

**Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve**  
**MONTHLY EMS REPORT**

**MRNR** ✕ **EMS**  
 Conservation

REPORT No.: 39

PERIOD: August 2010

DATE: 27 Aug 2010

**CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT**

1

- ✕ On the 12th Aug CoCT assisted in completing path maintenance within the northern conservation area and an alien clearing follow-up within both the northern and southern conservation areas.

**INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

2

- ✕ 12th Aug Alien clearing within the northern & southern conservation areas was undertaken
- ✕ Kikuyu map of the Northern Conservation Area is presently being compiled on Arc View.
- ✕ Spraying of Kikuyu grass within the Northern and Southern areas to be undertaken in summer.

**FIRE MANAGEMENT**

3

- ✕ Monitoring of post fire flora species is underway (see comments under Biological Monitoring).

**REHABILITATION**




4

- ✕ Seed is to be collected from MRNR to rehabilitate areas within Milnerton Ridge.

**INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT**

5

- ✕ **Stormwater outlets:** All outlets are clear of vegetation & open.
- ✕ **Detention ponds:** Requires maintenance. Details in table below.

Pond 1	Pond 4
Litter cleanup has been undertaken, however some litter still persists in stormwater outlet	Open erf: Shadecloth not present and coppicing Port Jackson.
	 

- ✕ **Rubbish bins:** CCT has received bins for MRCA, to be placed by NvW & KR. No other damage noted.
- ✕ **Signage & Fences:** 6 no entry signboards have been ordered. No vandalism or other damages noted. Locks to be installed by KR.
- ✕ **Toilet:** The Real Landscapes toilet at detention pond 3 was serviced.
- ✕ **Boardwalk:** Broken plank absent, needs to be replaced as it is a safety risk.
- ✕ **Gold Circle railings:** Wooden railings to replace the ones within burn block 2 ordered.
- ✕ **Path maintenance:** On the 12th Aug path maintenance undertaken in the northern conservation area.
- ✕ **Inundated areas:** On the 12<sup>th</sup> Aug NvW and SG had a site visit to workshop the inundated areas within the northern conservation area. All the water had evaporated from these areas however it was



discussed that the stepping stumps should be placed next to the path in areas which have already been impacted. An approximate 30cm width and 40cm height should be sufficient for the stepping stumps. Longer lasting Eucalyptus stumps have been sourced from Louise Stafford at Westlake depot.

**FAUNA MANAGEMENT & OBSERVATIONS**

**6**

- ✘ Louis Stafford gave permission for the humane cat trapping programme to commence on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug. Once a cat is caught and taken to the SPCA a “receipt” needs to be given to L. Stafford that the cat was humanly taken to SPCA.
- ✘ June, July and Aug avifauna sightings by HvZ have been uploaded onto the CoCT Biodiversity Database. Wally Peterson’s mammal, reptile, amphibian and bird sightings from the fauna assessment compiled during 1997 have also been uploaded.
- ✘ On the 25<sup>th</sup> Aug the owl box was taken down, pole removed, and base reinforced due to warped wood. The box shall be erected during September.

**BIOLOGICAL MONITORING**

**7**

**Vegetation:**

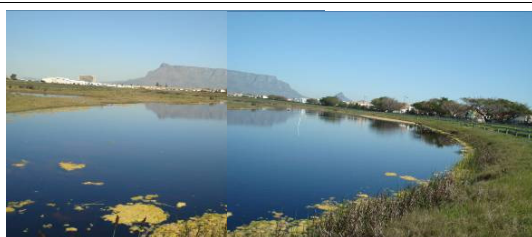
Some flowering species seen during this month.



*Lampranthus sp.*, *Morea gawleri*, *Chlorophytum undulatum*, *Geranium incanum*, *Geissorhiza aspera*, *Lampranthus cf reptans*, unidentified sp., *Oxalis obtuse*, *Spiloxene capensis*, *Romulea hirsute*, *Lampranthus sp.*

**Water:**

- ✘ Fixed point photography of the wetlands and dam is carried out on a monthly basis.



**Wetland 1: Aug 2010**



**Wetland 2: Aug 2010**

- ✘ Wetland 1 is lower in water volume by 15% than 2009 & Wetland 2 is 2% lower.

Measured in cm	Wetland 1 (Southern Conservation Area)				Wetland 2 (Northern Conservation Area)			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
Jan		114	76	67		31	34	47.5
Feb		61	46	44.2		1	12	29
Mar		53	28	25		0	0	13
Apr		35	18	13		0	5	3
May		22	37	35.6		1	33	46.6
Jun		59	69	70		51	62	71.8
Jul	123	153	143	35.6	82	94	102	46.6
Aug	150+	155	145	123.6	101	95.5	107	105
Sep	150+	187	161.5		97	101.5	150+	
Oct	150+	160.5	143.5		83	91.5	150+	
Nov	150+	139.5	138		68	77	92	
Dec	135	108	91		52	58.5	69	

- ✘ Rain gauge data supplied by Niel van Wyk recorded 53.5mm of rain has fallen during May 2010.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

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- ✘ SG would like to undertake a Spring walk for the public within MRNR during September/October. Botanist to lead the walk still to be sourced.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS

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- ✘ On the 12th Aug a site visit was held with Helm, Peter and Alvin at the Gold Circle stables. Alvin confirmed that the contract with the rat poison company had been cancelled as the method was not proving to be successful. A position for the owl within a Eucalyptus tree between the grass track and the stables was identified.
- ✘ On the 16<sup>th</sup> Aug Reg de Beer witnessed an unauthorised man accessing the southern conservation area from Gold circle stables. It was presumed that the man wanted to set up a snare. AR is more than willing to call the cops if any unauthorised people are caught within MRNR. RdB now has the contact details of Soukika (a supervisor at Gold circle) who lives at the stable preemies. This will enable unauthorised people to be caught and prosecuted due to the signage. AR is also implementing a fine system within Gold Circle for employees who enter the conservation area illegally.
- ✘ AR enquired about a lock to be put onto the gate at Grande National Boulevard. KR to install locks.
- ✘ On the 25<sup>th</sup> Aug a workshop was held at Milnerton Ridge. Propagating seeds from MRNR was discussed.
- ✘ On the 26<sup>th</sup> Aug a Water Mongoose was caught in the Cat trap within the Northern Conservation Area.

#### ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

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Regular monthly / bi-monthly tasks		
✘ Continue with the mapping of individual Red Data species	✓	Ongoing
✘ Path maintenance & ad hoc alien clearing		
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring / bird counts		
✘ Environmental Education	1/2	Oct 2010
✘ Grysbok reintroduction	✘	2010/11
✘ Kikuyu grass (survey in S area ) and spray	✓	Ongoing
✘ Cat trapping project	1/2	Aug/Sep
✘ Measurement implementation of stumps for inundated areas		Sep/Oct
✘ Complete internal review		Aug/Sep
✘ Replacing of wooden railings, boardwalk plank & gatelocks		Behind schedule
✘ Post burn transect monitoring		Nov