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**JANUARY – MARCH 2012
JACOBUS JOHANNES RETIEF
TABLE BAY NATURE RESERVE
QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE MILNERTON AREA
CITY OF CAPE TOWN – BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT**

**All photos by the author, unless otherwise indicated.*

1 BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

- This is a **three month (quarter) report** and it will be covering all the activities for the period running from **1 January 2012 to 31 March 2012** within the Table Bay Nature Reserve, one of the North District's management areas.
- **Highlights:**
 - **Prescribed ecological controlled burns:** The Table Bay Nature Reserve team assisted with the execution of four successful **prescribed ecological controlled burns**. These burns were at the Milnerton Racecourse section, Nirvana Private Fynbos Nature Reserve, Kenilworth Racecourse Nature Reserve, and Tygerberg Nature Reserve. All these burns were executed with little or no damage to surrounding properties.
 - **Rietvlei Management Working Group:** The RMWG met for their 100th meeting on 2012/01/17 (see Figure 1).
 - **Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) teams:** There are three EPWP teams presently working in the Table Bay Nature Reserve. These teams are working on the following projects:
 - Team A: Diep River rehabilitation and alien clearing;
 - Team B: Wave's Edge wetland *Typha capensis* reed clearing; and
 - Team C: Rietvlei alien clearing and boardwalk construction.
- **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. A **Conservation Development Framework (CDF)** had to be planned for Table Bay Nature Reserve, and a meeting to this effect was held on 2012/02/10. The final maps are awaited from the GIS section.
- **Nature Reserve Site Visits:** The annual reserve site visit of 2011 by the Branch manager was supposed to take place on 2011/10/26. This did however not take place due to Koos Retief being sick on that date. A new date was set for this site meeting on 2012/01/19. The meeting was attended by Julia Wood, Dalton Gibbs, Adele Pretorius, Patricia Holmes, Koos Retief, and Christopher Singo (see Figure 2). The next reserve site visit will take place on 2012/09/06.



Figure 1. The 100th meeting of the Rietvlei Management Working Group on 2012/01/17.



Figure 2. Senior staff annual reserve site visit to Table Bay Nature Reserve.

2 CONSERVATION

2.1 Flora Management

2.1.1 Invasive Species Management

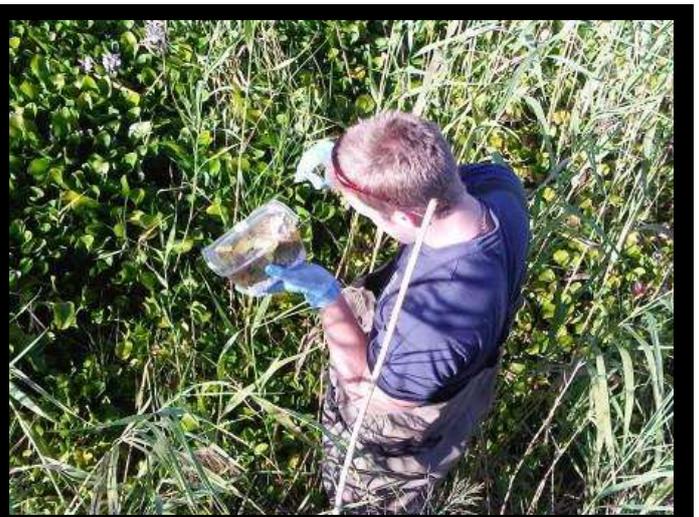
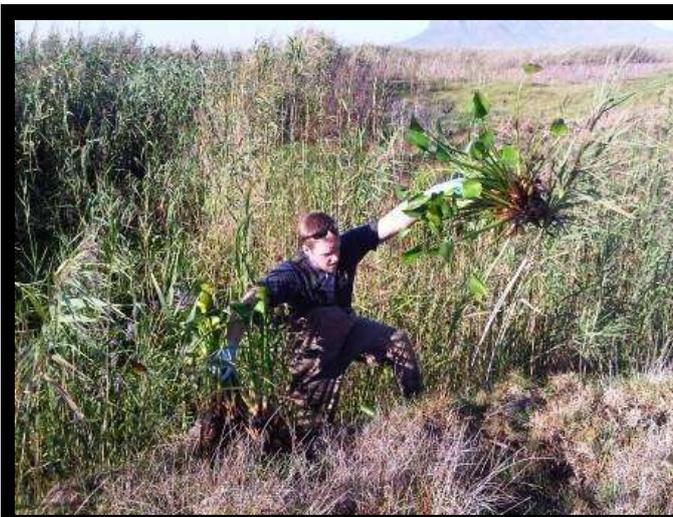
- **Ward allocations:** Ward allocations in the Milnerton Area for the 2011/2012 financial year totalled R129,000. Two alien clearing projects were identified for the Rietvlei section and the Diep River section. The contractor completed all work to satisfaction, and was still working in the Diep River during this quarter (see Figure 3).
- **Port Jackson:** EPWP "Team C" workers were utilised to conduct follow-up clearing at the Table View boundary after extensive Port Jackson seed germination following a fire a year ago. The work entails hand-pulling only and is still continuing (see Figure 4).
- The **TBNR Team's alien clearing work** was primarily concentrated on follow-up clearing at Wave's Edge wetland block. This is in conjunction with other work conducted simultaneously, including *Typha capensis* reed removal and fire break maintenance.
- **Water hyacinth:** The student Robert Slater is presently conducting a research project on the effectiveness of water hyacinth biological control agents. The biological control, a stem boring weevil, struggles to overwinter in the cold Western Cape climate (see Figures 5 – 6). Louise Stafford (Invasive Species Unit) is planning to make a team of EPWP workers available to conduct large scale manual clearing of water hyacinth in the Diep River system.



Figure 3. Clearing of Port Jackson at Diep River section by a contractor for the City on a tender.



Figure 4. Hand-pulling of Port Jackson saplings by the EPWP staff along the Table View.



Figures 5 – 6. Student Robert Slater measuring water hyacinth plants and releasing biological control (stem-boring weevils) onto the water hyacinth habitat.

- ***Typha capensis* reed clearing:** EPWP “Team B” were utilised to clear *Typha capensis* reed infestations in the Wave’s Edge wetland since the start of February. This work was inspired by much input from surrounding residents at Wave’s Edge who requested relief from the spreading *Typha capensis* seeds (see Figures 7 – 12).



Figure 7. Wave’s Edge EPWP team inspecting the work site with Bongani Mnisi.



Figure 8. The EPWP team fully prepared for work at Wave’s Edge.



Figure 9. The EPWP team cutting *Typha capensis* at Wave’s Edge (photo: C. Roux).



Figure 10. Two departmental vehicles used to transport the cut reeds.



Figure 11. Roads & Stormwater depot vehicles being used to load cut reeds on rented trucks.



Figure 12. On a rainy afternoon the EPWP team learned map reading skills and bird identification.

2.2 Fauna Management

2.2.1 Monitoring of Wildlife: Game counts and sightings

- **Grysbok drive census:** Staff and volunteers conducted a drive count of Grysbok in the Milnerton Racecourse section under the supervision of Simone Greveling. This work was done to assess their population level before the next scheduled ecological burn, and to determine whether any Grysbok are resident in the block that will be burned (see Figures 13 – 14).



Figures 13 – 14. Staff and volunteers conducting a drive census to determine the numbers of grysbok at Milnerton Racecourse section.

- **Abandoned tortoises:** There appears to be an increasing trend in the abandonment of pet tortoises by dumping them at nature reserves. Pet owners wrongly assume that pet tortoises will easily incorporate into nature reserves if dumped or handed over. In reality, like with any other pets, these animals are doomed to die if not taken care of. The practice of dumping pet tortoises at nature reserves is strongly discouraged because no pet tortoises may be incorporated into nature reserve wild populations. These animals are often relocated again and their survival is uncertain (see Figures 5 – 16).



Figures 15 – 16. A selection of tortoises dumped at the Rietvlei entrance gate.

- **Interesting pictures taken include:** Figures 17 – 18, of a female Steenbok carcass in the Coastal Section; Figure 19, evidence of rodents feeding on *Carpobrotus edulis* (sourfig) thereby assisting in seed distribution; Figure 20, Cape clawless otter scat at Wave's Edge wetland; Figure 21, one of many Cape Dwarf chameleons seen at Rietvlei, Milnerton Racecourse, and the Coastal Section; and Figure 22, a sick Kelp Gull taken to SANCCOB.



Figures 17 – 18. Remains of a female steenbok carcass at the Coastal Section.



Figure 19. Evidence of rodents feeding on sour figs at the Bird Hide Block.

Figure 20. Otter scat at Wave's Edge wetland.



Figure 21. Cape dwarf chameleons are seen at Rietvlei, Milnerton Racecourse and the coast.



Figure 22. Sick juvenile kelp gull collected at the Coastal section was taken to SANCCOB.

- A **Coordinated Waterbird Count (CWAC)** was conducted at TBNR on 2012/02/17. This was the first time that the Potsdam Waste Water Treatment Works was covered by this survey. It is envisaged that this survey would cover Potsdam WWTW every quarter. See Table 1 below for results from the water bird census. A total 2515 birds were counted, comprising 44 species. These included Blacknecked Grebe 1, Dabchick 10, White Pelican 126, Whitebreasted Cormorant 43, Reed Cormorant 29, African Darter 59, Grey Heron 19, Blackheaded Heron 4, Purple Heron 1, Little Egret 13, Yellow-billed Egret 9, Cattle Egret 4, Sacred Ibis 51, Glossy ibis 5, Hadedea Ibis 1, African spoonbill 1, Greater flamingoes 75, Whitebacked Duck 3, Egyptian Goose 298, Yellow-billed Duck 146, Cape Teal 1, Redbilled teal 13, Cape shoveller 24, Southern Pochard 2, Spurwinged Goose 180, African marsh harrier 2, Purple Swamphen 14, Common Moorhen 70, Red-knobbed Coot 162, Afr. Bl. Oystercatcher 3, Blacksmith Lapwing 191, Greenshank 4, Curlew Sandpiper 50, Blackwinged Stilt 3, Water thicknee 4, Kelp Gull 87, Hartlaub's Gull 731, Caspian tern 1, Swift Tern 10, Sandwich tern 9, Common tern 48, Pied Kingfisher 2, Cape Wagtail 5, and Mallards 1. Also see below Figures:
 - Figure 23. Pie chart of numbers of birds in various survey sections; and
 - Figure 24. Pie chart of groups of birds of CWAC survey of 2012/02/17.

