



TABLE BAY NATURE RESERVE QUARTERLY REPORT

1 JULY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

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Figure 1. Running Cape clawless otter at Rietvlei (photo: Frieda Prinsloo).

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Table Bay Nature Reserve's quarterly report circulation** has increased significantly, with over 1300 people receiving copies of the quarterly report and important notices from the Nature Reserve.
- **The 30 year anniversary of the proclamation of the Rietvlei Nature Area** was almost exactly marked by the publication of a new advertisement of the intent to proclaim the Table Bay Nature Reserve. This new proclamation will be made in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act and will enable stronger enforcement of legislation in the Nature Reserve.
- **The decommissioning of litter bins in the Rietvlei Water Area** follows the trend of many other nature reserves and national parks that have phased out litter bins at picnic areas. Visitors at Rietvlei are now required to remove all their rubbish with them when they go home.
- **The Rietvlei Water Rangers work schedules** have been amended to better serve the public opening times at the Recreational Water Area. The public opening times are 07:30 to 16:00 daily, and the closing time every day is at 17:00. The Water Area is only closed to the public on Good Friday and Christmas Day every year.
- **The paddling trial period at the Rietvlei Water Area** was also expanded to include all operating times of the Nature Reserve. This means the public can paddle on the Rietvlei water from 07:30 until 16:00 daily.
- **Visitor numbers and income** have continued to exceed previous years' records. Despite the fact that this quarter is in the "off-season," it has seen more visitors and income at the Rietvlei gate than the same quarter in previous years.
- **Some of the community interactions** this quarter included various holiday programmes for children and spring walks for the general public. The Spring walks were advertised in the local press.
- **Poaching of fish in the Rietvlei Water Area** was discovered by Nature Reserve staff during night-time observations. It is suspected that the poachers used gill nets, which are an illegal means of fishing. A small boat was found hidden in the vegetation at Rietvlei, but no arrests have yet been made.
- **Steel structures at the Cape Radio Flyers club facility** at the Rietvlei Wetlands were destroyed by vandals who removed the steel to sell as scrap metal. Several people were apprehended, and three arrests were made. Charges ranged from possession of drugs to damage to Council property and theft.
- **Indiscriminate gardening in the Nature Reserve by several neighbouring residents** at Sunset Beach and Milnerton Ridge continues to threaten the biodiversity of the Nature Reserve. The management team will continue to protect the Table Bay Nature Reserve's indigenous vegetation and biodiversity from unauthorised gardening developments by neighbouring residents. Restoration work is being planned.
- **An approved indigenous tree planting list** can guide decision-making around planting of trees on or near City of Cape Town Nature Reserves. Only the reserve management team may plant anything on a nature reserve, but private land-owners and neighbouring residents MAY NOT. Neighbours may however consider any number of desirable indigenous trees from this planting list for planting on their own private properties. There are several indigenous species that can offer shade, deter criminals and attract birds. People are welcome to enquire with the conservation office about this list.
- **A colour-coded map of the Nature Reserve** was prepared (see Appendix A). A detailed version in a higher resolution is available for viewing on the [Table Bay Nature Reserve webpage](http://www.capetown.gov.za/en/EnvironmentalResourceManagement/Documents/TableBay/Secti ons+boundaries map for Table Bay NR 2014-09.pdf) at the link: <http://www.capetown.gov.za/en/EnvironmentalResourceManagement/Documents/TableBay/Secti ons+boundaries map for Table Bay NR 2014-09.pdf>.

2 HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

2.1 The Rietvlei Nature Area turns 30 years old

The Department of Constitutional Development and Planning's notice 1632 of 3 August 1984, more than 30 years ago, reserved Rietvlei as a Nature Area in terms section 4(1) of the Physical Planning Act (No 88 of 1967) (see Figure 2 below).

Section 4 of the Physical Planning Act, which provided for the reservation of land as Nature Areas, was later superseded by the Environment Conservation Act. All Nature Areas that were reserved under the Physical Planning Act became known as Protected Natural Environments (PNEs) in terms of the Environment Conservation Act thereafter.

The Rietvlei PNE, which only encompasses the Rietvlei wetlands and the Milnerton Lagoon, is only about 650 hectares in size. The new Table Bay Nature Reserve boundary is about 880 hectares in size and completely encompasses the current PNE boundary. The additional land that is now incorporated into the boundary includes the Diep River Fynbos Corridor, Milnerton Racecourse, and the Zoarvlei and Coastal Sections.



Figure 2. Extract from original proclamation notice 1632, 3 August 1984.

2.2 A “bin-free” Rietvlei Water Area is coming in 2014. Refuse bins were phased out at public picnic and braai areas of the Table Bay Nature Reserve's Rietvlei Water Area during this quarter. Refuse bins in public visitor areas do not promote a culture of taking responsibility for one's own refuse.

Many other nature reserves and national parks are also changing their approach to managing refuse collection in visitor areas, and requesting visitors to take out everything that they bring in with them.

Small refuse bags were offered to visitors free of charge at the main entrance gate, and they were allowed in the interim to drop off their refuse at designated drop-off points in the Nature Reserve. By the end of the year all visitors will be responsible for the legal disposal of their own refuse.



Figure 3. Refuse bins are a thing of the past at the Rietvlei water area.

3 CONSERVATION PLANNING

3.1 The intention to declare the Table Bay Nature Reserve, along with thirteen other [City of Cape Town nature reserves](#), was advertised by the Minister on 6 July 2014 in Rapport and Sunday Times (see Figures 4-5). Click here to link to [webpage](#) and [property descriptions](#)).

A 60-day public commenting period closed on 4 September 2014. The proclamations will be made in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act. This legislation offers very strong protection for nature reserves.

The other areas that will be proclaimed include Blaauwberg, Bothasig, Botterblom, Bracken, Edith Stephens, False Bay, Helderberg, Steenbras, Tygerberg, Uitkamp Wetland, Witzands Aquifer, Wolfgat, and Zandvlei Nature Reserves.

**WESTERN CAPE NATURE CONSERVATION BOARD
NOTICE
PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE
NO. 165/2014**

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT,
2003 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2003): INTENTION TO DECLARE NATURE RESERVES**

I, Anton Bredell, in my capacity as Provincial Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning in the Western Cape, acting under section 33(1)(a) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act 57 of 2003), give notice that:-

(a) I intend declaring nature reserves, on the properties as indicated in the Schedule. Full details of the properties can be viewed on the CapeNature website at <http://www.capenature.co.za/care-for-nature/stewardship/> and the City of Cape Town's website at <http://www.capetown.gov.za/naturereserveproclamation>

(b) I invite members of the public to submit written representations on or objections to the proposed declaration within 60 days from the date of this notice to the following address:
The Chief Executive Officer
CapeNature
Private Bag X29
Gatesville
7766
Attention: Ms. M Keys

Signed at Cape Town this 27th day of May 2014.
**MR A BREDELL, MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

SCHEDULE			
NO.	NAME OF NATURE RESERVE	NO. OF ERF/ERVEN	OWNER/S
1.	BLAAUWBERG	11	City of Cape Town
2.	BOTHASIG	2	City of Cape Town
3.	BOTTERBLOM	3	City of Cape Town
4.	BRACKEN	6	City of Cape Town
5.	EDITH STEPHENS	6	City of Cape Town
6.	FALSE BAY	91	City of Cape Town
7.	HELDERBERG	4	3 Erven owned by the City of Cape Town and 1 Erf owned by Lourensford Properties (Pty) Ltd
8.	STEENBRAS	11	City of Cape Town
9.	TABLE BAY	72	70 Erven owned by the City of Cape Town and 2 Erven owned by the World Wide Fund South Africa
10.	TYGERBERG	25	City of Cape Town
11.	UITKAMP WETLAND	6	City of Cape Town
12.	WITZAND AQUIFER	4	City of Cape Town
13.	WOLFGAT	2	City of Cape Town
14.	ZANDVLEI	80	City of Cape Town

Figure 5. Notice of intent in the regional press.

