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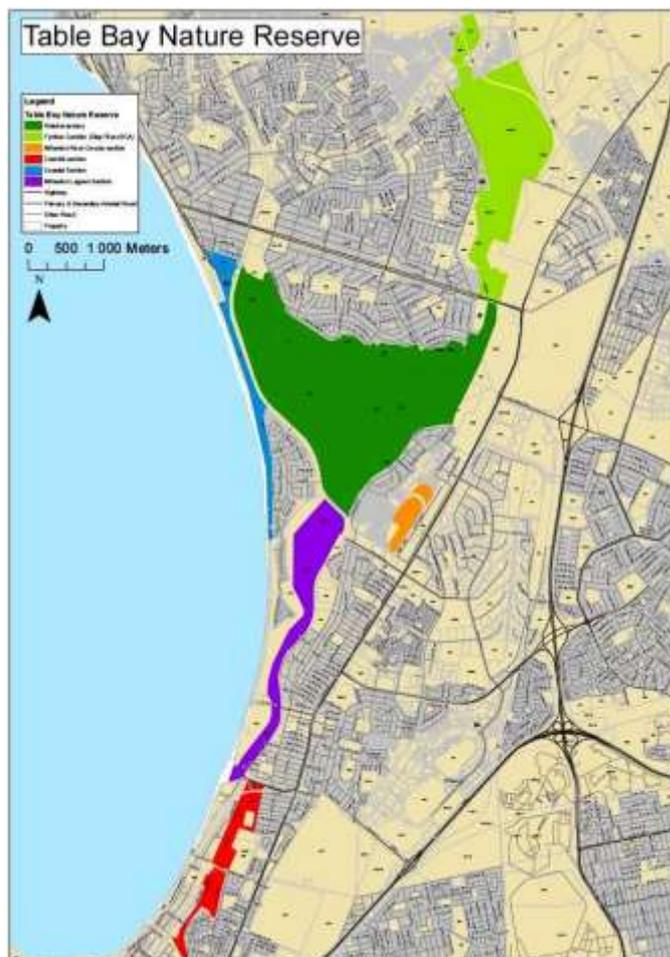
TABLE BAY NATURE RESERVE

QUARTERLY REPORT APRIL – JUNE 2016

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For the Nature Reserve webpage, click the link or type www.capetown.gov.za/tablebaynr in your browser.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the activities of the Table Bay Nature Reserve and its staff in the period April to June 2016. The report is circulated to about 4,000 email recipients.

The Table Bay Nature Reserve's **proclamation** is gaining momentum with the MEC of Environmental Affairs in the Western Cape Province, Anton Bredell, signing the Power of Attorney.

The Rietvlei Water Area is growing in popularity, which is evidenced by the **increasing trend in visitor numbers and income** being recorded. New **tariffs** have been issued by the Council. A draft **Recreational Water Area By-Law** was published for public comment and is hoped to be approved by Council shortly.

The Nature Reserve's **Advisory Committee** had its fourth meeting this quarter, which was attended by 32 representatives of 21 organisations. There are some communities that are not yet represented in this committee, including Du Noon, as well as the Table View and Parklands homeowners' associations.

The Nature Reserve team, contractors and various City departments conducted **alien and invasive vegetation management**, including initial and follow-up clearing of Port Jackson invasions, as well as removing water hyacinth from certain reaches of the Diep River.

Two temporary staff at the Nature Reserve (one graduate intern and one learnership intern) obtained **contract positions** in the nature conservation industry at other employers.

The **rainfall** has recovered to average levels and the seasonal wetlands are now under water again. Nature Reserve staff spent about 20 person days at **prescribed ecological burns** on City of Cape Town land.

The **nature reserve facilities** were used by over 822 people for various training and meeting purposes, and environmental education programmes. The staff experienced over 51 person days of formal training.

Animal sightings included several Cape clawless otters and a Caracal. A bird census recorded 2,823 water birds of 43 different species. A Cape grysbok census in Milnerton Racecourse recorded 22 grysbok.

Two **Cape clawless otters** were killed on Marine Drive by a vehicle and a **Cape Grysbok** was killed near the Milnerton Racecourse by staff at the Milnerton Horse Stables.

Four illegal plant collectors were apprehended on nature land and arrested by Table View SAPS officers.



2 HIGHLIGHTS & CHALLENGES

2.1 HIGHLIGHT: The MEC for Environmental Affairs in the Western Cape Province listed 12 reasons for the proclamation of the Table Bay Nature Reserve in the Power of Attorney that provides for the notarisation and proclamation of the reserve. The proclamation is expected to be gazetted soon.

2.2 CHALLENGE: Water pollution and littering remains one of the worst challenges for nature reserve staff. Management has almost no control over what flows into the natural environment from developed areas, but the impacts are felt in the nature reserve.

3 CONSERVATION PLANNING

3.1 The Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC) for Table Bay Nature Reserve had its fourth meeting on 21/04/2016.

The meeting was attended by 32 representatives from 21 organisations and units. There is however no representation from ratepayers associations in Du Noon, Table View and Parklands yet. See below list of attendance:

Brooklyn & Ysterplaat Residents Association	Milnerton Aquatic Club
Cape Bird Club	Milnerton Canoe Club
Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve	Milnerton Central Residents Association
CCT: Biodiversity Management Branch	Milnerton Ridge Ratepayers Association
CCT: Environmental and Heritage Management Branch	Paardeneiland City Improvement District
CCT: Rivers, Stormwater & Catchment Management	SANCCOB
CCT: Subcouncil 1	Sunset Beach Homeowners Association
CCT: Subcouncil 15	Sunset Links Home Owners Association
Department of Environmental Affairs & Dev. Planning	Woodbridge Island Body Corporate
Dolphin Beach Body Corporate	University of Cape Town
Friends of Rietvlei	

Some of the items on the agenda included:

- Presentation: **Quarterly report** feedback by Mr Koos Retief
- Presentation: **Long-term physical, chemical and biological changes in a small, urban estuary (Diep River)** (a paper by: M Viskich, CL Griffiths, C Erasmus & S Lamberth, in the *African Journal of Marine Science*) by Prof Charles Griffiths
- Presentation: **Water hyacinth biological control in the City** by Ms Louise Stafford
- Feedback on the **Diep Estuary Action Plan** by Ms Landi Louw
- Feedback from the **Diep River invasive plants sub-working group** by Mr Koos Retief
- Feedback from **Diep River water quality sub-working group** by Mr Koos Retief
- Nomination of Frieda Prinsloo as the new representative for the **Cape Bird Club**
- Application of **Sunset Links Home Owners Association** to become a member

The Advisory Committee was also asked to consider the following items for comment:

- The **Milnerton Aquatic Club's provisional calendar** for the 2016/17 season
- The public participation process for the draft **Recreational Water-use By-law** of City of Cape Town
- The draft updated **Diep Estuary Management Plan (EMP)** and Action Plan 2016 – 2020

3.2 The upgrade of the nature reserve's protection status is gaining momentum.

Minister Anton Bredell, Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Environmental Affairs in the Western Cape Province, has signed the Special Power of Attorney for the notarisation and proclamation of the Table Bay Nature Reserve in terms of Section 23(3) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEM:PAA), Act no 57 of 2003.

The proclamation is expected to be gazetted shortly.

The former proclamation of the Rietvlei Nature Area in 1984 resulted in its designation as a Protected Natural Environment (PNE).

This new proclamation will however encompass more land than the original PNE. The stronger legal protection will also afford the Table Bay Nature Reserve the additional enforcement measures as contained in the NEM: Protected Areas Act and Regulations.

The Power of Attorney provides for the necessary notarisation against the notarial deeds of the reserved properties. Once the proclamation is gazetted in the government gazette, a copy will be obtained.

The MEC listed 12 qualifying criteria in substantiation of the protection status being afforded to Table Bay Nature Reserve. The 12 qualifying criteria are inserted in Figure 1 overleaf:

identified as an area worthy of being declared as a Nature Reserve, considering that the property complies with the requirements of section 23(2) of the Act, namely:

- (a) The property encompasses the Rietvlei Protected Natural Environment (also known as the Rietvlei Wetland Reserve), which is also listed as an Important Bird Area and a Core Flora Conservation Site.
- (b) Milnerton Racecourse, which is part of the property, is also designated as a Core Flora Conservation Site and is set aside for conservation in terms of the conditions of environmental authorisation for the Royal Ascot development.
- (c) The Parklands fynbos corridor, which forms part of the property, is designated for conservation purposes in terms of the conditions of environmental authorisation for the Parklands and Sunningdale developments.
- (d) The property encompasses the Diep River estuary, which functions as a tidal interface and fish nursery and recruitment area.
- (e) The Rietvlei seasonal wetlands, which form part of the property, provide feeding grounds for migratory water birds, as does the Diep River flood plain, also part of the property, attenuates floods in the catchment.
- (f) The 11 km long wetland system from the Diep River to Zoarvlei, also forming part of the property, promotes wetland linkages, connectivity and catchment-to-coast landscapes.
- (g) The property is closely associated with the Table Bay coast, and protects a significant part of the Milnerton beach.
- (h) The property protects the entire lower end of the Diep River catchment which connects to Swartland Municipality to the Table Bay coast as well as Blaauwberg Nature Reserve to the edge of the Cape Town city centre.
- (i) The property forms the southernmost buffer zone of the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve, which extends to the West Coast National Park.
- (j) The property serves as home to 412 plant species, 31 mammals, 196 birds, 33 reptiles, nine amphibians and 14 fish species.
- (k) Of the birds found on the property, two species are listed as Vulnerable, and 14 are Near Threatened.
- (l) The property is home to six national vegetation types, including Cape Flats Sand Fynbos (Critically Endangered), Cape Flats Dune Strandveld (Endangered), Cape Lowland Freshwater Wetlands (Critically Endangered), Cape Estuarine Salt Marshes, Cape Inland Salt Pans (Vulnerable) and Cape Seashore Vegetation.

3

Figure 1. Twelve qualifying criteria in substantiation of the protection status being afforded to the Table Bay Nature Reserve.

3.3 The draft City of Cape Town Recreational Water-use By-law was advertised for public comment during this quarter. The By-law aims to promote and regulate safe and ecologically sensitive water-based recreational activities on Cape Town's terrestrial (inland) water bodies.

There are older by-laws from previous local authorities that regulated water based recreational activities in Cape Town, however these were out of date. The draft Recreational Water-use By-law consolidates and updates these older by-laws.

The public and interested parties were afforded the opportunity to make representation and to give input to the draft Recreational Water-use By-law, in terms of Section 17 of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act. The comment period was open from 1 to 21 May 2016.

The text of the draft By-Law was prepared by the Manager: Southern Region, Dalton Gibbs. Once all comments have been captured and responded to, a final report will be prepared for Council to accept the by-law and submit it for gazetting.

Where a recreational water area falls inside a nature reserve, this by-law will empower the nature reserve's Advisory Committee to make recommendations about the recreational water use patterns and zoning.



Figure 2. Oblique view of a portion of the Rietvlei Recreational Water Area.

3.4 Fifty years ago, on 26 May 1966, Die Burger published a short note about the possibility that Rietvlei would become a second big harbour for Cape Town. This was seen as a strategic development for the country (see Figure 3 across).

At that time, Transnet owned the land at Rietvlei and large scale dredging operations had already been underway here.

The dredged sand was exported in pipelines to the Cape Town harbour and used to construct the Ben Schoeman dock. This went on for several years, but by the early 1970s the dredging had been abandoned.

The excavation holes became deep water lakes and were quickly re-purposed as the home of the Milnerton Aquatic Club in 1976.

