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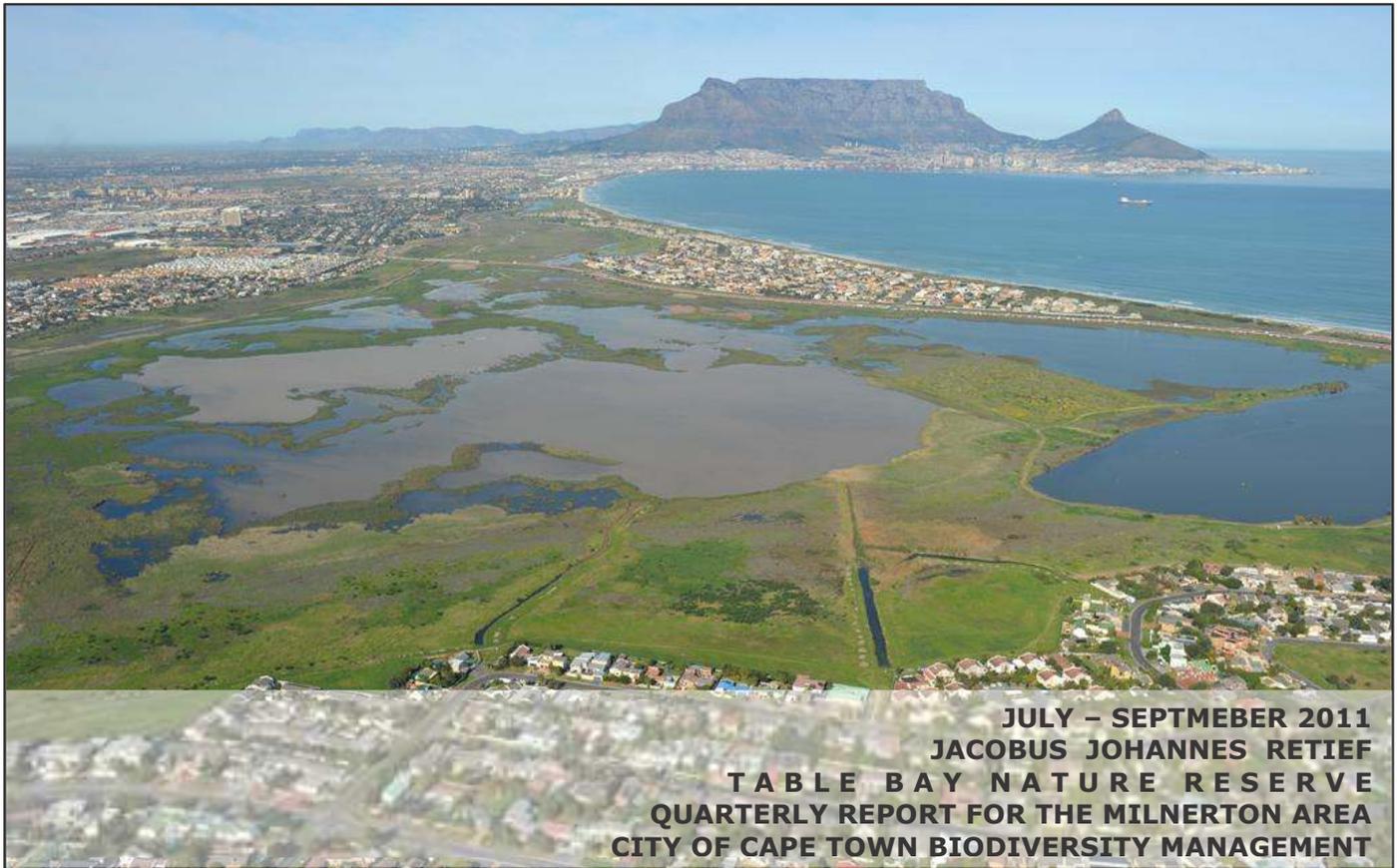
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JULY – SEPTMEBER 2011  
JACOBUS JOHANNES RETIEF  
TABLE BAY NATURE RESERVE  
QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE MILNERTON AREA  
CITY OF CAPE TOWN BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

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## 1 BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

- This is a **three month (quarter) report** and it will be covering all the activities for the period running from 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 within the Milnerton Area, one of the North District's management areas.
- **Protection status:** Full Council approved the process for proclamation applications for the nature reserves in the City. **Table Bay Nature Reserve** (TBNR) is part of the batch of reserves. The Branch has requested a conveyance attorney to undertake the transfer of the properties onto title deeds. This process is expected to take some time. Survey diagrams need to be completed for subdivided Erven, and a surveyor needs to be appointed for this work. The following items are still requirements in the proclamation process (see Table 1 below):

**Table 1. Outstanding requirements in proclamation process of TBNR.**

Site	Boundaries	Integrated Reserve Management Plan	Sensitivity analysis	Zonation plan	Conservation Development Framework (CDF)	Surveyor General Diagrams
<b>Table Bay Nature Reserve</b>	Completed.	Completed and submitted to Adele Pretorius.	Separate sections done, but needs to be combined by Arne Purves.	Separate sections done, but needs to be combined by Arne Purves.	None. Awaiting feedback from Adele Pretorius.	All SG diagrams to be obtained.

- The TBNR is covered by four sites on the **SA Biodiversity Database**. The statistics of the recorded species in these sites is given below (see Table 2). A future intention is to be able to draw a combined report for the species present in the TBNR, consisting of the sites names "Rietvlei Wetland Reserve," "Zoarvlei," "Milnerton Racecourse," and "Diep River." It was also suggested to include a new site for the "Potsdam Waste Water Treatment Works" and to include this into the combined report of the TBNR.

**Table 2. Biodiversity Database statistics for TBNR (updated 2011/10/5)**

CLASS	Rietvlei Wetlands	Diep River & Fynbos Corridor	Milnerton Racecourse	Zoarvlei
Plants	Up 25 to <b>108</b>	Up 3 to <b>3</b>	Unchanged at <b>157</b>	Unchanged at <b>1</b>
Mammals	Up 3 to <b>14</b>	Down 19 to <b>4</b>	Up 1 to <b>14</b>	Up 1 to <b>4</b>
Pisces (Fish)	Unchanged at <b>9</b>	Unchanged at <b>0</b>	Unchanged at <b>0</b>	Unchanged at <b>2</b>
Birds (Aves)	Up 3 to <b>121</b>	Unchanged at <b>49</b>	Up 4 to <b>94</b>	Unchanged at <b>3</b>
Reptilia	Up 1 at <b>14</b>	Unchanged at <b>2</b>	Up 1 to <b>8</b>	Up 1 to <b>2</b>
Amphibia	Unchanged at <b>5</b>	Unchanged at <b>1</b>	Up 1 to <b>4</b>	Unchanged at <b>1</b>
Insecta (Insects)	Unchanged at <b>2</b>	Unchanged at <b>0</b>	Unchanged at <b>14</b>	Unchanged at <b>0</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>13</b>

- **Protected Areas Reviews** were conducted for all sites in the North Region on 2011/07/12. Table Bay Nature Reserve was one of the sites covered by the reviews and a marked improvement in the final score was noted. All final scores are subject to moderation and these results are still awaited.
- Some noteworthy sightings recorded in the TBNR this quarter include:
  - **Diep River:** *Mellivora capensis* (Honey Badger).

- **Rietvlei wetlands:** *Arctocephalus pusillus* (Cape Fur Seal); *Psammophylax rhombeatus* (Rhombic Skaapsteker); *Lithognathus lithognathus* (White steenbras); *Lachenalia pallida*; *Haliaeetus vocifer* (African Fish-Eagle); *Circus ranivorus* (African Marsh-Harrier); *Felis silvestris catus* (Domestic cat); *Canis lupus familiaris* (Domestic dog); *Atilax paludinosus* (Water Mongoose); *Anas platyrhynchos* (Mallard); *Aonyx capensis* (Cape Clawless Otter); *Tyto alba* (Barn Owl); *Raphicerus melanotis* (Cape Grysbok); *Raphicerus campestris* (Steenbok); *Bubo africanus* (Spotted Eagle-Owl); *Lepus capensis* (Cape Hare); and *Strongylopus grayii grayii* (Clicking Stream Frog).
- **Milnerton Racecourse:** *Lepus capensis* (Cape Hare); *Amietia fuscigula* (Cape River Frog); *Strongylopus grayii* (Clicking Stream Frog); *Tomopterna delalandii* (Cape Sand Frog); *Bradypodion pumilum* (Cape Dwarf Chameleon); *Myosorex varius* (Forest Shrew); *Lycodonomorphus rufulus* (Common Brown Water Snake); *Anas platyrhynchos* (Mallard); *Atilax paludinosus* (Water Mongoose); and *Raphicerus melanotis* (Cape Grysbok).
- Figures 1-4 indicates some interesting sightings this quarter, including three recent **road kill sightings** in the North Region.