WES-KAAPSE NATUURBEWARINGSRAAD

Kennisgewing Nr. 165/2014

WET OP NASIONALE OMGEWINGSBESTUUR: BESKERMDE GEBIEDE, WET 57 VAN 2003: VOORNEME OM NATUURRESERVATE TE VERKLAAR

Ek, Anton Bredell, Provinsiale Minister van Plaaslike Regering, Omgewingsake en Ontwikkelingsbeplanning van die Wes-Kaap, handelend ingevolge artikel 33(1)(a) van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur: Beskermde Gebiede, 2003 (Wet 57 van 2003), gee hiermee kennis dat:-

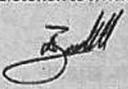
(a) ek van voorneme is om natuurreservate te verklaar op die eiendomme soos aangedui in die Skedule. Vir volledige besonderhede van die eiendomme besoek die CapeNature-webtuiste op <http://www.capenature.co.za/care-for-nature/stewardship/> asook die Stad Kaapstad webtuiste op www.capetown.gov.za/en/EnvironmentalResourceManagement/Pages/NatureReserveProclamation.aspx

(b) ek lede van die publiek uitnooi om skriftelik verhoë te rig oor of beswaar aan te teken teen die voorgestelde verklaring binne 60 dae vanaf die datum van hierdie kennisgewing en dit by die volgende adres in te dien:

Die Hoof- Uitvoerende Beampte
CapeNature
Privaat sak X29
GATESVILLE
7766

Vir aandag: Me. M Keys

Geteken te KAAPSTAD hierdie 27^{ste} dag van Mei 2014.


**MNR. A BREDELL, MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE
REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING**

SKEDULE

NR.	NAAM VAN NATUURRESERVAAT	AANTAL ERF/ERWE	EIENAAR/S
1.	BLAAUWBERG	11	Stad Kaapstad
2.	BOTHASIG	2	Stad Kaapstad
3.	BOTTERBLOM	3	Stad Kaapstad
4.	BRACKEN	6	Stad Kaapstad
5.	EDITH STEPHENS	6	Stad Kaapstad
6.	FALSE BAY	91	Stad Kaapstad
7.	HELDERBERG	4	3 Erwe word besit deur die Stad Kaapstad en 1 erf deur Lourensford Eiendomme (Edms) Bpk
8.	STEENBRAS	11	Stad Kaapstad
9.	TABLE BAY	72	70 Erwe word besit deur die Stad Kaapstad en 2 Erwe deur die World Wide Fund South Africa
10.	TYGERBERG	25	Stad Kaapstad
11.	UITKAMP WETLAND	6	Stad Kaapstad
12.	WITZAND AQUIFER	4	Stad Kaapstad
13.	WOLFGAT	2	Stad Kaapstad
14.	ZANDVLEI	80	Stad Kaapstad

Figure 4. Notice of intent in the regional press.

3.2 A Protected Area Review was conducted for Table Bay Nr on 11/07 and 14/07/2014. The purpose of the review is to assess all the management arrangements in place according to a proforma template.

3.3 The biodiversity of Table Bay Nature Reserve is continually monitored and recorded on a centralised database. Below Figures 6-19 are images of specimens found in the field, which included nesting sites, roadkill mortalities, census records, as well as *ad hoc* field sightings.

Some of the records included clutches of duck, snipe and spurfowl eggs, a dead Cape clawless otter found at the R27 near Dolphin Beach Hotel, Cape dwarf chameleons, a mole snake, various indigenous plants and butterflies, marsh terrapins, as well as invasive alien fish such as carp and bass.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to submit images of interesting plant and animal sightings from the Nature Reserve for identification by a biodiversity specialist. Clear photographs are required to be able to make positive identifications.



Figure 6. A clutch of twelve duck eggs.



Figure 7. Cape clawless otter road-kill from the R27.



Figure 8. A Cape dwarf chameleon.



Figure 9. Two African snipe eggs.



Figure 10. Cape spur-fowl hen brooding on a clutch.



Figure 11. A Mole snake.



Figure 12. *Spiloxene aquatica* at Milnerton Lagoon.



Figure 13. *Lycium afrum* at Milnerton Lagoon.



Figure 14. Waterblommetjie (*Aponogeton distachyos*).



Figure 15. *Pseudonympha magus* at Milnerton Lagoon.



Figure 16. Clicking stream frog.



Figure 17. Alien bass and carp.



Figure 18. Marsh terrapin.



Figure 19. View of Table Mountain from the Milnerton Lagoon Section.

4 NATURE CONSERVATION

4.1 Flora Management

4.1.1 Invasive vegetation clearing was focussed in the Coastal Section at Sunset Beach, as well as the Milnerton Lagoon adjacent to the Golf Course, the Milnerton Ridge Boundary, Zoarvlei and the Diep River Section. The main target species are Port Jacksons, emergent weeds, kikuyu grass and garden plants.

There are many instances of illegal encroachments of private gardens and physical structures in the Nature Reserve, especially along the Coastal Section at Sunset Beach as well as the Rietvlei Section at Milnerton Ridge (see Figures 20-21).

The Department is undertaking fine-scale mapping of these encroachments in Nature Reserves and will continue to take action to remedy the damage as well as taking legal action to deter private homeowners from transforming the City's protected biodiversity areas.

The Conservation team has developed strong relations with the Milnerton Golf Course and some property owners at Sunset Beach with regards to stopping aliens and ornamental garden plants from spreading into the Nature Reserve. More awareness is required however to prevent disappointment when homeowners realise that their garden plants are not tolerated in the Nature Reserve.

The Conservation team can advise neighbouring landowners of acceptable indigenous species to plant in their own gardens. Landowners can request site visits at their property boundaries abutting the Nature Reserve to determine whether encroaching is taking place. Residents are urged to contact the office.



Figure 20. Ornamental garden plants being removed from Coastal Section.



Figure 21. Trucking away of alien plants from the Coastal Section.

4.1.2 Large-scale restoration work at the Rivergate development is currently being undertaken by Vula Environmental Services in the floodplain portion that will be included into the Diep River Section.

In terms of the Record of Decision for the Rivergate development, the floodplain portion of the land cannot be developed and must be restored and handed over to the City of Cape Town for inclusion into the Table Bay Nature Reserve.

The land has been transformed by decades of overgrazing and invasion of agricultural weeds. The restoration work entails herbicide treatment of agricultural weeds, soil preparation, manual seed dispersal and planting of propagated indigenous plants cultivated from on-site plant material.

A site inspection was held between the Department, the developers and the restoration ecologist.



Figure 22. Site inspection at floodplain portion of the Rivergate development, Parklands.

4.2 Fauna Management

4.2.1 Fish surveys were conducted at Rietvlei and the Milnerton Lagoon by Conservation Staff and Fisheries researchers on 2-3/08/2014.

4.2.2 An integrated bird census was conducted on 30/07/2014. The census was done by the Conservation Team and volunteers and covered 11 survey sections (see Figures 23-25 for details).

The water birds numbered a total of 1,649 birds comprising of 41 species. The number is relatively low compared to previous surveys, possibly due to extremely high water levels during the time of survey. The Milnerton Ridge canal was inaccessible and could not be surveyed.