By 1984 the old Transnet properties had been donated to the WWF-SA, and the Rietvlei wetlands and water area were proclaimed as a Nature Area.



Figure 3. Article in DIE BURGER of 26 May 1966.

4 FLORA

4.1 Terrestrial invasive vegetation clearing took place, mainly in the Diep River Section, at:

- Rivergate Development, north of the railway bridge (second follow-up);
- Eastern Shore near SATI containers (third follow-up);
- Fynbos corridor east of Gie Road (maintenance clearing); and
- North of Blaauwberg Road near L' Afrique (initial clearing).

4.2 Aquatic invasive vegetation clearing took place by means of manual clearing teams in various reaches in the Diep River watercourse. The target species is primarily floating water hyacinth.

The clearing work is being undertaken by Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) teams. Nature Reserve staff provides transport of tools.

Certain reaches of the river have been cleared, but new infestations are continually being fed into the river with more alien aquatic weeds and litter.

See Figures 4 and 5 of cleared areas.



Figure 4. A cleared section near the R27 bridge.



Figure 5. A cleared section near Potsdam Waste Water Treatment Works.

The river reaches that remain infested with aquatic weeds and litter include the tributary that flows through the Theo Marais Sports Complex, as well as several smaller stormwater tributaries that flow through Milnerton Ridge. The Diep River between Blaauwberg Road Bridge and Hopley Road (near McPherson's Nursery) is also completely blocked with water hyacinth plants (see Figures 6 and 7 below).



Figure 6. Infested canal through the Theo Marais Sports Complex.



Figure 7. Infestation between Blaauwberg Road and Hopley street.

5 FAUNA

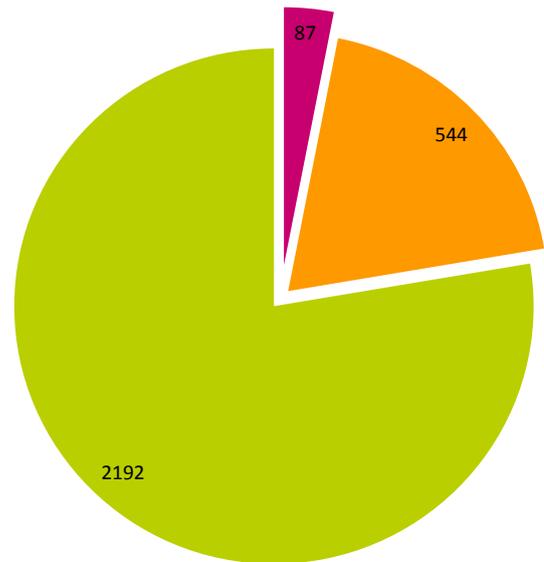
5.1 An integrated bird census was conducted on 15/04/2016. The census was done by the Nature Reserve team and a volunteer, covering 11 survey sections. Even though the seasonal pans were completely dry, and no birds were seen there, the water birds still numbered a total of 2,823 birds comprising of 43 species (see Figures 8 to 10 below for details).

22 species with single-figure counts (totalling 87 birds) accounted for 3,1% of the water birds, including: 1 African marsh harrier, 1 Ethiopian snipe, 1 Domestic goose, 2 Cattle egret, 2 Hottentot teal, 2 African fish eagle, 2 Water thicknee, 2 Malachite kingfisher, 3 African spoonbill, 3 Whitebacked duck, 4 Purple heron, 4 Glossy ibis, 4 Redbilled teal, 4 Spurwinged goose, 4 Three-banded plover, 4 Pied kingfisher, 5 Lesser flamingo, 6 Blackheaded heron, 7 Purple swamphen, 8 Mallard hybrid, 9 Little egret, and 9 Yellowbilled egret.

14 species with double-figure counts (totalling 544 birds) accounted for 19,3% of the water birds, including: 17 African darter, 20 Grey heron, 21 Little grebe, 25 Blackwinged stilt, 29 Reed cormorant, 29 Cape wagtail, 30 Sacred ibis, 32 African black oystercatcher, 34 Whitebreasted cormorant, 39 Common moorhen, 42 Great crested grebe, 62 Blacksmith lapwing, 79 Greater flamingo, and 85 Cape shoveller.

7 species with triple-figure counts (totalling 2,192 birds) accounted for 77,6% of the water birds, including: 150 Swift tern, 187 White pelican, 263 Hartlaub's gull, 297 Yellowbilled duck, 315 Redknobbed coot, 461 Egyptian goose, and 519 Kelp gull.

Additional bush birds, including Common fiscal, Cape canary, Levaiillant's cisticola, Cape sparrow, Common waxbill, Karoo prinia, Southern double-collared sunbird, Cape spurfowl, Helmeted guineafowl, Pied crow, European starling, Cape reed warbler, Black-shouldered kite, were seen.



■ 22 species with single-figure counts
 ■ 14 species with double-figure counts
 ■ 7 species with triple-figure counts

Figure 8. Relative contribution of low, medium and high counts.

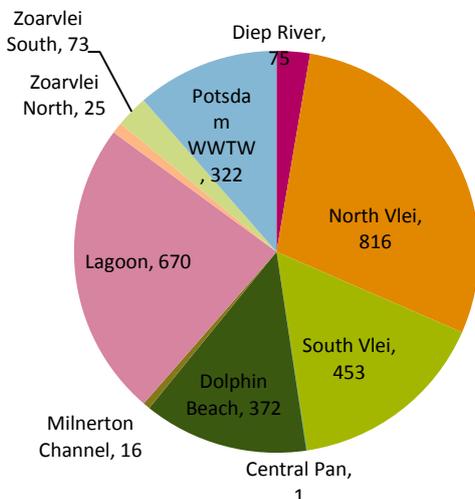


Figure 9. Relative contribution from each survey section.

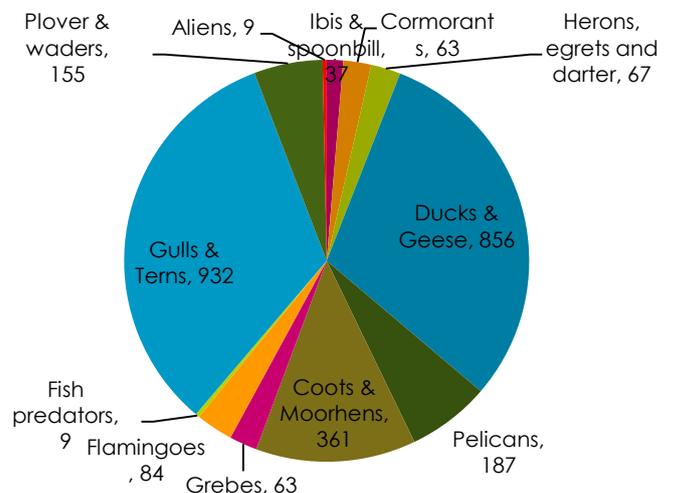


Figure 10. Relative contribution from the various bird groups.

5.2 A large Caracal was photographed during an on-going camera trap survey being conducted by student Julia Hollander in the Rietvlei Section.

Management was aware of the presence of Caracals in the Nature Reserve, but this is the first time that one was photographed in a survey here.

The image was taken at about 19:30 on 6/06/2016 and is in infra-red night vision format, as it was already dark.

The Caracal can be seen in the left of the frame with most of its head visible. The shape of the head and the tell-tale pointed ears is indicative of a Caracal identification (see Figure 11 righth).

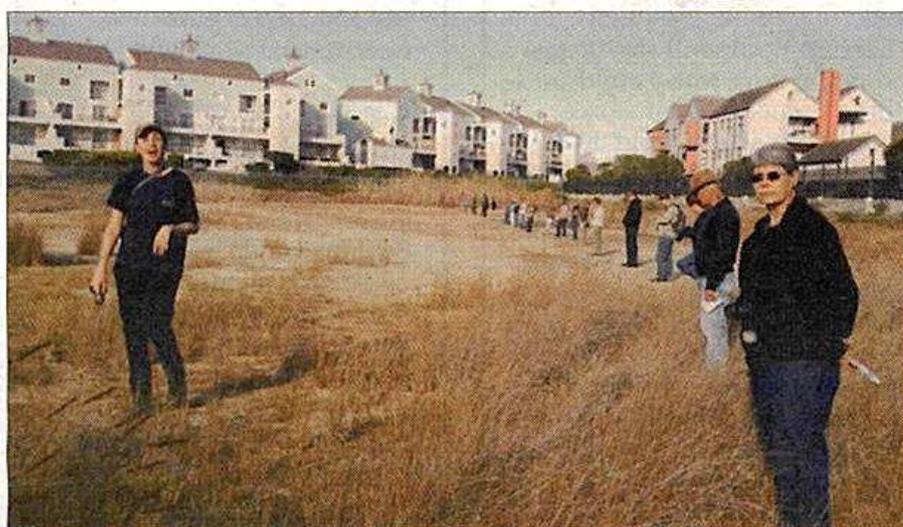


Figure 11. Caracal photographed at Rietvlei at night.

5.3 A Cape grysbok census was conducted in the Milnerton Racecourse Section by volunteers and staff from the Biodiversity Management Branch on 16/04/2016. The census was coordinated by Site Manager Landi Louw and a total of 22 Cape grysbok were counted. This information is being used to manage the Cape grysbok in Cape Town, and could lead to some animals having to be captured and relocated to other areas to prevent inbreeding as well as overgrazing of the Fynbos vegetation (see Figures 12 to 13).



Figure 12. Volunteers at the Grysbok census with student Jack Nortjé (photo by Landi Louw).



■ The City of Cape Town did its fifth Cape grysbok census at the Milnerton Racecourse section of the Table Bay Nature Reserve on Saturday April 16. Twenty-nine students and residents took part in the census and counted 22 Cape grysbok. The Milnerton Racecourse consists of 19 hectares of critically-endangered Cape Flats sand fynbos and has been managed as a nature reserve since 2008.

PICS: STEPHANIE KUHHIRT

Figure 13. Photo caption in the local press about the Grysbok census.

5.4 Two Cape clawless otters were killed on Marine Drive near Lagoon Beach by an unknown vehicle. A local newspaper published an article in the press about the incident (see [Appendix B](#) below). The Biodiversity Area Manager was consulted and several quotes were contained in the article.

Otters are mostly nocturnal aquatic carnivores that survive on a diet of crabs, fish and frogs. They might venture into nearby gardens at times in search of food, and might empty out fish ponds (see Figure 14).

Marine Drive runs between the Table Bay Nature Reserve's Rietvlei Section, Milnerton Lagoon Section and the Coastal Section. Animals, including Caracal, Cape grysbok, and Clawless otters, regularly walk over the road between the wetlands and the coast. We ask all motorists to consider the wildlife and drive carefully.



Figure 14. Two Cape clawless otter bodies dumped near Lagoon Beach (photo by Ernita van Wyk).

The Table Bay Nature Reserve is home to an unknown number of Cape clawless otters. In the below Figure 15, there are five otters in one frame. This picture was taken at the Southern Deep Water Lake of Rietvlei, from the Sunset Hide. Otters are very mobile and forage over large distances. They also disperse at a certain age in search of new home ranges.



Figure 15. Five Cape clawless otters in one photo frame (photo by Jan and Frieda Prinsloo).

5.5 Other indigenous fauna sightings are inserted below in Figures 16 to 19:



Figure 16. African olive pigeon (photo by Andy Bullmore).



Figure 17. Glossy ibis eating a fish (photo: Jan and Frieda Prinsloo).



Figure 18. White-necked ravens attacking a Fish eagle (photo by Jan and Frieda Prinsloo).