Table 1. Results from the TBNR CWAC census of 2012/02/17.

Bird\site	TOTAL	Diep River	North Vlei	South Vlei	Central Pan	Dolphin Beach	Mill. Channel	Lagoon North	Lagoon South	Zoar North	Zoar South	Potsdam WWTW
Blacknecked Grebe	1											1
Dabchick	10		3			3						4
White Pelican	126			100	26							
Whitebreasted Cormorant	43			13				29				1
Reed Cormorant	29	2				2		9	10			6
African Darter	59	4	10	25				19				1
Grey Heron	19		1	1		1	1	10				5
Blackheaded Heron	4		1		1							2
Purple Heron	1					1						
Little Egret	13	1	1					8	3			
Yellow-billed Egret	9			1		1					6	1
Cattle Egret	4							3				1
Sacred Ibis	51	3		1	1			9				37
Glossy ibis	5										4	1
Hadedea Ibis	1											1
Afr spoonbill	1				1							
Greater flamingoes	75			75								
Whitebacked Duck	3					3						
Egyptian Goose	298	1	8	257	2			11				19
Yellow-billed Duck	146	28	30	4		50		2			16	16
Cape Teal	1											1
Redbilled teal	13											13
Cape shoveller	24	2				7					6	9
Southern Pochard	2					2						
Spurwinged Goose	180			80	100							
African marsh harrier	2				1							1
Purple Swamphen	14					14						
Common Moorhen	70	17				32					10	11
Red-knobbed Coot	162	30	3	3		112					12	2
Afr. Bl. Oystercatcher	3							3				
Blacksmith Lapwing	191	4			23	6		30		2	2	124
Greenshank	4							4				
Curlew Sandpiper	50				50							
Blackwinged Stilt	3							3				
Water thicknee	4											4
Kelp Gull	87		1	1	50			1	25			9
Hartlaub's Gull	731		1	4	1	26		125	116	4	9	445
Caspian tern	1							1				
Swift Tern	10					2		5	3			
Sandwich tern	9				8			1				
Common tern	48							6	42			
Pied Kingfisher	2							2				
Cape Wagtail	5		1	2						2		
Mallards	1							1				
TOTALS	2515	92	60	567	264	262	1	282	199	8	65	715

Figure 23. Pie chart of numbers of birds in various survey sections of CWAC 2012/02/17

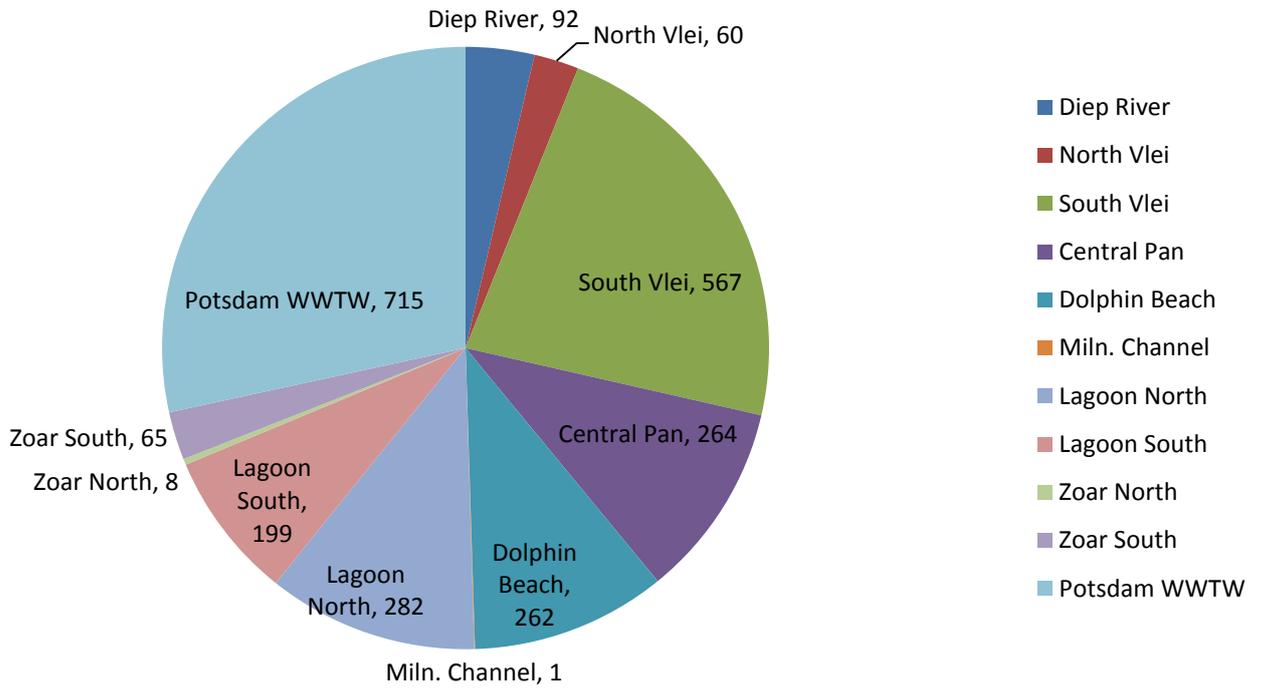
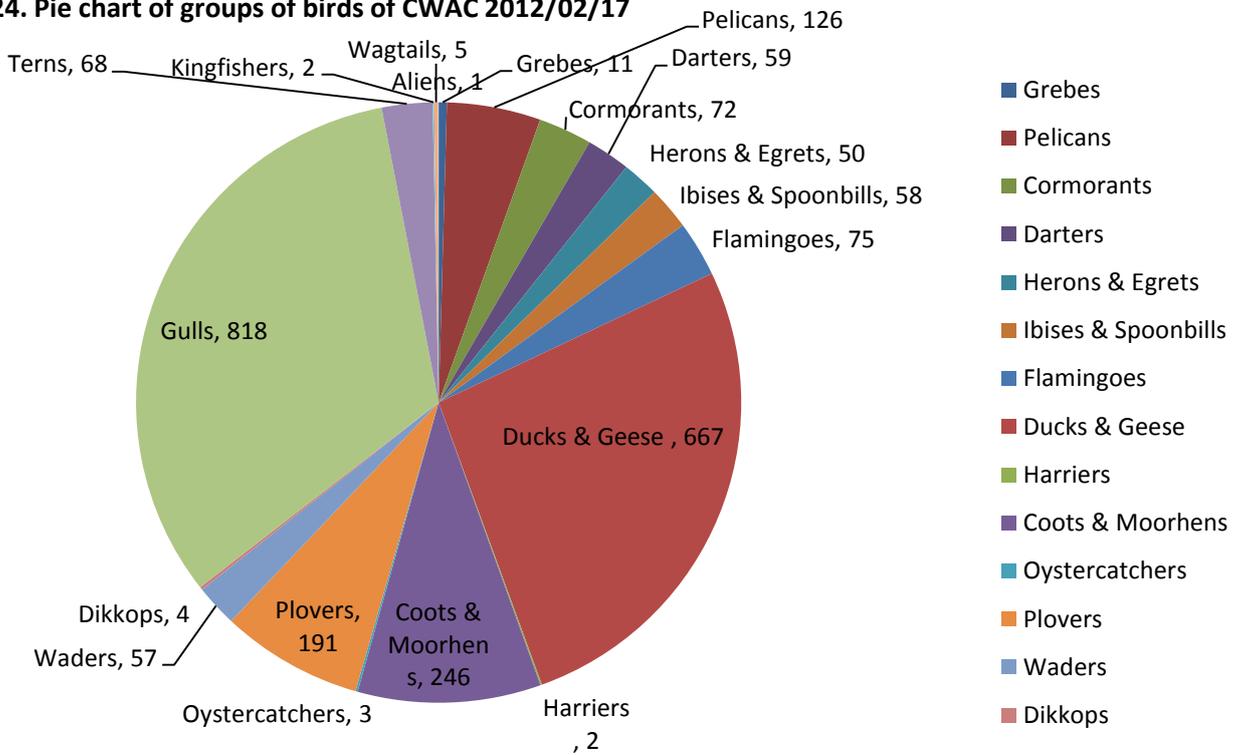


Figure 24. Pie chart of groups of birds of CWAC 2012/02/17



3 WATER MANAGEMENT

- **Water quality monitoring** was done at 15 points in the TBNR on 2012/01/31, 2012/02/28, and 2012/03/27. The Diep catchment area received very little rain, and this meant that the flow in the river was reduced to nothing in some areas. Lower down in the catchment, the flow is sustained by stormwater and treated wastewater, keeping the Diep estuary mouth open almost entirely throughout the summer. Reports were received that the estuary mouth did however close intermittently (see Figures 25 – 28).



Figure 25. Water sample being collected at the outlet of Zoarvlei.



Figure 26. A leaking pressure valve detected at Blaauwberg Road bridge, reported and repaired.



Figure 27. The Diep River dry at the N7 bridge.

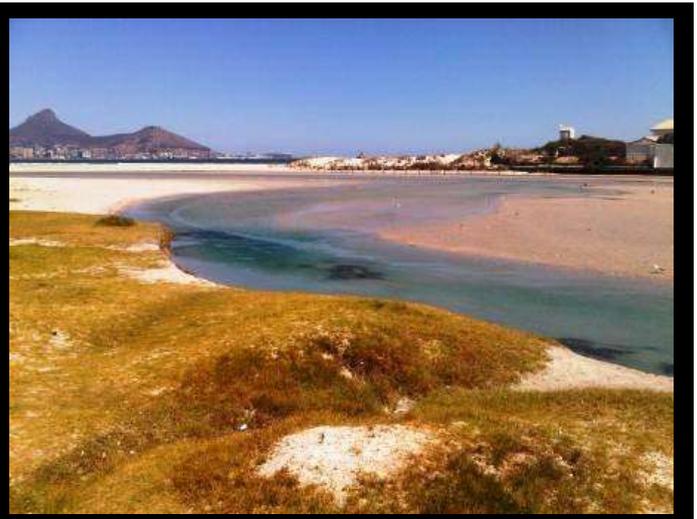


Figure 28. The Diep River estuary open.