**Figure 1.** Cape Dwarf Chameleon at Milnerton Racecourse.



**Figure 2.** Caracal road kill on R27 at the Blouberg NR.



**Figure 3.** Large Spotted Genet remains from a road kill on R27 at the Rietvlei wetlands.



**Figure 4.** Grysbok road kill on R27 at the Rietvlei wetlands.

- See Table 3 for a list of **Red List species** at the TBNR.

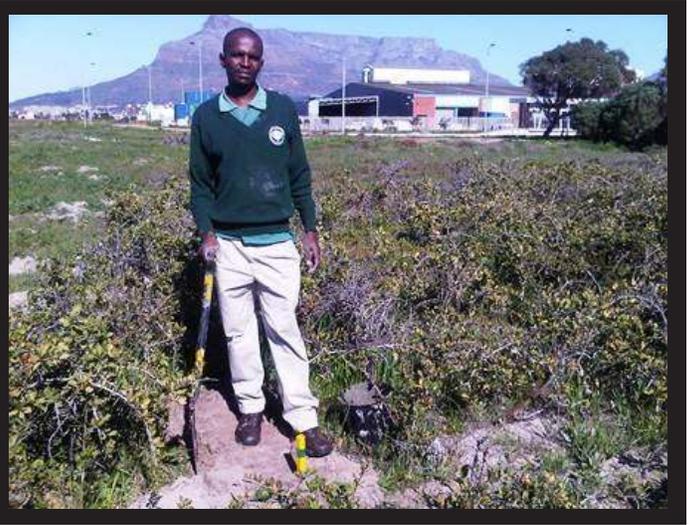
**Table 3. Red List species of the TBNR.**

Scientific name	Common name	Sighting date	IUCN Conservation Category
<i>Myosorex varius</i>	Forest Shrew	15/10/2007	Data Deficient (DDD)
<i>Amietophrynus pantherinus</i>	Western Leopard Toad	30/08/2008	Endangered (EN)
<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>	Porcupine	15/04/2009	Least Concern (LC)
<i>Aonyx capensis</i>	Cape Clawless Otter	2011/04/01	Least Concern (LC)
<i>Galerella pulverulenta</i>	Small Grey Mongoose	21/08/2010	Least Concern (LC)
<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>	Large Grey Mongoose	30/10/2007	Least Concern (LC)
<i>Mus minutoides</i>	Pygmy Mouse	2010/07/06	Least Concern (LC)
<i>Felis caracal</i>	Caracal	23/10/2010	Least Concern (LC)
<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	Steenbok	2005/08/03	Least Concern (LC)
<i>Raphicerus melanotis</i>	Cape Grysbok	17/11/2010	Least Concern (LC)
<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	Honey Badger	5/08/2011	Near Threatened (NT)
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Great White Pelican	2011/04/01	Near Threatened (NT)
<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>	Maccoa Duck	15/01/2010	Near Threatened (NT)
<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	Greater Painted-snipe	19/12/2003	Near Threatened (NT)
<i>Haematopus moquini</i>	African Black Oystercatcher	2011/04/01	Near Threatened (NT)
<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Caspian Tern	15/01/2010	Near Threatened (NT)
<i>Sterna balaenarum</i>	Damara Tern	20/01/2006	Near Threatened (NT)
<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>	Crowned Cormorant	19/01/2007	Near Threatened (NT)
<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	Cape Cormorant	2011/04/01	Near Threatened (NT)
<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	Greater Flamingo	15/01/2010	Near Threatened (NT)
<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>	Lesser Flamingo	27/10/2006	Near Threatened (NT)
<i>Circus ranivorus</i>	African Marsh-Harrier	19/10/2007	Vulnerable (VU)
<i>Anthropoides paradiseus</i>	Blue Crane	2002/11/02	Vulnerable (VU)

## 2 CONSERVATION

### 2.1 Flora Management

- Fixed-point photographic monitoring pegs were inserted at nine sites in the TBNR. See figures 5-6.



**Figure 5** opposite is a map indicating the location of nine fixed-point photographic monitoring sites in the TBNR.

**Figure 6** above indicates how a fixed-point photographic monitoring peg is inserted into the ground.

A portable photography stand, with a level-adjustable head, is used at each peg to take pictures. Four pictures are taken at each point, one in each cardinal compass direction.

- The **Friends of Tygerberg Hills' Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers** (CREW) conducted plants surveys at Milnerton Racecourse on 2011/08/26, at the Rietvlei coastal section on 2011/09/19, and the Rietvlei wetlands section on 2011/09/21. Results from these surveys have been received and will be uploaded onto the Biodiversity Database. Figures 7 and 8 indicate two plant species that occur at Rietvlei.



**Figure 7.** *Ferraria crispera* at the Rietvlei coastal section.



**Figure 8.** *Leucadendron levisanus* at the Rietvlei bird hide block.

### 2.1.1 Invasive Species Management

- Council approved **ward allocations** totalling R129,000 for the 2011/2012 financial year in the Milnerton Area. These are two alien clearing projects, one at Rietvlei to the value of R99,000 and one in the Diep River & Fynbos Corridor to the value of R30,000. The projects were created on SAP and their project numbers are N12.00121 and N12.00122. An amount of R82,638.47 has been awarded so far in an order to clear sections of the Diep River. The contractor is working for the North Region on a tender.
- The **TBNR Team's alien clearing work** was primarily concentrated on follow-up clearing of the Table View boundary, hand-pulling of Port Jackson seedlings from the burnt part of the Table View boundary, hand pulling of various palm trees throughout TBNR, herbicide spraying of pampas grass and kikuyu grass, and hand-pulling of various emergent weeds.



**Figure 9.** Hand-pulling of Port Jackson seedlings



**Figure 10.** Hand-pulling of emergent weeds.



**Figure 11.** Hand-pulling of palm trees.



**Figure 12.** Cutting of woody alien plants.

- Figures 13-19 below indicate some of the **emergent weed species** that the TBNR team were removing from the nature reserve this quarter. Spring is the season that these weeds emerge and therefore they are targeted during September.



**Figure 13.** *Echium plantagineum* (Patterson's Curse)



**Figure 14.** *Argemone mexicana* (Mexican poppies)



**Figure 15.** *Lavatera arborea* (Tree Mallow)



**Figure 16.** *Rapistrum rugosum* (Wild mustard)



**Figure 17.** *Vicia benghalensis* (reddish tufted vetch)



**Figure 18.** *Lupinus luteus* (Lupins)



**Figure 19.** *Euphorbia helioscopia* (Umbrella milkweed)

## 2.2 Fauna Management

### 2.2.1 Monitoring of Wildlife: Game counts and sightings

- A **Coordinated Waterbird Count (CWAC)** was conducted at TBNR on 2011/07/15. See table 4 below.