■ "This was taken at Rietvlei Sunset Hide in Cape Town early on an autumn morning during one of our walks. The Pied Kingfisher would bring up the fish that it caught and then beat them on the branch until soft enough to consume. One can see the scales and droplets of water in the air," says reader Steve Williams.

A photo-caption appeared in the local press about a Pied Kingfisher at Rietvlei.

Pied Kingfishers catch fish by dive-bombing into the water.

Other Kingfisher species have also been seen at Rietvlei, including Malachite Kingfisher and Giant Kingfisher.

We encourage wildlife photography at Rietvlei.

Figure 19. Photo caption in the local press about a Pied Kingfisher.

6 SOIL

6.1 **Shoreline erosion** at the Rietvlei fishing sites is being stabilised by means of planting vegetation. This area is being monitored and the loss of shoreline is slowing rapidly.

7 WATER

7.1 **Rainfall recorded** in the Table Bay Nature Reserve (at Rietvlei Water Area and the Milnerton Racecourse) returned to normal patterns in 2016 after an exceptionally dry year in 2015.

The rainfall during this quarter was 165mm at Rietvlei and 141.7mm at Milnerton Racecourse.

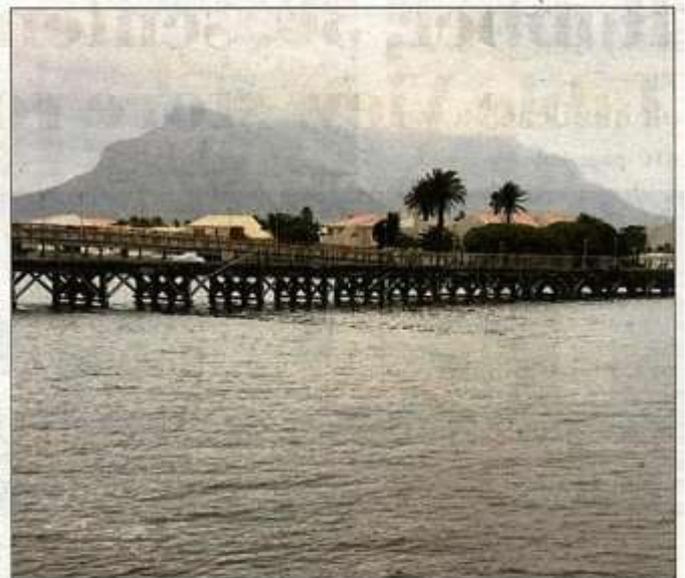
The year's total rainfall to date is 224.5mm at Rietvlei and 201.7mm at Milnerton Racecourse.

Currently the water levels in the seasonal pans have returned to normal winter levels, which means that the pans are flooded and there is no dust problem.

Figure 20 right is a photo caption in the local press.

Figure 21 below indicates the monthly rainfall records of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse plotted over the average rainfall pattern for the area.

Figure 22 overleaf indicates the rainfall accumulation curves of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse plotted over the average accumulation curve for the area.



■ Last week Thursday's heavy rainfall raised water levels in the lagoon quite a bit. In this picture taken on Friday the posts of the old wooden bridge which is usually more exposed is covered by water.

Figure 20. Photo caption in the local press.

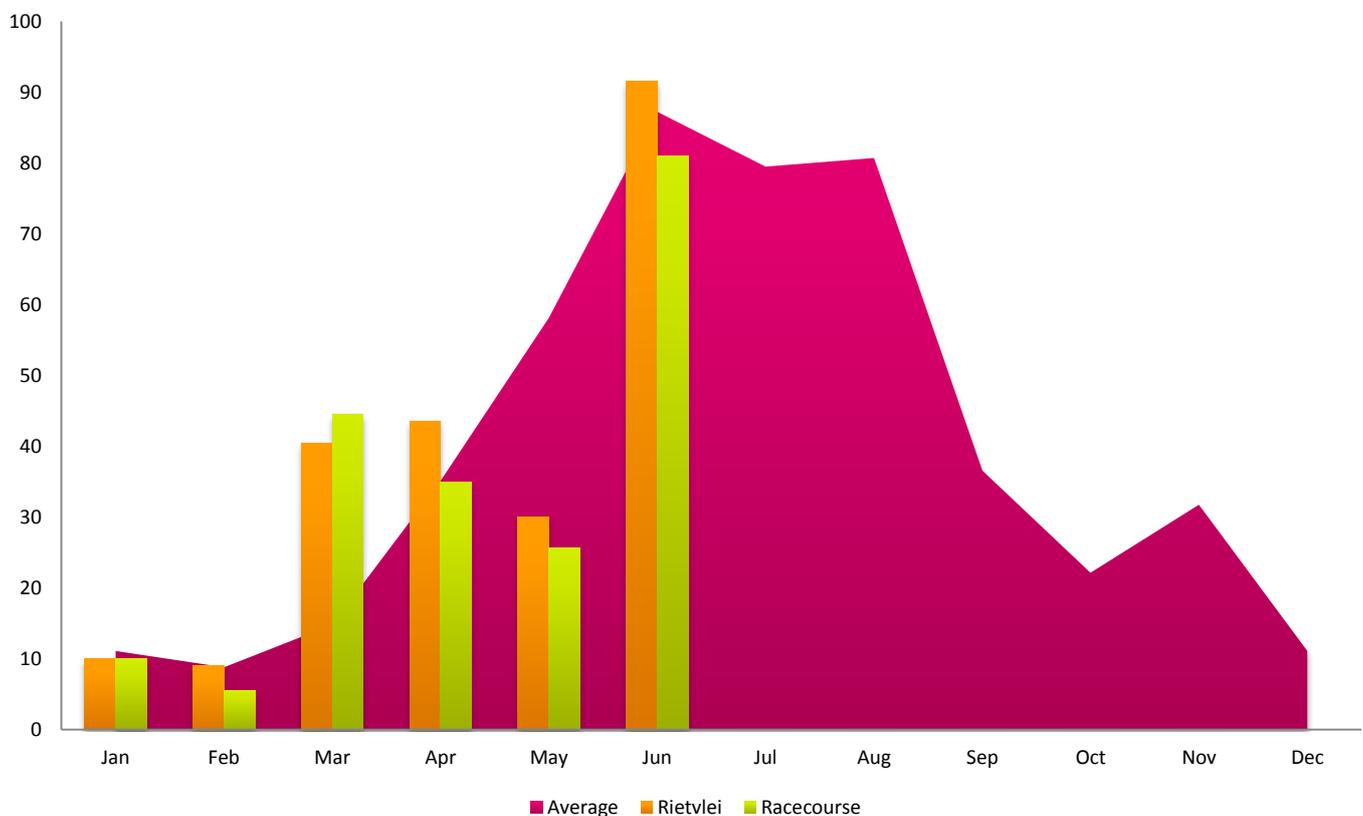


Figure 21. Monthly rainfall records of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse plotted over average rainfall pattern.

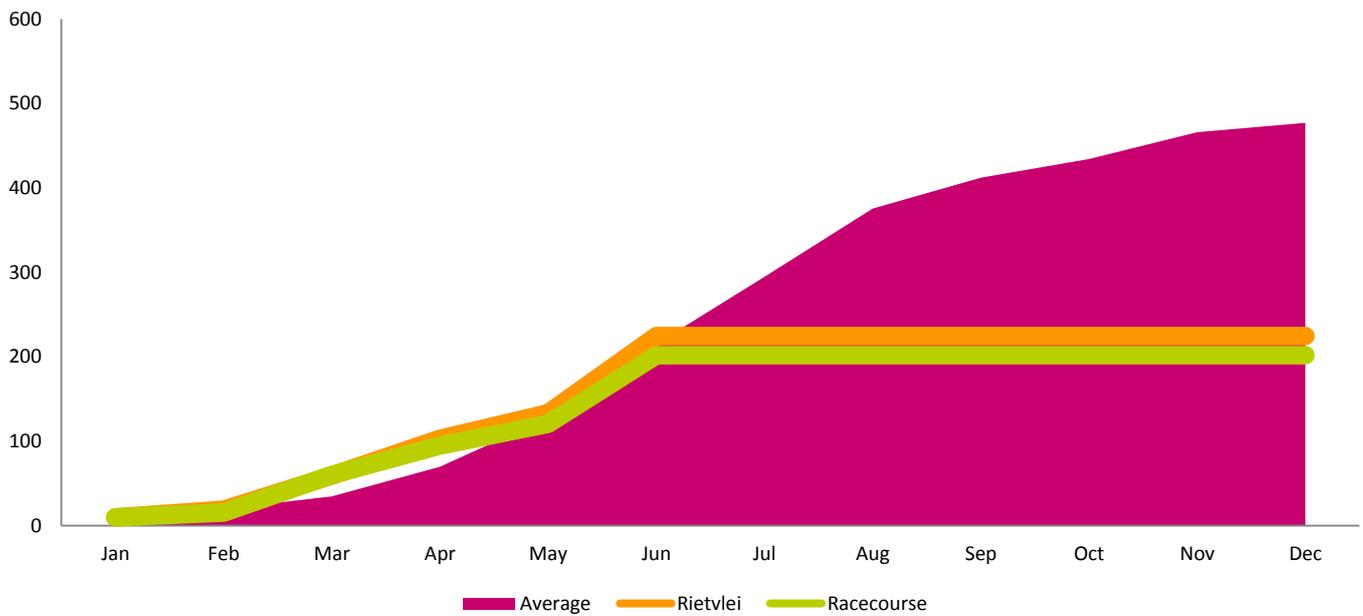


Figure 22. Rainfall accumulation curves of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse plotted over average accumulation curve.

7.2 Litter washed from roads during rainfall events flush into the stormwater channels and ultimately flow into the river and towards the sea. The Milnerton Lagoon, which is the estuary mouth of the Diep River, becomes covered in litter after heavy rainfall events, when all the surrounding roads are washed clean. The pollution, however, ends up in the natural environment.

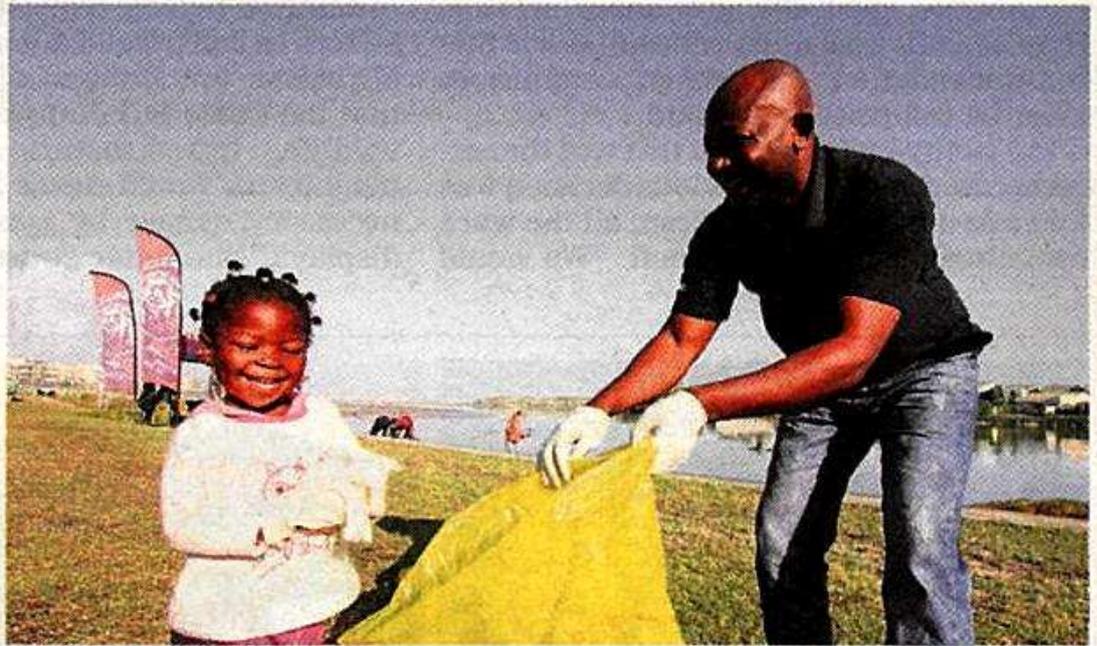
Staff from the Nature Reserve participated in various litter cleanups, including a community litter pickup which was reported in the local media (see Figures 23 to 24 below and overleaf).

