near the old tourism office will be a designated site for the discharging of fireworks on Guy Fawkes Day. Pictured is the 2015 event which the City estimates was attended by just over 7000 people.

PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL

Green light for fireworks

MONIQUE DUVAL
@monique_duval

The City of Cape Town has announced that the Table View beachfront will officially be a designated site for the discharging of fireworks on Guy Fawkes Day.

This comes amid an uproar among residents about the safety of the site. In recent weeks, residents have raised their concerns about the designation of the area near the old tourism building as a suitable site as it does not comply with certain safety requirements outlined by the City.

Speaking to *TygerBurger* on Friday, the City's Mayo member for safety and security, JP Smith, says after exhausting all options they were left with one viable option. Following a meeting with ward councillors Nora Grose and Nicky Rheeder and officials, Smith says the site used last year was the only suitable site. The team discussed alternative sites such as the Killarney Race Track, but Smith says the venue will not be available on Saturday 5 November.

He says they considered the option of having no designated site in Table View but a variety of factors make this impossible.

"Last year there was an estimated 7 000 people on the night and Guy Fawkes was during the week. This year it falls on a Saturday and we expect about 20 000 people, so the option of having no site is not an option."

He says while Killarney may be a possible venue in the future, officials will still have to conduct various risk assessments.

"We will try to have Killarney as a site for fireworks on New Year's Eve but for Guy Fawkes Day we will use the same site as last year."

According to a statement released over the weekend, the City has increased the amount of designated sites from eight to 12. It says this list was approved after consultation between emergency services, law enforcement, and the various subcouncils.

"A number of additional sites were proposed by ward councillors, but these did not meet the safety criteria so we had to reject them. We have also removed Theo Marais Park in Milnerton from the list of sites following objections from the public. Sunrise Beach has also been removed, in part due to the traffic congestion," says Smith.

The Table View Ratepayers' Association (TVRA) chairperson, Mandy Da Matta, says they are disappointed at the decision as residents have been proposing alternative sites for three years.

"The question we have is why are the reasons the other sites were turned down not applicable to this site? Why does this community have to have this event forced upon us and how can the City go against national legislation? We will be writing a letter with our concerns to JP and we hope there will be extra safety measures put in place to ensure the welfare of all," she says.

Meanwhile, a group of concerned residents have created a Facebook event called Unite Against Fireworks. The event calls on concerned residents to gather on the beachfront on Guy Fawkes Day in a peaceful demonstration on their unhappiness over the decision.



It is believed that a Chinese lantern lit on Guy Fawkes sparked the fire at Rietvlei Nature Reserve last year.

Table View protest sparked

STAFF REPORTER

The City of Cape Town has lit the fuse of Table View residents who want fireworks banned by giving Guy Fawkes revellers the green light to let them off in the suburb.

The tourism centre in Athens Road on the Table View beachfront is one of 12 designated areas where the sparks will fly on Guy Fawkes, Saturday November 5.

The City says it is considering Killarney Race Track as an alternative site for New Year's Eve.

Table View is one of 12 sites across the City that will allow fireworks on Guy Fawkes as well as Diwali and New Year.

There are four more sites than last year, a move the City says it believes will minimise the temptation to discharge fireworks from unsupervised areas.

"A number of additional sites were proposed by ward councillors, but these did not meet the safety criteria, and so we had to reject them," said JP Smith, mayoral committee member for safety and security.

The City removed Theo Marais Park, in Milnerton, from the list of sites following objections from the public, and Sunrise Beach is also off the list due to traffic congestion.

Fireworks have been an explosive issue in Table View for several years. Some residents have called for them to be banned, citing harm to animals, the morning-after mess left by revellers and the threat of fire and injury. ("TVRA lights discussion on fireworks," September 28).

This Guy Fawkes, residents plan to unite in protest against the City's decision to allow fireworks in the area, by forming a human chain on the Table View beachfront.

Gayl Basson from the animal shelter Fallen Angels is leading the campaign. "We will meet on the beachfront across Marine Circle, and from there we will move to the designated area where we will form a peaceful

human chain.

"We are expecting around 200 people. It's important for us to speak up for those who don't have a voice," said Ms Basson.

Other fireworks sites include Westfleur sports field, Reygersdal Drive, Atlantis; Bishop Lavis sports field, Lavis Drive; Metropolitan sports grounds, Melkhout Street, Bonteheuwel; Delft Central sports grounds, Main Road, Delft; Swartklip sports complex, Swartklip Road, Mitchell's Plain; Athlone Stadium parking area (eastern side), Klipfontein Road; Maiden's Cove parking area, Victoria Road, Camps Bay; Strandfontein Pavilion; Sarepta sports complex; Blue Downs sports field; and Macassar Beach parking area.

All fireworks areas will be patrolled by City law enforcement and Metro police as well as a fire inspector.

Anyone under the age of 16 is not permitted to discharge fireworks and 11pm is the cut-off time on both Guy Fawkes and Diwali, with New Year's Eve being the exception.

"I hope that residents can appreciate the massive logistical exercise we deal with every year, as well as the costs associated with deploying staff to all of these areas," said Mr Smith.

"We could look at designating more sites, but we simply do not have the budget or the resources.

"I appeal to members of the public to use fireworks responsibly to prevent injuries, and to take into account the effect fireworks have on those residents who do not partake in these activities.

