

Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve MONTHLY EMS REPORT

MRNR  **EMS**
Conservation

REPORT No.: 40

PERIOD: September 2010

DATE: 1 Oct 2010

CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT

1

- ✘ On the 10th, 16th and 28th Sep CCT assisted in relocating the owl box, construction of an exclusion plot within burn block 2, Vicia handpulling and path maintenance within the northern conservation area.

INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

2

- ✘ On the 28th Sep Vicia handpulling was undertaken within the northern conservation area. 8 bags were removed from MRNR as plants were in flower. It is suspected that the source of the weeds is from the fodder fed to the horses at Gold Circle as areas which are infested are along the track where the horses defecate and within the northern conservation area where fodder bags have blown in.
- ✘ 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).
- ✘ CREW to visit MRNR on the 8th Oct to monitor burn block 2.

REHABILITATION




4

- ✘ Seed is to be collected from MRNR to rehabilitate areas within Milnerton Ridge.
- ✘ KR to finalise management plan to identify seed volumes which need to be collected from MRNR.

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

5

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

Pond 1	Pond 3	Pond 4 - General
Broken railing	Stormwater outlet overgrown with kikuyu and reeds	Dogs not on leads
		

- ✘ **Signage & Fences:** 6 no entry signboards have been erected. One on the entrance gate to the S area & five along the grass track of MRNR. No vandalism or other damages noted. Locks have been installed on both gates along Grand National Boulevard. The pedestrian gate to the N area has a 2 lock system so that the public who own keys as well as reserve staff can make use of the gate.
- ✘ **Toilet:** The Real Landscapes toilet at detention pond 3 was serviced 27th Sep.
- ✘ **Boardwalk:** Broken plank absent, needs to be replaced as it is a safety risk. KR to order.
- ✘ **Gold Circle railings:** Wooden railings to replace the ones within burn block 2. KR to order.
- ✘ **Path maintenance:** On the 28th Sep path maintenance undertaken in the northern conservation area.
- ✘ **Inundated areas:** Eucalyptus steeping stumps are still to be attained from Westlake Depot.
- ✘ **Exclusion plot:** Erected within burn block 2 on the 16th Sep.

- ✘ The cat trapping project was unsuccessful. Two cats have been seen within the northern conservation area. The project will commence during November for a period of 2 weeks.



- ✘ September avifauna sightings for September have been uploaded onto CCT Biodiversity database.
- ✘ On the 10th Sep the owl box relocated and successfully erected in the eucalyptus tree at the Gold Circle stables. No owls have been noted yet, but owl scat was found (species unknown).
- ✘ Another water mongoose was caught on the 2nd Sep within the cat trap in the northern area.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

- ✘ **Vegetation:** Some flowering species seen during this month.

1) *Wurmbea stricta*, 2) *Romulea* sp, 3) *Morea angusta*, 4) unidentified sp, 5) *Wahlenbergia capensis*, 6) *Ixia* sp, 7) *Pelargonium* sp, 8) *Gladiolus carinatus*, 9) *Wachendorfia brachyandra*, 10) *Tetragonia fruticosa*, 11) *Lachenalia contaminata*, 12) *Oxalis* sp, 13) *Strumaria tenella*, 14) *Watsonia meriana*, 15) *Babiana tubiflora*, 16) *Spiloxene capensis*



Water:

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



Wetland 1: Sep 2010



Wetland 2: Sep 2010

✘ Wetland 1 is lower in water volume by 30% & Wetland 2 is 38% lower than 2009.

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	112.5	97	101.5	150+	93
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 14.5mm of rain has fallen during September 2010.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

8

✘ A spring walk will not be undertaken this year due to a plant specialist/botanist not being able to assist on the day. A plant identification booklet will be compiled for next year's walk allowing the public to identify their own plants.

GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS

9

✘ On the 20th Sep Alvin reported vagrants within the MRNR/Gold Circle premises.

ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

10

Regular activities		
✘ Path maintenance & ad hoc alien clearing	✓	Ongoing
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring / bird counts		
✘ Complete internal review	✓	Aug/Sep
✘ Kikuyu grass spray and Vicia eradication		Summer
✘ Cat trapping project		Oct/Nov
✘ Implementation of stepping stumps within inundated areas	✘	Behind schedule
✘ Replacing of wooden railings, boardwalk plank	✘	Behind schedule
✘ Flora monitoring		Oct & Nov
✘ Assess rehab potential of dam in southern area		Oct
✘ EMS in Cape Nature format		Nov
✘ Cape hare census		Nov
✘ Grysbok reintroduction		2010/11