Pollution will not go away until people decide to stop discarding waste in public areas. Every person is responsible for the waste that they generate, and by throwing it in the street, it does not remove that responsibility. Stopping pollution in the natural environment is every one's responsibility.



Figure 23. Two courageous helpers who cleaned litter from the Milnerton Lagoon.

Blessing Kabongo (2) from Milnerton joined her father Germainh to collect litter.



Community cleans up lagoon

In celebration of Earth Day, the City of Cape Town's Table Bay Nature Reserve and Plastics SA hosted a community litter clean-up along the banks of the Diep River at Milnerton Lagoon beach.

Table View and Milnerton residents came

out to assist. Young children and high school learners also did their bit and joined their parents in the clean-up.

Spur Steak Ranches rewarded 10 lucky volunteers with meal vouchers for their effort.



Pictured at the clean-up from left are Allan Cocker from Spur, Kim Schoon, Sylvy Schoon, Stephanie Kühhirt, Simon Revington from Spur and Landi Louw of Table Bay Nature Reserve.

PHOTOS: MONIQUE DUVAL

Figure 24. Article in the local press about community members with Nature Reserve Site Manager, Landi Louw, doing a clean-up.

8 FIRE

8.1 No wildfires were recorded in the Table Bay Nature Reserve during this quarter.



Figure 25. Prescribed ecological burn at Durbanville.

8.2 A prescribed ecological burn was conducted at Durbanville Nature Reserve on 12/04/2016 under strict permit conditions.

Table Bay Nature Reserve staff assisted with the successfully controlled burn in the three hectare northern block (see Figure 25 left).

Prescribed ecological burning is a management practice in certain vegetation types (especially fynbos) that promotes vegetation regeneration and germination of indigenous plant species.

Burning on a rotational basis allows for a variety of vegetation ages in a nature reserve and also reduces the fire hazard by burning away old and dead vegetation under controlled conditions.

8.3 Controlled brush pile burning was conducted over several weeks at the Klein Dassenberg near Atlantis under strict permit conditions.

Table Bay Nature Reserve staff assisted with the burning operations from 17-19/05/2015.

The brush piles originated from extensive invasive vegetation clearing projects in the area.

Most of the usable firewood was removed and only the thin brush material was stockpiled for burning.

The burning of the brush piles assists in reducing the fire hazard, clearing the land of alien plant material, and promoting the return of indigenous vegetation over time (see Figures 26 right and 27 below).



Figure 26. Burning of brush piles at Klein Dassenberg.



Figure 27. Nature conservation staff monitoring the flames to ensure that un-cleared alien vegetation (right) does not catch on fire.

9 PEOPLE, TOURISM & EDUCATION

9.1 Stakeholder Engagement

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

9.1.1 Internal Meetings

Table Bay Nature Reserve staff attended no less than 10 official internal meetings during this quarter:

- 01/04/2016: North Region Management and Health & Safety meetings;
- 06/05/2016: North Region Management meeting;
- 23/05/2016: Sport & Recreation Department regarding beach and estuary management;
- 26/06/2016: Branch Management meeting;
- 22-23/06/2016: North Region Protected Area Reviews;
- 28/06/2016: Invasive Species Control Plans; and
- 29/06/2016: North Region Management and Health & Safety meetings.

9.1.2 External Meetings

Table Bay Nature Reserve staff attended no less than 20 official external meetings during this quarter:

- 01/04/2016: Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee;
- 05/04/2016: Wemyss Road footbridge at Zoarvlei site meeting;
- 08/04/2016: Milnerton Aquatic Club shoreline erosion site meeting;
- 18/04/2016: Advisory Committee sub-working group on invasive species in the Diep River;
- 19/04/2016: Paardeneiland City Improvement District board meeting;
- 19/04/2016: Advisory Committee sub-working group on water quality in the Diep River;
- 21/04/2016: Table Bay Nature Reserve Advisory Committee;
- 27/04/2016: Sunset Beach parking areas with chairman of SBHOA;
- 04/05/2016: Historic Wooden Bridge restoration Project Management Team (PMT);
- 06/05/2016: Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee;
- 11/05/2016: Witzand Aquifer Nature Reserve Advisory Committee;
- 16/05/2016: Subcouncil 6 regarding Draft Recreational Water-Use By-law;
- 19/05/2016: Subcouncil 1 regarding Draft Recreational Water-Use By-law;
- 19/05/2016: Blaauwberg Area Development Liaison Committee;
- 25/05/2016: Sunset Beach Home Owners Association AGM;
- 27/05/2016: Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee;
- 27/05/2016: CTEET NQF level 2 learnership graduation ceremony;
- 02/06/2016: Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve meeting;
- 24/06/2016: Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee; and
- 27/06/2016: Hydrology and geohydrology study review.

9.2 Benefit to People



Figure 28. Children helping to clean the Lagoon.



Figure 29. Fire Department training at Rietvlei.

9.2.1 Rietvlei Education Centre Usage

The usage of the Rietvlei Education Centre, excluding visiting school groups, generated 35 person days of benefit to people over two event days.

DATE	GROUP	ACTIVITY	PERSON DAYS
19/05/2016	Blaauwberg Development Area Environmental Liaison Committee	Meeting	10
02/06/2016	Friends of Rietvlei	AGM	25
TOTAL			35

9.2.2 Rietvlei Boma Usage

The usage of the Rietvlei Boma generated 553 person days of benefit to people over 22 event days.

DATE	GROUP	ACTIVITY	PERSON DAYS
01/04/2016	North region managers	Regional meeting	10
11-14/04/2016	NQF 5 Learnership	Final Integrated Summative Assessment	56
18-20/04/2016	CCT BMB staff & Siljeur Training Academy	Field ranger training	45
21/04/2016	TBNR PAAC	Quarterly meeting	32
22/04/2016	CCT BMB staff & Siljeur Training Academy	Field ranger training	15
24/04/2016	Cllr McCarthy	Hosting event	106
28/04/2016	CTEET	Interviews	20
10/05/2016	Western Cape DEA&DP	Strategic planning for directorate	6
16-18/05/2016	Social & Early childhood development	Training	60
27/05/2016	CTEET	NQF4 induction and NQF2 graduation	65
07-08/06/2016	CCT ERMD	Smart driver training	60
09/06/2016	CPFPA	Committee meeting	10
21/06/2016	Invasive Species Management Unit	Epilepsy intervention for EPWP team	48
22-23/06/2016	CCT BMB North region	Protected area review	20
TOTAL			553

9.2.3 Environmental Education and Outreach

Environmental Education and Outreach generated 234 person days of benefit to people over four event days.

DATE	GROUP(S)	LEARNERS	TEACHER +ADULTS	PERSON-DAYS	PROGRAMME
12/04/2016	Perivale Primary	67	3	70	Collaborative Water Week programme at Westlake
15/04/2016	Table View Girl Guides	8	2	10	Assistance with Nature badge
24/04/2016	Cllr McCarthy's hosted event	0	106	106	Presentation: Introduction to TBNR
15/06/2016	Shelanti Private School	44	4	48	Birds (with SANCCOB)
TOTALS		119	115	234	TOTALS

9.3 Visitors and Income

9.3.2 Income from visitors at the Rietvlei Water Area during this quarter decreased slightly due to the onset of the winter season. This quarter saw a total of 3,095 visitors generating R61,479. The income overall is rising nonetheless, with the first six months of 2016 already as much as the whole of 2013's income.

Figure 30 below compares the total cash incomes from the first six months of each year since 2010.

The continuing increasing trend is a testament to hard work invested by the Visitor Controllers and Water Rangers at Rietvlei that ensures that all access into the Rietvlei Water Area is accounted for.

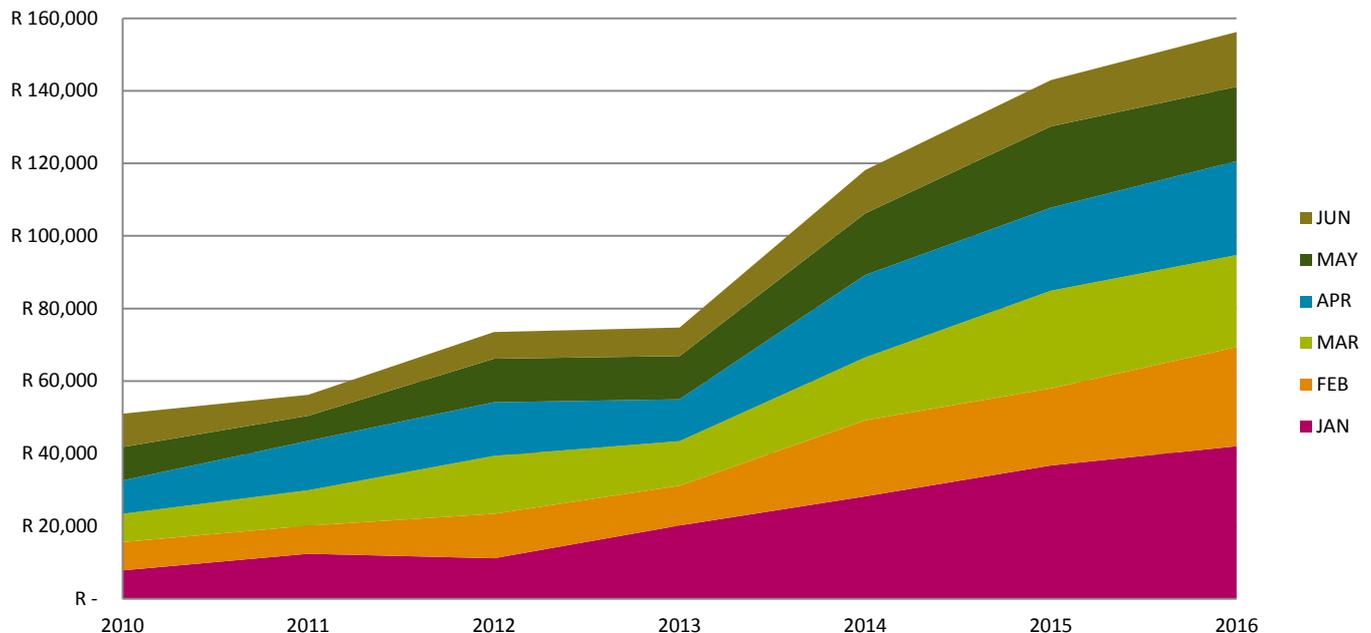


Figure 30. Total cash incomes from the first six months of each year since 2010.

9.3.3 Municipal tariff schedules are amended by the City of Cape Town Council every year. The visitor tariffs at Rietvlei were also amended and these amendments will come into effect with the start of the new Council financial year on 1 July 2016.