"We have confiscated fireworks in previous years and issued fines for the illegal discharge of fireworks, and we will do so again this year if need be."

You can report the illegal sale or use of fireworks to the metro police call centre at 0860 765 423 or to SAPS at 10111.

General emergencies can be directed through the City's public emergency call centre at 107 from a landline or 021 480 7700 from a cellphone.



The City says an estimated 15 000 people came out to see the fireworks on Guy Fawkes Day.
PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL

FIREWORKS: EVENTFUL NIGHT FOR TABLE VIEW COMMUNITY

Ire over boy's injury

MONIQUE DUVAL
@monique_duval

The Table View beachfront recorded the second highest number of injuries at a fireworks display on Saturday. Shortly after 18:00, celebrations kicked off as residents opposing the designation of the beachfront as a suitable site for the discharging of fireworks, gathered to protest. An area near Marine Circle was dedicated to the protesters, some of whom dressed up as pets, and were heard shouting: "Ban the bang!". At 19:00 all officials, volunteers and Table View Neighbourhood Watch (TVNW) patrolers gathered at the operations centre where

they were briefed by Table View police. Patrolers were dispatched to different sections of the beach and festivities got underway. A few minutes later, a Law Enforcement officer was seen issuing two men fines for consuming alcohol on the beach. Ian Ward from One FM provided information to people on the beach via loud speakers placed on the dunes. Shortly after a flare was spotted, an announcement was made that this was illegal and a call was made for the culprits to discontinue. Two more flares followed and Law Enforcement arrested a man for setting off a flare. Several hours later a woman and two men were also arrested for

ignoring notifications and setting flares off into the sea. According to a statement by the City's Mayco member for safety and security, JP Smith, Table View and Maiden's Cove were the busiest sites, with 15 000 and 10 000 estimated revellers respectively. "As a result, the two sites also accounted for the highest number of injuries," says Smith. "I am satisfied that the City did everything possible to ensure the evening was well managed. The injuries are very unfortunate, especially with the number being higher than the previous year. Fireworks are dangerous and need to be handled with care. Guy Fawkes continues to be a massive

headache that we can frankly do without. The City has done all it can in terms of our legislated authority. Given the ongoing complaints from the public, we hope that national government will look at banning the sale of fireworks as trying to stop the ensuing chaos once those fireworks are in circulation, is almost impossible," says Smith. However, according to officials, an incident where a 14-year-old boy lost two of his fingers after lighting a cracker at the beach, was the most severe injury reported across Cape Town on the night. The incident caused a stir when the boy was seen running towards paramedics. ▶ To page 2.

According to a report from City Fire and Rescue Services spokesperson Theo Layne, the boy was accompanied by an adult. "His hand was injured when a cracker exploded inside its shell. Initially we thought he had lost three fingers, but after being assessed it was established that two were blown off while the third only had a cut." The boy was rushed to Somerset Hospital while a woman and man who only identified themselves as his relatives, searched the dunes for the missing fingers. "He came up from the beach and they (the fingers) were still on. It must have fallen here somewhere; please help," the woman pleaded.

Members of TVNW searched the dunes with torches, but could not find the fingers. Table View resident Andrew Brace, who assisted with operations at the event, says when questioned it was revealed that the boy was dared to hold the cracker for as long as he could, after being lit. "Those involved may deny it, but I specifically asked and that was what they said." According to the statistics, five children and two adults were treated for injuries at the Table View site. At Maiden's Cove, seven children and seven adults were treated. While the designation of the beachfront remains contentious in Table View, Mandy

Da Matta, chairperson of the Table View Ratepayers' Association (TVRA), says they were happy to be included in the planning by councillor Nicky Rheeder. During the final planning meeting it was decided to close additional residential roads in Waves Edge for residents. People living in these streets were given an access disc to access their homes and this prevented the public from parking in driveways and on verges. Rheeder says while the injuries were unfortunate, the event was well managed. The search for an alternate site continues. ▶ What is your opinion on this article? Let us know at brieve@tygerburger.co.za.



■ Nine-year-olds Michael van Eck and Tiffany Drummond were among the youngest protesters at the Guy Fawkes celebrations on Saturday.

Protesters want to 'ban the bang'

32 injuries recorded on Guy Fawkes Day

SUMMER JACOBS

Shouting "Ban the bang!" protesters came out in full force on Guy Fawkes Day against the use of fireworks on Table View beachfront.

Spread out along the pavement on the corner of Marine Circle, on Saturday November 5, between 65 and 70 people waved their anti-fireworks placards at passing motorists.

They wanted to draw attention to the suffering fireworks cause animals, including wildlife.

The protest followed widespread opposition from Table View residents to the City's decision to make the beachfront a designated fireworks venue ("Table View protest sparked", Wednesday October

26). In September, the Table View Ratepayers' Association did a survey on Facebook asking people whether or not they wanted fireworks in Table View. The result was a resounding no with only a few giving it the nod ("TVRA lights discussion on fireworks", Tabletalk, September 28).

The protest, which started at about 6pm and ended at 9pm, was the brainchild of Gayl Basson, from the animal shelter Failen Angels in Melkbosstrand.

Handing out placards before the protest, Ms Basson said their intention was not to stop the fireworks but to create awareness about what they do to animals.