These included 11 Great crested grebe, 9 Little grebe, 4 White pelican, 29 Whitebreasted cormorant, 43 Reed cormorant, 20 African darter, 5 Grey heron, 4 Blackheaded heron, 1 Purple heron, 26 Little egret, 18 Yellowbilled egret, 8 Cattle egret, 29 Sacred ibis, 9 Glossy ibis, 12 Hadeda ibis, 2 African spoonbill, 4 Greater flamingo, 90 Lesser flamingo, 84 Egyptian goose, 66 Yellowbilled duck, 27 Cape teal, 5 Hottentot teal, 8 Redbilled teal, 67 Cape shoveller, 32 Southern pochard, 1 Spurwinged goose, 4 African fish eagle, 2 African marsh harrier, 1 Purple swamphen, 21 Common moorhen, 294 Redknobbed coot, 40 Blacksmith lapwing, 32 Blackwinged stilt, 3 Water thicknee, 74 Kelp gull, 402 Hartlaub's gull, 126 Common tern, 5 Pied kingfisher, 2 Malachite kingfisher, 22 Cape wagtail, and 7 Mallard hybrid.

Other species sightings included Grass bird, Blackshouldered kite, Common fiscal shrike, Orangethroated longclaw, Common waxbill, Jackal buzzard, Peregrine falcon, Rock kestrel, Cape Robin.

Bird census 30/07/2014	Total	Diep River	North Vlei	South Vlei	Central Pan	Dolphin Beach	Milnerton Channel	Lagoon North	Lagoon South	Soarvlei North	Soarvlei South	Potsdam WWTW
TOTALS	1649	271	156	27	137	68	0	291	328	46	51	274
Great crested grebe	11		3	4	2							
Little grebe	9	1		2	2					1		3
White pelican	4				4							
Whitebreasted cormorant	29		5	5				8	11			
Reed cormorant	43	2	8	13	6	1		9	4			
African darter	20		7		4	1		7				1
Grey heron	5		1		1			3				
Blackheaded heron	4		1							1	2	
Purple heron	1											1
Little egret	26	2						21	2	1		
Yellowbilled egret	18								18			
Cattle egret	8		7		1							
Sacred ibis	29	4	1					16	1			7
Glossy ibis	9		2		1			6				
Hadeda ibis	12	5	3					2				2
African spoonbill	2				2							
Greater flamingo	4								2			2
Lesser flamingo	90	89			1							
Egyptian goose	84	10	7	1				29	22	4	2	9
Yellowbilled duck	66	17	4	1	2	3		17		2		20
Cape teal	27	9								8		10
Hottentot teal	5											5
Redbilled teal	8	8										
Cape shoveller	67		9		9	3		19				27
Southern pochard	32											32
Spurwinged goose	1		1									
African fish eagle	4	4										
African marsh harrier	2											2
Purple swamphen	1											1
Common moorhen	21	3				9		4		2		3
Redknobbed coot	294	77	68		61	21				14	14	19
Blacksmith lapwing	40	6	7					6		9	1	11
Blackwinged stilt	32	4	1		12			7				8
Water thicknee	3											3
Kelp gull	74	8	2							64		
Hartlaub's gull	402	17	11		10	26		112	97	4	30	93
Common tern	126		1						125			
Pied kingfisher	5		2					1				2
Malachite kingfisher	2	2										
Cape wagtail	22	3	5								2	12
Mallard hybrid	7							6				1

Figure 23. Results of 30/07/2014 bird census.

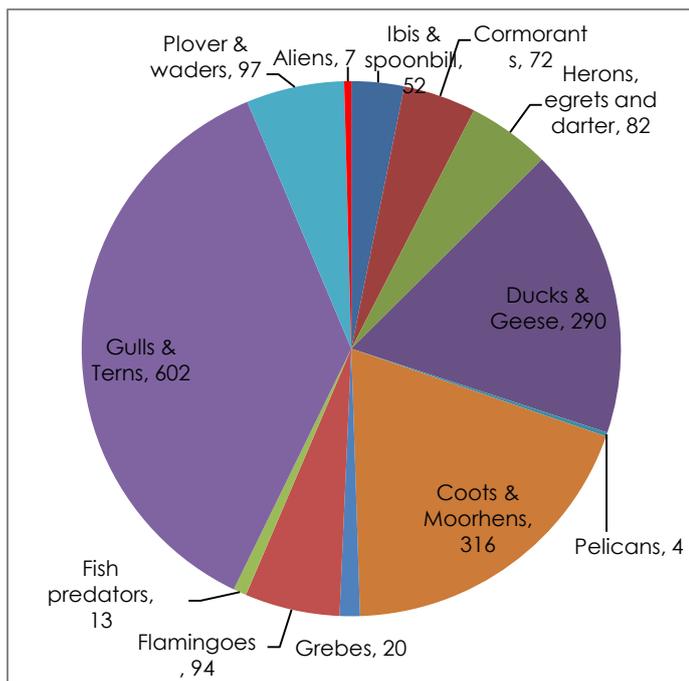


Figure 24. Pie chart of numbers of birds per group.

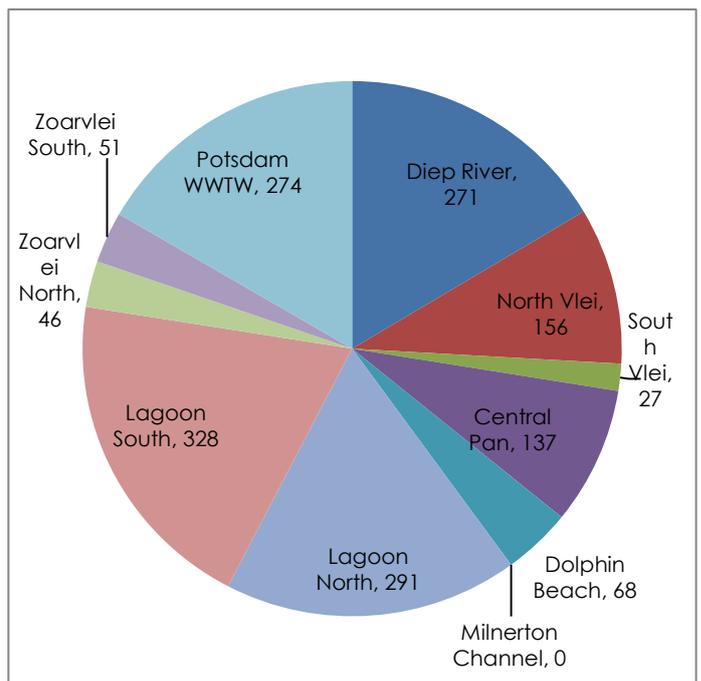


Figure 25. Pie chart of numbers of birds per section.

5 WATER MANAGEMENT

5.1 Water quality was monitored by means of collecting water samples at 15 sampling points on a monthly basis. The collection of the water samples was done by the Conservation Team since 2001, but during this quarter the task of collecting water samples was transferred back to the laboratory's technical staff. Samples were collected on 29/07, 26/08, and 30/09/2014.

5.2 Rainfall records at Table Bay Nature Reserve are recorded from two locations (Rietvlei Water Area and Milnerton Racecourse) onto a central database.

Below Figure 27 indicates the rainfall records from Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse for the year to date, plotted over the average rainfall pattern for the Nature Reserve since 2000. Despite high rainfall earlier in the year, measurements went below the average towards the end of this quarter.

Figure 28 however indicates the accumulation curve of the total annual rainfall at Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse. Both curves remain well above the average rainfall accumulation curve for the Nature Reserve. This indicates that the total rainfall to date is already higher than the average annual rainfall.



Figure 26. Learners reading the rainfall at Milnerton Racecourse.