The new tariffs at Rietvlei include the following:

- Day visitor, Adults 18 years of age and older, per day, **15.00**
- Day visitor, Children 3 years to 17 years of age, per day, **8.00**
- Day visitor, Children under the age of 3, per day, **No charge**
- Day visitor, Senior citizen / Pensioner (60+ years), per day, **8.00**
- Day visitor, Student with valid student card, per day, **8.00**
- Friends of Rietvlei (positive proof required), per day, **No charge**
- Environmental Education Programmes, Learner / student, per day, **7.00**
- Vehicles, per day, **21.00**
- Buses (<25 seater, includes passenger tariff), per day, **340.00**
- Power Boat, per day, **53.00**
- Sail Board / Dinghy / Windsurfer / Canoe / Stand Up Paddling, per Adult (18+ yrs), per day, **21.00**
- Sail Board / Dinghy / Windsurfer / Canoe / Stand Up Paddling, per Child (-18 yrs), per day, **13.00**
- Annual ticket, Senior Citizens (60+), annually, **69.00**
- Annual ticket, Adults, annually, **135.00**
- Annual ticket, Family (parents & 4 children to the age of 17), annually, **210.00**
- Annual ticket, Power Boat, annually, **435.00**
- Annual ticket, Sail Board / Dinghy / Windsurfer / Canoe / Stand Up Paddling, annually, **95.00**
- Day Fishing, per Adult (18+) (max 2 rods with 2 hooks per rod), per day, **42.00**
- Day Fishing, per Child (3-17) (max 2 rods with 2 hooks per rod), per day, **15.00**
- Day Fishing, per Senior citizen (60+) (max 2 rods with 2 hooks per rod), per day, **15.00**

10 STAFF



Figure 31. Former learner, Pamela Mrebe.

10.1 Learnership intern, Pamela Mrebe, was offered a one-year contract position as Field Ranger at the Atlantic Beach Golf Estate in Melkosstrand. She will be reporting to the Site Manager Louis van Wyk, who is employed through the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust (CTEET) to manage the conservation area there.

Pamela (Figure 31 left) started as a contract worker in 2013 at Table Bay Nature Reserve under the Expanded Public Works Programme.

She later applied to enrol in an NQF Level 2 Learnership in Conservation Guardianship at the Nature Reserve in February 2014. She successfully completed this Learnership in February 2015.

She was then selected to enrol in an NQF Level 5 Learnership in Environmental Management in April 2015, also at the Nature Reserve.

She successfully completed this Learnership during April 2016, and will graduate soon.

She is now working on a one-year Field Ranger contract position at the Conservation Area at Atlantic Beach Estate in Melkbos.

10.2 The SANBI Groen Sebenza graduate intern, Mashudu Sikhwihilu, who worked at Table Bay Nature Reserve's Coastal and Zoarvlei Sections from 02/05/2014 to 31/12/2015, was offered a contract position as Quality Controller for Invasive Species in the Green Jobs Unit at the Westlake Conservation Centre.

Pamella and Mashudu's example stands as a monument to what is possible with hard work. We wish them all the best in their careers in Nature Conservation.

10.3 Five volunteers assisted the Nature Reserve during this quarter, including Nicola du Toit (Friends of Rietvlei) with the bird census on 15/04, Greg Pool (UNISA), Vardaman Hahndiek (UNISA), and Nicole Loebenberg (Friends of Rietvlei) with plant monitoring at Milnerton Racecourse on 25/04, and Sandiso Ziduli (UNISA) with plant monitoring on 26/04, 9/05, and 21/05/2016.

10.4 Code 10 learners' licenses were obtained by Kyle Kelly, Sakhile Luhani, and Ferica Yamile. Kyle booked a driver's test and successfully obtained his Code 10 Driver's License on 22/06/2016. Sakhile Luhani and Ferica Yamile are planned to undergo driver training before they book their driver's tests.

10.5 The Work-Integrated Learning students from Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Julia Hollander and Jack Nortjé, met with Management and the CPUT on 20/06/2016 to discuss their progress. Their final portfolios of evidence must be submitted to CPUT at the end of October 2016 for evaluation.

10.6 Training of permanent and temporary staff at the Table Bay Nature Reserve amounted to no less than 51 person days over 25 training event days, including the following interventions:

Date(s)	Course	Number of days x	Number of learners =	Person days
01/04/2016	Field Ranger Skills Development Programme	1	1	1
4-6/04/2016	Leadership training	3	1	3
4-8/04/2016	Code 10 Learner's License Training	5	5	25
15/04/2016	Self defence training	1	2	2
18-22/04/2016	Field Ranger Skills Development Programme	5	1	5
16-20/05/2016	Field Ranger Skills Development Programme	5	1	5
06-10/06/2016	Advanced Fynbos Identification	5	2	10
	TOTALS	25		51

11 LAW ENFORCEMENT

11.1 An adult female Cape grysbok died at the Milnerton Stables adjacent to the Milnerton Racecourse Section of the Nature Reserve on 20/04/2016. Two staff members (who work at the horse stables) tried to catch the animal, and it is suspected that they wanted to take it as food.

Provincial law enforcement officers from CapeNature were called out to assist the Nature Reserve staff with the investigation (Figure 32 right).

The animal seemingly did not die from any wounds, but rather from the stress and exhaustion of being pursued. There is no fence between the Nature Reserve land and the horse stables which means the antelope are free roaming between the stables.

This was considered as illegal hunting and could lead to very large fines or long prison sentences.



Figure 32. Adult female grysbok that died at the Milnerton Stables.

Illegal hunting, trapping and poaching of animals in a nature reserve is such a serious offence that local, provincial and national nature conservation and law enforcement authorities are wanting to make examples by prosecuting offenders to the maximum possible penalties (see Figure 33 below).



Under threat: The Cape grysbok and Cape porcupine (above) and the scrub hare and steenbok (below) are being hunted and poached to extinction in City reserves.

Help trap poachers

The City's Environmental Resource Management Department urges staff and the public to be vigilant and report poachers or any suspicious activity for investigation and further action.

Dozens of animals are poached from the City's nature reserves each month. While the exact figure is unknown, the marked decrease or even absence of particular animals at some sites is evidence of the impact of this illegal activity.

The main types of animals targeted are small antelope such as Cape grysbok, porcupine and Cape hare. However, any mammal, including caracal and mongoose, is vulnerable. While some of the poaching is for meat, animals are also killed for their horns, hooves and organs. Porcupine quills are used in the crafts industry.

Betting on the outcome

The setting of snares, usually along game paths and in holes in fences, is a problem in some areas. However, the reason for much of the illegal hunting is gambling. Dogs are used for illegal hunting, and bets are placed on the dogs. There are a few groups that hunt with large packs of dogs on the False Bay coastline between Zandvlei Nature Reserve and Macassar Dunes Conservation Area.

This hunting is illegal in terms of the Nature and Environmental Conservation Ordinance and the National Environmental Management Act: Protected Areas and Nature Reserves, and inhumane.

During this year, six arrests have been made. While this is encouraging, poaching remains a problem. It is extremely difficult to police, because few nature reserves are fenced, and access is easy.

All of the species targeted are protected. Although they are not threatened with extinction, they may become locally extinct if hunting continues.

Staff members are urged to be on the lookout and to report any suspicious activity to the City's environmental emergency response unit on 083 499 1717 (all hours). A tip-off could lead to an arrest, and any prosecution of poachers will be a significant achievement.



Figure 33. Article in CONTACT (City of Cape Town's Newsletter for staff, no 69, March/April 2016).

11.2 The City of Cape Town By-Law Relating to Streets, Public Places, and the prevention of Noise Nuisances states in "Prohibited Behaviour" in Section 2(3) that "No person shall in a public place—(h) consume any liquor or drugs; or (i) be drunk or be under the influence of drugs.

Alcohol may only be consumed in private premises, or in establishments that are in the possession of a legal and valid liquor license.

When travelling on public roads or water ways, people may not exceed the legal limits of intoxication. Rietvlei is a public water body, and just like public roads, is subject to regulation.

The by-law is intended to ensure that everyone that uses the City's public facilities can do so without the fear of being harmed by people that are under the influence of drugs and alcohol (see Figures 34 to 35).

The City's Law Enforcement Department regularly conducts "booze patrols" at various beaches and public resorts to enforce this by-law.



Figure 34. A person with open alcohol in a public place at Rietvlei.

An agreement was reached with the local Senior Inspector at Big Bay to increase the number of patrols in the Rietvlei Water Area, especially during the peak visitor periods, public holidays and on weekends.

We ask visitors at the Rietvlei Water Area to comply with all road rules and alcohol restrictions to avoid fines.

South Africa's first and only municipal Liquor Unit is leading the way for law enforcement in the country. From its headquarters in Brackenfell, Assistant Chief Nathan Ladegourdie and a team of law enforcement officers are responsible for enforcing the City's 2013 Liquor Bylaw across the metro.

Another three staff members were expected to join the team at the time of going to press.

The Unit was formed in response to the large number of businesses that sell alcohol in residential and business areas, and growing complaints to Law Enforcement regarding licensed and unlicensed outlets.

Although this dedicated unit was only established at the end of 2009, Nathan had already been carrying out the duties relating to liquor control long before its inauguration.

More than the liquor laws

His duties go much further than just ensuring adherence to the required operating hours of premises where alcohol is sold to the public.

"We also enforce the Business Act and Street, Public Places and the Prevention of Noise Nuisances Bylaw, and process applications for new liquor licences and submissions for the extension of trading hours. Annually, the festive season brings the additional responsibilities of operating the liquor pound in Ndabeni and assisting the general enforcement staff on the beaches."

Rivers of booze

"Over the past festive season alone, the pound received more than 20 000 bottles of confiscated alcohol. The confiscated stock is stored for three months before it is destroyed," says Nathan.

The Unit also works closely with the Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA) on problematic liquor establishments, and submits reports to them regarding illegal activities taking place inside and outside these premises.

Unit members undergo specialised training, including report writing, the completion



Increasing complaints about law violations by places that sell alcohol to the public led the City to establish a dedicated unit, a first in South Africa.

of dockets, the inner workings of the Liquor Act of 2004 and the City's Liquor Bylaw, specifically in the various processes that need to be followed when dealing with different liquor related cases.

"The biggest challenge we face is that more and more people are entering the liquor industry, applying for the various licences. We are also hampered by the delay in the promulgation of the new national Liquor Act, which would empower us to fully prosecute offenders

under the law," he says.

Despite its relatively small size, the Unit has shown its mettle by cleverly deploying members in hotspots, or as they call them, "areas of centred concentration", where statistics have shown the highest occurrence of the biggest problems.

"In the year January 2015 to January 2016, we permanently closed down 163 shebeens situated throughout the city," Nathan says.

As serious as their job is, the team has en-

joyed some lighter moments too. During one sting operation at an illegal shebeen, the owner disappeared. As they wrangled up their task, they heard a woman calling for help from the vicinity of a parked car. On investigation, they found a woman trapped underneath it.

"We had to lift the car to free the woman. Lo and behold, it was the shebeen queen. Following her tight situation, she solemnly vowed that she would never ever trade illegally again!" laughs Nathan.

Liquor law-breakers Reked: The City's dedicated Liquor Unit has the responsibility of enforcing the Liquor Bylaw with regard to establishments that sell alcohol to the public. Over the past festive season alone, more than 20 000 bottles of alcohol were confiscated. These are kept for three months before being destroyed.

Front, from left: Mary Austin, Aletta Williams (regional inspector) and Nathan Ladegourdie (assistant chief). Middle row: Yustin Potberg, Melany Coetzee, Cameron Isaacs, Samuel Festus, Elaine Avantsuur, Indonesia Neethling and Rafeeq Khan. Back row: Gershon Davids, Clinton Langeveldt, Sivive Dishi, Iaren Davids and Lizele Ross.