- **Rainfall at Rietvlei:** The rainfall during this quarter was below average with only 5mm recorded. See below Figures 29 – 32 for graphic representations of the rainfall data.

RAINFALL DATA: Updated on 2012/04/11														
	Ave	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	10.658		16.0	57.9	3.5	8.0	16.0	1.0	1.5	4.0	4.00	1.00	10.00	5.00
February	5.7833		2.0	10.0	6.0	0.9	4.0	7.0	19.5	6.0	9.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
March	7.9		0.0	10.1	32.2	7.0	14.5	4.0	15.0	4.0	0.00	1.00	7.00	0.00
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	25.646	5.3	31.2	33.7	25.3	119.0	9.8	20.5	22.0	2.0	29.00	0.00	10.00	
November	20.8	8.8	22.5	13.2	2.8	3.0	9.8	31.0	30.0	46.0	62.50	12.00	8.00	
December	11.3	2.5	10.5	20.1	15.5	6.5	0.0	4.5	22.0	19.0	7.00	10.00	18.00	
TOTAL		219.0	532.1	432.2	293.7	421.9	402.9	345.9	541.7	390.5	504.0	273.0	300.0	5.0

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

Figure 29. Rietvlei rainfall data: Updated 2012/04/11

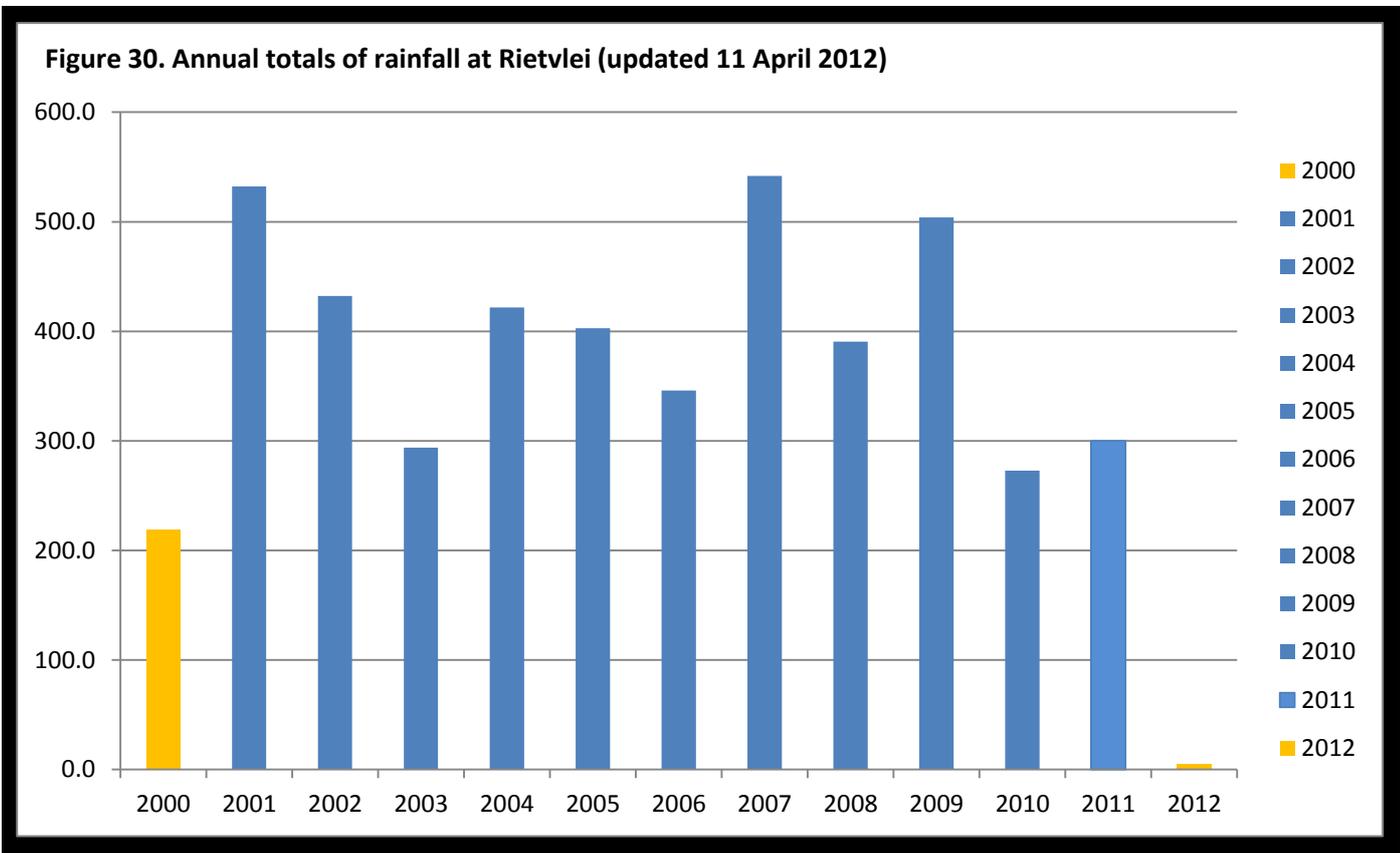


Figure 31. Monthly rainfall in 2012 vs averages per month at Rietvlei (updated 11 April 2012)

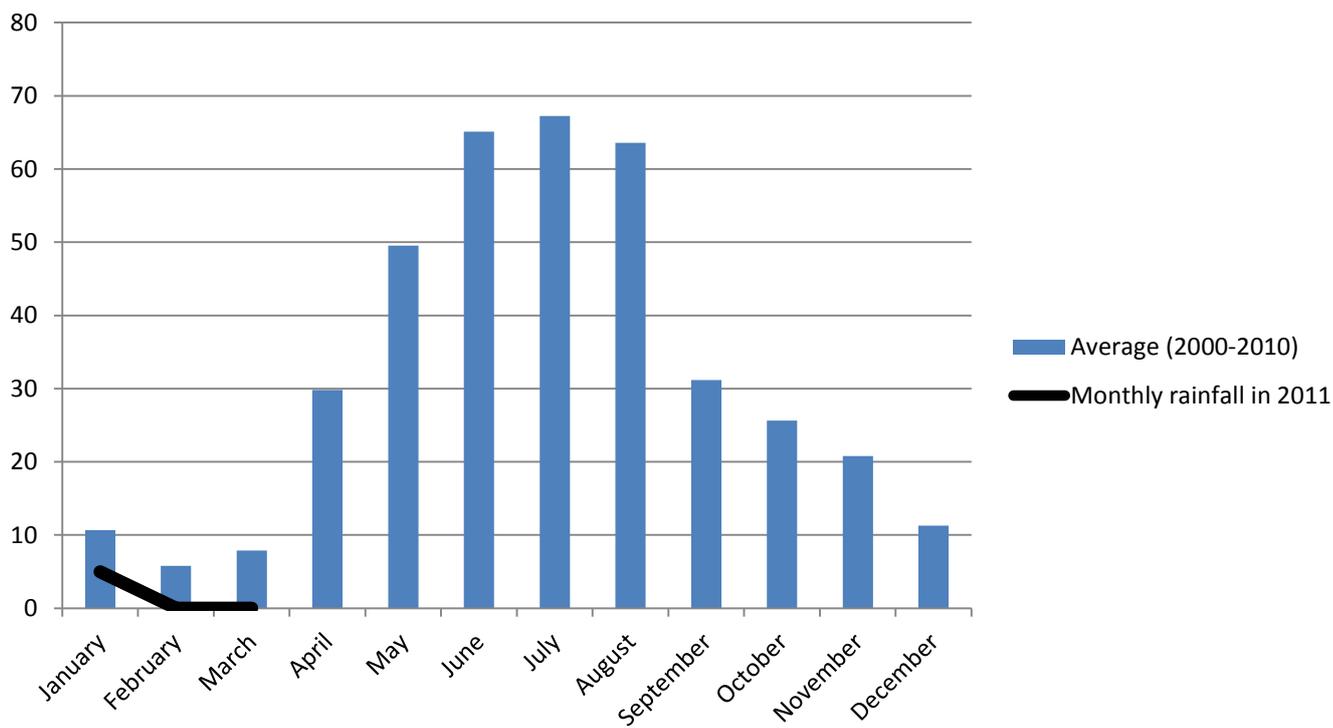
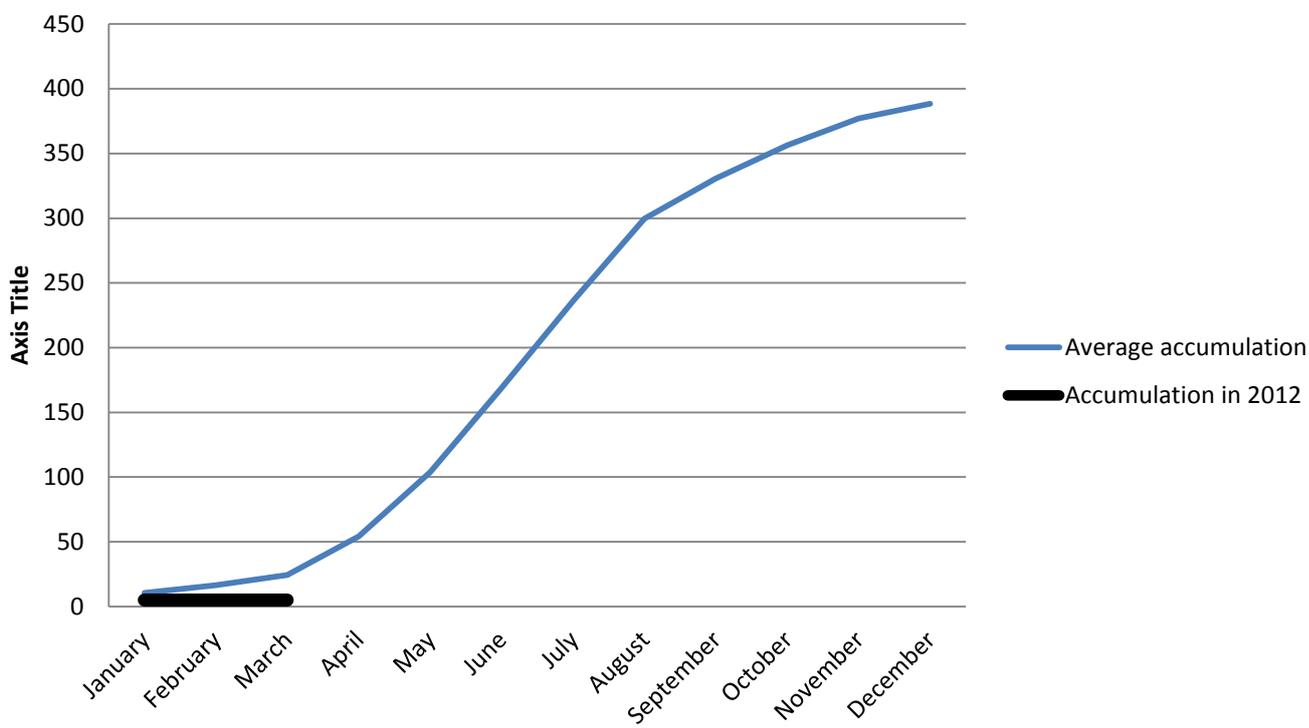


