

Milnerton Racecourse Conservation Area
MONTHLY EMS REPORT

MRNR  **EMS**
Conservation

REPORT No.: 46

PERIOD: Apr/May 2011

DATE: 27 May 2011

CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT

1

- ✘ On the 29th March, 5th and 12th April, CCT assisted with clearing of the firebreak in the northern area. On the 26th May CCT assisted in planting of the firebreak with *Carpobrotus edulis*.

INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

2

- ✘ Cleared *Typha capensis* in the firebreak of the northern area is regrowing. Will be monitored.
- ✘ Seven *Persicaria* plants were handpulled in Burn Block 2.
- ✘ Follow up clearing of Port Jackson and Rooikraans undertaken on 1st April.
- ✘ *Paspalum* grass is growing in the disturbed areas of the firebreak and along the path of the northern area. Kikuyu and *Paspalum* grass to be herbicided in summer once bulbs are dormant.
- ✘ Control of kikuyu encroachment from the racetrack required simultaneously with the burn. Herbiciding a 1m buffer zone and installing an above/below ground barrier with the planting of *Carpobrotus edulis* is suggested.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

3

- ✘ Monitoring of post fire flora species is underway.
 - ✘ On the 29th March and 5th, 12th April, the Rietvlei team assisted with clearing of the firebreak within the northern area. All brush was removed and disposed of at Killarney Garden refuge disposal site.
- Action item to be followed up with adjacent precincts:
- ✘ Bush encroachment along the Sandown Crescent boundary has been cleared by the Body Corporate to create a buffer strip in preparation for the 2012 burn.

REHABILITATION

4

- ✘ SG is researching the seed collection methodology for the rehabilitation of Milnerton Ridge.
- ✘ On the 26th May CCT assisted in planting areas of the firebreak bordering onto Stable Yard with *Carpobrotus edulis*.

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

5

- ✘ **Detention ponds:** Need to be maintained. Paving at pond 4 to be fixed.
Council is funding the landscaping of pond 1.
Reeds have been cleared from pond 1.
- ✘ **Toilet:** Has been serviced and cleaned out.
- ✘ **Stormwater outlets:** All outlets are clear of vegetation and open.
- ✘ **Signage & Fences:** No vandalism or other damages noted.
Stable Yard managing agent is attending to the electric fence blocking the emergency fire entrance within the northern area.
- ✘ **Path maintenance:** Path maintenance was undertaken on the 1st April.
- ✘ **Litter clean-up** was undertaken on the 1st, 29th April and 23rd May.

- ✘ The 4th cat trapping was undertaken for 10 days from the 11th - 25th April and was unsuccessful.
- ✘ During April and May the monthly avifauna count was undertaken by Helm van Zijl. Sightings for April & May have been uploaded onto the CCT Biodiversity Database by RM.
- ✘ The owl box has fallen out of the tree and is rotten.
- ✘ A fauna monitoring survey was undertaken from the 11th - 25th April. 21 pitfall traps were installed along three transects within shrubland, grassland and restio vegetation structured areas around the dam within the southern area. In total 11 insects, 4 arachnids, 2 reptiles and 1 amphibian species.



- ✘ Amphibian and reptile pitfall trap species have been uploaded onto the CCT biodiversity database.
- ✘ On the 13th April a Water Mongoose was caught within the mammal trap which was placed within the southern area from the 11th - 21st April.

Vegetation:

- ✘ **Vegetation:** Some species observed during this month.



1) Unidentified sp., 2) Unidentified sp., 3) *Lachenalia rubida*, 4) *Leonotis leonurus* 5) *Muraltia* sp., 6) *Helichrysum* sp., 7) *CF Plecostachys serphlilifolia*.

Water:

✘ Fixed point photography of the wetlands for February 2011.



*Measured
in cm*

Wetland 1 (Southern Conservation Area)

Wetland 2 (Northern Conservation Area)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jan		114	76	67	18
Feb		61	46	44.2	0.5
Mar		53	28	25	0
Apr		35	18	13	0
May		22	37	35.6	0
Jun		59	69	70	
Jul	123	153	143	35.6	
Aug	150+	155	145	123.6	
Sep	150+	187	161.5	112.5	
Oct	150+	160.5	143.5	95.5	
Nov	150+	139.5	138	75.5	
Dec	135	108	91	46.75	

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
		31	34	47.5	29
		1	12	29	1.5
		0	0	13	0
		0	5	3	0
		1	33	46.6	4
		51	62	71.8	
	82	94	102	46.6	
	101	95.5	107	105	
	97	101.5	150+	93	
	83	91.5	150+	84	
	68	77	92	71	
	52	58.5	69	45	

- ✘ Wetland 1 is still at its lowest volume since monitoring commenced in 2008.
- ✘ Rain gauge data supplied by Niel van Wyk records 30mm (April) and 47mm (May).

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

8

- ✘ EMC comments were incorporated within the Table Bay Nature Reserve Integrated Reserve Management Plan.
 - ✘ Stable Yard body corporate has e-mailed residents informing them that dumping of dog faeces and garden refuse is not permitted within the northern area.
- Action Items to be followed up with adjacent Precincts:
- ✘ Correspondence needs to be had with Sandown Crescent involving their domestic cats.

GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS

9

- ✘ On Saturday 21st May RM confronted a man with a dog in the northern area. Law enforcement should monitor this area during patrols.

ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS		10
Regular monthly / bi-monthly tasks		
✘ Path maintenance & ad hoc alien clearing	✓	Ongoing
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring / bird counts		
✘ Finalising TBNR IRMP	✓	Complete
✘ Cat trapping project	✓	April
✘ Mammal trapping	✓	April
✘ Pitfall traps	✓	April
✘ Infrastructure monitoring	✓	May
✘ Fish species survey		June
✘ School Holiday Program		June / July
✘ Amphibian survey		June / July
✘ Large mammal Night Game Drive		Aug
✘ Handpull <i>Vicia</i>		Aug/Sep
✘ Spring walk		Sep/Oct
✘ Grysbok reintroduction		2011
✘ MRNR Annual Review/Newsletter		Dec