

Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve
MONTHLY EMS REPORT

MRNR  **EMS**
 Conservation

REPORT No.: 41

PERIOD: October 2010

DATE: 29 Oct 2010

CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT

1

- ✘ On the 5th Oct PiB undertook the cutting of stepping stumps at the Westlake depot.

INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

2

- ✘ On the 18th Oct a Kikuyu survey was undertaken within the northern and southern areas of MRNR to determine densities for spraying during December 2010. Glyphosate can be attained from Louise Stafford (CCT) for this eradication project. It is recommended that the follow up spraying should occur during March.
- ✘ Spraying of Kikuyu grass within the northern and southern areas to be undertaken in December, or once all bulbs have gone dormant.
- ✘ *Persicaria* sp, an aquatic weed was found within burn block 2. 25 plants were handpulled.
- ✘ An unidentified weed is growing within burn block 2. To be handpulled during November.
- ✘ *Vicia* in the northern and southern areas to be handpulled during November.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

3

- ✘ Monitoring of post fire flora species is underway (see comments under Biological Monitoring).
- ✘ CREW visited MRNR on the 8th Oct. 35 flora species of which *Babiana tubulosa*, *Geissorhiza tenella*, *Lachenalia reflexa* and *Aspalathus ternatantamine* were red data and identified within burn block 2. CREW concerns within the burn block 1
 1. *Cliffortia ericifolia* & *Lampranthus amoenus* appeared dead, no regrowth or seedlings visible.
 2. No *Leucadendron levisanus* or *Hermannia procumbens* identified.
 3. No *Lachenalia contaminata* identified which were present during 2008.
 Future monitoring will take specific note of these species.
- ✘ Fixed point photography of burn block 2 was undertaken during Oct.

REHABILITATION



4

- ✘ Seed is to be collected from MRNR to rehabilitate areas within Milnerton Ridge, no further contact from SANBI, MSB at this stage. KR to finalise specifications for collection in conjunction with SANBI.
- ✘ 5th Nov Liz Day, Freshwater Ecologist, to visit MRNR to assess rehabilitation possibilities for the dam.

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

5

- ✘ **Stormwater outlets:** All outlets are clear of vegetation & open.
- ✘ **Signage & Fences:** No damage noted.
- ✘ **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. KR to order.
- ✘ **Gold Circle railings:** Wooden railings to replace the ones within burn block 2. KR to order.
- ✘ **Path maintenance:** Path within northern area is maintained.
- ✘ **Inundated areas:** Eucalyptus stepping stumps to be installed during November.
- ✘ **Detention ponds:** Require maintenance. Details in table below.

Pond 3	Pond 4	
Stormwater outlet overgrown with kikuyu and reeds	Vacant erf: Shadecloth not present	Alien fish present
		Carp Bass Kurper Barbel

FAUNA MANAGEMENT & OBSERVATIONS

6

- ✘ Cat trapping project to be attempted again during November for 2 weeks.
- ✘ September avifauna sightings of the northern have been uploaded onto CCT Biodiversity database, southern area still to be uploaded.
- ✘ No owl sitings in the vicinity of the owl box yet.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

7

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

1) *Geranium incanum*, 2) unidentified sp, 3) *Geissorhiza tenella*, 4) *Romulea hirsuta*, 5) *Moraea fugax*, 6) unidentified sp, 7) *Heliophila africana*, 8) *Salvia africana-lutea*, 9) *Senecio* sp, 10) *Ornithogalum thyrsoides*, 11) *Ferraria cf uncinata*, 12) *Leucodendron levisanus*



- ✘ CREW visited MRNR on the 8th Oct. 43 flora species, of which *Babiana tubulosa*, *Lachnaea grandiflora*, *Leucadendron levisanus*, *Cliffortia hirta*, *Lampranthus glaucus*, *Aspalathus ternate* and *Lachenalia contaminate* were red data and identified within the northern area.
- ✘ Species identified by CREW within the northern area have been uploaded onto the CCT database, burn block 2 still to be uploaded
- ✘ No response on request for assistance with transect monitoring in Nov received yet.

Water:

- ✘ Fixed point photography of the wetlands and dam for October.



- ✘ Wetland 1 is lower in water volume by 33.5% & Wetland 2 is 44% 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	95.5	83	91.5	150+	84
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 30.5mm of rain has fallen during October 2010.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

8

- ✘ Nothing to report.

GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS

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- ✘ On the 8th October the old Quarantine Station, now Hanro Construction was inspected, Cornis Hanro on site. The area is used as storage space for the company's equipment. A truck driver, 1 general worker and 2 security guards stay within the buildings on site.

ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

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Regular activities		
✘ Path maintenance & ad hoc alien clearing	✓	Ongoing
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring / bird counts		
✘ Draft EMS in Cape Nature format / submit comment on Gold Circle BAR	✓	Oct
✘ Kikuyu grass spray and weed handpulling		Nov
✘ Cat trapping project		Nov
✘ Implementation of stepping stumps within inundated areas		Nov
✘ Replacing of wooden railings, boardwalk plank	✘	Behind schedule
✘ Flora monitoring		Nov
✘ Assess rehab potential of dam in southern area		Nov
✘ Cape hare census		Nov
✘ Grysbok reintroduction		2011