Figure 32. Rainfall accumulation in 2012 vs overall average (Updated: 11 April 2012)



- **Dust management:** During this quarter the water on the central pan started to recede. A sub-committee of the Rietvlei Management Working Group met on 2012/01/17 to discuss the operational plan for dust control for the summer season. Members of the public were represented at this meeting. It was decided that the water pumping operation would be deployed shortly thereafter to wet the pan and limit the possible occurrence of dust emanating from the pans. The Roads & Stormwater Depot (Killarney) deployed pumps and pipes, while the Table Bay Nature Reserve paid for the staff and operational costs. The pumping continued throughout this quarter, often on weekends and public holidays as well. Though some dust was seen on occasion, no public complaints were received. See below Figures 33 – 36 for scenes from this operational intervention.



Figures 33 – 34. Scenes of the central pan during and after drying.



Figure 35. Birds on the central pan.



Figure 36. Pipe delivering water onto the pan.

4 FIRE MANAGEMENT

- **Fire response preparedness:** TBNR staff was fully prepared for the fire season and took measures at selected sites to protect surrounding properties from wildfires. Some wildfires occurred in the Diep River east of Gie Road and also west of the Killarney depot, but none of these fires caused damage to any private property. Fires were started by illegal occupants (cooking fires or copper cable burning) and pedestrians (see below Figures 37 – 42).



Figures 37 – 38. Fire response preparedness demonstrated.



Figure 39. Sandpiper Crescent firebreak.



Figure 40. Wildfire west of the Killarney depot.



Figures 41 – 42. Fire in the Diep River, between Gie Road and the Killarney Racetrack.

- **Milnerton Racecourse prescribed ecological burn:** TBNR staff continued assisting Simone Greveling with the completion of preparations for the Milnerton Racecourse section's prescribed ecological burn in March 2012. This entailed the removal of alien vegetation, protecting infrastructure, spraying herbicide, inserting kikuyu barriers, cutting firebreaks, and planting sour figs on the perimeter of the small northern block. This work was completed and the burn was successfully executed on 2012/03/07, with no damage to surrounding properties. All due processes were followed to obtain permission for this burn, and adjacent residents were advised accordingly through the media and letter drops. An animal drive was arranged to clear animals from the site before burning, and no major mortalities were recorded. Ecologically speaking the fire was not as hot as was hoped, but a strong breeze assisted with burning the site clean (see Figures 43 – 46).



Figures 43 – 44. Fire break cutting around the small northern block of the Milnerton Racecourse section, in preparation for a controlled burn.



Figures 45 – 46. Scenes of the controlled burn of the small northern block of the Milnerton Racecourse section.

- **Nirvana Private Fynbos Nature Reserve:** TBNR staff assisted with the site preparation and successful execution of a prescribed ecological burn at block 2 of Nirvana on 2012/03/13. This was the second burn at Nirvana, with the first having been conducted two years prior. An animal drive was conducted to clear as many animals from the site as possible. No major mortalities were recorded and no damage to property occurred. Ecologically speaking the burn was sufficiently hot, causing a clean burn (see Figures 47 – 52).



Figures 47 – 48. Sakhile Luhani and the TBNR team assisting with fire break preparation at the Nirvana Private Fynbos Nature Reserve, Atlantis.



Figure 49. Grysbok driven out of the block.

Figure 50. The author lighting the burn.



Figures 51 – 52. Scenes of the Nirvana Private Fynbos Nature Reserve prescribed ecological burn.

- Kenilworth Racecourse Nature Reserve:** Koos Retief assisted with the planning and execution of a prescribed ecological burn at Kenilworth on 2012/03/29. There were several complicating factors on the day. The most significant factor was the nearby quarantine stables of race horses. It was estimated that the smoke trail would move directly to the stables, and therefore a decision was made that only a small part of the designated burn block would be burned as a test, and not the whole block. This was done, and when results indicated that the smoke would be affecting the horses, the burning was stopped. No ill effects on the horses were reported however, no major mortalities were recorded and no property was damaged. The rest of the burn site would hopefully be burned next season. Ecologically speaking the fire was not as hot as it was hoped, partly because the burn was very small, and also because the timing was early in the morning. Recommendations are to conduct burns closer to noon, and not early in the morning. Small burns are also less effective as they struggle to generate enough heat (see Figures 53 – 54).



Figures 53 – 54. The author assisted at the Kenilworth prescribed ecological burn.

- Wave's Edge Wetland Block:** An application was submitted to obtain a burning permit for the Wave's Edge wetland block. On 2011/10/20 Subcouncil 1 decided to decline the application due to the potential disturbance to traffic adjacent to Marine Drive and the R27. The application was however re-submitted to further investigate to feasibility of a burn. Two site meetings were held (2012/03/15 & 20) between Biodiversity Management, Air Pollution Control, Fire Department and Traffic Department, to discuss the feasibility. Much opposition was encountered from surrounding residents regarding this application. At the time of writing this report, a public meeting was scheduled to address the concerns of the public. This will be reported on at the next quarterly report.
- Tygerberg Nature Reserve:** TBNR staff assisted with the execution of a prescribed ecological burn at Tygerberg over two days. The first day consisted of securing the top of a slope at the burn block to prevent the fire from jumping out of the block and burning non-target vegetation. The actual execution of the burn took place on 2012/03/29. The Biodiversity Management Branch worked with various other teams, including staff from the Fire Department, Working on Fire, and Volunteer Wildfires Services to ensure that the burn was conducted safely and effectively. No property was damaged and no major mortalities were recorded. Ecologically speaking the burn was sufficiently hot to ensure a clean burn. Due to the fact that Tygerberg consists of sloping hills, fires generally move quicker and pose greater risks of jumping to adjacent sites. Therefore sufficient staff was deployed over several days to ensure that the burn block was safe and secure. Shortly after the burn, large rainfalls assisted with putting out all hot spots in the burn block. See Figures 55 – 60.



Figure 55 – 56. The TBNR team assisted with securing the top edge of the burn block at Tygerberg Nature Reserve by burning out the flammable material from the top downhill.



Figure 57. TBNR staff using a "fire finder".



Figure 58. The controlled burn executed.



Figure 59 – 60. Scenes of the Tygerberg Nature Reserve prescribed ecological burn.

5 PEOPLE AND CONSERVATION

5.1 Stakeholder Engagement (external meetings)

- **External stakeholder meetings:** Table 2 below summarises TBNR's involvement with external stakeholders this quarter.

Table 2. Records of external stakeholder meetings relating to the TBNR.

Area	Date	Meeting/Workshop	Purpose
TBNR	2012/01/17	Rietvlei Management Working Group Sub-committee: Dust Management	Planning
		Rietvlei Management Working Group	Planning
	2012/01/26	Internship Programme: Staff recruitment interviews	Recruitment
	2012/02/01	Expanded Public Works Programme inception meeting	Feedback
	2012/02/07	Rietvlei office construction project: Budget meeting	Planning
	2012/02/14	Fire Protection Agency meeting	Planning
	2012/02/20	Subcouncil 15 site visit to North Region reserves	Feedback
	2012/02/23	Subcouncil 1 meeting	Observation
	2012/03/24	Internship Programme Awards Ceremony	Feedback
	2012/02/27	Zoarvlei Management Advisory Committee	Feedback
	2012/03/13	Members from Joe Slovo and Du Noon: Reed harvesting (see Figures 61 – 62 below)	Planning
	2012/03/15	Wave's Edge wetland burn application site meeting	Planning
		Cape Peninsula University of Technology student tracking	Feedback
		University of Cape Town: Bird ringing application	Planning
	2012/03/20	Wave's Edge wetland burn application site meeting	Planning
2012/03/26	Expanded Public Work Programme: Staff recruitment meeting	Recruitment	



Figure 61. Members of the Joe Slovo and Du Noon communities looking at Rietvlei for potential harvestable material in the production of mats and baskets.



Figure 62. Stands of *Cyperus textilis* is only found in the Diep River area north of Rietvlei.

- **Education Centre Usage:** 408 person days was spent using the Rietvlei Education Centre this quarter. See below Table 3 for details of its usage:

Table 3. Education Centre usage and benefits to people in person days.

Date	Activity	Person days
2012/01/09	Communication Introduction for students	6
2012/01/18	Rietvlei Wetland / Bird Walk	15
2012/01/18	Manager Meeting	3
2012/01/19	TBNR Management Meeting	13
2012/01/23	Student Induction	16
2012/01/24	Student Induction	16
2012/01/25	Student Induction	16
2012/01/26	Student Induction	16
2012/01/27	Student Induction	16
2012/02/01	Working for Wetlands	6
2012/02/06	Working for Wetlands	13
2012/02/06	Rietvlei Wetland Progame	9
2012/02/07	Wetland Week Programme	68
2012/02/08	Wetland Week Programme	45
2012/02/10	TBNR Management Meeting	8
2012/02/13	Economics Department	20
2012/02/23	Skills Training Meeting	9
2012/02/24	Regional Management Meeting	10
2012/02/27	TBNR Staff Meeting	10
2012/03/21	Chatham Visitors Education Induction	14
2012/03/26	Fishy Business Holiday Programme	24
2012/03/27	Fishy Business Holiday Programme	29
2012/03/28	Fishy Business Holiday Programme	26
TOTAL		408

- **Rietvlei Boma Usage:** The Rietvlei boma was first used this quarter after its construction. About 25 people have used the venue for meeting purposes so far. See Table 4 below for details of its usage:

Table 4. Rietvlei boma usage and benefits to people in person days.