**Table 4. CWAC data for TBNR (2011/07/15).**

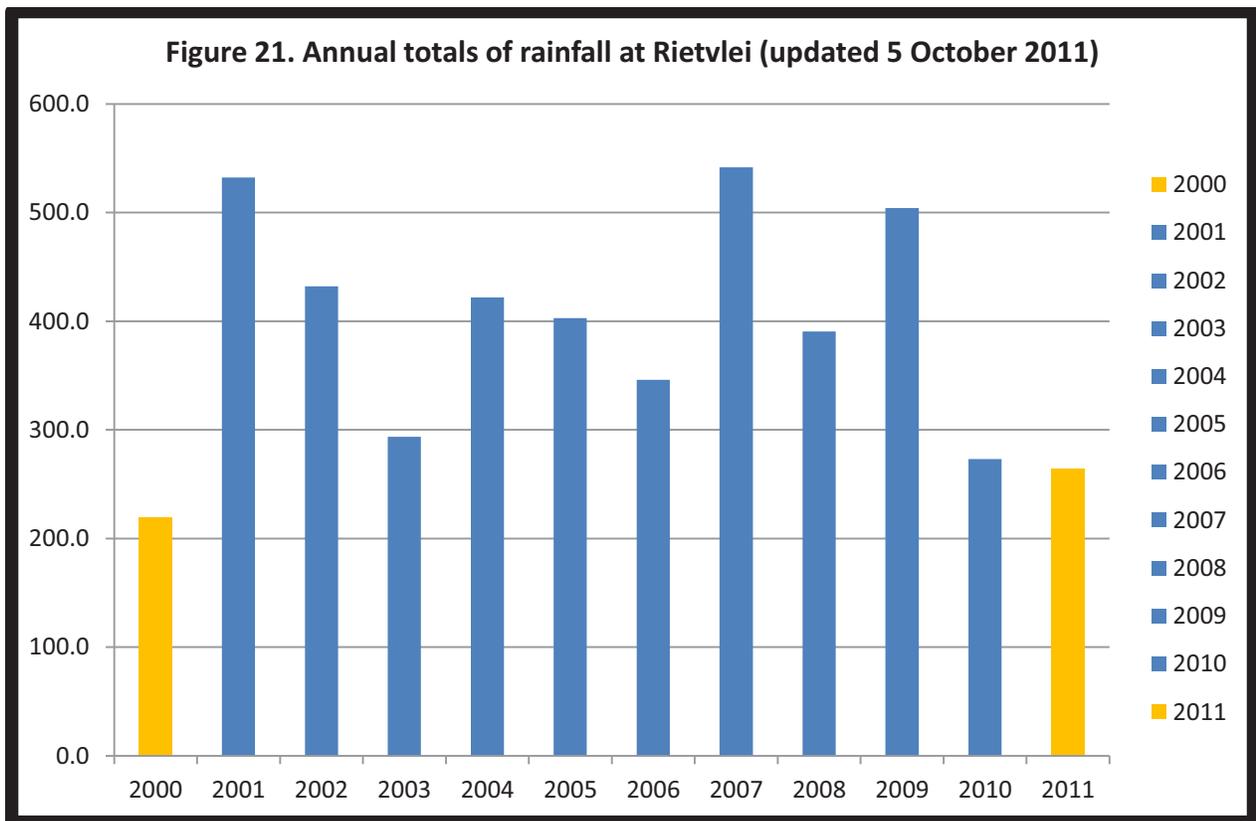
Bird\site	TOTAL	Diep River	North Vlei	South Vlei	Central Pan	Dolphin Beach	Miln. Channel	Lagoon North	Lagoon South	Zoar North	Zoar South
Greatcrested Grebe	10		6	4							
Dabchick	9					7					2
White Pelican	20	1		15	4						
WB Cormorant	29		9	15	2			3			
Cape cormorant	7		2		5						
Rd Cormorant	55	2	15	13	3	1	2	14	5		
Cr Cormorant	2				2						
Darter	31	2	6	4	8	2		9			
Grey Heron	10		1	1	1	2	2			1	2
BH Heron	5		1				1	3			
Purple heron	4	1		1			1	1			
Little Egret	12	1			1			8	2		
YB Egret	3	1					1	1			
Cattle egret	1							1			
Sacred Ibis	14	1		3				10			
Glossy ibis	3				1			2			
Hadeda Ibis	3		1		2						
Afr spoonbill	27	1		2		24					
Lss flamingoes	50				50						
Egyptian Goose	259	2	23	29	154	2	11	38			
YB Duck	66	19	7	8	4	8	16	2			2
Redbilled teal	39	23					16				
Cape shoveller	48	15	8	2	6	3	3	9			2
Moorhen	29	10				17	2				
RK Coot	106	21	5	22	17	35		1			5
Oystercatcher	2							2			
BS Plover	37	2	7	3	9	2	5	9			
BW Stilt	24						20	4			
Water thicknee	5							5			
Kelp Gull	231		153		5	4		2	67		
Hartlaub's Gull	288		32		1	86	6	109	54		
Common tern	1				1						
Pied Kingfisher	5							3	2		
Cape Wagtail	32		6	3	11	1		3	2	1	5
Mallards	2							2			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,469</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Additional Records</b>											
Domestic cat							1				
Domestic dog								1			
Un-ID crab									1		
Cape sparrow					4						
PT whydah					1						
Water mongoose					1						
European starling			6		13						
Levaillant's cisticola			4	6	2						
Karoo prinia			1	2	5						
Cape spurfowl			20								
Cape weaver			5	2							
BS Kite			3								
Common waxbill			11								
Guineafowl				9							
Pied crow			1								
Recreational prawn pumpers									5		

### 3 WATER MANAGEMENT

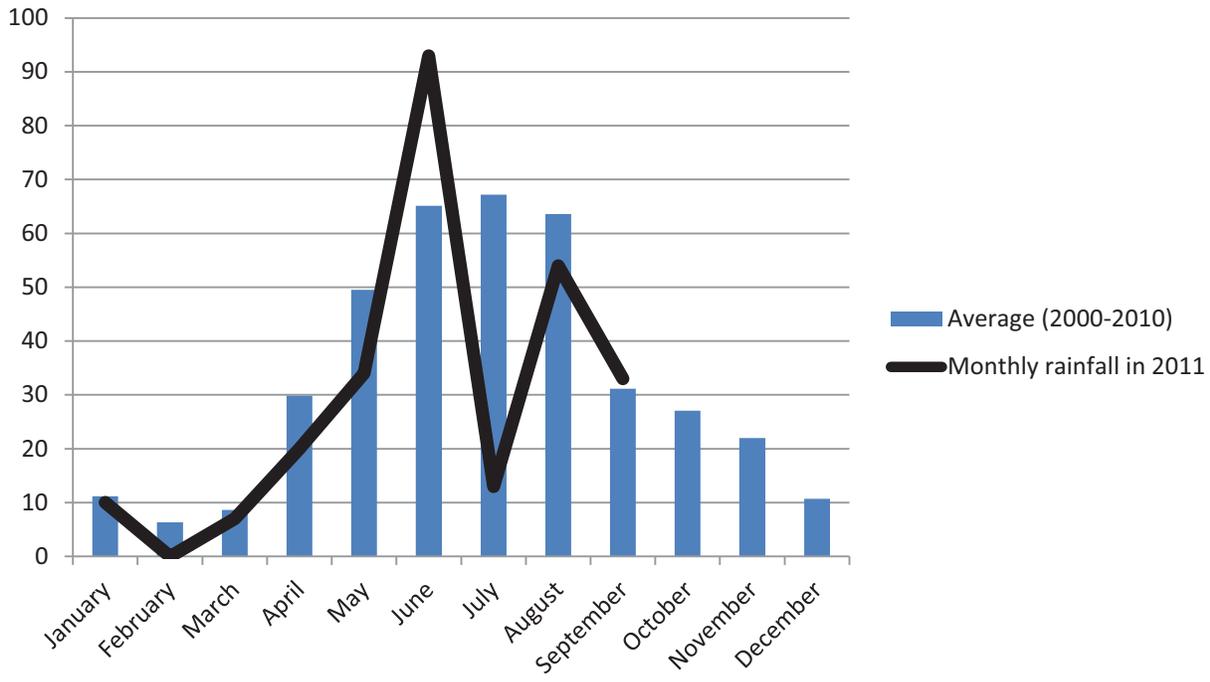
- **Water quality monitoring** was done at 15 points in the TBNR on 2011/07/26, 2011/08/30, and 2011/09/27.
- **Rainfall at Rietvlei** increased during the previous quarter, but it was not sustained in this quarter. Only 264mm had fallen at Rietvlei so far in the last nine months, as opposed to the 332mm on average in previous years up to now. See figures 20-24 for graphic representations of the rainfall data.

RAINFALL DATA:	Updated on 2011/10/05												
	Ave	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	11.173		16.0	57.9	3.5	8.0	16.0	1.0	1.5	4.0	4.00	1.00	10.00
February	6.3091		2.0	10.0	6.0	0.9	4.0	7.0	19.5	6.0	9.00	5.00	0.00
March	8.6182		0.0	10.1	32.2	7.0	14.5	4.0	15.0	4.0	0.00	1.00	7.00
April	29.825	5.0	18.9	29.9	10.9	79.5	69.5	27.2	45.5	10.0	32.50	9.00	20.00
May	49.533	26.1	48.7	38.6	22.2	2.3	54.1	104.0	42.5	44.0	94.00	84.00	34.00
June	65.096	51.6	36.4	62.8	13.1	66.8	83.3	25.5	127.7	67.0	83.00	71.00	93.00
July	67.213	46.1	175.7	69.5	27.3	65.8	38.0	64.2	96.0	116.0	57.00	38.00	13.00
August	63.579	24.3	108.7	66.9	81.1	45.5	74.0	45.0	86.0	68.5	79.00	30.00	54.00
September	31.154	49.3	61.5	19.5	53.8	17.8	30.0	12.0	34.0	4.0	47.00	12.00	33.00
October	27.068	5.3	31.2	33.7	25.3	119.0	9.8	20.5	22.0	2.0	29.00	0.00	
November	21.964	8.8	22.5	13.2	2.8	3.0	9.8	31.0	30.0	46.0	62.50	12.00	
December	10.691	2.5	10.5	20.1	15.5	6.5	0.0	4.5	22.0	19.0	7.00	10.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>219.0</b>	<b>532.1</b>	<b>432.2</b>	<b>293.7</b>	<b>421.9</b>	<b>402.9</b>	<b>345.9</b>	<b>541.7</b>	<b>390.5</b>	<b>504.0</b>	<b>273.0</b>	<b>264.0</b>