Figure 35. Article in CONTACT (City of Cape Town's Newsletter for staff, no 69, March/April 2016).

11.3 Illegal overnight structures built by displaced people were observed in the Coastal Section by Mr Van der Grinten on 21/05/2016. He was alerted to the problem when he saw an illegal cooking fire in the Nature Reserve. The Dolphin Beach Security personnel assisted him to clean up the area after the illegal structures were removed. He sent the below images in Figures 36 to 37 to Management.

We appeal to residents to report illegal structures and overnighting to the Nature Reserve office.



Figure 36. Illegal structure in the vegetation.



Figure 37. Displaced people living in the Nature Reserve.

11.4 Four suspects were apprehended while extracting various plants and plant parts from the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve's Coastal Section, by the Table Bay Nature Reserve's Area Manager (Koos Relief) and Assistant Conservation Officer (Clinton Roux) on 12/05/2016 (see Figures 38 to 40).

The staff conducted a patrol at the time when unknown people were observed digging in the Nature Reserve. Four suspects were arrested and six bags of various sizes containing plant materials was seized. CapeNature officials assisted to formulate charges. The case is due to appear in court soon.



Figure 38. Suspects extracting plants from a Nature Reserve.

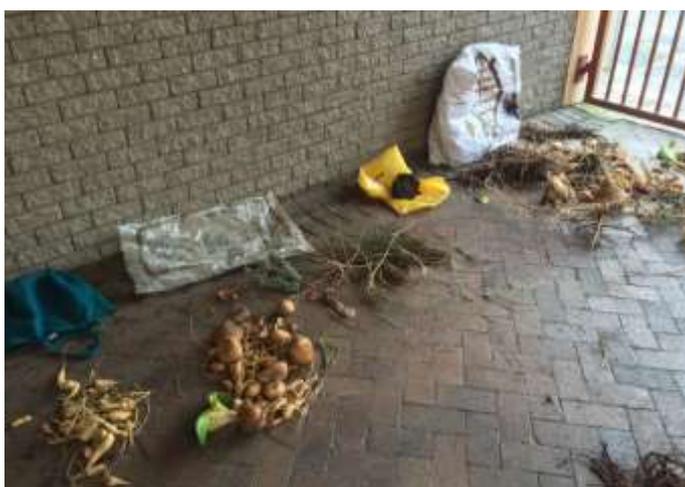


Figure 39. Counting the plant parts at the Table View SAPS.

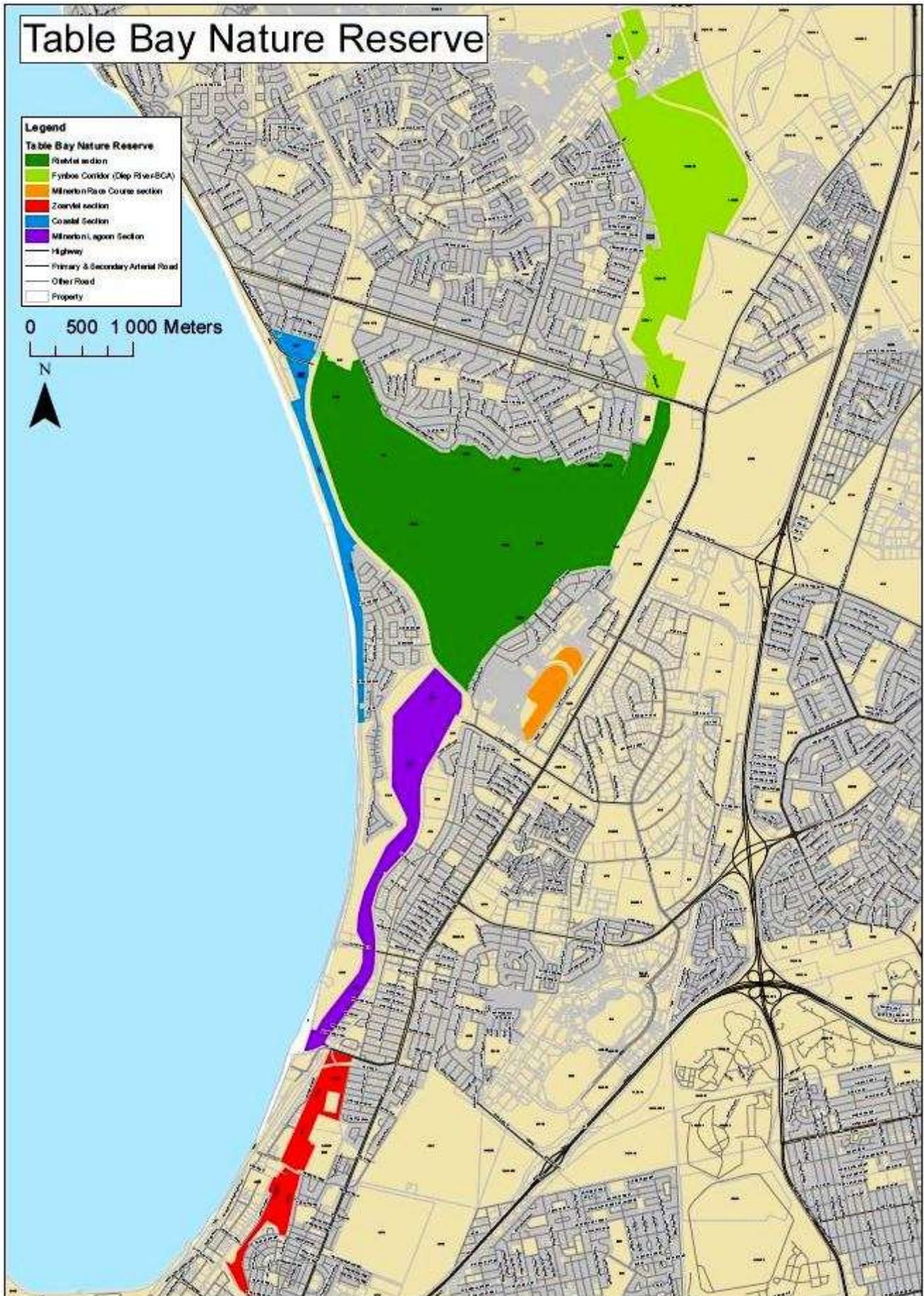


Figure 40. Counting the plant parts at the Table View SAPS.

12 INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT

12.1 Five roller shutter garage doors at the Rievlei office were serviced and repaired after some damaged occurred to the operating system. This included the repair of a broken door, and the replacement of several steel slats and guide tracks to the cost of R29,950.00

APPENDIX A: MAP OF RESERVE



APPENDIX B: PRESS ARTICLES



BLAAUWBERG: ALL EYES ON SUBCOUNCIL

Call to halt fireworks

MONIQUE DUVAL
@monique_duval

All eyes will be on the Blaauwberg Sub-council this week to see whether or not Table View residents can expect fireworks along the beachfront during 2016.

This follows a recent recommendation by the ward 23 committee that no site along the beachfront from Dolphin Beach to Melkbosstrand be deemed as suitable for the discharge of fireworks on Guy Fawkes Day, Diwali and New Year's Eve.

In the last year, residents living along the beachfront have cried foul about the designation of the fireworks site near the old tour-

ism office. This was based on the City of Cape Town safety criteria which among others stipulate that the designated site must be at least 500m from a petrol depot. Due to the filling station at Marine Circle and the close proximity of homes, residents have challenged the municipality's decision.

This also prompted a motion by ward 23 committee member Mandy Da Matta calling for the site to be removed. The motion was first tabled in November but voted as "not urgent" by the committee and fireworks were allowed on New Year's Eve. The motion then stood over.

Shortly before this, the City received a letter from De Abreu and Cohen Attorneys who

acted on behalf of the Table View Ratepayers' Association (TVRA) and the Waves Edge Community Forum outlining their objections. In addition to highlighting the safety criteria set out by the municipality, they outlined the regulations of the Explosives Act of 2003.

According to the minutes of the ward committee meeting, the motion did not appear on the January ward committee agenda due to an administrative oversight. It did, however appear on the March agenda.

According to the minutes, Blaauwberg subcouncil manager Peter Deacon apologised for the oversight and proposed that the contents of Da Matta's motion be noted and

in addition that no designated site be allowed on the beachfront.

"In view of the numerous objections received from the immediate surrounding owners/occupiers of properties, a petition submitted to the office of the ombudsman and the negative media reports received in respect of the identified and demarcated site/s along the beachfront from Dolphin Beach to Melkbosstrand that NO area/s along the said beachfront be identified and/or demarcated for the setting off of fireworks by the public during Guy Fawkes, Diwali and New Year's Eve festivities," he says in the minutes.

▶ To page 2.

FROM PAGE 1

The ward 23 committee resolved their recommendation in accordance with Deacon's proposal and in addition resolved that in the event of this being accepted by the subcouncil, there will be no operational plans in place by the City to control, manage and assist in the event of any injuries or damage in respect of the beach area from Dolphin Beach to Melkbosstrand being used by the public for the setting off of fireworks.

Responding to questions posed by *TygerBurger*, Deacon says a report containing the motion and recommendation from the ward 23 committee will be considered by councillors tomorrow (Thursday).

Asked whether the subcouncil can reject the recommendation, he says: "Yes, the subcouncil can reject the ward committee's recommendation. It is however difficult to say or indicate on which grounds, but it can surely first establish from the relevant line departments what the consequences could be if an area is not

identified and/or demarcated for that purpose."

TVRA chairperson Leon Alhadeff says they are ecstatic at the recommendation and hope it will be accepted by the sub-council. "We are excited to hear that the desires and needs of our community are being taken seriously."

▶ Do you think fireworks should be banned from the beachfront between Dolphin Beach and Melkbosstrand? Tell us why and send a letter to briewe@tygerburger.co.za.

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▶ Do you think fireworks should be banned from the beachfront between Dolphin Beach and Melkbosstrand? Tell us why and send a letter to briewe@tygerburger.co.za.

Fireworks site: no outcome yet

MONIQUE DUVAL

 @monique_duval

Table View residents will have to wait to hear the final outcome on a proposal to have a fireworks site moved.

This follows a recommendation by the ward 23 committee to the Blaauwberg sub-council for the designated site at the old tourism office to be removed from the list of designated site for the discharge of fireworks on Guy Fawkes Day, Diwali and New Year's Eve festivities. In addition, the recommendation calls for no site along the beachfront in ward 23 from Dolphin Beach to Melkbosstrand. The report also includes a motion by ward 23 committee member Mandy Da Matta. The recommendation was included in a report tabled at the sub-council meeting last week.

Considerable excitement

Speaking at the meeting, acting chairperson Joy McCarthy opened the item saying it had created considerable excitement and explained the recommendation in the report.

The floor was opened for comments from councillors and Atlantis councillor Barbara Rass indicated other ward committees need to be given a chance to comment on the recommendation.

"The recommendation [was] submitted by the councillor... but this is what should actually be happening. The other ward committees must also give input on this. Here is only one ward committee on this recommendation and other committees must be informed," she said.

McCarthy indicated that this was the correct procedure as the previous decision was taken as a result of input from all the ward committees in the sub-council. "We would

like to refer the matter to all ward committees before we make a decision."

Councillors then voted in favour of putting a decision on hold until all ward committees could be consulted.

Two designated sites

According to a statement released by the City of Cape Town in October last year, the Blaauwberg sub-council currently has two approved designated sites for the discharging of fireworks namely the Table View site and the Wesfleur sports field in Atlantis.