The City approved the beachfront area in front of the tourism

centre as a designated fireworks site this year. A disaster management team, 20 auxiliary members and 40 law enforcement officers patrolled the beachfront.

National chairperson of the animal rights organisation Beauty without Cruelty, Toni Brockoven, also supported the protest and said it was against animal exploitation in general.

"Animal rights and human rights are interlinked. We have to start at grass roots level, because when you abuse the most vulnerable, it's easy to move up the chain to family members and strangers," said Ms Brockoven.

Continued on page 3



■ Far left: Those opposing fireworks gathered on the corner of Marine Circle armed with placards.



■ People turned up early to secure spots for the fireworks displays.

Boy, 14, injured during beachfront revelry

From page 1

While most children walked by carrying packets stuffed with fireworks paraphernalia, nine-year-olds Tiffany Drummond and Michael van Eck raised their placards high and chanted.

When asked why they were standing at the side of the road instead of joining the other children on the beachfront, Tiffany said: "It's just so much noise for animals".

A few metres away, along the beachfront, people were pouring in by the dozens to secure spots to see the fireworks displays. There were about 15 000 spectators on the beachfront, according to the City.

Law enforcement and the Table View Neighbourhood Watch (TVNW) were visible and an ambulance, fire truck and paramedic services were standing by.

In a statement the day before, JP Smith, mayoral committee member for safety and security, reminded the public that it was illegal for anyone younger than 16 to discharge fireworks. It's a warning that went unheeded by many as Tabletalk saw several children lighting fireworks.

When Tabletalk returned to the protest, community medic Kevin Jones was holding a traumatised pup with a collar identifying her as Quila. Visibly shaking, Quila was found running around the beach-

front disorientated by the noise of the fireworks.

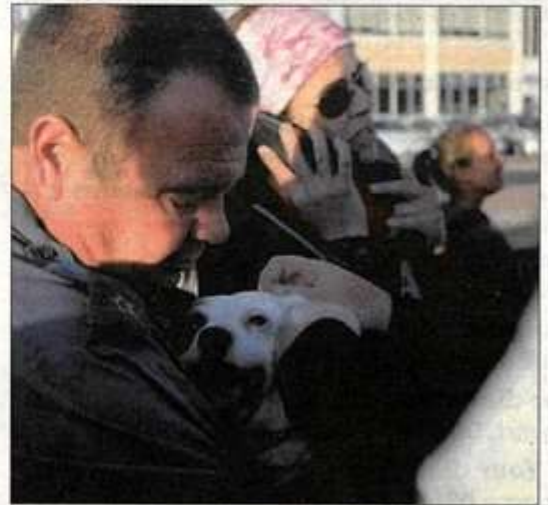
Protesters acted promptly, calling the number on the collar and Quila was taken to a house nearby away from the noise.

Ms Basson told Tabletalk on Monday that besides a few members of the public antagonising them the protest went well.

"There was a lot of support from passing cars hooting and giving us the thumbs up. We have also started a group called Ban the Bang Western Cape and people can find the group on Facebook.

This was not a one time thing. We will be doing the same thing for New Year's," she said.

● The City's Fire and Rescue Service recorded 32 injuries on Guy Fawkes Day. Table View was one of the busiest sites, and, as a result, also accounted for one of the highest number of injuries. The most severe injury involved a 14-year-old boy who lost part of three fingers on his left hand while handling an exploding fireworks device. He was treated by medical staff on scene before being transported to hospital.



■ Quila was rescued on the beachfront after she was found running around disorientated by the noise of the fireworks. Here she is comforted by community medic, Kevin Jones.

Wreck's future in balance



■ All that remains of a four-masted schooner that was used in a set in the 1935 movie *Mutiny on the Bounty*, starring Clark Gable.

SUMMER JACOBS

The wrecked wooden hull of a ship that once starred in a Hollywood movie and which has become something of a landmark on the sandy skirt of the lagoon at Lagoon Beach may soon have a new and final resting place.

The wreck is all that is left of the *Commodore II*. The four-masted schooner built in America in the early 1900s.

The vessel was used as a set in the 1935 movie *Mutiny on the Bounty*, starring Clark Gable.

Later the vessel was used to ferry coal during World War II between South Africa and South America. When she was no longer of use, she was torched and the wreck floated ashore off Milnerton.

Something of a permanent fixture outside the Lagoon Beach Hotel, the wreck may soon find a new home if a group of property owners have their way.

On Monday September 26, they requested a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) to have the hull moved from the lagoon to "a grassed area alongside the paved walkway along the beachfront".

Their motivation to SAHRA

says: "This last surviving piece of a fairly famous ship is degrading every year.

"We wish to salvage it for the common good as an authentic part of maritime history close to Cape Town. We are property owners in the area and feel it will also enhance the area with an authentic artefact for historical and aesthetic reasons".

According to an aerial shot attached to the proposal, the proposed display area will be the car park a few metres away from its current location.

John Gribble, manager of SAHRA's maritime and underwater cultural unit, confirmed the request for the permit to move the hull onto an area adjacent to the walkway along the beach.

"There is some information we need from the applicant about the mechanics of how the move will be done and how the wreckage will be displayed and interpreted. We also need to make sure there's an agreement in place to ensure that the wreck will remain publicly accessible.

Continued on Page 3



■ Table Mountain makes an impressive back drop to the hull of the Commodore.