NB: Open Spaces = No DATA (RED) indicates insufficient DATA



**Figure 22. Monthly rainfall in 2011 vs averages per month at Rietvlei  
(updated 5 October 2011)**



**Figure 23. RIETVLEI RAINFALL TOTALS (2000-2011)  
Black line represents this years rainfall - Updated: 5 October 2011**

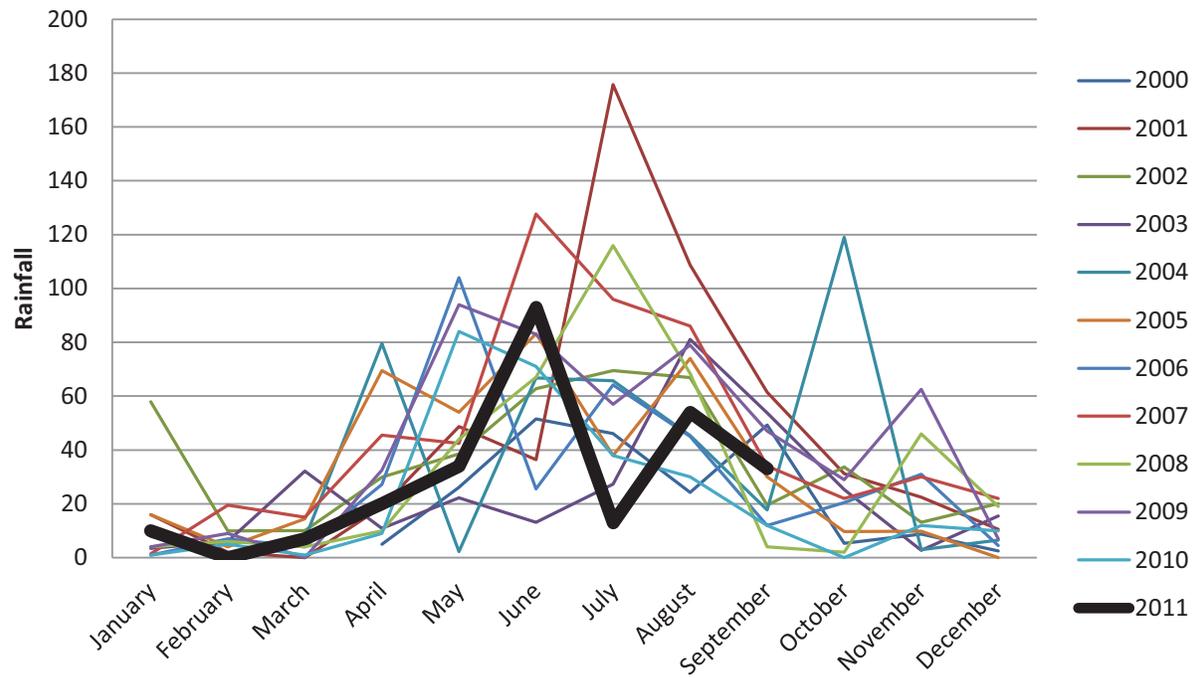
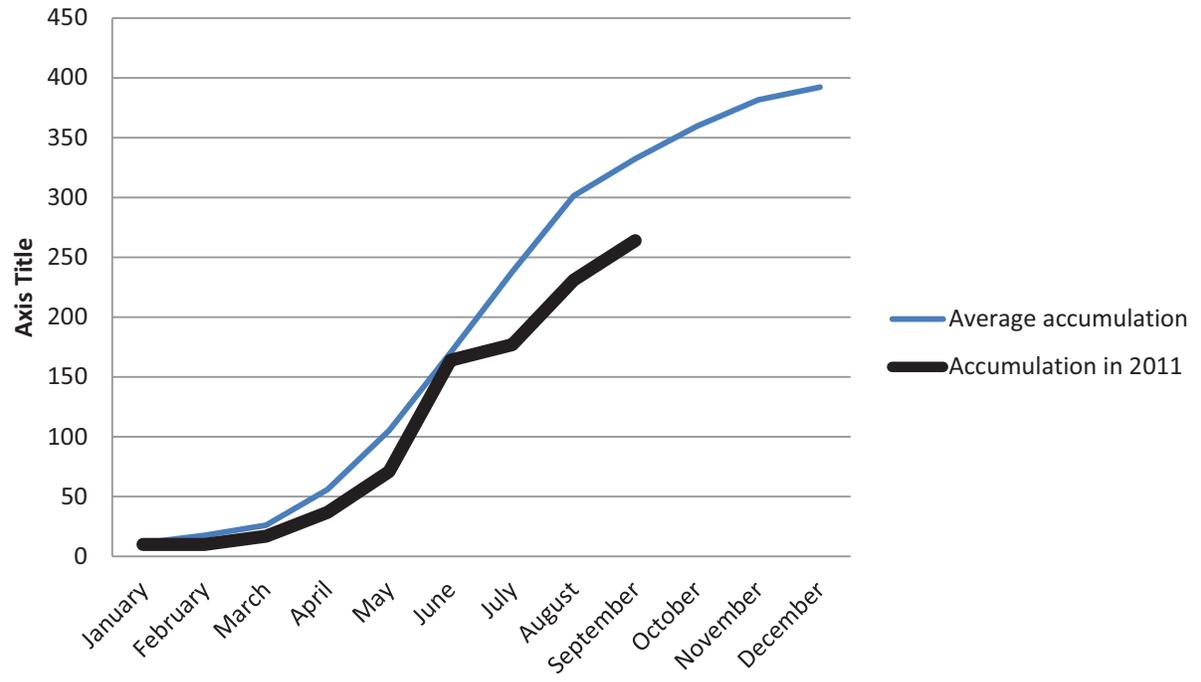


Figure 24. Rainfall accumulation in 2011 vs overall average  
(Updated: 5 October 2011)

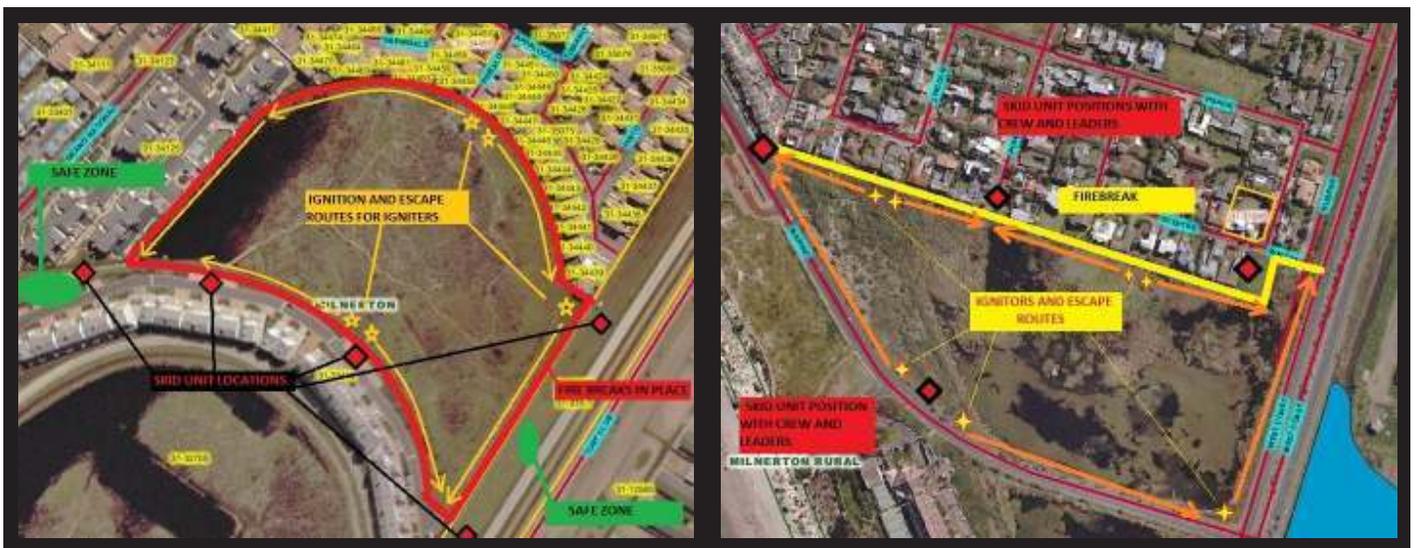


#### 4 FIRE MANAGEMENT

- TBNR staff continued assisting Simone Greveling with preparing the **Milnerton Racecourse** section's burn block 2 for a prescribed burn in 2012. This entailed the removal of alien vegetation, cutting firebreaks, inserting kikuyu barriers, spraying herbicide, and planting sourfigs (see figures 17-18). Subcouncil 1 approved the burn permit application for this section at their meeting on 2011/09/22.