Meanwhile the Table Bay Nature Reserve Biodiversity Management Branch Protected Area Advisory Committee and Environmental Resource Management Diep Estuary Management Forum has written a letter to the sub-council in which they noted that the beachfront was approved as a fireworks discharge site for Guy Fawkes last year.

On this same evening a witness told *TygerBurger* she saw a Chinese lantern being lit outside the designated area and land in Rietvllei. It is believed this sparked the blaze which raged on for about a day.

In their letter the committee notes these events and says the close proximity of fire-prone vegetation in natural areas should be a significant factor in determining appropriate sites for fireworks discharges.

"Weather patterns may also change ... and unpredictable wind directions must also be taken into account. The advisory committee hereby requests that the above factors be considered during any future applications for fireworks discharges, and that the Table Bay Nature Reserve and its wildlife, infrastructure, residents and neighbours would never be placed in unnecessary danger by approved fireworks displays," the letter states.

Historical bridge rebuilt?

MONIQUE DUVAL
@monique_duval

The restoration of the historic wooden bridge in Milnerton is set to see the entire bridge dismantled and rebuilt in the years to come.

A public participation meeting on the proposed restoration works was held at Milnerton library last week where heritage experts and engineers on behalf of the City of Cape Town discussed various aspects of the project.

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

Closed to vehicles

In the period between 1942 and 1972 various repair works were undertaken and in 1984 it was closed to vehicles. In 1987 it was declared a national monument and once again closed for repairs in 1990. Five years later the bridge was reopened, and in 2007 it was closed once again due to safety reasons.

Over the years, the bridge has deteriorated

further and residents have frequently raised concerns about the dilapidated state.

In his presentation, Scurr explained there were various considerations made by those involved and after an assessment they found that only 15% to 20% of the existing timber used to build the bridge was salvageable. He said for the project, it was important that the bridge become a living part of the living environment and hence it had been proposed that once complete, the bridge become the main pedestrian link to the island.

Scurr explained the current restoration proposal was to salvage reusable timber and rebuild the bridge with new timber. He says while some may question the authenticity or heritage value of the bridge if new timber is used, the original form, design and materials will be retained. The proposal also includes the addition of a new lightweight, transparent stainless steel mesh fence on either side of the bridge.

In his presentation Mick Latimore, technical director of Bergstan South Africa Consulting and Development Engineers, outlined the current damage and state of the bridge. Latimore used pictures to show attendees the condition of the deck and the broken balustrades.

Views of underneath the bridge show how the original timber members were reinforced with splice members on each side. Among some of the concerns are tubeworms or the coral-like growth at the bottom of the bridge and the subsequent decay of the timber.

Great concern

"There is something that is of great concern to us as engineers. At the legs of the pillars at the bottom you can see the tube-worm growth. Each support is made up of three members. The central thicker piece is the original support we refer to as a timber pile from the original construction. On either side is a slightly smaller member bolted on either side introduced in about 1994, so that unit has provided the extra strength.

"In places you can see it's very, very decayed and we were concerned about the extent of that decay."

He also showed examples of how the timber had split making the bridge unsafe.

Among some of the environmental considerations are how work will be carried out in the lagoon.

For more information call the Environmental Partnership on 021 422 0999 or email info@enviropart.co.za.

Plans to repair historic wooden bridge

SUMMER JACOBS

The City of Cape Town says it is "hoping to be in a position" to advertise a tender for the restoration of one of Milnerton's oldest landmarks.

The wooden bridge at Woodbridge Island has gone from serving as an important military access point to an eyesore for residents.

It fell into disrepair after a new bridge was built a few metres away in 1984.

Driving along the R27 one is met with the dilapidated wooden bridge barely standing, despite years of promises to have it fixed by the City. Standing for 115 years, the bridge now has the added burden of a visitor who frequently has siestas in the middle of it with his belongings scattered about.

For the past few weeks, Tabletalk has noted the man's presence.

He is not always there, but when he is, he usually occupies the middle of the bridge with what appears to be his possessions.

These appear to be a blanket, pieces of cardboard, a plastic bucket and plastic bags. On one occasion, he had his blanket hanging over the handrails of the bridge.

Built out of Australian Jarra wood during the Anglo-Boer War in 1901 by the Royal Engineers, the bridge served as an entrance to a cannon trench.

It was declared a national monument in 1987.



■ The wooden bridge has been cut off from public use since 2007.

In 2007, it was deemed too dangerous for public use and was barricaded.

Over the years, Tabletalk has published several stories about the state of the bridge and promises made by the City to restore it.

In 2008, the City's environmental heritage resource department (ERHD) applied to The National Lotteries Board for R3.3 million to

have it restored and managed ("Touch wood - wooden bridge will be restored," Tabletalk, October 29, 2008").

Now, eight years later, Brett Herron, the mayoral committee member for transport, says wheels are in motion to repair the bridge.

"This project, which entails the complete rehabilitation of this structure, will be funded from

Transport for Cape Town's (TCT) capital budget.

"Construction is programmed to take place in the 2017/18 financial year and will be funded from TCT's proposed overall budget.

"There are still environmental and heritage authorisation processes which need to be completed before the detail design of the solution can be finalised. This will take up much of the current year.

"It is therefore anticipated that this project will be put out to tender in January 2017 (the 2016/17 financial year, with construction to commence in the following financial year (2017/18). The actual construction period will take about 10 months," said Mr Herron.

The City refused to be drawn on the cost of the refurbishment, with Mr Herron saying only that the outcome of the tender process would determine the costs involved.

He said the bridge's handrails and timber decking, in particular, were in extremely poor condition.

"Unfortunately, members of the public do make their way around or through the barricades from time to time at their own risk.

"With the construction of the newer concrete road bridge, alternative access to Woodbridge Island became available, and with funding always in short supply, other demands have taken priority over the maintenance of this particular structure," he said.

Ward councillor Bernadette le Roux said the man on the bridge

was a "wandering soul" who would disappear for months at a time before popping up again.

"He's just in a bad way. You see him all over Milnerton. He's never in one place. Now and again, law enforcement chases away homeless people from under the bridge," said Ms Le Roux.

Dr Errol Myburg, interim CEO of Heritage Western Cape, said with the promulgation of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) in 1999, all previous national monuments automatically became provincial heritage sites, including the old bridge.

"Provincial heritage sites are protected in terms of section 27 of the NHRA, specifically section 27(18), which states that, 'No person may destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of any heritage site without a permit issued by the heritage resources authority responsible for the protection of such site'," said Dr Myburg.

"In such instances, Heritage Western Cape is responsible for ensuring that any action taken (as described above) does not negatively impact on the heritage significance of a provincial heritage site. However, it is the responsibility of the landowner, in this case the City of Cape Town, to ensure that maintenance of such a site takes place and to ensure the long term security of such a site," he said.



A proposal to restore the historic wooden bridge has been opened to the public.
PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL

RESTORATION: WOODEN WALKWAY TO BE DISMANTLED, REBUILT

Broken bridge battle

MONIQUE DUVAL
@monique_duval

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▶ To page 2.

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"There is something that is of great concern to us as engineers. At the legs of the pillars at the bottom you can see the tubeworm growth. Each support is made up of

three members. The central thicker piece is the original support we refer to as a timber pile from the original construction. On either side is a slightly smaller member bolted on either side introduced in about 1994, so that unit has provided the extra strength.

"In places you can see it's very, very decayed and we were concerned about the extent of that decay."

He also showed examples of how the timber had split making the bridge unsafe.

He explained the proposal calls for the entire bridge to be dismantled and the reusable pieces of timber to be salvaged. These original pieces along with new timber will then form the new bridge.

Among some of the environmental considerations are how work will be carried out in the lagoon.

▶ For more information call the Environmental Partnership on 021 422 0999 or email info@enviropart.co.za.

Otter road kill on Marine Drive

STERLING CONYERS

Two otters were found dead on Marine Drive after they crossed the only "barrier" restricting them from their natural movement to the ocean. This is a battle many animals based at the Rietvlei area of the Table Bay Nature Reserve face in their struggle to adjust to urbanisation.

The Cape clawless otter is one of the 13 worldwide species of otter and is also regularly observed by residents in their gardens or on sports fields, and even at the Potsdam Waste Water Treatment Works.

Unfortunately, two of them met an untimely end, found dead near Dolphin Beach.

Table View resident Karen Veldsman, who witnessed the lifeless otters on Marine Drive, posted on the Rietvlei Nature Reserve Facebook group: "Just saw the saddest thing, two otters lying dead in the road next to Dolphin Beach. Awful. It all happens before people see them at night and aren't cautious as they drive past."

According to Rietvlei Nature Reserve Biodiversity area manager, Koos Retief, Cape clawless otters are elusive nocturnal foragers, which are sometimes seen in daylight. They occur naturally in the area and move around a lot, especially at night, to forage.

"Marine Drive is therefore a 'bar-



Have your say

SMS TALK with your message, name and area you live in to 300293 (22263)
SMSes charged at R1 each

rier' to their natural movement patterns. When they try to cross these 'barriers', they are at risk to be killed. The same risk also applies to our other resident animals, such as the Cape grysbok, steenbok, and caracal that have also been killed on these roads in the past.

"Over the years, we have noticed that there is often one to two otters killed on Marine Drive every year. We don't know whether this is causing a decline in the otter population, because they probably breed fast enough to make up for these losses. It is, however, a concern to prevent any unnecessary wildlife deaths due to traffic accidents," said Mr Retief.

According to Mr Retief, there are between 20 and 30 otters inhabiting the Diep River and Table Bay coast. However, new otters disperse in search of new areas with less competition for food, which exposes them to risk when they cross roads and developed areas.

"We therefore ask the people of Cape Town to value the wildlife that is, so to speak, at their doorstep and to help us to conserve this by driving safely. Obey the traffic rules and speed limits and to be aware of wildlife on the roads," said Mr Retief.

City's holiday programmes to help beat boredom

STAFF REPORTER

The City of Cape Town's recreational hubs, libraries, community centres/halls, nature reserves, sports fields and parks have a jam-packed holiday programme that will keep young and old well occupied.

The programme caters for a broad range of tastes: those who prefer being indoors or outdoors, both physical and non-physical activities, and something for nature lovers.

The programme at the City's nature reserves is sure to keep the young ones fascinated and well engaged. Among others, they can enjoy winter hikes, storytelling sessions and learning about animals, insects and birds.

The sport, recreation and amenities department has a diverse range of both indoor and outdoor activities on offer at its hubs – from board games and concerts, to dancing and face-painting, to five-a-side soccer and cricket.

In addition to the usual fare of books and audio-visual materials

on offer at libraries, children can enjoy puppet shows, arts and crafts and talent shows.

The social development department has put together a programme that caters especially for the youth. A number of awareness talks have been arranged on anti-bullying, defining one's self by asking 'who am I?' to build self-esteem, and dealing with peer pressure. Youth can also take part in role-playing activities and games.

"A lot of thought has gone into putting this extensive programme together that caters for all ages and for whole families to have fun together. I can quite confidently say it will beat boredom, which is what causes many children to turn to social ills," said Belinda Walker, the City's mayoral committee member for community services and special projects.

"I urge both young and old to head down to the City's facilities to see what is on offer and to have some good old-fashioned fun in a safe and inclusive space."

● Visit www.capetown.gov.za for the full holiday programme.



■ Otters in the water at Rietvlei, captured by photographers Jan and Frieda Prinsloo.

Sailors rewarded

Milnerton Aquatic Club (MAC), situated in the Table Bay Nature Reserve, Rietvlei, held its annual prize giving on Saturday 28 May and many certificates and trophies were presented to various young sailors.