Date	Activity	Person days
2012/02/16	City Nature Conservation students research presentation (see Figure 65)	25
TOTAL		25



Figures 63 – 64. Scenes of the “fishy business” holiday programme at Rietvlei.



Figure 65. Student research presentations conducted at the new Rietvlei boma.



Figure 66. North region staff attended the annual internship awards ceremony.

- **Environmental Education:** TBNR staff reached 669 people with environmental education messages this quarter. 232 people were reached through programmes at Rietvlei Education Centre, 88 people through collaborations with SANCCOB, and 349 people by off-site extensions. See Table 5 below for details.

Table 5. Environmental Education Statistics at TBNR

Date	Programme	Person days
Part 1: Environmental Education conducted at Rietvlei Wetland		
2012/01/18	Rietvlei Wetland \Bird Walk	15 Adults
2012/02/06	Rietvlei Wetland	8 learners; 1 Educator
2012/02/07	Wetlands Week	66 learners; 2 educators
2012/02/08	Wetlands Week	43 learners; 2 educators
2012/03/21	Rietvlei Wetland\ Bird id	11 learners; 3 Adults
2012/03/26	Holiday Fish Programme	22 learners; 4 Adults
2012/03/27	Fishy Business	24 learners; 5 Adults
2012/03/28	Fishy Business	22 learners; 4 Adults
TOTALS		232
Part 2: SANCCOB collaborations		
2012/02/21	SANCCOB	40 learners
2012/02/23	SANCCOB	48 learners
TOTALS		88
Part 3: Environmental Education Conducted Off-site		
2012/01/30	Sophakama Primary School: Wetlands week	56 learners; 1 educator
2012/01/31	Sophakama Primary School: Wetlands week	65 learners; 1 educator
2012/02/01	Sophakama Primary School: Wetlands week	60 learners; 1 educator
2012/02/02	Sophakama Primary School: Wetlands week	70 learners; 1 educator
2012/02/03	Sophakama Primary School: Wetlands week	78 learners; 1 educator
2012/03/05	Table View High School: Hacking	12 Learners; 3 Adults
TOTALS		349

- The **local media** reported on various matters relating to TBNR during this quarter, including planned prescribed ecological burns (Figures 67 – 69), wildfires at Diep River (Figure 70), *Typha capensis* reeds at Wave’s Edge (Figures 71 – 73), the Milnerton Wooden Bridge (Figure 74), environmental education successes (Figure 75), and algae at the Milnerton Lagoon (Figures 76 – 77).

Planned burn at racecourse

STAFF REPORTER

The City will do a controlled burn of the Milnerton Racecourse section of the Table Bay Nature Reserve in March to regenerate indigenous vegetation.

Area manager Koos Retief said the Milnerton Racecourse section comprised Cape Flats sand fynbos, which must burn, on average, every 12 to 15 years. The burn would regenerate the fynbos and clear combustibles.

The small 3.5 hectare northern

block would be burned on March 7, 14 or 28 (Wednesdays). This block is between Sandown Crescent, The Met, Stable Yard and the Gold Circle Race Track in Royal Ascot.

Letter drops will notify residents of relevant dates.

The City advised residents to shut their windows, store gas canisters inside and take washing off the line. Sprinklers could be used to dampen gardens as a precautionary measure.

Direct queries to Air Pollution Control on 021 590 1419.

Figure 67. The Tabletalk of 2012/02/22 reported on the planned ecological burn for the Milnerton Racecourse section.

12
Wednesday March 28 2012
NEWS
Tabletalk

Fynbos all fired up

STAFF REPORTER

A successful controlled was done on 3.9ha of critically endangered Cape Flats fynbos at Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve on Wednesday March 7.

Simone Grewling from the reserve said the aim of the controlled burn was to maintain healthy vegetation and ecological functioning of this core botanical site with a large number of threatened and endangered plant species of high conservation importance.

The Cape Flats Sand Fynbos is a fire adapted vegetation type that relies heavily on fire to regenerate.

The vegetation responds quickly and positively to fire, resulting in renewed vegetation and seed germination.

This renewed growth results in more readily available nutritious vegetation for the fauna within the reserve.

The burn also removed the accumulated fuel load, reducing the risk of

Have your say

SMS TALK with your message, name and area you live in to 33303 (32263) SMSes charged at R1 each

uncontrolled fires.

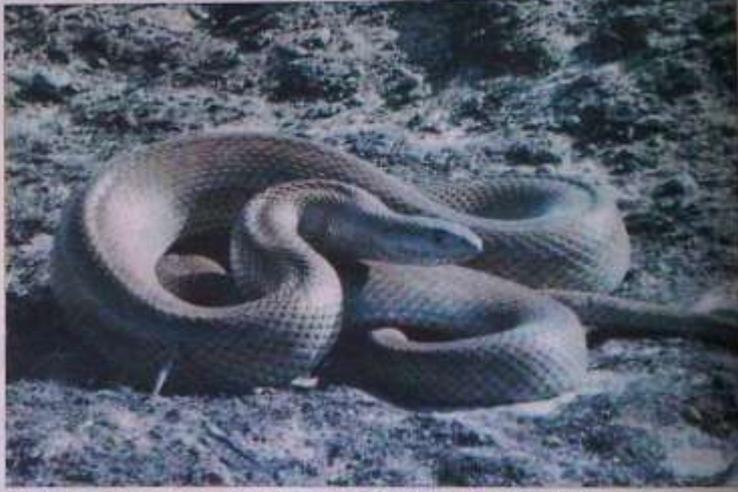
As part of the fire management plan for the reserve, three controlled burns have been undertaken in three burn blocks over the past six years – in 2008, 2010 and 2012.

The burns were undertaken to replicate the natural fire cycles to manage and conserve the species of this isolated fynbos ecosystem.

Each burn block will be allowed a fire-free interval during which the vegetation will be allowed to regrow naturally until maturity.

At this point, the natural fynbos burn cycle age of 12 to 15 years will be initiated again.

Post-burn monitoring is under way and hopes to reveal some new sightings for the reserve.



■ This mole snake was found basking in the sun a few days after a controlled burn at Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve.

Figure 68. The Tabletalk of 2012/03/28 reported on the controlled burn at Milnerton Racecourse.

Fire used to rejuvenate Milnerton's fynbos

Visitors to the Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve (MRNR) can look forward to some new discoveries this coming spring.

The City of Cape Town's biodiversity management department recently undertook a controlled burn of 3,9 hectares of the critically endangered Cape Flats Sand Fynbos found in the reserve.

The aim of the controlled burn was to maintain healthy vegetation and ecological functioning of this core botanical site which boasts a large number of threatened and endangered plant species of high conservation importance.

The Cape Flats Sand Fynbos is a fire adapted vegetation type which relies heavily on fire to regenerate the fynbos species. The vegetation responds quickly and positively to fire resulting in renewed vegetation and seed germination. This renewed growth results in more readily available nutritious vegetation for the fauna within the reserve.

The burn also removed the accumu-

lated fuel load, reducing the risk of uncontrolled fires.

As part of the fire management plan for the MRNR three controlled burns have been undertaken in three burn blocks over the past six years in 2008, 2010 and this year. These burns aim to replicate the natural fire cycles which help to manage and conserve the species of this isolated fynbos ecosystem.

Each burn block will be allowed a fire-free interval during which the vegetation will be allowed to regrow naturally until maturity. At this point the natural fynbos burn cycle age of 12 to 15 years will be initiated again.

Post-burn monitoring is currently under way and officials hope to reveal some new sightings for the reserve.



The section of the Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve after the controlled burn.

Figure 69. The Tygerburger of 2012/03/21 reported on the successful burning of the small northern block of the Milnerton Racecourse section.



■ A firefighter tackles the vegetation fire at the Rietvlei Reserve between Gie Road and Killarney race track.



PICTURES: SHAUN LAISHLEY



■ Helicopters were used to water bomb the fire.

Aerial firefighters battle Rietvlei blaze

STAFF REPORTER

A vegetation fire broke out along the Rietvlei Reserve between Gie Road and Killarney race track on Sunday February 19.

Media spokesman for the

City's Fire and Rescue Services, Theo Layne, said the fire raged for a few hours, but was extinguished by 8pm.

The Working on Fire team assisted firefighters, while helicopters were used to water bomb

the flames.

A spotter plane also circled the area to guide the ground crews. Mr Layne said residents were in no immediate danger, and nobody was injured. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Figure 70. The Tabletalk reported on a fire in the Diep River section next to Gie Road.

City moves to tackle invasive reeds

Life next to a wetland is proving far from idyllic for Table View residents who have had their homes invaded by fluffy white seeds.



Have your say
SMS TALK with your message, name and area you live in to 30000 (2263)
SMSes charged at R1 each

PAM FOURIE

A project is finally under way to control the invasive *Typha Capensis* reeds that have choked the wetland sections of the Rietvlei Reserve at Dolphin Beach and Waves Edge in Table View.

Surrounding residents have complained of health and financial implications caused by the seeds.

For years residents have had to endure fine white "fluffy" seeds from the *Typha* infiltrating their homes from February to April, while appeals to the authorities to manage the situation, fell on deaf ears.

Typha is an important indigenous wetland species as it filters the water, but can become invasive in nutrient-rich water. It robs other plant species of light, food and water, diminishes the water surface areas for recreational activities and impacts on the functioning of the ecosystem it invades.

With the strong summer southeaster, *Typha* seeds are dispersed like snow flakes in a snowstorm and cling to and blanket "everything and anything" it touches.

It also clogs pool filters. Not only has it inconvenienced residents financially and otherwise, but it also causes eye irritation, sinus, hay fever and respiratory problems.

Waves Edge resident Pierre Daneels said all the authorities had failed to curb the problem.