Comment to preserve ‘piece of history’

SUMMER JACOBS

A plan to move a piece of Milnerton’s maritime history is open for public comment. Last month, *Tabletalk* reported on the application to the South African Heritage Resources Agency’s (SAHRA) to move the remains of the Commodore II’s wooden hull from near the mouth of Lagoon Beach to a grassed area in the car park a few metres away (“Wreck’s future in the balance,” *Tabletalk*, October 5).

Andre Baard, who represents the applicant, The Citylife Trust, said: “The concept is to conserve the wreck from inevitable further degradation and create an authentic outdoor maritime wreck mini-museum for the future generations to enjoy.”

One of the owners of two office blocks along the beachfront, Mr Baard said he had been oblivious to the wreck’s history, until one day when he noticed a piece of it had come loose.

He had wanted to remove it and turn it into a display piece at a nearby office, but someone had asked a security guard to tell him it had heritage protection and was not just a piece of beach debris.

This incident compelled Mr Baard to do some research.

He contacted councillor Joy McCarthy who, in turn, delved into its colourful history.

Cringing at the idea that he had almost helped to reduce a piece of Cape Town’s maritime history, Mr Baard decided it was worth the effort to save.

The wreck was once part of an elegant four-masted schooner built in America in the early 1900s. It was used as a set in the 1935 movie *Mutiny on the Bounty*, starring Clark Gable.

Later the vessel ferried coal during World War II between South Africa and South America, and when she was no longer in use, she was torched, and the wreck floated ashore off Paarden Eiland.

“In a world where history is so quickly buried and forgotten under the weight of ‘progress’, wouldn’t it be nice to preserve a little something that has survived the fierce Cape of Storms for so long? Why just let it rot away?” said Mr Baard.

His resolve to preserve the wreck was only strengthened once he learned it was part of his family history too.

“My mother grew up here, and she told me she used to play on the selfsame piece of wreck, although much bigger back then, way back in the 1950s. At the time, it was lodged somewhere



■ Lagoon Beach hotel will keep the final site of the wreck neat and tidy if it is moved.

between Brooklyn and Lagoon Beach,” he said.

If the trust succeeded in moving the wreck, a brass plaque would be mounted nearby to tell the story of the Commodore II. The Lagoon Beach Hotel would keep the site tidy and under guard, but the

wreck would still be open to the public. Mr Baard envisions family picnics around the wreck and brides and grooms posing on top of it.

“People will have 30 days to respond to the notice. If people shoot it down, I’ll step away and let nature take its course, but why

deprive the community of this interesting bit of history?”

The public have until Friday December 2 to send comments, anecdotes, suggestions or objections to Andre Baard, The Citylife Trust, PO Box 367 Durbanville, or email thecitylifetrust@gmail.com



■ The wreck sported a moss blanket a few years ago.

Mixed opinions on bid to move Milnerton wreck

From page 1

“The process of considering the application will flow on from that,” said Mr Gribble.

Given the “high public profile” of the wreckage, he said SAHRA would suggest to the applicant that there be some form of public consultation.

“As the remains of a wreck more than 60 years old, the Commodore forms part of what is defined as archaeological material under Section 2 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) and is protected under Section 35 of the Act.

“As with any other archaeological material, the wreck belongs to the state, which through SAHRA protects and manages it on behalf of the nation,” said Mr Gribble.

If the permit is approved the applicants will bear the cost of moving the wreckage.

Tabletalk asked visitors to the lagoon what they thought of the proposal to move the wreck. Gary McBride grew up not far from the lagoon and feels the wreckage is part of Milnerton’s heritage.

He says “only the tides will tell” whether it should be moved or not.

“That piece of wood has been shifting around this area for as long as I can remember.

“I don’t think it should be removed. It’s part of the heritage,” said Mr McBride.

Michael Wyngaard, a Table View resident, also felt the wreckage should stay where it is.

“It wasn’t carried here. It arrived here on current which shows how powerful the current is.

“I think they should have some kind of plaque telling people a bit of its history.

“But I think once it’s moved,

it loses its authenticity. We live in a real life time museum,” said Mr Wyngaard.

Jaco Boshoff, a marine archaeologist, supported the move.

“It’s better than people trying to remove it and making furniture from it. That happened a while ago, but luckily residents chased them away.

It’s better if it’s waterlogged, but there’s not much you can do about it unless you treat it with chemicals that costs thousands, so preserving it by placing it in an area where it’s controlled is a good idea,” said Mr Boshoff.

Mr Gribble said although there are nearly 2500 documented historical shipwrecks around the South African coast, they are generally underwater and are very seldom visible or accessible to the public.

“This piece of wreckage from the Commodore thus has great value as an example of the remains of a wooden shipwreck that the public can access.

“SAHRA is excited about this initiative to move the wreckage as it will ensure the long-term survival of this piece of our maritime heritage and at the same time make this wreckage much more publicly accessible.

“We have suggested to the applicant that we could provide interpretive signage to be erected near the wreckage, something that will be discussed further as we proceed with the application,” he said.

Tabletalk asked Mr Briddle who the applicants were but he was not prepared to divulge that information. Instead, he said he would ask them to contact Tabletalk.

However, we had yet to hear from them at the time this edition went to print.

Editorial

Wreck and sea seem bound together ...

The Commodore II wreckage has assumed a sort of mythical quality among locals, many of whom speak about it with more than a hint of wonder in their voices.