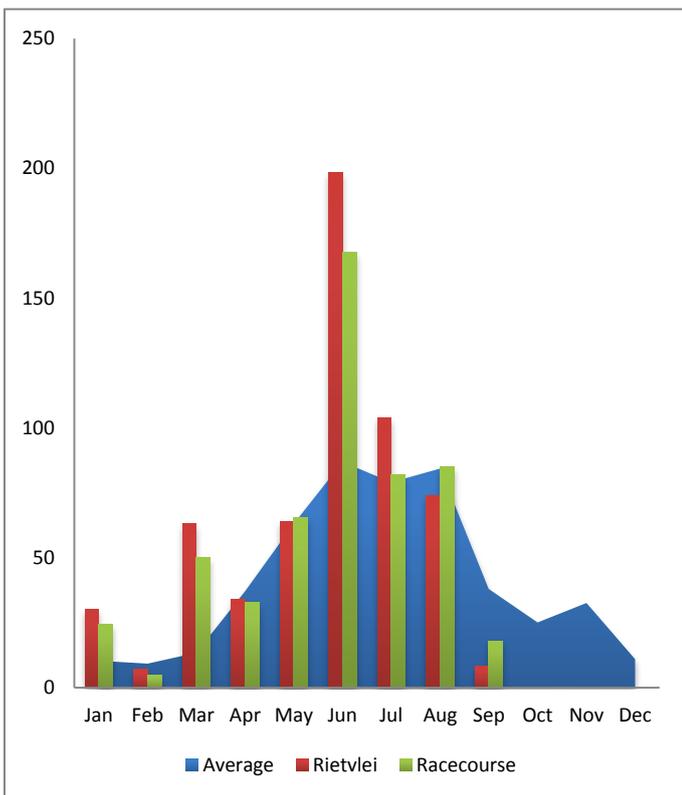


Figure 27. Monthly rainfalls plotted over average.

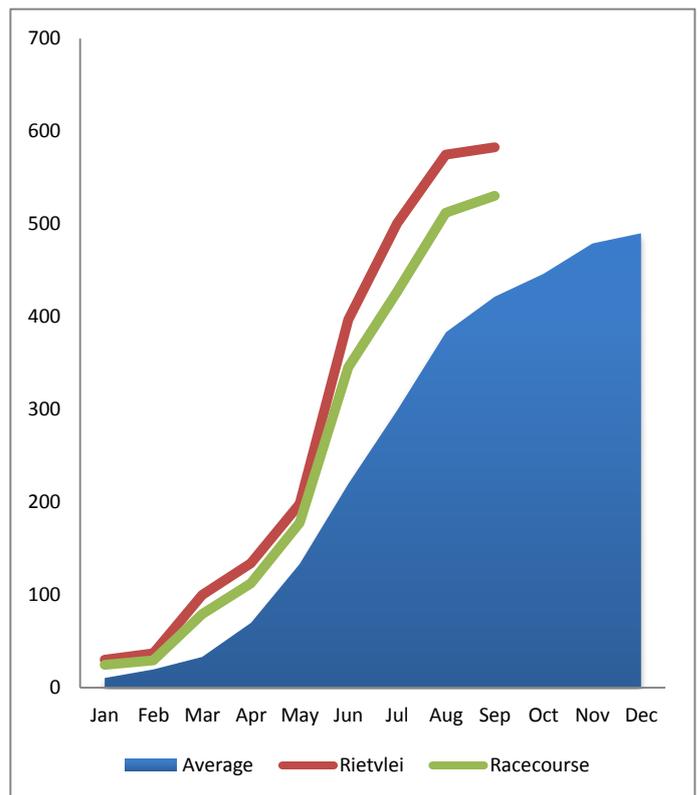


Figure 28. Accumulation curves plotted over average.

6 FIRE MANAGEMENT

6.1 A wildfire occurred in the evening of 28/09/2014 at the Waves' Edge Wetland adjacent to Marine Drive. The fire was managed by the City's Fire & Rescue Services. The Conservation Team mapped the fire and this will be reflected on the updated fire history map shortly. Residents are requested to report fires to the Conservation office at Table Bay Nature Reserve.

7 COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT

7.1 Poaching of fish in the Rietvlei Water Area was discovered by Nature Reserve staff during night-time observations. A suspicious white panel van was observed. Other evidence included drag-marks of a small boat through a hole cut in the R27 fence, and piles of fish scales on the shore. It is suspected that the poachers used gill nets, which are an illegal means of fishing. Several more night-time observations were subsequently undertaken in an effort to catch the suspected poachers in the act. Only a small boat was later found hidden in the vegetation at Rietvlei, with fish scales still inside it. No arrests have yet been made. Members of the public are requested to report any suspicious activity on the Rietvlei water after sunset.



Figure 29. Path between from R27 used by poachers.



Figure 30. Boat used by fish poachers.

7.2 Illegal occupations by displaced people were removed from several locations, notably at the Zoarvlei Section and the Milnerton Lagoon Section.

In some instances there are no structures, but just bedding material hidden behind vegetation.

Figure 31 across indicates a site in the Milnerton Lagoon which is not visible from the R27. The Paddocks shopping centre is in the background.

People are requested to report any such signs of trespassing to the Conservation office.



Figure 31. Illegal overnight area.

7.3 The bodies of two victims of apparent vigilante justice killings were found dumped in the Diep River Section by SAPS. Members of the Conservation Team and Fire & Rescue Services assisted SAPS with the recovery of the bodies from the river near the railway line at Doornbach. See Figures 32-33 below and press article overleaf.



Figure 32. A body being recovered from Diep River.



Figure 33. Two victims of vigilante justice killings.

Two bodies found next to railway tracks

ANDRÉ BAKKES

 @andrebakkes

Table View police suspects that two bodies discovered near the railway tracks on Monday are victims of vigilante violence.

Information is still sketchy, but Table View police spokesperson W/O Daphne O'Reilly, says the bodies were found near the railway track between Dunoon and

Doornbach.

"We suspect it is a case of a kangaroo court dumping the bodies there," says O'Reilly.

A kangaroo court is an assembly that blatantly disregards recognized standards of law or justice, and often carries little or no official standing in the community.

"The bodies might have been dropped from the bridge," she said.

Figure 34. Article in the local press about the vigilante killings next to Diep River Section.

7.4 The Cape Radio Flyers' club infrastructure at the Rievlei section was vandalised by scrap metal collectors over a period of several days and nights. The vandals entered the Nature Reserve through a hole that they cut through the fence to remove steel from a roof structure and other steel fittings on site. After several night-time observations, two groups of scrap collectors were apprehended in broad daylight by the Conservation Team on 15/08/2014 and 25/09/2014. Three people were arrested on charges of theft and possession of drugs. The case numbers are registered at Milnerton SAPS and include CAS 432/08/2014 (possession of drugs) and CAS 435/08/2014 and CAS 717/09/2014 (theft of Council property).



Figure 35. Destroyed roof structure.



Figure 36. Suspect with roof bolts in hand.



Figure 37. A pile of roof bolts at a hole in the fence.



Figure 38. Suspects being arrested.

8 PEOPLE AND CONSERVATION

- Table Bay NR staff attended no less than 17 official meetings with stakeholders;
- The reserve facilities were used to benefit no less than 215 people over 13 events; and
- Environmental education and outreach benefited no less than 360 people over 15 events.

8.1 Stakeholder Engagement

8.1.1 Internal Meetings

Table Bay NR staff attended no less than nine internal planning meetings, including:

- North Region Management on 9/07, 25/07, 29/08, and 25/09/2014;
- Health & Safety on 25/07 and 25/09/2014;
- Branch Management on 28/08/2014; and
- Flora Management Committee on 28/08/2014; and
- Asbestos Awareness Discussion on 16/09/2014.

