

Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve MONTHLY EMS REPORT

MRNR  **EMS**
Conservation

REPORT No.: 43

PERIOD: December 2010 - January 2011

DATE: 26 Nov 2010

CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT 1

- ✘ 27th Jan - the CCT Rietvlei team assisted with firebreak preparation.

INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT 2

- ✘ On the 27th Jan the Rietvlei team assisted in spraying of Kikuyu grass within the firebreak of the northern area since all the bulbs had gone dormant.
- ✘ *Persicaria* plants within burn block 2 are still being monitored and hand-pulled to prevent infestation.

FIRE MANAGEMENT 3

- ✘ Monitoring of post fire flora species is underway.
- ✘ Fixed point photography of burn block 3 to be undertaken during Feb.

REHABILITATION 4

- ✘ Awaiting further contact from SANBI MSB regarding seed collection for Milnerton Ridge rehabilitation.

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT 5

- ✘ **Stormwater outlets:** All outlets are clear of vegetation & open.
- ✘ **Signage & Fences:** No damage noted.
- ✘ **Toilet:** Toilet at detention pond 3 needs to be cleaned.
- ✘ **Path maintenance:** Path within northern area was cleared from the stile to the boardwalk.
- ✘ **Detention ponds:**

Pond 3

Uprooted tree



Pond 4

2 cats on the Island

Open erf: Shadecloth removed, Port Jackson still present.



FAUNA MANAGEMENT & OBSERVATIONS 6

- ✘ The 4th cat trapping exercise will commence within the northern area during Feb.
- ✘ During Dec and Jan the monthly avifauna count was undertaken within the northern & southern areas. Nov, Dec and Jan sightings have been uploaded onto CCT Biodiversity database.
- ✘ No owls sited near the owl box as yet.
- ✘ Surveys will be undertaken on a regular basis to prevent species captured on the CCT Biodiversity Database from becoming "extinct" due to the lack of recorded sightings.

Vegetation:

✂ **Vegetation:** Some species seen during this month.



1) *Leucodendron levisanus* , 2) *Orphium frutescens*, 3) *Aspalathus ericifolia.*, 4) *Muraltia sp*, 5) *Unknown sp* , 6) *Unknown sp*, 7) *Helichrysum pandurifolium*, 8) *Lachnaea cf capitata* , 9) *Muraltia spinosa*, 10) *Unknown sp*

Water:

✂ Fixed point photography of the wetlands and dam for November



Wetland 1: Jan 2010



Wetland 1: Jan 2011



Wetland 2: Jan 2010



Wetland 2: Jan 2011

Measured in cm	Wetland 1 (Southern Conservation Area)					Wetland 2 (Northern Conservation Area)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jan		114	76	67	18		31	34	47.5	29
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	75.5		68	77	92	71	
Dec	135	108	91	46.75		52	58.5	69	45	

- ✘ Wetland 1 is lower in water volume by 73.5% & Wetland 2 is 39% lower than 2009.
- ✘ Rain gauge data supplied by Niel van Wyk recorded the following:
 - 10.5 mm (Dec) & 13 mm (Jan) compared to 9 mm (Dec) & 2.5 mm (Jan) last year.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

8

- ✘ The first annual Newsletter for 2010 MRNR was compiled for the 2010 calendar year. It is the intention is to distribute it to local residents and upload it on the Website.
- ✘ The MRNR management plan has been finalised and will be sent out for public comment at the end of January.
- ✘ An APO for 2011 has been prepared & will be circulated for comment to the EMC.
- ✘ On the 26 January two volunteers assisted with management functions at MRNR. They will be available periodically throughout the year.

GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS

9

- ✘ Reg de Beer reported stopping a sangoma from collecting plants and wild herbs within the northern area. He recommended that a signboard be erected stating that no plants are to be harvested in this area. There are however "no picking of flowers" signboards already present in the area.

ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

10

Regular activities		
✘ Path maintenance & ad hoc alien clearing	✓	Ongoing
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring / bird counts		
✘ Finalising MRNR EMS in Cape Nature Format	✓	Dec/Jan
✘ Cat trapping project		Feb
✘ Firebreak in Burn Block 2		Feb & April
✘ Spray Kikuyu		Feb & April
✘ Fish species survey		Feb
✘ Distribute Newsletter		Feb
✘ Planting <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> in Burn Block 3 firebreak		Jun/Jul
✘ Amphibian survey		Jun/Jul
✘ Hand-pull Vicia		Aug
✘ Grysbok reintroduction		2011