What adds to the shipwreck's unique story is perhaps its location at the lagoon.

In full view of Lagoon Beach Hotel guests and the beachfront restaurant patrons, it fires the imagination and makes for interesting conversation.

Those who have witnessed it being shifted by the tides and marvelled at the

might of the sea may feel any attempt to remove it from the lagoon goes against the natural order of things.

The wreckage has been there for so many decades they may not want it to be preserved but instead allowed to age (and move) with time as the area and indeed everything else in life does.

The wreck and the sea seem bound together for better or worse, each lending the other their own special magic. This is something to consider by those who would seek to move the schooner's old "bones".

Beach blues

MONIQUE DUVAL
@monique_duval

Milnerton residents are raising their concerns as a sunset walk along Lagoon Beach is becoming a scary pastime.

In the last week, various residents have come out to share their stories of public drinking, drug deals and other illegal activities taking place along the coastline.

Following the concerns raised on social media, *TygerBurger* joined representatives of the Milnerton Community Policing Forum (CPF) on a beach walk where broken beer bottles, used condoms and dumping were highlighted.

A man and woman were also seen acting suspiciously. The woman seen near the outfall was jumping and dancing and according to CPF chairperson Lianne Lippert, she was "clearly high". A man arrived a few minutes later and the two were observed swapping something which the woman put in her bra.

Speaking to *TygerBurger*, resident Kerry Ann Mccann says a large group of people could be seen drinking and having a party on the promenade. A few minutes later one of the women walked towards the beach, pulled down her underwear and defecated on the beach. "We had to walk through their vomit to get off the beach and they were all just sitting in it. The smell was horrendous and they were just weeing everywhere."

Lippert says Lagoon Beach has become the local party place and they need more residents to lodge complaints with the City of Cape Town and police to ensure action is taken. "Look, tik packets – and there are beer bottles. This is a clear indication of what is happening on the beach."

She says as warmer days have arrived, the coastline attracts residents and visitors at sunset and the community needed the beach to be a safe place.

"As residents we should be able to enjoy our beach but with all this going on, how can we? We need to get SAPS and the City involved."

Meanwhile, Milnerton Central Residents' Association (MCRA) chairperson Peter Walsh has encouraged residents to log a service request (C3) and attend community meetings where these issues are tabled.

During the walk, empty condom wrappers could be seen and questions arose about prostitution. Claims that prostitutes take their clients to the beach are rife and also arose on social media.

According to the City's Mayco member for safety and security, JP Smith, while no complaints were directly reported to the City's Vice Squad, the surrounding areas including Koeberg Road, have been on the unit's priority list for some time now.

"No specific spot fines were issued at Lagoon beach, however fines are regularly issued in surrounding areas."

He says for the two Law Enforcement officers in Milnerton, the beach forms part of their daily patrols. "This is supplemented by additional patrols by permanent officers when resources allow for it."

The parking areas near apartments and the Lagoon Beach were also highlighted by residents during the walk. They say in recent weeks they have noticed homeless people sleeping in their cars at night.

The City's Mayco member for social development and early childhood development, Suzette Little, says the Street People Unit has received one complaint in this regard and visited the site in September.

"One family was found to be sleeping in their car and refused the assistance offered. They were advised that the Streets, Public Places and the Prevention of Noise Nuisance Bylaw prohibits this activity."

What are your thoughts? Send your letter to briewe@tygerburger.co.za.




Milnerton Community Policing Forum (CPF) chairperson Lianne Lippert finds an empty tik packet at Lagoon Beach.
PHOTOS: MONIQUE DUVAL



Empty alcohol bottles can be seen along Lagoon Beach.

Homelessness 'is a complex issue'

MONIQUE DUVAL

 @monique_duval

A new trend of homeless people sleeping in their cars in empty parking lots has sparked renewed concerns about a homeless shelter in Milnerton and Table View.

A concerned resident contacted *Tyger-Burger* last week after she witnessed several cars gathering in an empty parking lot near the Centre Point development. She says people have continued to gather in the area and residents are concerned the situation may get out of control.

"We have had break-ins and while we are not saying it's them, it's a difficult situation. They also cook on a gas stove so there are safety concerns."

Representatives of the Milnerton Community Policing Forum (CPF) accompanied *TygerBurger* to a visit to the area where several cars could be seen.

Here, a man is spotted cooking supper over a gas stove using his boot while his girlfriend looks on.

'It's a difficult one'

The woman, who asked not to be named, says they have been living there for about three weeks and while she has a job, she does not earn enough to pay for accommodation.

"I don't make enough but each day we have a place to sleep and warm food. It is not safe here. We have been woken up in the middle of the night with a gun at the window. It is very scary but what can we do. We look after ourselves and don't make a mess but I know people have complained."

CPF chairperson Lianne Lippert says this is a difficult issue to deal with as it always comes down to the balancing of rights.

"It's a difficult one. On the one side I can understand the concerns of residents living

in the flats and on the other hand I can understand the plight of those who are struggling on the street. If you don't take action, the problem may get out of control, but these are people and if they are telling the truth they may need serious help."

Refusing help

The City's Mayco member for social development and early childhood development, Suzette Little, says this trend has been reported recently and in many cases those sleeping in their cars refused help.