8.1.2 External Meetings

Table Bay NR staff attended no less than eight external liaison meetings, including:

- Parklands Environmental Liaison Committee on 17/07/2014;
- Zoarvlei Management Advisory Committee on 1/08/2014;
- Rietvlei Management Working Group on 14/08/2014;
- Geohydrological Model Tender Site Meeting on 20/08/2014;
- Cape Town Tourism Winter Education on 20/08/2014;
- Milnerton Aquatic Club Commodore on 21/08 and 17/09/2014; and
- Rivergate Development site Inspection on 22/08/2014.

8.2 Partnerships and Benefit to People

8.2.1 Rietvlei Education Centre Usage

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

8.2.2 Rietvlei Boma Usage

The usage of the Rietvlei Boma generated 206 person days of benefit to people over 12 event days.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Wild Neighbours Urban Wildlife Initiative sponsored the construction of a sign (see across) called "Sharing our city with our Wild Neighbours."

This sign is placed in the entrance to the Table Bay Nature Reserve office complex.

There are similar signs placed near various other nature reserves in Cape Town and they are all intended to educate the public about the presence of wild animals in the urban environment.

Many wild animals are still killed on roads surrounding the Nature Reserve, including the R27 and Marine Drive. Motorists are urged to drive with caution next to any nature reserve.



Figure 39. Wild neighbours sign.

8.2.3 Environmental Education and Outreach

Environmental Education and Outreach, including the now famous school holiday programmes and Spring walks, generated 360 person days of benefit to people over 15 event days. Media releases were issued to market the Spring walk events, but no payment was requested from participants (see below details and Figures 40-41):

DATE	GROUP(S)	LEARNERS	TEACHER+ ADULTS	PD'S	PROGRAMME
07/07/2014	Holiday programme group	23	3	26	Healthy Garden
08/07/2014	Holiday programme group	25	4	29	Creepy Crawlies
09/07/2014	Holiday programme group	23	4	27	Angry Birds
10/07/2014	Holiday programme group	24	3	27	Rock-n-Roll and Hooty and the blowfish
11/07/2014	Holiday programme group	24	8	32	Cunning Camouflage
07/08/2014	St Joseph's Marist College	32	1	33	Wetland biodiversity (with SANCCOB)
08/08/2014	Milnerton cubs (off site)	11	4	15	Introduction to Table Bay NR
20/08/2014	Cape Town Tourism	-	7	7	Enrichment outing to north region
06/09/2014	Milnerton cubs	6	2	8	Bird watching & plant ID
14/09/2014	Public members	0	22	22	Milnerton Racecourse – Spring walk
16/09/2014	Public members	0	15	15	Milnerton Racecourse – Spring walk
21/09/2014	Public members	0	36	36	Milnerton Racecourse – Spring walk
25/09/2014	Public members	0	11	11	Milnerton Racecourse – Spring walk
26/09/2014	Public members	0	2	2	Milnerton Racecourse – Spring walk
29/09/2014	Steenberg's Cove Primary	66	0	70	Wetlands, miniSASS (with SANCCOB)
TOTALS		234	126	360	TOTALS

Below are some images from the school holiday programmes and the Spring walks:



Figure 40. School holiday programmes.

Figure 41. One of the Spring walks.

9 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

9.1 Staff Establishment

- **The work schedules of the Water Rangers** at the Rietvlei Water Area were amended in order to meet operational requirements in terms of visitor management.
- **The public opening times** for visitors to the Rietvlei Water Area have been fixed to 07:30 to 16:00 daily, and closing time is 17:00.
- **Interviews were conducted at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)** to select students for Work-Integrated Learning appointments at City nature reserves for 2015. Two students were selected for Table Bay NR. Appointments will be confirmed in the next quarter.
- **A renewed Professional Driver's Permit (PrDP)** was obtained by Clinton Roux, and an application was made by Koos Retief to renew his PrDP.
- **Table Bay NR staff underwent a group visit to the Koeberg Power Station and Nature Reserve** on 20/08/2014 as part of capacity development and team building.

The various Sections of the Table Bay Nature Reserve are managed by Site Managers according to the colour scheme (see Figure 42 across).

The Diep River and Fynbos Corridor Sections (red areas) are managed by Christopher Singo, the Nature Reserve's only permanent Site Manager.

The Rietvlei Wetlands and Water Area Sections (green areas) do not have a dedicated site manager, but the intention is to promote such a position into the Nature Reserve's management structure, when possible in the future.

The Milnerton Racecourse and Lagoon Sections (pink areas) are temporarily managed by Landi Louw who is employed on a short-term contract through the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust (CTEET) with funding from the Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee in Royal Ascot. Landi's contract will expire at the end 2016.

The Zoarvlei and Coastal Sections (blue areas) are also temporarily managed by Mashudu Sikhwihlulu who is employed on a short-term contract through the South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI) Groen Sebenza Internship Programme. Mashudu's contract will expire at the end of 2015.

Once the temporary contracts expire, the Table Bay Nature Reserve would be in a very insecure position with only one Site Manager remaining.



Figure 42. Colour coding of the distribution of Site Managers.

9.2 Training Interventions

Table Bay NR staff underwent six person days of training over 2 interventions:

- **Biodiversity Database Management** on 18/08/2014 (5 person days); and
- **Fuel Management** on 27/08/2014 (1 person day).

10 VISITORS AND INCOME

10.1 The paddling and canoeing trial period's operating hours were extended to encompass full operating days at the Rietvlei Water Area.

A special circuit was designed to separate paddle sports from power and sail boating. This new circuit is demarcated by means of white buoys along the shore line. Paddlers and canoeists are required to stay shoreward of the white buoys at all times.

The viability of paddling sports at Rietvlei will be evaluated at the end of the trial period on 30 June 2015. The motivation is to provide cheaper and more environmentally-friendly forms of recreation at Rietvlei, without impacting the traditional sail, power, and ski sports at Rietvlei

Public opening times are from 07:30 to 16:00 and closing time is 17:00. Tariffs apply, as per the Council's approved tariff structure.



Figure 43. Placement of marker buoys for paddling circuit.

10.2 Water-based training operations were conducted on the Rietvlei Water Area by METRO Rescue as well as the Fire & Rescue Services for their own staff. The water is suitable for skippers-in-training to obtain sufficient logbook hours to qualify as skippers. Police and rescue diving training also takes place at times.



Figure 44. METRO Rescue training team.



Figure 45. Fire & Rescue Services training team.

10.3 Income from visitors at the Rietvlei Water Area during this quarter was R44,733.50 from 2,266 recorded visitors. This quarter's records are significantly higher than the same quarter from previous years (see Figures 46-47). This trend indicates increased use of the Nature Reserve, even during winter.

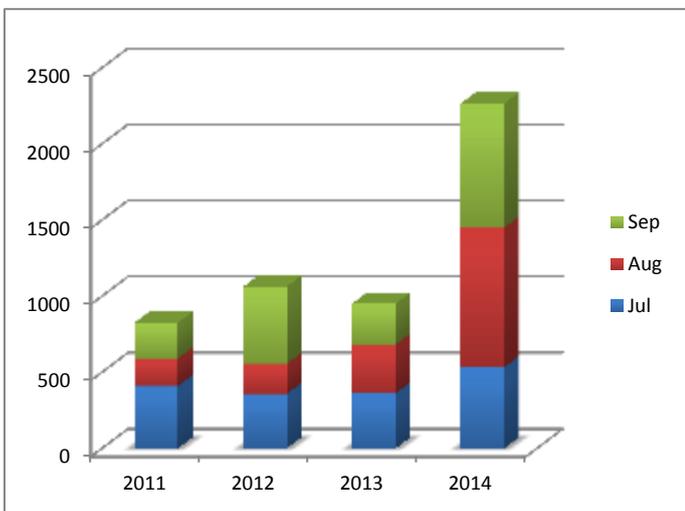


Figure 46. Third-quarter visitor records since 2011.