**Figures 25-29.** Various stages of site preparation for the planned controlled burn at Milnerton Racecourse small northern section in 2012.



**Figures 29a&b.** Prescribed burn plans for Milnerton Racecourse and Wave's Edge.

## 5 PEOPLE AND CONSERVATION

### 5.1 Stakeholder Engagement (external meetings)

**Table 5. Records of external stakeholder meetings relating to the TBNR.**

Area	Date	Meeting/Workshop	Purpose
TBNR	2011/07/01	Zoarvlei Management Advisory Committee	Feedback
	2011/07/14	Rietvlei office construction project meeting	Planning
	2011/07/19	Rietvlei Management Working Group	Feedback
	2011/07/22	Zoarvlei bulrush management sub-committee	Planning
	2011/08/08	Zoarvlei gum tree management site meeting	Planning
	2011/08/10	Milnerton Aquatic Club management committee meeting	Feedback
	2011/08/11	Rietvlei office construction project meeting	Planning
	2011/08/19	Zoarvlei Management Advisory Committee	Feedback
	2011/08/23	National off-road vehicle strategy workshop, Eerstesteent	Feedback
	2011/08/26	Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee	Feedback
	2011/09/08	Rietvlei office construction project meeting	Planning
	2011/09/15	Zoarvlei bulrush management sub-committee	Planning
	2011/09/19	Diep River water quality study feedback	Feedback
	2011/09/20	Rietvlei Management Working Group	Feedback
	2011/09/21	Taiwan Exchange site visit to TBNR	Workshop
	2011/09/22	Subcouncil 1 meeting: Presentation by Bongani Mnisi and Milnerton Racecourse burn permit application on the agenda	Feedback
	2011/09/23	Milnerton Racecourse committee site meeting	Planning
	2011/09/27	SANCCOB volunteers' collaboration meeting	Planning



**Figures 30 and 31.** Christopher Singo and Chanelle Naidoo hosted community leaders from Du Noon for a site inspection at the Diep River and Rietvlei wetlands.

**Table 6.** Education Centre usage and benefits to people in person days.

Date	Activity	Person days
2011/07/11-15	Rietvlei Holiday program, day 1-5.	63
2011/07/11	Members from Blaauwberg Scouts came to do community service on the reserve.	7
2011/07/12	Members from Blaauwberg Scouts came to do community service on the reserve.	7
2011/07/18	Rietvlei Management Working Group meeting.	15
2011/08/05	Big Fish Film School Group visit. Students working on a project to create awareness around the beauty and importance of wetlands.	4
2011/08/08	Volunteer shadowed intern for the day. Visitors to the centre and the bird hides for EE.	4
2011/08/15	Table View High School visit for EE / Hack.	25
2011/08/20	Table View High School Diep River Hack 09:00 – 14:00.	15
2011/08/25	Hosted Diep River Community leaders for site visit to TBNR.	15
2011/09/09	Economics Department visit to EE Centre.	25
2011/09/13-16	Volunteer.	4
2011/09/18	Flower walk with learners and educators.	12
2011/09/19	Volunteers, pulling weeds.	3
2011/09/20	Rietvlei Management Working Group meeting.	15
2011/09/21	Volunteers with weed pulling.	4
2011/09/23	Students to Diep River for Soil erosion inspection. 3 Students for Information on Rietvlei. Supervised volunteers. CPUT students for assistance with project.	13
2011/09/28	Volunteers – plant translocation.	5
2011/09/29	Rietvlei Staff meeting.	12
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>235</b>

- Koos Retief and Bongani Mnisi attended the **SANCCOB AGM** on 2011/08/22.
- The City of Cape Town hosted an **exchange programme with Taiwan** and received two delegates from their national parks service. The two delegates visited the TBNR on 2011/09/21. The sites that were inspected included the Rietvlei Education Centre, the central pans, bird hide block, deep water lakes, Milnerton Racecourse, the Potsdam WWTW, the Diep River and Fynbos Corridor, the Milnerton Lagoon, and the SANCCOB bird rehabilitation station. See figures 41-43 below.
- The **local media** reported on various matters at the TBNR during this quarter. Articles this included "*Tube worm colonies growing in Milnerton Lagoon,*" "*Satellite tracking keeps tabs on penguins*" and "*Ocean's health clues*" (from the SANCCOB bird rehabilitation station based at Rietvlei), "*Nature reserve boasts 'Little Five'*" (from Milnerton Racecourse), "Residents benefit from rich nature reserve" (regarding Du Noon and the Diep River), and "*No fishy tales here*" (regarding fishing at Rietvlei). See figures 32 to 37 below.



■ The old wooden bridge at Milnerton Lagoon



■ Tube worm colonies under the bridge

Photos: Colin Brown

## Tube worm colonies growing in Milnerton Lagoon

### City of Cape Town to assess whether they are to stay or go

KAREN PRETORIUS

The City of Cape Town says it will assess the growth of tube worm colonies at the Milnerton Lagoon and make a decision on whether they should be removed.

The estuarine tube worm, (*Ficopomatus enigmaticus*), grows in estuaries on rocks, concrete, wood, and hard surfaces such as pilings, the side of floating docks and boat hulls, according to online sources.

The tube worm colonies have been spotted in the shallow water at the dilapidated wooden bridge at

Milnerton Lagoon.

According to information presented to the Friends of the Rietvlei reserve last month, serious studies have not been done on the ecological effects of the tube worm, but "there are suggestions that it competes for available food resources with filter feeders if the colonies become extensive".

But the report states that the colonies can be a problem when they block discharge or intake pipes.

"However, it has been suggested that large populations of *Ficopomatus enigmaticus* may remove suspended particulate matter, reduce excess

nutrients loads and improve oxygen levels in boat basins or enclosed waters with poor water quality," according to the presentation.

The tube worm was first noticed in Cape Town in 1951, and lives mostly in estuaries in the Cape Peninsula and along the south coast, according to online sources.

Pat Titmuss, The City's Regional Manager: Environmental and Heritage Management, said that together with the department of Environmental Affairs, they will assess the extent of the growth and decide whether there is a need to manually remove any of the tube worm colonies. The tube worm colonies are easy to control, as they can be removed mechanically or manually, according to the information given to the Friends of Rietvlei.

Figure 32. "Tube worm colonies growing in Milnerton Lagoon" in the Tabletalk

# Satellite tracking keeps tabs on penguins

STAFF REPORTER

A penguin called Lucy is sending important information back to researchers about her movements through a satellite tracker.

Lucy was the first juvenile African Penguin to be fitted with a satellite transmitter and deployed by SANCCOB (Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) on Sunday June 26.

Lucy's deployment is one of five planned for the coming months in a scheme, under the auspices of the Chick Bolstering Project (CBP), involving Sanccob, the Oceans and Coasts Branch of the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Animal Demography Unit (ADU) at the University of Cape Town.

Margaret Roestoff from Sanccob said it was designed to investigate the behaviour of juvenile birds and to answer questions about the pressures that they face during early life.

The aim is to use chicks abandoned by their parents and hand-reared to create new colonies close to areas where they easy prey. The trans-

**Have your say**  
SMS TALK with your message, name and area you live in to 30003 (3260)  
SMSes charged at R1 each

mitter is expected to relay the bird's position for about six months and regular updates will be posted on a website.

Sanccob veterinarian Dr Nola Parsons, who coordinates the project selected the first chick for deployment.

She said Lucy, was hatched from penguins of wild origin and met all the standard criteria for release. Lucy was 3.2 kg when she was released – well above the weight at which most birds fledge in the wild, which was usually 2.2 to 2.8 kg.

"It is wonderful to release this bird which has the potential to give us so much more valuable information about movements of African penguin fledglings. This work is essential in improving the way in which we manage this species."

The device is attached to the bird's back by a combination of a special tape and glue.

Dr Richard Sherley from the ADU



at UCT, who is heading the research component of the project, said that once the tape and glue wears off, the device would simply drop off.

"Hopefully, by that time we will have learnt some vital lessons about what these young birds do at sea. At worst case scenario, the device will drop off when the bird molts at

around 18 months after deployment, but based on studies with these devices in the past, we don't expect the attachment method to last that long."