"Reports of people sleeping in their cars are definitely new and there have been reports from the Milnerton area. The success of any intervention by the City is dependent on whether or not people accept the help. Unfortunately there are those who are living in their cars in Milnerton who have refused help, making it very difficult."

Little explains homelessness is a city-wide issue and many residents forget they are dealing with people who have rights.

"These people are human beings and they have rights. Homelessness is a complex issue and there is no quick fix. Using policing is not the solution. People end up on the streets for various reasons," she says.

While plans to establish a centre for homeless people in Table View earlier this year came to a grinding halt, Little says the City is still seeking an alternative.

The biggest issue, however, is getting people to go to a centre for help.

"There is a programme to establish a centre because we acknowledge the lack of facilities may be adding to the problem, but even then we cannot force people to go. We would also like to appeal to the community to ensure they give responsibly. Feeding people on the side of the road does not fix the problem," she concludes.

▶ What are your thoughts? Send your letter to briewe@tygerburger.co.za.

Volunteers needed to tackle wildfires

TAURIQ HASSEN

Everybody knows about the dangers of a runaway fire, but not everybody knows that the people putting their lives on the line combating these fires are volunteers.

Volunteer Wildfire Services (VWS) is a non-profit organisation which was formed to fight dangerous wildfires around the Western Cape, with all its members volunteering their time and efforts.

Gill Ritchie from the VWS organisational committee said they want more awareness around the VWS, to attract the interest of more youth and they hope their upcoming open day on Saturday November 26 would do the trick.

The VWS was formed in 1999, during the time of the large fires that swept across most of the Cape Peninsula, as a volunteer organisation dedicated to fighting wildfires within Table Mountain National Park (TMNP).

In 2009, they started to expand to assist Cape Nature through a station in Jonkershoek and have, in recent years, added a station in the South Peninsula and Grabouw allowing them to assist more partners and help more communities.

The VWS now has about 220 members at four stations, namely Newlands, Jonkershoek, South Peninsula and the newly developing Grabouw station.



■ With summer approaching more wildfires will require attention and the services of the Volunteer Wildfire Services (VWS) will become increasingly important. An open day is planned to attract more youth to the VWS.

The NPO is fully run and managed by the volunteers, having already assisted the Table Mountain National Park, Cape Nature, Overberg District Municipality and Winelands District Municipality with some of the wildest fires Cape Town and the province have ever experienced.

They work closely with other emergency service organisations in wild-land fire management, which means, that to date, the VWS has achieved over 56 000 active fire-fighting hours among its members and stations.

Their services include wildfire suppression services; suppression and management training; educa-

tion and awareness programmes as well as monitoring and active suppression during prescribed ecological burns.

"With the ongoing support of the community, VWS will continue its goal of saving and protecting South Africa's natural heritage, property, lives and precious mountain water catchment areas," Ms Ritchie said.

The Newlands station is the original and founding VWS station and it is a well-developed station with just over 100 members volunteering their time, making the station a very effective fire fighting unit. Ms Ritchie said the VWS shares its base with the SAN-

Parks fire management offices, as it is Table Mountain National Park which the Newlands crews assist in fighting wild fires.

However, Newlands crews do not only fight wildfires in the Cape Peninsula, but are often called upon to assist with fire-fighting efforts further afield in areas like the Boland, alongside the Jonkershoek crews, or even further in places such as the Cederberg.

"We are proud to say that the Newlands base is home to our ICS Planning section. One of the rooms in our base is solely used for planning as it is vital to the functioning of our fire-fighting efforts," said Ms Ritchie.

The Cape fires from the 2015 season is one of the most significant periods for the VWS as the effort put in by all members of the unit was monumental, not only those on the front lines facing the flames but all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

As a unit, they were pushed hard and in the end pulled together with the community at large to come out stronger while having put in the most annual operational hours in the VWS's history – recording over 11 000 hours of fire-fighting.

Each member of the VWS must complete a minimum amount of training to qualify each year, and must be evaluated at the end of the training season (during the winter months).

● The VWS open day on Saturday November 26, between 9am and 4pm, is a great family fun day with loads of activities for all kids.

There will be fire truck rides, abseiling, snake shows, food stalls and kids toys, fire-fighting exhibitors, best dressed fire-kid competition and a firefighting demonstration involving VWS members, fire trucks and the helicopters. The day ends off with a huge foam party.

The event takes place at the Newlands station in the Newlands Forest Fire Base, off the M3. Entry on the day is free, but there will be plenty on sale, all to help raise operational funding for the coming fire season.



PICTURE: SUMMER JACOBS

■ Nearly R30 million will be spent on rehabilitating the old wooden bridge, one of Milnerton's oldest landmarks.

Big bucks needed for historic bridge

Restoration to take two years

SUMMER JACOBS

Eighty percent of Milnerton's historic wooden bridge is unsalvageable, says the City of Cape Town, which now plans to rebuild the 115-year-old landmark at a cost of R30 million. The restoration project is expected to take two years and will see much of the bridge rebuilt with new timber.

Transport for Cape Cape (TCT) presented its plans for the bridge during a meeting at the Milnerton library on Thursday November 24. The City announced its intention to restore the landmark earlier this year ("Plans to repair historic wooden bridge," Tabletalk April

20 2016).

Mike Scurr, an architect and heritage consultant, said much of the decay in the timber was irreparable: the only solution was to dismantle the bridge and rebuild.