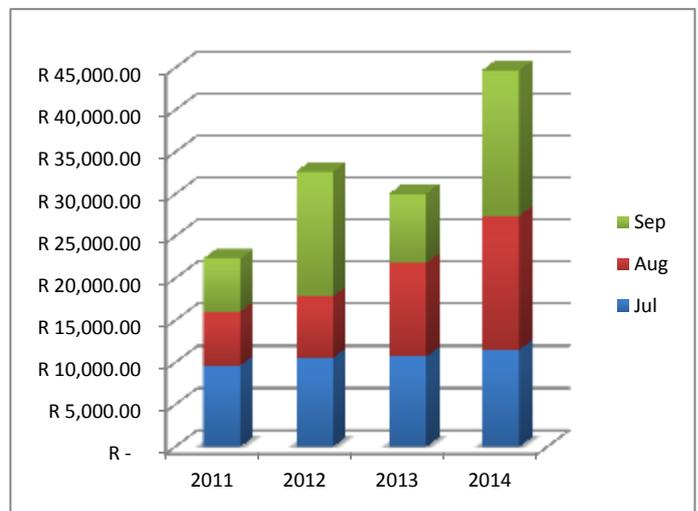


Figure 47. Third-quarter income records since 2011.

11 INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

The maintenance of infrastructure at Table Bay NR included (see Figures 48-50 for examples):

- Fixing various leaking taps;
- Repairing sagged paving in the works area behind the office;
- Grading internal visitor roads;
- Removing derelict infrastructure such as a disused and inaccessible boardwalk near Sunset Links that has fallen into disrepair;
- Construction and repairs of various boom gates at strategic access points;
- Various vehicle repairs; and
- Trimming of trees.



Figure 48. Disused boardwalk.



Figure 49. Vehicle towed for repairs.



Figure 50. Trimming of trees.

12 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

No Capital expenditure projects have been allocated to Table Bay NR during this current financial year as yet.

Five additional Motorola hand-held two-way radios were purchased for Table Bay NR staff, as well as a Motorola desktop base radio for the office complex.

Three additional vehicles that were purchased during the previous financial year was delivered to Table Bay NR. The additional vehicles include an Isuzu 4x4 bakkie, and Chevrolet utility vehicle and an Isuzu 5-tonne tipper truck



Figure 51. Isuzu 4x4.

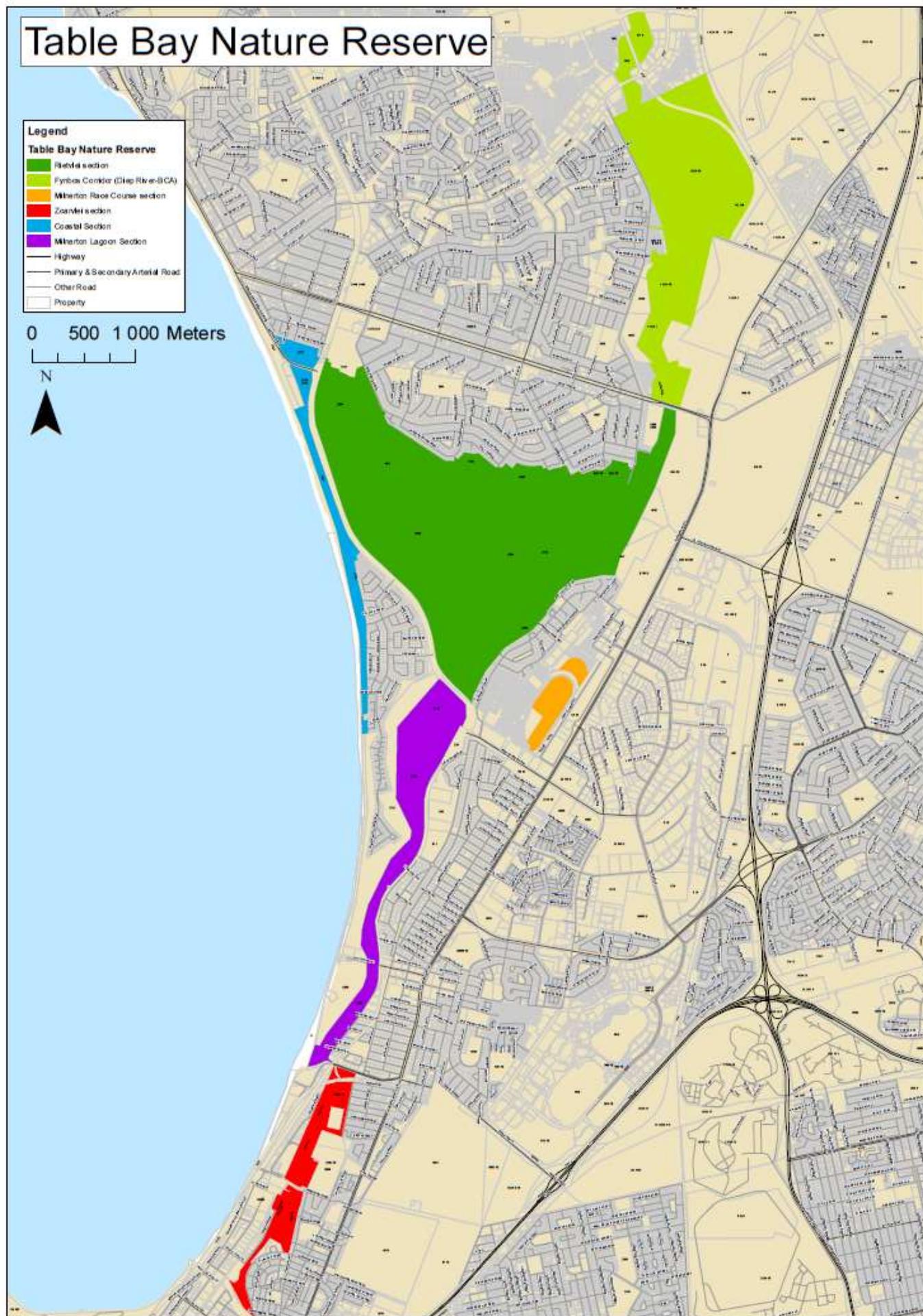


Figure 52. Chevrolet LDV.