Dr Sherley said Lucy had been at sea for nine nights up to Tuesday July 5, when they got the last fix.

"By the end of her first night at

■ Attaching the satellite transmitter to Lucy the penguin, is from left, Bruce Dyer from Oceans and Coasts, Katta Ludymia from the Animal Demographic Unit and Nicky Stander from Sanccob.

Photo: Richard Sherley

sea, Lucy was already about 40 km offshore, just west of Robben Island in Table Bay and has since been more than 70 km out to sea, moving across an area of water over 200 metres deep".

Lucy has moved about 430 km since being released and her last known position in the early hours of the morning of July 5, including a northward movement of 130 km in 48 hours.

"Flipper-banded juveniles from colonies in the Western Cape have been recorded moving in both an anti-clockwise direction towards the Eastern Cape and a clockwise direction towards Namibia and these juveniles have been seen at breeding colonies in Namibia, so she could be heading that way," said Dr Sherley.

Figure 33. "Satellite tracking keeps tabs on penguins" in the Tabletalk

# Nature reserve boasts 'Little Five'

They might not be quite as imposing in stature as the traditional big five, but the Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve (MRNR) has its own impressive big five.

The five animals referred to are the Cape Dwarf Chameleon, Water Mongoose, Black-Headed Heron,

Cape Grysbok and the Angulate Tortoise.

Visitors who have a walk through the northern area situated at the third circle along Grande National Boulevard can experience a real hidden gem of Milnerton.

Some interesting facts about these stars of the 19.4 hectare reserve are quite fascinating.

The tongue of the Cape Dwarf Chameleon (*Bradypodion punctatum*) is one and a half times its body length.

It also does not possess any taste buds – which could explain how they can stand eating flies.

This chameleon also changes colour according to external factors such as temperature, danger and emotions.

The reptile is virtually deaf and therefore detects food and enemies through vibrations.

The Water Mongoose (*Atilax paludinosus*) has an adapted thumb on its front paws for extra grip.

Its paws have sensitive padding which allows it to detect prey in the mud.

The wily mongoose can also lure birds closer by lying on its back to display its pink stomach.

The Water Mongoose opens fresh water mussels by using its front feet to throw them backwards through its back legs against rocks.

The graceful Black-Headed Heron (*Ardea melanocephala*) is known for performing acrobatic

figures when it flies down for landing.

Young Black Herons mature faster than other species of heron and therefore prey upon chicks of other species but also scavenge sometimes.

They are also excellent in performing the art of miming as they wait for prey completely motionless.

Equally quiet is the Cape Grysbok (*Raphicerus melanotis*). This small, nocturnal and a solitary buck is only found at the southern tip of Africa.

Its name meaning Grey Buck was given by the Dutch settlers.

The Cape Grysbok is water independent as it attains water from the plants it eats.

After weaning (two months age) the ewe drives the lamb away by biting its ears.

Not quite as agile is the Angulate Tortoise (*Chersina angulata*).

They are named so because of the angular pattern on the shell.

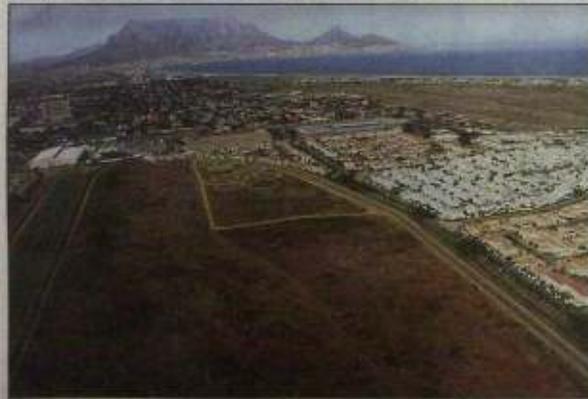
The female of this species only lays a single egg. These tortoises live for longer than 30 years and are one of South Africa's hardest species.

They drink by sucking up water through their nostrils.

According to a City brochure the reserve also has the "largest



The Cape Dwarf Chameleon is one of the interesting inhabitants of the Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve.



An aerial view of the Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve.

number of succulents per unit area for any remnant of a similar size on the Cape Flats or the Cape Peninsula".

The reserve is open to the public; no entrance fee is charged. Activities include a 20-minute walking trail in the northern area and bird-watching. Environmental education sessions can be arranged by phoning 021 550 1086.

Visit [www.royalsocot.co.za](http://www.royalsocot.co.za) or email [milnertonracecourse.naturereserve@capetown.gov.za](mailto:milnertonracecourse.naturereserve@capetown.gov.za).

Figure 34. "Nature reserve boasts 'Little Five'" in the TygerBurger.



**NO FISHY TALES HERE**

Two learners of Elkanah House Jordan Bartholomew (above) and Joshua Emslie (below) were selected to fish for Western Province at the national championships in December. Each year anglers are selected from the Junior regional championships to compete in the South African Freshwater Bank Angling Federation (SAFBAF) competition. From this competition anglers are selected for a number of teams of which one of them is the SAFBAF Invitational team. This team will be competing against other SAFBAF teams and other African teams in October. Following the 2010 nationals, Bartholomew was selected for the 2011 SAFBAF invitational team.

Figure 35. "No fishy tales here" in TygerBurger.

**Ocean's health clues**

Penguins are the biological indicators of the ocean, says Weston Barwise, educational officer of the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANNCOB).

Barwise spoke at a meeting of the Bellville Rotary Club recently and took some penguins with on his visit.

He told guests about the rehabilitation process of penguins.

One of Barwise's tasks as an educational officer is to make the public aware of the importance of marine birds. "They are the biological indicators of the state of the

ocean. If there is something wrong with the food chain, it will kill them," Weston said.

He talked about penguins that fall victim to oil spills, saying they are only washed after the third day. "First we put clay on them to extract as much oil off them as possible," he said.

After that they are cleansed with soapy water.

Apart from two penguins, Weston also introduced guests to a cormorant and a gannet.

Weston Barwise with one of the penguins at SANNCOB.



Figure 36. "Ocean's health clues" in the TygerBurger.

# Residents benefit from 'rich' nature reserve

FOR YEARS, the residents of informal settlements hunted animals and harvested plants on nearby land.

This year, they were amazed to learn the area is a protected nature reserve.

In the 880ha Diep River Nature Reserve you find endangered Cape Flats sand fynbos, Cape lowland freshwater wetlands and all sorts of animals.

The reserve is in walking distance of the Du Noon and Doornbach informal settlements.

At the end of August, council officials took 15 Doornbach and Du Noon community leaders on a tour of the reserve.

Doornbach community leader Pumla Sopaxa (29), said they never knew it was a nature reserve.

"We used to ignore the flowers and cut down the trees," she said.

ANC ward councillor Lubabalo Makeleni said the community now understood the importance of nature reserves and why they should not be invaded.

He said residents were working with the council to look after the area. Residents could get work clearing alien vegetation. "It's going to benefit our community in many ways," said Lubabalo.

Du Noon's Inkwenkwezi Secondary School principal Tembuxolo Kutu said educational visits to the reserve would help in teaching subjects such as life sciences.

Ossie Asmal, director of the council's environmental resource management department, said the city was working with leaders in Du Noon.

He said many residents walked through the reserve on their way to work, destroying plants. They also caught buck like grysbok.

He said instead of prosecuting people, the city decided to look into "educational, recreational and livelihood opportunities" for the community.

The reserve is part of the Cape Floristic Region, the "smallest and richest" of the six floral kingdoms in the world. – WCN

**Figure 37.** "Residents benefit from 'rich' nature reserve" in the Daily Sun.

## 5.2 Stakeholder Engagement (internal meetings)

**Table 7. Records of internal stakeholder meetings relating to the TBNR.**

Reserve	Date	Meeting/Workshop	Purpose
TBNR	2011/07/01	North Region Management Meeting	Planning
	2011/07/06	Town Planning regarding subdivision of properties adjacent to Fynbos Corridor, Parklands	Feedback
	2011/07/15	Town Planning regarding SANCCOB's application for a long term lease	Feedback
	2011/07/28	Nature reserve staff meeting	Planning
	2011/08/10	Fraud management working, Durbanville NR	Workshop
	2011/08/19	Law enforcement workshop, Kristo Pienaar Centre	Workshop
	2011/08/24	Internship project presentations, Whale Street	Workshop
	2011/08/31	Nature reserve staff meeting	Planning
	2011/09/29	Nature reserve staff meeting	Planning

## 5.3 North District Meetings: Health and Safety, Monthly etc

**Table 8. Records of district meeting relating to the TBNR.**

Date	Venue	Type of Meeting (s)
2011/07/01	Eerstesteem	North Region Management Meeting
2011/07/29	Rietvlei Education Centre (figure 38)	North Region Health and Safety Meeting
		North Region SAP Portal Training
		North Region Management Meeting
2011/08/26	Eerstesteem	North Region Management Meeting
2011/09/30	Mamre Information Centre (figure 40)	Health and Safety representative elections
		Health and Safety Committee meeting
		North Region Management Meeting

## 5.4 Environmental Resource Management Branch Meetings/Fun Days

**Table 9. Records of branch meetings relating to the TBNR.**

Date	Venue/Theme
2011/09/01	Branch Meeting, Athlone Multi-Purpose Hall
2011/09/28	Branch fire readiness inspection and refresher course, Tygerberg (figure 39)



**Figure 38.** Induction to SAP Portal Employee Self Service and North Region management meeting at Rietvlei Education Centre.