"We are so frustrated. They have talked for many years without a concrete sustainable plan of action. And so another year starts with no action."

Showing Tabletalk an outside braai cover lightly coated with the seeds, Mr Daneels said the seed dispersal escalated dramatically when in full cycle.

Resident Jacqui Freeman said the area faced a "health crisis". She threatened legal action against the City, saying it had compromised their constitutional right to a "safe, healthy environment."



■ The *Typha Capensis* reeds that have invaded parts of the Rietvlei Wetland Reserve.

The seed dispersal worsened each year, she said. Doors and windows had to be shut despite the heat.

An asthmatic, Ms Freeman, said the three months of seed dispersal were a nightmare. She has also developed urticaria, a skin ailment, which she believed was linked to exposure to the seed.

Another resident, Jane Farham, said she had to depend on nasal spray to treat hayfever during this time. She owns a bed and breakfast in the area and guests had left because of the seed dispersal in the past.

Resident Anton van Wyk said the authorities should have taken action as far back as the late 1990s.

"It's supposed to be a wetland area that should be managed, but it wasn't."

Proposals to manage the issue in the early 2000s were snubbed.

"Our calls to the relevant authorities weren't answered or there was no funding or they said they were managing it. It could have been contained then."

He said their excuse for the prevalence of the reeds was that the run-off water from surrounding



■ Pierre Daneels and the white "fluffy" seeds that have started to blanket his braai cover.

properties had a high concentration of nitrates.

He said the accepted way to manage the reeds was to cut them low before the rainy season. Once submerged in water, they would die off. He said wildlife and plant life had been displaced, including a variety of birds and the Cape Clawless Otter.

"Since then, the area is more infested with snakes. They can sail up reeds and steal small birds from their nests."

Mr Van Wyk said the Rietvlei Reserve at Flamingo Vlei did not have as many reeds, as the water was saltier. He suggested that salt be dispersed in the problem area before the rainy season to make the water more saline.

"Bird life won't die. The ecology will change slightly but it won't kill anything."

Ward councillor and chairman of the Blaauwberg Sub-Council, Heather Brenner, said she lobbied in 2010 to have the reeds controlled but was blocked by environmentalists and the Roads and Stormwater Department who pointed to the reeds filtration properties in protecting the sensitive

waterways from impurities.

Since then she had obtained R79 000 from a special fund to provide reed clearing projects, but the funds were only released after this year's seed dispersal had started.

Elected ward councillor for Ward 107 in May last year, she said the soonest she could influence a ward budget was for the 2012/13 financial year. She had put her entire R200 000 operational budget for the 2012/13 financial year into managing the *Typha*.

"I have great sympathy with residents negatively impacted by the seed dispersal of the *Typha* and I believe the City should put a management plan in place to control it not only because of the impact on residents but because its invasive nature has resulted in its rife growth in waterways, waterbodies and stormwater systems across the City. *Typha Capensis* needs to be controlled. I will continue to agitate for this."

The City said it had started to clear the *Typha* in the affected areas, which should be completed in June.

Bongani Mntsi, a regional manager in the City's Environmental Resource Management Depart-

ment, said they had always had a mandate to clear reeds, except in nature reserves.

"It was not a priority in nature reserves as the reeds are an important, indigenous wetland species. It was never seen as a species to be cleared. But due to its invasiveness and the health implications, we are looking at it differently now. We have realised it is important to start managing the reeds in the area as it has choked the wetland."

He said they were using unskilled labour to cut the reeds by hand.

While residents have criticised these methods as laborious and ineffective, Mr Mntsi said: "We will look at the response and cost of the method we are using and if not effective we would improve the method used."

The *Typha* is a useful plant as it can be weaved to manufacture hats, mats and baskets, or used as roof thatch or as fibre for paper among a host of other possibilities.

However, the City will not be recycling the reeds at this stage. If anyone would like to approach the City with a recycling project using the reeds call Mr Mntsi on 083 501 7791.



■ Regular beach clean-ups between Dolphin Beach and Bloubergstrand are becoming more popular in Table View. A recent clean-up saw 200kg of garbage lifted from the beach. The next clean-up is on Saturday March 3. If anyone notices any dirty stretches of beaches, email Gregory at gregory_player@hotmail.com "We will do our best to get some guys together and go clean up that area. No one likes a dirty beach. Or put the information on the Facebook page - Blouberg Beach Clean-up," he says.

Figure 71. The Tabletalk of 2012/02/22 reported on the City's intent to clear *Typha capensis* from the Wave's Edge wetland.

City's reed dance

It's mind-boggling that it has taken the City years to address the invasive *Typha* reed at Waves Edge and Dolphin Beach. Not only to give the choked wetlands some room to re-establish its natural ecosystem, but also to give residents relief from its fluffy white seed that has caused them untold stress.

The current project seems to be a knee-jerk reaction due to the persistence of the affected residents. The ideal time to cut down the reeds would have been before the seed dispersal season began, but then again, better late than never.

With unskilled labour tackling this mammoth task by hand, one can only wonder how successful this project will be. It's bound to bring some relief, but not enough.

Having witnessed how prevalent the seed dispersal is, even at this early stage of the season, one can understand the frustration these residents face. Key to their frustrations is that this situation should have been managed years ago.

A balance should have been found between having the *Typha* serve its filtering purposes, while protecting the health of residents.

With the promise of funding to tackle this issue head-on during the next financial year one can only hope that a holistic, sustainable plan of action will be formulated. One that will not only serve the wetlands well, but also protect the affected residents and provide a social upliftment project for the recycling of the reeds.

Figure 72. Editorial comment on the clearing of *Typha capensis* at Wave's Edge, Table View.

8
Wednesday March 7 2012
NEWS
Tabletalk

Tired of life on the 'seedy' part of town

Have your say
SMS TALK with your message, name and area you live in to 20200 (0206) (SMS charges at R1 each)

PAM FOURE

Seed dispersal from the *Typha capensis* reeds is still causing havoc in the lives of residents living near the Rietvlei Reserve wetlands, despite the City's efforts to cut them down.

The reeds have clogged the wetlands at Dolphin Beach and Wave's Edge. Their seeds, which are dispersed between February and April each year, invade residents' homes, blanketing pools, washing, indoor bedding, plants and anything else in their path ("City moves to tackle invasive reeds," Tabletalk February 22).

This situation has frustrated residents for many years with no action from City officials until now. Funding was found to cut down the reeds by hand, using casual labour as a short-term solution to the problem.

Ward councillor and chairman of the Blaauwberg Sub-council, Heather Brenner has also put her entire operational budget of R200 000 for the 2012/13 financial year towards managing the reeds.

Bongani Mntsi, regional manager North, Biodiversity Management Branch, Environmental Resource Management Department for the City, is spearheading



■ Reeds are being cleared from the site. Anybody with recycling ideas can approach the City.

the current project and felt the full effects of the seed dispersal during a recent site visit. He said he could hardly move around with his eyes and mouth open. He has since stationed two full-time staff on site who are authorised to operate weed eaters to speed up the process.

He said the current project was only one step in managing the situation.

"Guided by the document that will be drafted after the project, we will have to start early next time while continuing to explore other sustainable ways for future management."

Ms Brenner was pleased that Mr Mntsi had experienced the effects



■ Pierre Daneels' pool is layered with the *Typha*.

of the seed dispersal first-hand.

"I believe my original motion for a city-wide management plan for this pest should be revisited."

But for now, there is no relief in sight for affected residents.

Resident Pierre Daneels said that cutting down and clearing the reeds at this time of year, when the seeds are ready to disperse, is aggravating the situation.

"We would, in any case, have been inundated at this time. They are definitely progressing and are now using two weed eaters, but there is a long way to go and it's a short-term solution. The seeds will propagate again."

He said a long-term solution



■ The City is making slow progress cutting down the reeds.

would be to cut the reeds, unblock the waterways, and introduce more salt into the affected waterways to control the spread of the reeds.

If anyone would like to approach the City with a recycling project using the reeds call Mr Mntsi on 083 591 7791.

Figure 73. The Tabletalk of 2012/03/07 reported further on the clearing of *Typha capensis*.

Save the bridge

Mike Kaptein,
Milnerton

Milnerton's iconic Wooden Bridge is falling down. For more than a century, the only connection to the "island", this famous Milnerton landmark appears to be doomed, and has been closed, even to pedestrians, for many years.

On the Facebook page "Milnerton High School 60's to 70's" there is a fair amount of postings about its history, and what to do

to save this precious historical structure.

The bridge was built from imported Australian mahogany (Jarra), around 1899 by the British Royal Engineers, to access the "island" where a fort was built on the coast between the (now) Lighthouse and Sunset Beach.

Sections of the old tarred road can be found on top of the dunes leading to the old fort which was partially demolished because it was "unsafe" many years ago. The bridge was declared a national monument in 1987.

Who is responsible for its upkeep, and therefore its deterioration? The name "Woodbridge" is embedded in Milnerton: Woodbridge Island, Woodbridge Business Park and Woodbridge Primary.

All the above and more can be seen on the mentioned Facebook page. I think that a "Save the Bridge" committee, with fundraising credentials, should be created. Big business should be invited to the table, and so too local and provincial government. Before it's too late.

Figure 74. Letter to the editor on the need to save the Wooden Bridge at the Milnerton Lagoon.



Wetlands awareness: The City of Cape Town's Table Bay Nature Reserve Environmental Education team visited Sophakama Primary School in Du Noon recently where they celebrated World Wetlands Week. Programmes in and around the nature reserve ran from 30 January to 3 February 2012. The intention of the programmes was to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands and the unique, irreplaceable biodiversity that is supported by many of the city's nature reserves.

Figure 75. The Tygerburger of 2012/02/29 reported on educational outreach to Du Noon.



Milnerton Lagoon turned almost completely green last week Sunday, but a few days later the green goo mysteriously disappeared again. This is, however, a natural process according to the City of Cape Town.
Photo: Robert Lurie

Green lagoon mystery solved

ANDRÉ BAKKES

Concerted efforts across the world are gearing towards “going green”, but Milnerton Lagoon must have misunderstood the term.

Last week the lagoon went almost completely green, and upon closer inspection the thick algae had a few raising an eyebrow and others pulling up their nose.