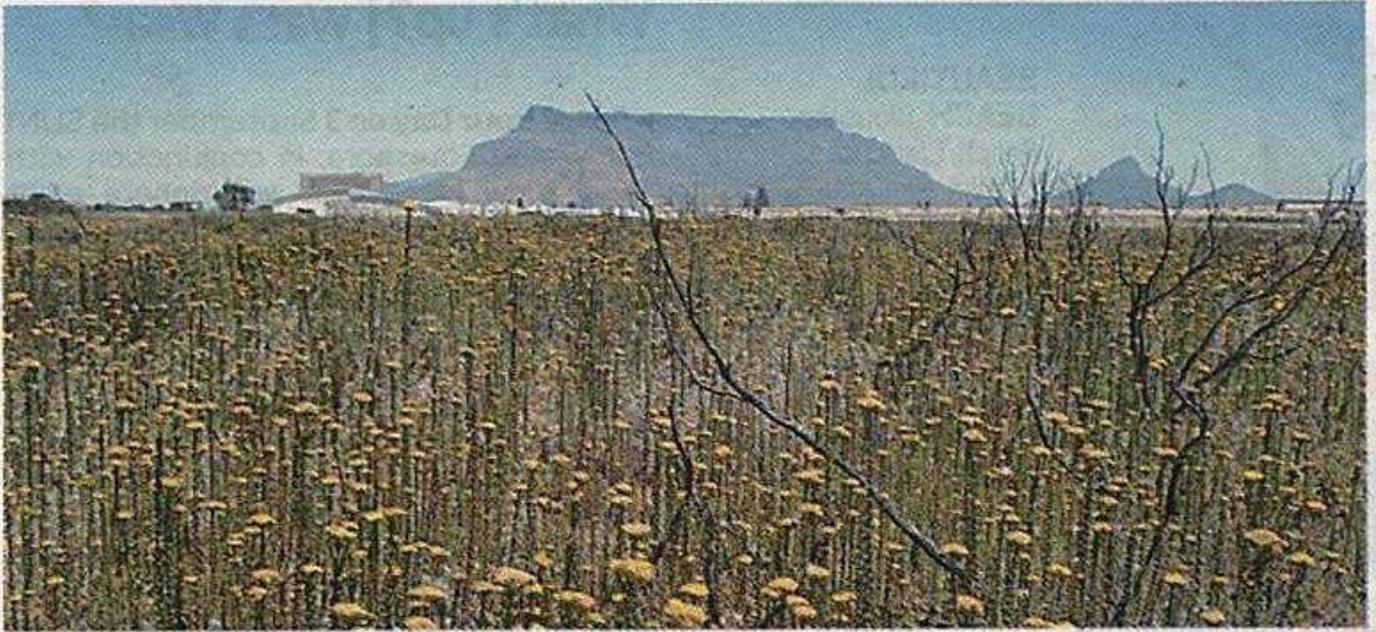


Figure 53. Isuzu 500 tipper truck.

APPENDIX A: COLOUR-CODED MAP OF THE RESERVE



APPENDIX B: PRESS ARTICLES



Get out of the house this Spring, and enjoy the natural beauty of the Table Bay reserve.

Treasures of Table Bay

Explore untouched trails in the Table Bay nature reserve this spring. The City of Cape Town invites all Capetonians and tourists to undertake guided nature walks through the nature reserve to celebrate the arrival of Spring. The walks are to take place from 14 to 21 September at 10:30 each day.

During these guided walks, participants will be able to explore normally inaccessible parts of the City of Cape Town's Table Bay reserve, which has been nominated as the reserve of the year for two consecutive years. Outdoor enthusiasts can look forward to being guided by a top nature conservation specialist, while being accompanied through the southern area of the reserve. "This is yet another innovation in our quest to ensure the sustainability of our reserves. We can, however, only achieve this with the support of members of the public," says the City's mayco member for economic, environmental and spatial planning, Johan van der Merwe.

One of the reserve's hidden gems is the treasure chest of Cape Flats sand fynbos inside the old Milnerton racecourse, with over 200 species in less than 20 ha of land. Many

of these species are in flower in September. This vegetation type is critically endangered and not normally accessible to the public. The rapid urbanisation of Cape Town has transformed approximately 84% of the original extent of this uniquely Cape Town vegetation type. Of the 16% that is left, the City of Cape Town owns and actively manages and conserves about 1.5%, with the majority of the remainder being under private ownership.

Visitors might also be lucky enough to spot one of the resident Cape grysbokkies or even the Cape clawless otter, water mongoose, angulate tortoises, marsh terrapins as well as numerous species of butterflies and just over 100 species of birds.

Participants are asked to meet at the public open space right next to the road at the third traffic circle on Grand National boulevard in Royal Ascot, Milnerton, on the mornings of the walks. All children are welcome, but no pets will be permitted.

Booking is essential as there is limited space available. There is no cost involved.

► For more enquiries or bookings, contact Landi Louw on Landi.louw@capetown.gov.za or on 021 444 7218.



Field of dreams

■ Spring and the carefree spirit of childhood meet in a field of wild flowers as Ethan Fouche, 6, Maddy Fouche, 3, and Bella Bekker, 4, make a memory together in front of their granny's house in Flamingo Vlei on Friday August 15.

PICTURE: CANDICE BEKKER

Beautifying partnership

By standing together for a common cause, the community can make a difference.

This year, the Melkbosstrand Community Center (MCC), decided to get the community and the City of Cape Town to rally behind beautifying the entrance to the Melkbosstrand police station.

With bad weather predicted for the days leading up to Mandela day and on the day itself, there was concern that this project might not get the support that MCC had hoped for.

Yet by 10:30, there were over 200 people working on site.

The Department of Parks and Recreation along with the Department of Roads did a bit of preparation work during the week leading up to the big day. By 08:30 on the day, the local police station car park was full of city teams of experts and they were in full swing, working shoulder to shoulder. City officials had carefully planned the

materials needed for the day and everything went so well that by 11:45 all the delivered materials had been used. The bush area had been cleared of all alien vegetation, dumped garden waste gathered and ready for removal, the storm water infrastructure cleared, an avenue of 14 trees, each around 2 meters high, was planted, indigenous plants donated and planted by Table Bay Nature Reserve members, a park bench was donated and installed by C2 Projects, the car park was increased by almost 50%, a pedestrian path was built and lined with curbing, bollards were installed along the road edge and, finally, a general clean up of the entrance was undertaken.

MCC would like to thank the city, all the companies who allowed staff some time off, Table Bay Nature Reserve, Atlantic Beach Hotel, the community who assisted, and the police for allowing them to work on their entrance.

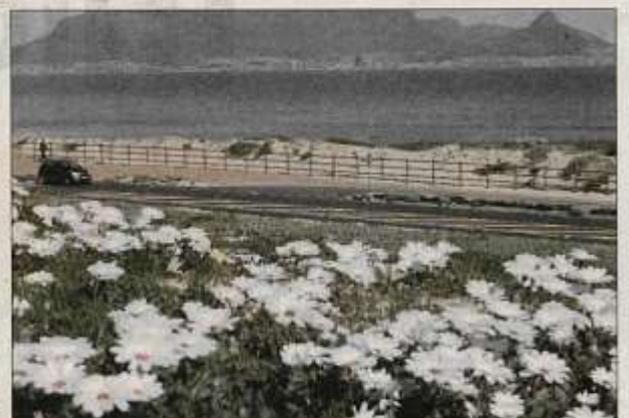


The entrance to Melkbosstrand SAPS is unrecognisable after various role-players beautified it on Mandela Day.



PICTURE: DES FEATHERSTONE

■ The signs of spring are starting to appear and wild flowers are popping up everywhere on the West Coast.



■ Manya Bredell took this picture of spring flowers near Table View beach on Saturday August 23.



■ Michael Rademeyer took this picture from the bridge at Woodbridge Island.



I'm still standing

The old bridge near Woodbridge Island in Malmesbury continues to defy the odds. Despite its dilapidated state, it remains standing. Says local photographer, Dave Coles: "The back pillars are possibly strengthened with the worst cement I've ever seen in the area, but the same section is looking decidedly better. More rain please!"

Aloe, goodbye to prize plants

A Sunset Beach man has laid a charge of theft against a City official whom he claims ripped thousands of rands worth of succulents from his verge.

FAATIMAH HENDRICKS

A Sunset Beach man has laid a criminal charge against the City of Cape Town's biodiversity manager for the Milnerton region for digging up his aloes, which he says are worth at least R100 000, and dropping them at a dump.

Alex Aitkenhead opened a case of malicious damage to property against Koos Retief at the Milnerton police station, but Warrant Officer Daphne O'Reilly said a theft case had been registered instead.

At least one of the aloe species is classified as "near-threatened". Mr Aitkenhead said that about

10 years ago he had planted about 20 aloes on council property in front of his beachfront house. He said many homeowners beautified their verges with plants, although this had led to clashes with the City.