**Figure 39.** Fire readiness inspection and refresher course at Kristo Pienaar Centre (Tygerberg NR).



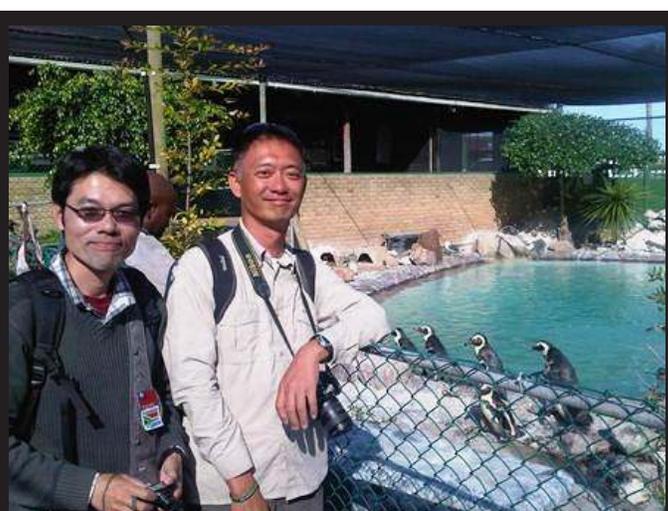
**Figure 40.** North Region Health & Safety and Management meeting at Mamre Information Centre.



**Figure 41.** Taiwanese Exchange delegates at Diep River.



**Figure 42.** Taiwanese Exchange delegates at Milnerton Racecourse.



**Figure 43.** Taiwanese Exchange delegates at SANCCOB.

## 6 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### 6.1 Staff Establishment

**Table 10. TBRN staff complement.**

Area	Position	Purpose	Number	*P/CE
Milnerton	Area Manager	Functional / Operational Management	01	P
	Water Ranger	Gate Control/Visitor Management/Law Enfor	02	P
	Assistant Cons Off	Conservation Compliance – Diep River	01	P
	Small Plant Operator	Chainsaw/Brushcutter/weed eaters etc	01	P
	Foreman	Supervision of junior staff	01	P
	Senior Worker	Labour	04	P
	Students	Nature Conservation Diplomas	02	CE
	EE Intern	EE Programme Management	01	CE
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>13</b>	

#### **\*P/C E: Permanent or Contract Employees**

- Koos Retief underwent his annual **performance assessment** on 2011/08/12.
- Koos Retief and Bongani Mnisi discussed KR's **Personal Development Plan (PDP)** on 2011/09/15.

### 6.2 Staff Training

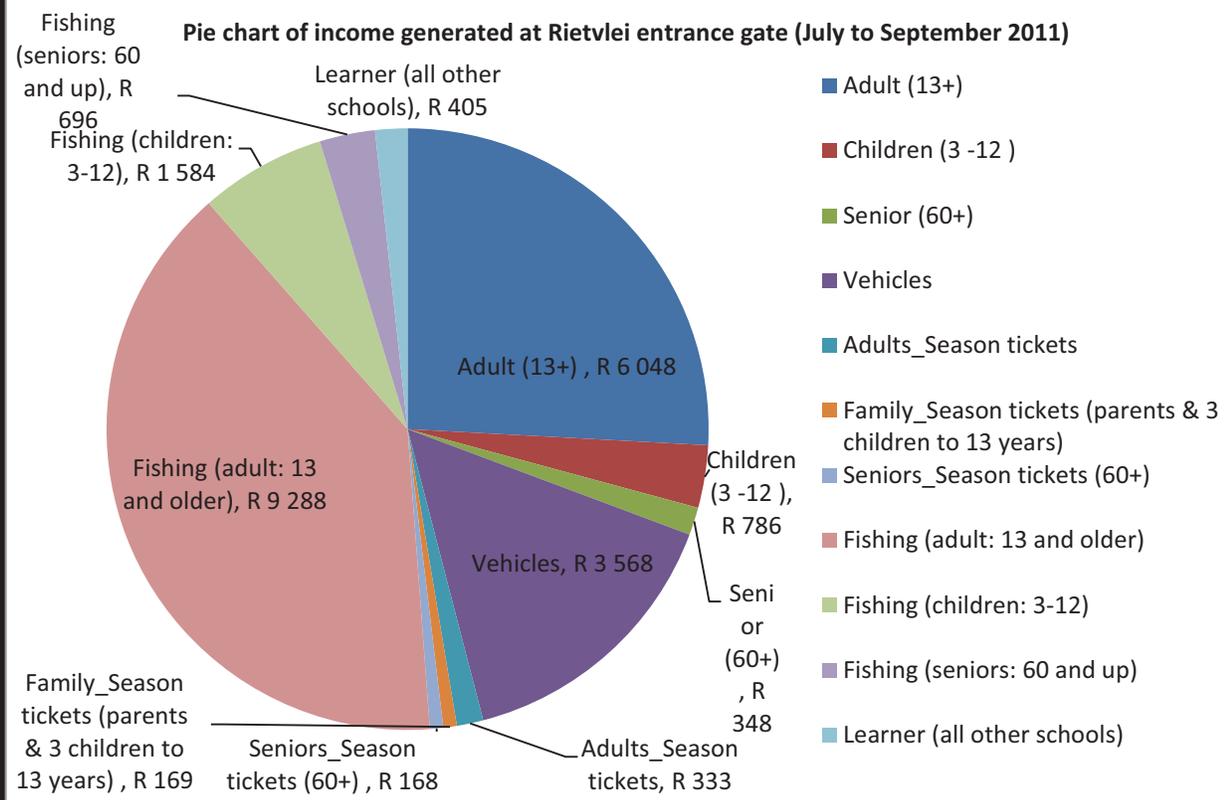
**Table 11. TBRN staff training records.**

Area	Date	Type of Training	Attended Staff	Person Days
Milnerton		None		
<b>TOTALS</b>				

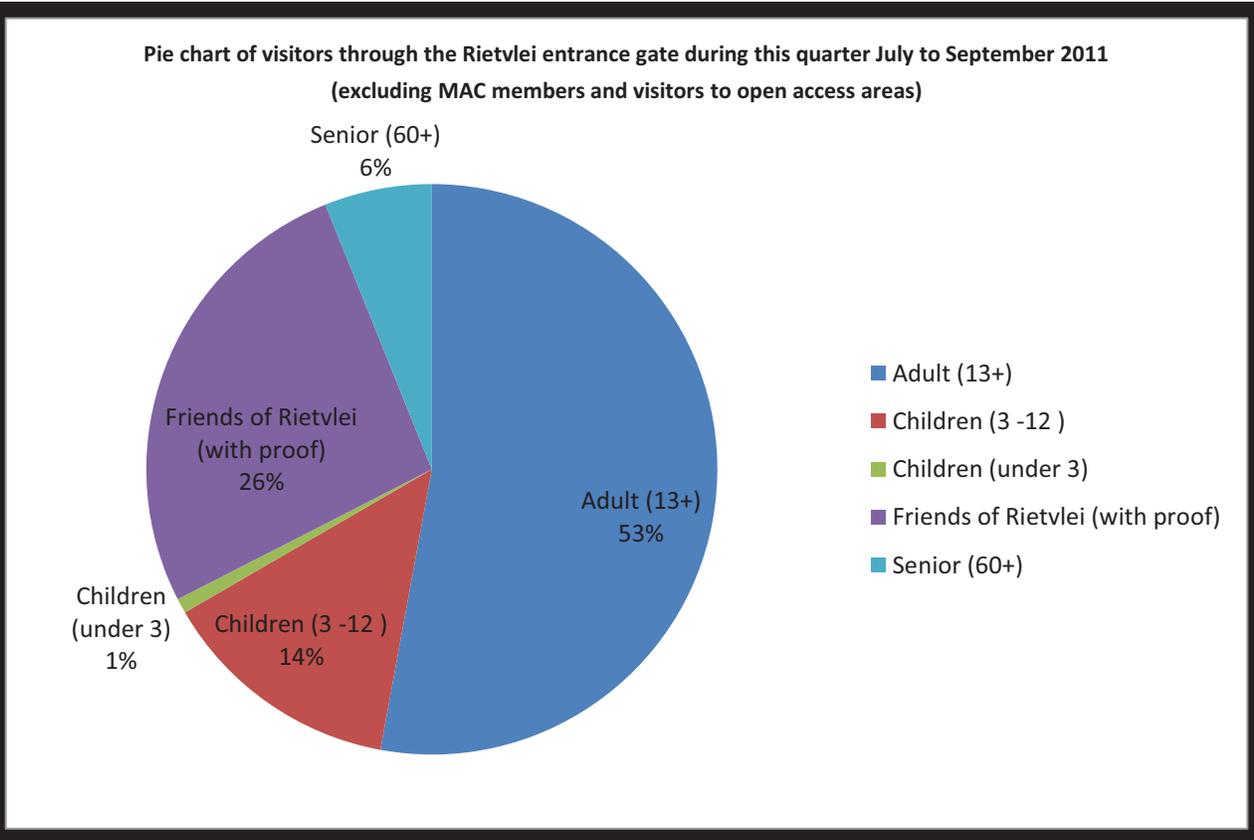
**Table 12. Income at TBNR during July 2011-September 2011.**