A few days later and it disappeared again just as quickly as it made its unwelcome appearance.

The City of Cape Town says, however, that it is perfectly natural – nothing to be concerned about, especially at this time of year.

Algae are photosynthetic organisms that occur in most habitats. They vary from small, single-celled forms to complex multi-cellular forms, such as the giant kelp that grow up to 65 metres in length.

The “going green” statement made in the introduction isn’t quite as far fetched as one would think.

According to Wikipedia, algae fuel might be an alternative to fossil fuel and uses algae as its source of natural deposits.

The website reads: “Several companies and government agencies are funding efforts

to reduce capital and operating costs and make algae fuel production commercially viable. Harvested algae, like fossil fuel, release CO2 when burnt but unlike fossil fuel the CO2 is taken out of the atmosphere by the growing algae.”

Read *TygerBurger* next week for a more technical breakdown from the city.

Figure 76. The Tygerburger of 2012/03/14 reported on the algae in the Milnerton Lagoon.



The Milnerton lagoon looked like a green lawn for a few days recently.

Photo: Robert Lurie

Nice weather for algae

ANDRÉ BAKKES

The acting director of the department of roads and stormwater, Duncan Daries, gave an insightful and interesting response to questions posed by *TygerBurger* about the algae recently seen on the Milnerton lagoon.

For a few days the lagoon was almost completely green, but then it “mysteriously” returned to normal again.

“Milnerton lagoon is a very dynamic system, with the benefit that blooms are often short-lived as tidal effects often prevent the uninhibited growth patterns of algae,” he explains.

“The prolific growth of the species in the lagoon at this time of year is due to a number of factors: high ambient temperatures, slow river flows and together with high nutrients would result in a typical bloom of algae as demonstrated in the photograph.”

There are apparently benefits as well as drawbacks to this complex plant, which grows exponentially in favourable condi-

tions such as warm temperatures, good sunlight and sufficient fertilising nutrients.

Daries elaborates: “It provides refuge to aquatic organisms and oxygenates the water body. A massive bloom can, however, eventually form a mat of algae that cuts off the sunlight for organisms living in the water.

“When this mat of algae reaches its peak in exponential growth, the decaying process that follows is often associated with low oxygen levels as the organic matter is broken down by bacteria. This places organisms like fish under respiratory stress.”

Since increased nutrient levels from urban run-off may contribute to higher amounts of algae biomass at times, the question appeared to be whether the Milnerton lagoon is indeed clean.

Daries responds: “It has had low e.coli counts over the last few months, since values below 1000counts/mL are acceptable. E.coli is used as an indicator organism for suitability for human health.”

The dynamic nature of the Diep Estuary (Milnerton lagoon) is a highly valuable asset for biodiversity conservation.

Figure 77. The *TygerBurger* of 2012/03/21 also reported on the algae at Milnerton Lagoon.

5.2 Stakeholder Engagement (internal meetings)

Table 6. Records of internal stakeholder meetings relating to the TBNR.

Reserve	Date	Meeting/Workshop	Purpose
TBNR	2012/01/16	Standard operating procedures for compliance management in North	Planning
	2012/01/19	Senior managers' site visit of TBNR	Feedback
	2012/02/07	Flora management committee meeting	Planning
		Signage template design meeting	Planning
	2012/02/09	North student research presentations: Mamre Information Centre	Feedback
	2012/02/10	TBNR Conservation Development Framework (CDF) planning meeting	Planning
	2012/02/16	City nature conservation students research presentations	Feedback
	2012/02/24	TBNR staff meeting	Planning
	2012/03/01	Internship Programme kick-off meeting	Planning
	2012/03/05	TBNR stock audit	Planning
2012/03/19	Invasive Species Unit: TBNR invasive species densities	Planning	

5.3 North District Meetings: Health and Safety, Monthly etc

Table 7. Records of district meeting relating to the TBNR.

Date	Venue	Type of Meeting (s)
2012/01/27	Eestresteen Cabin	North Region Health and Safety Meeting
		North Region Management Meeting
2012/02/24	Rietvlei Education Centre	North Region Management Meeting
2012/03/30	Eerstesteen Cabin	North Region Health and Safety Meeting
		North Region Management Meeting

5.4 Environmental Resource Management Branch Meetings/Fun Days

Table 8. Records of branch meetings relating to the TBNR.

Date	Venue/Theme
-	-

6 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Staff Establishment

Table 9. TBNR 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
TOTALS		*P/C E: Permanent or Contract Employees	13	

- **Public Holidays:** There were two public holidays this quarter (2012/01/02 & 2012/03/21).
- **Nature Conservation Students:** The new Nature Conservation students from the CPUT for the year 2012 are Robert Slater and Cassandra Ricketts. The students have both undergone their driver's medical checks, and obtained Council authorisation to drive Council vehicles.
- **Internship Programme:** The present intern, Chanelle Naidoo's employment ended on 2012/02/29 (see Figures 78 – 79), and her position was filled by the new intern, Bulelwa Speelman, from 2012/03/01 for the next 12 months. Bulelwa Speelman underwent a medical check and hearing test, but is yet to obtain Council authorisation to drive Council vehicles.



Figures 78 – 79. Chanelle Naidoo gave TBNR staff a beautiful cake parting gift, and the TBNR staff gave Chanelle a farewell braai in return. Chanelle completed her internship on 2012/02/29.

6.2 Staff Training

Table 10. TBNR staff training records.

Area	Date	Type of Training	Attended Staff	Person Days
TBNR	2012/02/13	Manager Self Service (SAP Portal MSS)	1	1
	2012/02/13-17	Arc Welding	1	5
	2012/03/12-16	Gas Welding	1	5
	2012/03/26	Health & Safety Representative	1	1
	2012/03/26-29	Internship Training Workshop	1	4
TOTALS				16

7 TOURISM AND VISITOR STATISTICS

7.1 Summary of this quarter: January – March 2012

- A total of **R39 493** was collected at the Rietvlei main entrance gate during this quarter (see Table 11 below). This is **R21 736** more than the **R17 757** of the previous quarter. This is partly due to the fact that the main entrance is now operational again after the construction period of the last quarter. See Figures 80 – 81 for pie charts relating to the income and visitors at TBNR below.

Table 11. Income at TBNR during January 2012-March 2012

Description	Jan	Feb	Mar	Cost	Quantity	Income	Total
Daily Entry							
Adult (13+)	261	276	397	R 12.00	934	R 11 208	R 39 493
Adult Sail/Wind		8	2	R 18.00	10	R 180	
Children (3 -12)	65	39	67	R 6.00	171	R 1 026	
Children (under 3)			1	R 0.00	1	R 0	
Friends of Rietvlei	4	24	34	R 0.00	62	R 0	
Learner Sail/Wind		1		R 10.00	1	R 10	
Power boats		10	46	R 42.00	56	R 2 352	
Senior (60+)	33	27	40	R 6.00	100	R 600	
Student			3	R 6.00	3	R 18	
Vehicles	125	146	203	R 16.00	474	R 7 584	
Season Tickets							
Adults	1	1	1	R 111.00	3	R 333	
Family		1		R 169.00	1	R 169	
Seniors (60+)	1	4	1	R 56.00	6	R 336	
General							
Boat Testing (Mon-Fri)		2	6	R 37.00	8	R 296	
Fishing (adult: 13 and older)	133	107	118	R 36.00	358	R 12 888	
Fishing (children: 3-12)	22	11	17	R 12.00	50	R 600	
Fishing (seniors: 60 and up)	17	22	15	R 12.00	54	R 648	
Commercial Activities							
Film shoot (10-20 people)		1		R 264.00	1	R 264	
Environmental Education							
Learner (all other schools)		109	86	R 5.00	195	R 975	
Learner (G FL School)			2	R 3.00	2	R 6	