Mr Aitkenhead, however, said the City had given him permission to plant his aloes, a claim City officials deny.

Mr Aitkenhead said Mr Retief had emailed him at the end of August to say his plants must go. When he responded saying he wished to seek legal opinion, Mr Retief replied, saying "the bottom line is the aloes must be removed".

Continued on page 5

City dodges queries on aloe dumping

From page 1

Mr Aitkenhead said he had asked Mr Retief to give him a deadline to remove the aloes so he could do it himself and find new homes for them, but this had not happened.

Instead, Mr Retief had arrived on Wednesday September 3, after 9am, to remove the plants. Mr Aitkenhead said his mother asked Mr Retief to hand over the aloes because they belonged to them. But Mr Retief refused, and apparently insisted they be taken to the dump.

"My sister went to meet with him at his office and demanded to know why he did this and where the aloes were. He wouldn't explain why but said he had taken them to the dump," said Mr Aitkenhead.

His sister had gone to the dump at Killarney where she found all the plants.



Tabletalk asked Mr Retief why he hadn't handed over the aloes to the owners and why he had disposed of valuable aloes that were decades old with one of it being classified as "near-threatened".

He did not respond directly, but Osman Asmal, director of environmental resource management at the City, said the City had acted within its legal mandate.

When asked for proof of this, they did not respond.

When Tabletalk asked if the City was acting within its legal mandate to destroy other people's property, even though it might be on council property, they also did not respond.

"She then loaded the aloes onto the back of her vehicle, and she was physically stopped from leaving the dump site. They said she can't take the aloes because they belong to them.

"My sister said we are calling the police to ask them to resolve the matter. Eventually, after a huge scene, they opened the gate and she left with the aloes."

Mr Aitkenhead said the aloes were now waiting to be re-homed. They were different species, and the oldest one was no younger than 40 years old.

According to Kumbula Indigenous Nursery's website, one of the species, Aloe Thraskii, is classified as "near-threatened" in its natural habitat because of loss from urban and coastal development and illegal collecting.

Another site dedicated to succulent plants said it wasn't threatened, but urbanisation and coastal areas had led to some populations becoming extinct.

Mr Aitkenhead bought the plants from a nursery in Vanrhynsdorp, and was issued with a permit to transport them. He questioned how someone who was in charge of environmental issues for the City in the Milnerton region could dispose of valuable plants.

The City's mayoral committee member for economic, environmental and spatial planning, Johan van der Merwe, said the property in front of Mr Aitkenhead's house was within the Table Bay Nature Reserve's Coastal Section. He said people were not allowed to plant anything in a nature reserve.

"Over time, various private property owners at Sunset Beach have planted kiyuyu grass lawns and various other ornamental garden plants without permission from the City," said Mr Van der Merwe. "As a result, about 5 000m² of natural vegetation has been destroyed."

The Sunset Beach Homeowners' Association (SBHOA) said Mr Aitkenhead was the only homeowner along the beachfront who had planted plants which were not meant to be at the nature reserve. The SBHOA had no jurisdiction over the nature reserve.

"SBHOA cannot interfere in any rules and regulations the Table Bay Nature Reserve has put in place," said the organisation's chairman, Peter Andrianatos. "I think it's a matter between the Table Bay Nature Reserve and that of the owner. It is for them to now resolve among themselves."

Editorial

'Aloeta' continua

A Sunset Beach resident is at loggerheads with a City of Cape Town official whom he accuses of ripping out his aloe plants and disposing of them at a dump site.

Alex Aitkenhead laid a criminal charge against Koos Retief, the City's biodiversity manager for the Milnerton region, after he allegedly refused to return the aloe plants.

While Mr Retief may have been within his rights to remove any alien vegetation from the Table Bay Nature Reserve, it seems petty that he would not give back the plants when Mr Aitkenhead's mother apparently stood in front of him and asked him to hand them over.

Mr Aitkenhead admitted to planting his aloes on council property, but he claimed he had received permission to do so, 10 years ago. He said all he wanted was a time frame within which to remove the plants.

One of the species of plants seems to be "near-threatened".

Perhaps it would have shown greater character if Mr Retief had given the succulents back.

Rare walks along untouched trails

The city invites all Capetonians and tourists on guided nature walks through the Table Bay Nature Reserve to celebrate the arrival of spring.

The spring walks, some through areas normally inaccessible to the public, will take place from 14 to 21 September at 10:30 each day.

Participants will be able to explore normally inaccessible parts of the City of Cape Town's Table Bay Nature Reserve, which has been nominated reserve of the year for two consecutive years.

"Outdoor enthusiasts can look forward to being guided by a top nature conservation specialist, while they are taken through the southern area of the Table Bay Nature Reserve," said city's mayor member for economic, environmental and spatial planning, Johan van der Merwe.

"Residents and tourists alike are encouraged to join our guide for a 2km stroll through this beautiful area of the reserve. This is yet another innovation in our quest to ensure the sustainability

of our reserves. We can, however, only achieve this with the support of members of the public."

One of the reserve's hidden gems is the treasure chest of Cape Flats sand fynbos inside the old Milnerton Racecourse, with over 200 species in less than 20 ha of land. Many of these species are in flower in September. This vegetation type is critically endangered and not normally accessible to the public.

The rapid urbanisation of Cape Town has transformed approximately 84% of the original extent of this uniquely Cape Town vegetation type.

Participants can meet at the public open space next to the road at the third traffic circle on Grand National Boulevard in Royal Ascot, Milnerton on the mornings of the walks. Children are most welcome, but no pets will be permitted.

For enquiries or bookings, contact Landi Louw on Landi.louw@capetown.gov.za or 021 444 7218. Booking is essential as there is limited space available. There is no cost involved.



■ The hull of the old sailing ship, Commodore, which beached back in the 1940s, is once again exposed at the mouth of the Diep River in Milnerton. The river is flowing swiftly after last week's heavy rains.

PICTURE: COLIN BROWN



Otters in die langgras: 'n Leser, Frieda Prinsloo, het vir ons dié foto ingestuur. Sy skryf: "Op Saterdag 19 Julie was ek weer so gelukkig om otters buite die water by die Old Friends Hide in die Rietvlei-natuurreservaat af te neem. Hulle hande lyk kompleet soos mense s'n!" FOTO: FRIEDA PRINSLOO



■ Frieda Prinsloo of Parklands took this picture of some otters in the open near the Old Friends' Hide at Rietvlei on Saturday July 19.



The wild sunflower (*Verbesina enceloides*) has been spotted in Parklands, Melkbosstrand and Atlantis.

Watch out for this wild weed

Smatterings of the invasive wild sunflower have been spotted in Melkbosstrand, Parklands and various places in the northern suburbs.

The largest group was found in Atlantis, where a recent wildfire left the site disturbed, allowing the wild sunflower to establish itself.

If left unmanaged, the wild sunflower has the potential to take over this site and suppress the fynbos from recovering after the fire.

"The flower heads and seeds have been removed and incinerated at all the identified sites to prevent the wild sunflower from spreading any further.

"Plants have been removed and all sites will be monitored to ensure that the control methods have been effective.

"This is an active demonstration of Cape Town's environmentally aware com-

munity working with the local government to create a more sustainable city, together," says the City's mayoral committee member for economic, environmental and spatial planning, Johan van der Merwe.

This is the first time that the wild sunflower has been recorded in the Western Cape.

The Early Detection, Rapid Response programme – a partnership between the South African National Biodiversity Institute, the Natural Resources Management Programmes and the City – relies on the residents of Cape Town to report sightings of any of the target species as well as potential new invaders. The plants will then be removed by a dedicated team.

► Residents who would like to participate in the programme can visit www.capetowninvasives.org.za.