Other damage included holes in the bridge's asphalt surfacing, collapsed sidewalks and damaged splice members.

Mr Scurr said the TCT had considered the "do nothing option", letting nature take its course, but the bridge's provincial heritage-site status and the community's unhappiness about its growing

Continued on page 3



■ The wooden bridge was shut down in 2007 when it was deemed too dangerous to walk on.

‘We can’t expect the City to cater to all our needs’

From page 1

unsightliness had ruled that out.

Also ruled out was ongoing maintenance of the bridge: it’s too far gone for that.

“This approach is no longer practical from a technical perspective, as the problem has developed to be larger than maintenance, repair, piecing in new timbers and a general soft-touch approach can accommodate,” Mr Scurr said.

Retaining a fragment of the bridge as a remnant was also explored but rejected as it was an “unsatisfactory heritage response.”

This had left restoring and conserving the bridge as the only viable option.

“This option, as explored by the engineers and technical advisers, essentially dismantles the bridge salvages all reusable timber and rebuilds the bridge,” said Mr Scurr.

“The conservation argument is framed in terms of what is meant, in this instance, by authenticity. While authenticity of material is not achieved overall, authenticity can be shown to be retained in form and design, materials, substance, use and function, traditions, techniques, location and setting, spirit and feeling. A heritage argument can therefore be put forward for this option.

“This approach also allows for

considered detail modifications in terms of new technologies and for adapting the bridge to accommodate its 21st century function,” he said.

Over the next two years, the City will fork out just under R30 million on dismantling the bridge, removing splice members installed in 1994 and reassembling the bridge using balau wood along with the salvaged original jarrah.

A resident at the meeting said she did not think the City thought matters through as parking in the area was a problem and could only be made worse once the bridge was restored.

But another resident shot back saying tourists were using the MyCiTi services and residents should also, instead of driving around with only one person in a car.

“We can’t expect the City to cater to all our needs. We have to be part of the solution as well,” he said.

Mr Scurr said there was also a legal imperative to save the bridge and to give people access to more public amenities.

● Chairman of the Milnerton Central Ratepayers’ Association Peter Walsh said the association was now a member of the Western Seaboard Civic Alliance. Also, eight people had so far joined the new Milnerton Central Neighbourhood Watch, and he urged others to do as well.

Bridge project hanging

MONIQUE DUVAL

[@monique_duval](#)

Officials are eagerly awaiting approval from Heritage Western Cape for their plans to restore the historic wooden bridge in Milnerton.

This was revealed during a talk by City of Cape Town officials at the second joint community meeting for Milnerton Central. At this meeting held every quarter, various issues and projects like the restoration of the bridge, which is set to cost about R30 million, are discussed.

Earlier this year, the City hosted a public meeting on the matter where Mike Scurr of RennieScurrAdendorff Architects explained 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.

According to his presentation, in the period between 1942 and 1972 various repair works were undertaken and in 1984 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.

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

According to a representative of Bergstan South Africa Consulting and Development Engineers, the restoration plan will see the entire bridge be dismantled and rebuilt.

A major stumbling block, as identified by engineers, is the low percentage of usable



City officials are waiting for approval from Heritage Western Cape for their plans to dismantle and rebuild the historic wooden bridge in Milnerton. PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL

timber.

After assessment, it was found that about 20% of the current timber can be used to rebuild the bridge. For this reason, the engineers have proposed sourcing Balau timber for the reconstruction.

One resident enquired whether this could be sourced locally as opposed to have the timber shipped to South Africa, but engineers say there is no local entity that can provide the quantities needed for the

bridge.

In addition, engineers say a gabion wall underneath the bridge is proposed to ensure that vagrants do not take shelter under the bridge.

At this stage, they are waiting for approval from Heritage Western Cape before the City can proceed with the tender documents.

▶ What is your opinion on this project? Let us know at brlewe@tygerburger.co.za.



■ Rietvlei where the squacco heron was spotted, far left, and left, Karen Powell's picture of the bird, notching up her sightings to 400.

'Happy 400' on twitcher's list

ORIELLE BERRY

While dozens of birdwatchers celebrated the sighting of the squacco heron at Rietvlei last week, ("Unusual squacco heron sighted at Rietvlei," Tabletalk, October 26) twitcher Karen Powell marked a very special moment in her birding career.

Following the sighting of this rarely seen bird in the Western Cape, she posted on Facebook, "Today was a milestone in my birding hobby-life... drove the nightmare of early morning bumper-to-bumper traffic from the south to Operation Squacco."

"Upon my arrival in a quiet cul-de-sac, I meet Dana Hart Goldberg and Frieda Prinsloo and Jan Prinsloo... sigh of relief as they tell me they had just seen it fly over and settle in reeds.

"We go further along and investigate... something flies. I then exclaim Happy #400 out loud to

my three friends. Thank you to all who have helped me get this far... Today was a great day!"

Mrs Powell who lives in the Constantia area, told Tabletalk she started birding in 2009.

She ticked off the #400 when she saw the squacco heron just before her birthday last week.

"I was rather 'naive' when I started birding... in the sense that I really didn't realise the doors it would open and how many facets there are to the hobby...