DESCRIPTION	JUL	AUG	SEP	COST	QUANTITY	INCOME	TOTAL
<b>Daily Entry</b>							
Adult (13+)	209	130	165	R 12.00	504	R 6 048	<b>R 23 393</b>
Adult Sailboard /Dinghy /Windsurfer				R 18.00	0	R 0	
Buses (25 seater, incl passengers)				R 300.00	0	R 0	
Children (3 -12 )	70	26	35	R 6.00	131	R 786	
Children (under 3)	6		2	R 0.00	8	R 0	
Friends of Rietvlei (with proof)	17	222	13	R 0.00	252	R 0	
Learner Sailboard /Dinghy /Windsurfer				R 10.00	0	R 0	
Power boats				R 42.00	0	R 0	
Senior (60+)	27	10	21	R 6.00	58	R 348	
Student (with Student Card)				R 6.00	0	R 0	
Vehicles	91	56	76	R 16.00	223	R 3 568	
<b>Season Tickets</b>							
Adults	1	2		R 111.00	3	R 333	
Family- (parents & 3 children to 13 years)	1			R 169.00	1	R 169	
Power boat				R 369.00	0	R 0	
Sailboard /Dinghy /Windsurfer (Mon-Fri)				R 84.00	0	R 0	
Seniors (60+)	2	1		R 56.00	3	R 168	
<b>General</b>							
Boat Testing (Mon-Fri)				R 37.00	0	R 0	
Craft Registration & Scrutiny (adult)				R 29.00	0	R 0	
Craft Registration & Scrutiny (learner)				R 13.00	0	R 0	
Fishing (adult: 13 and older)	103	87	68	R 36.00	258	R 9 288	
Fishing (children: 3-12)	33	96	3	R 12.00	132	R 1 584	
Fishing (seniors: 60 and up)	17	18	23	R 12.00	58	R 696	
<b>Environmental Education</b>							
Edu Booklets/Brochures				R 8.00	0	R 0	
Information Booklets				R 25.00	0	R 0	
Information Chart				R 6.00	0	R 0	
Learner (all other schools)	81			R 5.00	81	R 405	
Learner (G FL School)				R 3.00	0	R 0	
Learner (Gov School)				R 0.00	0	R 0	

- A total of **R23 393** was collected at the Rietvlei main entrance gate during this quarter. See Figures 28-29 for pie charts relating to the income at TBNR below:



**Figure 44.** Pie chart of income generated at Rietvlei entrance gate.



**Figure 45.** Pie chart of visitors through the Rietvlei entrance gate.

- Various instances of **illegal occupations** occurred in the TBNR, especially in the Zoarvlei, Rietvlei coastal section, and Diep River section. The structure behind Kia Motors near Killarney Depot (figure 46) was rebuilt by the displaced people involved, and there is some difficulty with removing them from site.
- Numerous displaced **displaced people** are resident along the Bayside Stormwater canal, littering into the stormwater and creating fires near vegetation. Law enforcement actions have removed these people, but they often return shortly after. See figure 47.
- An **illegal occupation** in the Diep River was promptly removed, and the inhabitant did not return. See figure 48.
- A house in Table View has a gap in its wall through which the owner allows their **dog(s) to run free** out of their property. This problem still needs to be addressed. See figure 49.



**Figure 46.** Illegal occupation behind Kia Motors near Killarney Depot. A recurring problem.



**Figure 47.** Displaced people littering and making fires near the Bayside stormwater canal.



**Figure 48.** Illegal occupation in the Diep River which was promptly removed.



**Figure 49.** A gap created in a wall at a house in Table View, being used to allow dogs free reign.

## 9 INFRASTRUCTURE

### 9.1 Repairs and Maintenance

- Various **abandoned boat trailers**, presumably belonging to MAC members, are repeatedly left unattended in open space area at Rietvlei. MAC are made aware of these and the trailers have been removed, but often other trailers are again abandoned (see figure 50 below).
- The **broken tractor** belong to the City has been removed from the nature reserve (figure 51). This tractor was auctioned off by the City.
- Various **materials are presently stockpiled under the Rietvlei Education Centre** during the office construction process. Once the construction is complete, all these materials should be moved to storage facilities at the new office site. See figure 52 below.
- The **visitor road** at Rietvlei was repaired by a grader hired from the Killarney Depot (figure 53). This road must be repaired up to twice a year.
- The **Rietvlei fire fighting pump** was repaired and serviced for the upcoming fire season (figure 54).
- The old **tyre wake barrier** belonging to the Milnerton Aquatic Club (MAC) is breaking up. MAC wanted to replace this with a floating pipe wake barrier. The progress with this work has been unsatisfactory in that the Council had to remove all the dislodge tyres from the old barrier, and the MAC have not been able to replace this with a new design. The new piping material that has arrived is of various colours (not all black as requested) and was initially placed wrongly on a sensitive flood-prone shoreline. This was moved to a dry-land area by MAC after a notice was served on MAC from Property Management. Subsequently MAC decided not to replace the tyre barrier anymore, but to remove it completely. The pipes are however still lying on the shoreline and have not been removed. See figure 55.



**Figure 50.** Abandoned trailers at Rietvlei.



**Figure 51.** Broken down tractor removed.



**Figure 52.** Temporary storage of materials under the Rietvlei Education Centre



**Figure 53.** Visitor road repaired.



**Figure 54.** Fire fighting pump repaired.



**Figure 55.** Abandoned pipes on shoreline.

## 10 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### 10.1 Capital Projects

- Progress on the **Rietvlei office construction**:

- The **site hand over** to MSD Contractors took place on 2011/02/03, but the construction was however halted by two cease works orders from the Building Development Department when it was found that C2C Consultants (the consulting engineer for the project) have never submitted a consent use application or building plans for approval. C2C Consultants were supposed to obtain these approvals before construction started, but neglected to do that. A consent use application was then submitted to Town Planning and two objections were received. These objections were resolved after several meetings with the objectors. Town Planning then approved consent for this building work. Hereafter the building plans were submitted, and after several amendments by the architect, were finally approved. Construction work has recommenced on site (figures 56-59).
- Lockers donated from Constantia Virgin Active were received and will be inserted for staff storage facilities once the office is complete. See figures 60-61.
- A request was submitted to IS&T Department to provide a costing for **network connectivity** of the future office to the City of Cape Town network and internet. Some quotations were received and forwarded to the Regional Manager for budgeting. This work still has to be funded. It was decided to not use Telkom service for the office, but to provide Voice Over IP technology on the data connectivity system. Further quotations are awaited for this.



**Figure 56-59.** Various stages and aspect of the Rietvlei office development.



Figures 60-61. Arrival of lockers from Virgin Active, Constantia.

## 11 CHALLENGES AND HIGHLIGHTS

### 11.1 Highlights

- The **Rietvlei office construction** underway at the moment.

### 11.2 Challenges

- Rain weather reduced the number of working days on the **Rietvlei office construction**

### 11.3 Priorities for next quarter

- **Rietvlei office construction** on site.

Koos Retief

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**Biodiversity Management Branch, ERMD, City of Cape Town**

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*The Table Bay Nature Reserve's vision is to become an internationally recognisable natural feature in Cape Town.*