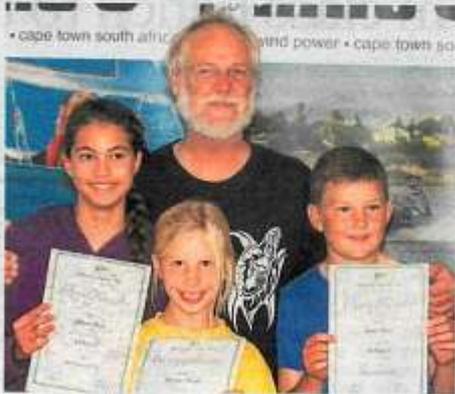
MAC has had a busy year of sail training courses, run by Axel Adelbert, whose skill in sailing has certainly been passed on to all the young sailors he has coached.

His dedication to sailing was recognised by the South African Sailing Association, who presented Ax-

el with the Charlie Mouat memorial trophy at the association's awards ceremony, in recognition of his selfless and ongoing efforts to assist the sport of sailing within the Western Cape in any way which will result in the betterment thereof.

The sailing courses have drawn youngsters from various schools and surrounding areas and they have enjoyed themselves sailing dinghies around Rietvlei in practising and in races, and their skills in handling dinghies were acknowledged at the club's prize giving.

Chiara Fruet, Eugenie Burger and Jared Tyler with Rear Commodore Sail Jac van Ryswyk.



André Wollheim was awarded the Flag Officer's Clubman of the Year Award.



Paul Tyler (right) was named the Clubman of the Year Sailor. Here he is pictured with Van Ryswyk. PHOTOS: JOHN READ

Body found under Sunset Beach bridge

City of Cape Town workers doing a routine clean up in Sunset Beach discovered a dead body underneath the bridge last Friday, April 15.

Police and pathologists arrived on the scene to identify the body and determine the possible cause of death.

Table View SAPS media spokesperson, Lieutenant Adriana Chandler said the male body was found in a blanket under the bridge and the person was presumed to have been destitute.

● Milnerton police has issued a warning for residents to be on high alert at crime hotspots.

The ATM banking area for Standard and FNB bank in Loxton Road has been identified as a crime hotspot for robberies and card swapping, and victims in this area have reported that they had been overpowered when they drew money at the ATMs.

“These incidents mostly occur over weekends and after business hours. Loxton Road has also been identified as a hotspot area for theft from motor vehicles and theft of motor vehicle, specifically at the parking bays close to the flat,” said Milnerton SAPS media spokesperson, Warrant Officer, Daphne O’Reilly, who suggested that the following precautionary measures be taken by residents in the area:

- Be aware of your surroundings. If you feel uncomfortable, leave the area.
- Do not carry cash or excessive amounts of cash. Most retail stores provide card machines for transactions which is easier and safer.
- Do not wear expensive jewellery, to avoid unnecessary attention to yourself from opportunistic criminals.
- Change waking routes to avoid being observed by criminals who thrive on patterns.
- Try to stay close to patrolling security officers, and do not openly carry a cellphone.
- Don’t confront anyone, as robbers are likely to be armed and dangerous. If you are confronted by robbers, always cooperate but avoid eye contact. Respond promptly to requests and do not act aggressively.

“Remember your life is worth more than your valuables.

“Do not leave any valuables visible in your vehicle and ensure that your vehicle is fitted with a working alarm system,” she said.



Some 1500 learners will participate in the City of Cape Town's biodiversity related awareness and education programmes at various nature reserves.

Learners celebrate natural assets

More than 1500 learners from across Cape Town will participate in the City of Cape Town's biodiversity related awareness and education programmes this month.

According to a statement released by the City, Cape Town's biodiversity mix includes approximately 3000 plant species in 19 different vegetation types. The City's 16 nature reserves conserve important elements of this rich biodiversity.

Mayco member for energy, environmental and spatial planning, Johan van der Merwe, says they are excited to be welcoming learners from all communities to their reserves this month as they try to nurture a love for conservation through interactive educational programmes.

"These have proven to be popular and we hope that our programmes may be the spark for budding nature enthusiasts. Through these programmes, we are celebrating our biodiversity. Our reserves are intertwined with our communities and it is especially important for us to connect learners from our more vulnerable communities to the biodiversity of our city."

He says learners from approximately 15 schools will participate in the interactive biodiversity awareness programmes held at the Tygerberg, Table Bay, Blaauwberg, Witzands, Edith Stephens, Bracken, Zandvlei, Helderberg and False Bay nature reserves where they will be educated about the importance of biodiversity and their responsibility in ensuring its protection and

conservation.

Some of the City's efforts around biodiversity related awareness and education include educational programmes for school learners, environmental clubs where the public and experts can interact, and the Smart Living challenge zone at the Two Oceans Aquarium.

To create further awareness and to enhance the educational programmes, exhibitions will be held at various libraries and shopping centres around Cape Town. Some of these include the Philippi East, Brackenfell and Kraaifontein libraries.

"We all depend on biodiversity – which means the variety of life on earth – in ways that are not always obvious or appreciated. The availability of food, clean water and air depends upon ecosystem products and services. Biodiversity also provides areas for us to enjoy, and creates jobs."

He says in the last financial year over 140 000 person days of temporary employment were created through the City's Kader Asmal Expanded Public Works Programme project. In addition to this, other government departments created jobs linked to the natural environment, including Working for Water, Working for Wetlands, Working on Fire, Working for the Coast, and various infrastructure development programmes.

"It is important for the younger generation to be educated in a fun-filled, interactive manner that is relevant to them so that they can get excited about their contribution to protecting the environment."



■ Parts of the fence bordering Woodbridge Island stand submerged in water.



■ The fence outside Woodbridge Island has sunk below the high water mark and has become a danger to beachgoers.



■ A partially visible sign on the fence indicated that it was put up to help dune rehabilitation.



■ Seaweed and dirt are caught in the tattered fence outside Woodbridge Island.

Frustration builds over beach fence

ATHINA MAY

Milnerton residents are fuming about the fence outside Leisure Bay and Woodbridge Island on Lagoon beach, as parts of it now lie in tatters below the water.

The fence went up in 2011 to help with "dune rehabilitation".

Residents taking a walk on the beach bordering Woodbridge Island can see the spokes of the fence protruding from the water it is submerged in, and a rusted "Dune rehabilitation" sign peeking out at the top.

Former Woodbridge Island body corporate chairman Richard Rundle had said the fence would be able to withstand the elements, however, today the fence has crumbled under the pressure of the waves, and prevents beachgoers from seeking refuge on the dunes during high tide ("Beach estate or prison camp?" *Tabletalk* May, 18,

2011).

Concerns regarding the state of the fence were aired on the Milnerton Neighbours Facebook group by those who had seen the broken fence, with Jason Smith saying that if the fence is in the high water mark, it's on what is regarded as public land.

"It clearly is a security fence excluding the general public from their 'fair-use' and aesthetic enjoyment," he added.

Ruan Smith said: "I can't see how they are going to 'rehabilitate' the dunes if the sea pushes past the fence onto the dunes. Last time I checked the sea couldn't read."

Beach goers who are unaware of the fragmented fence are left with no warning of the danger which it could present. They are also unable to walk on the beach during high tide, and seek refuge from waves on the dunes, which is blocked by the

fence. The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) investigated the legality of the fencing structure outside Woodbridge Island and Leisure Bay and served both those body corporates with compliance notices ("Leisure Bay dune fence 'illegal'" *Wednesday, February 24*).

The DEA then stated that based on observations made during a site inspection, they had reasonable grounds to believe that the construction of a fence on coastal public property is contrary to Section 13 of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act.

The act states that access to coastal public property should not affect the rights of the public to use and enjoy the coastal public property and should not hinder the state in the performance of its duty to protect the environment.

However, when the Woodbridge Island Body Corporate was

approached for comment, the body corporate manager, who refused to be named, said no notice regarding the legality of the fence was served to the body corporate. The manager said the department visited the establishment on several occasions and thought the fence was "fine".

"They (the DEA) think our fencing is fine. The information is not correct as the fence is not on public land, it's on private land.

"The piece of fence at the end is a problem as part of it is submerged in sand and water and we do have plans to remove it. We have put it further back because it currently is under water," said the body corporate manager.

DEA spokesman Zolile Nqayi said the body corporate responded to the notice they were given and indicated that the area fenced off is within their property boundary.

However, Mr Nqayi stated the fence is affecting access to the

coastal public property, which needs to be rectified.

"The fence is below the high water mark, the department needs to rectify this to ensure access to coastal public property by all citizens of this country. The department needs to investigate all structures within the coastal public property, and deal with those that were illegally built or are causing adverse effects to the environment," said Mr Nqayi.

When asked how long it would take before residents would see any action taken over the fence issue outside Woodbridge Island, Mr Nqayi said he was unsure as the matter could end up in court.

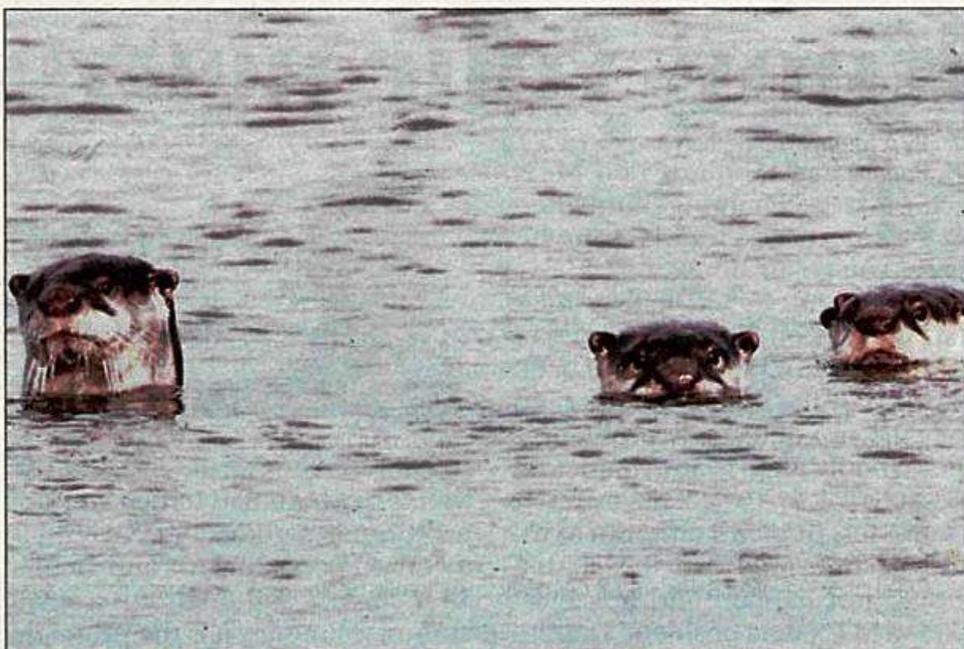
Although the fence remains on the beach, the Woodbridge Island Body Corporate has plans to remove the section of fence currently submerged in water and has stated this will be done as soon as possible.

Lovebirds



PICTURE: FRIEDA PRINSLOO

■ A rare sight: Something rare to see. Love play between two black-winged Stilts at Rietvlei Nature Reserve in Table View.



■ On Saturday June 11, Parklands residents Frieda and Jan Prinsloo took some photos of two Cape Clawless Otters at the Sunset hide at Rietvlei Nature Reserve. But on Saturday June 18, five of the otters were spotted playing together in the water at the reserve in Table View.



On 22 May, the world

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