"Twitching, listing, chasing, etc, I just wanted to look at birds. Well, I am captured by the bug and the fun that goes with it. The challenges, the humour, the friendships, the networking, camaraderie! The new places I go to; family camping trips always have birds in mind now. I am learning all the time, new sounds, new info, being exposed to birds I never knew existed."

She says her first twitch in Clovelly was a Little Crane and one of

the highlights of her twitching was on her home turf in Constantia in the same year when she spotted the Pels fishing owl.

"My Southern African 400 list is mainly Western Cape birds and the balance is from Kgalagadi, Kruger Park and Port Elizabeth

Her 399th bird was spotted last month when she says she drove to Wolseley to see the Knob Billed Duck "with my patient husband".

Steve Williams, a photographer and fellow birder who was one of the first to spot the squacco, said he had photographed it in Rietvlei opposite Dolphin Beach Hotel.

"This is a very rare sighting for the Western Cape," he said, adding that being in the right place at the right time and having "a ton of luck" always helped.

Mayoral committee member for energy, environmental and spatial planning, Johan van der Merwe, confirmed the squacco heron had been sighted at a section of Table



■ Karen Powell pictured on a pelagic tour this year.

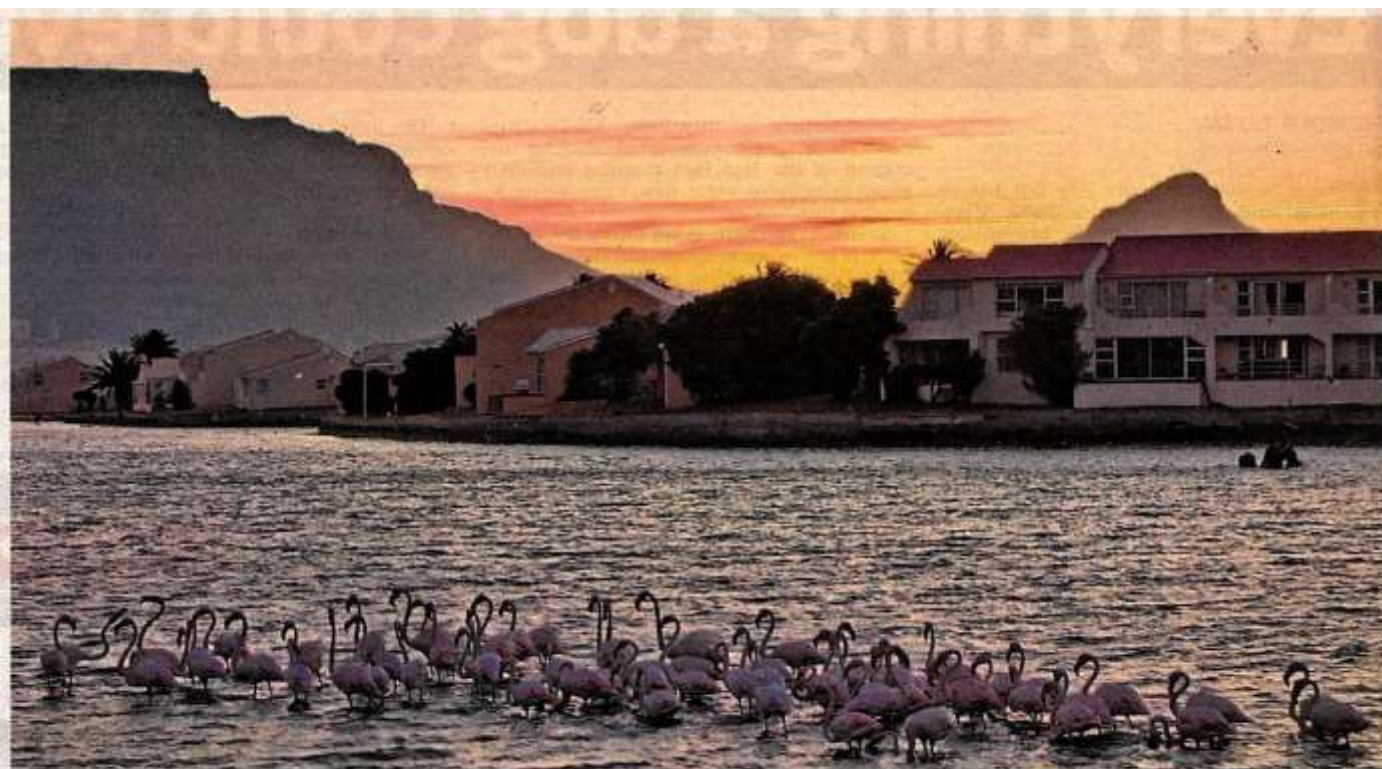
Bay Nature Reserve at the T-junction of Marine Drive and the R27.

The bird had been spotted in an area that had been the subject of an extensive bulrush-clearing programme.

"The water body is now a much more open habitat and is used by birds as a feeding and roosting area. Before the reeds were

cleared, the habitat was inaccessible for birds, and people could not see past the reeds," said Mr Van der Merwe.

"Birdwatchers love to tick off rare birds on their checklists because of the fact that they would otherwise have had to travel a great distance to see a bird of the same species."



Flaminke aan die rinkink: Flaminke geniet die koel water in Rietvlei teen sononder.

FOTO: JOHANNES KÖRING



■ Parklands resident Frieda Prinsloo captured something special on Sunday December 18 when she photographed this Grey Heron with a frog at Rietvlei.