Figure 80. Pie chart of income generated at TBNR during January - March 2012

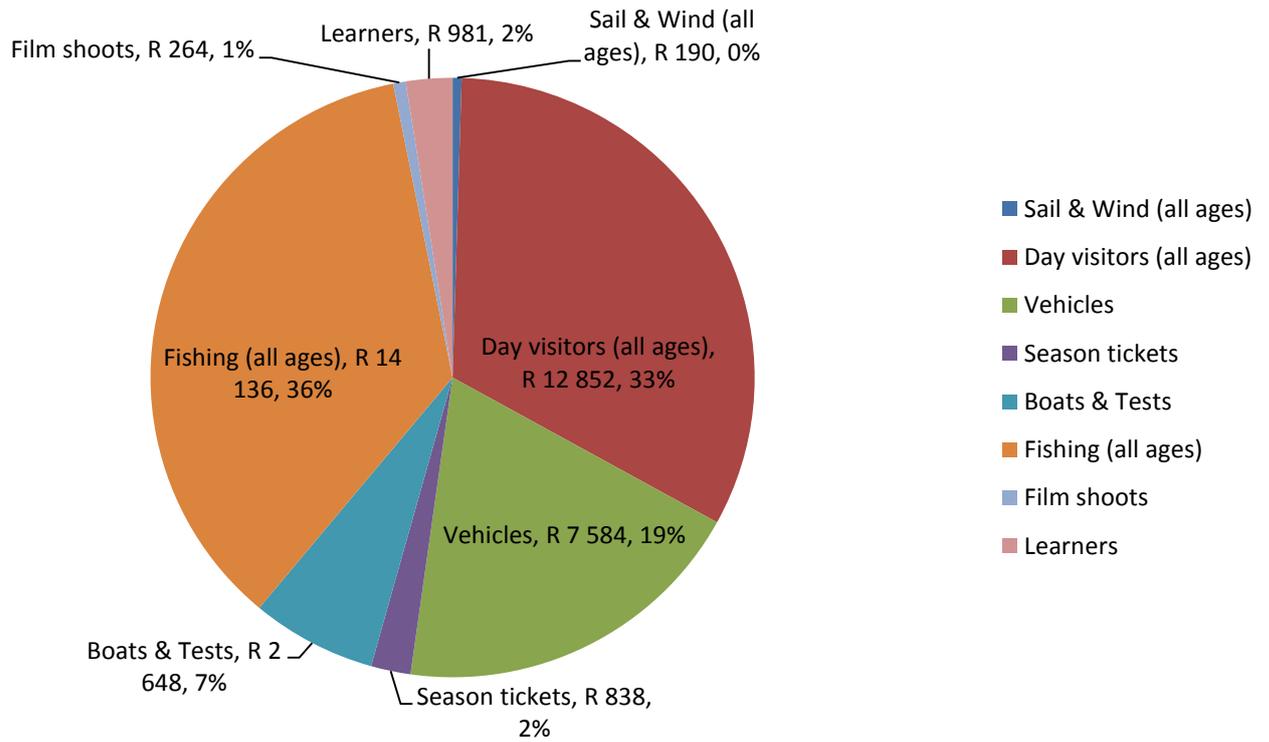
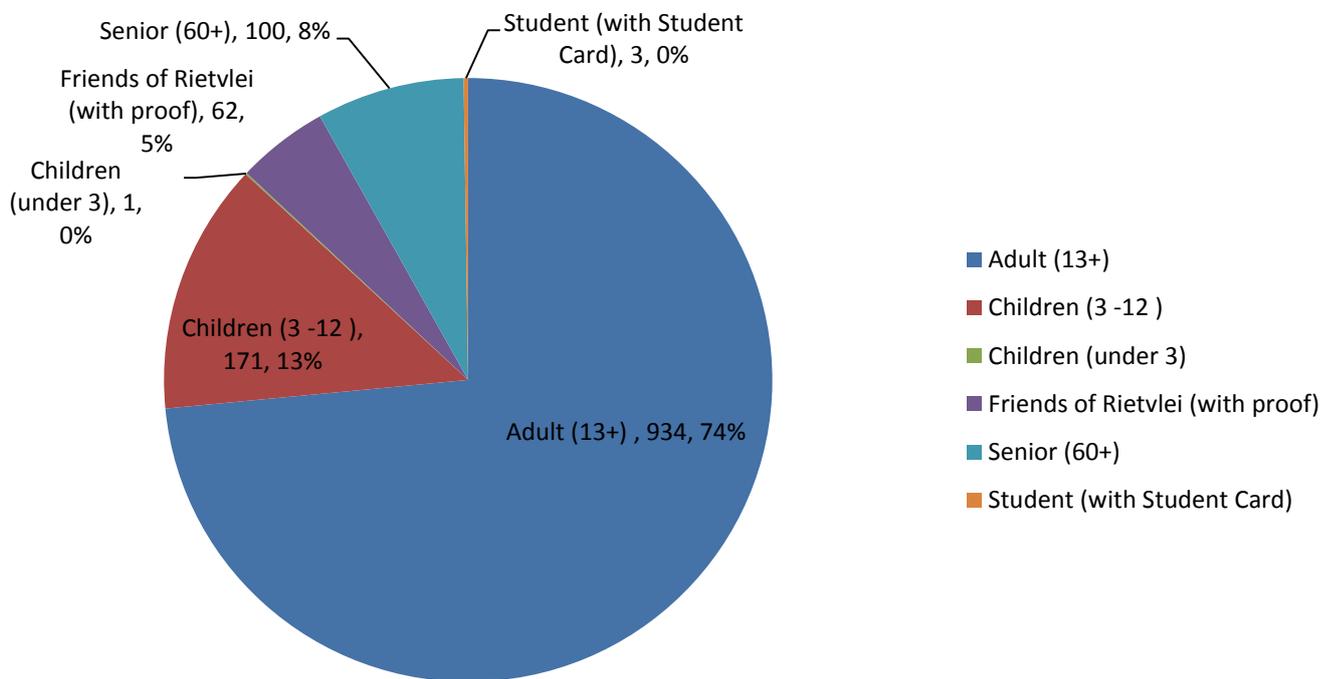


Figure 81. Pie chart of visitors through the TBNR control point during January - March 2012



8 LAW ENFORCEMENT / COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT

- **Signage Design:** Koos Retief attended several meetings to assist standardizing of signage designs for nature reserves in the City. Some signs are going to be constructed at TBNR in the near future.
- **Woodbridge Island – Illegal Access and Occupation under the Bridge:** The access control measures at the Wooden Bridge have been effective at stopping illegal overnighting under the bridge. These measures have however not been effective at stopping access to the top of the bridge. It is suspected that illegal fishing is taking place from the bridge at night time. Figure 82 indicates how the razor wire has been trampled down.
- **Illegal Occupation:** Figures 83 – 85 indicate the impacts of illegal occupants. Figure 83 illustrates a cleaning up operation at the Diep River west of the Killarney Depot, after an open cooking fire or copper cable burning spread through the reserve. Figures 84 – 85 illustrate the impacts of an illegal occupant at Wave’s Edge. This perpetrator and other people have been removed when detected, and their structures and/or litter were cleaned up.



Figure 82. Suspected fishermen damaging razor wire to gain access to the bridge to fish from.



Figure 83. Location of an illegal occupation that was removed.



Figures 84 – 85. Evidence of illegal overnighting and dumping at Wave’s Edge, as well as one of the perpetrators cooking on an open fire. This person was removed and the dumping was cleared.

- Edge Effects at Wave's Edge Wetland:** During the reed cutting work at Wave's Edge, it was identified that vegetation must be cut back from the private properties to prevent the spread of wildfires over property boundaries. Figures 86 – 91 illustrate some unacceptable impacts from adjacent properties, including unauthorised constructions, spread of alien plants, and dumping of garden refuse and grass clippings. These practices are discouraged.



Figures 86 – 87. Several illegal and undesired activities have taken place at Wave's Edge. Some of these include unauthorised structures such as this fish pond and garden composting site on the nature reserve land. Other unwanted situations are also below.



Figure 88. Creeping of alien plants into reserve.

Figure 89. Dumping of cut material in reserve.



Figures 90 – 91. Dumping of refuse and grass clippings at several locations in the nature reserve.

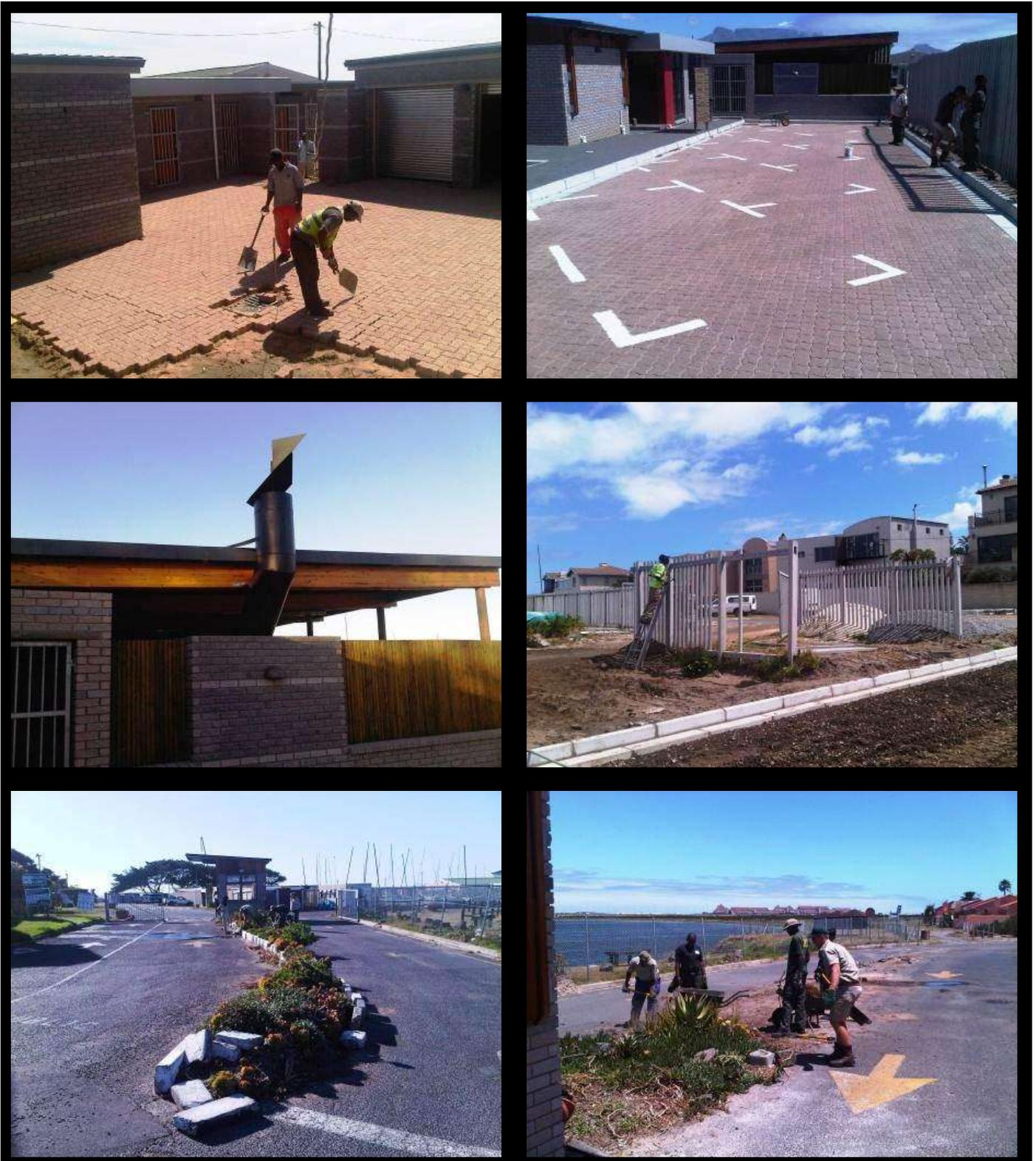
9 INFRASTRUCTURE

9.1 Repairs and Maintenance

10 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

10.1 Capital Projects

- **Rietvlei office construction:** Various meetings have been held to control the finalisation of the Rietvlei office construction (see Figures 92 – 97). Presently the Eskom electricity connection is still required.



Figures 92 – 97. Various stages of construction at the Rietvlei office and main entrance gate.

Koos Retief

Area Manager: Milnerton (Table Bay Nature Reserve)

Biodiversity Management Branch

Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD), City of Cape Town

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E-mail: jacobusj.retief@capetown.gov.za | Web: www.capetown.gov.za/environment

