

Milnerton Racecourse Conservation Area MONTHLY EMS REPORT

MRNR  **EMS**
Conservation

REPORT No.: 49

PERIOD: August 2011

DATE: 26 August 2011

CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ On the 3rd, 17th & 24th August, CoCT assisted in planting the firebreak and the northern kikuyu buffer zone with <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>. An additional team of 5 member assisted on the 17th, 24th and 25th. 	
INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Monitoring of woody aliens in MRNR underway. Follow up to be undertaken during September. ✘ Focus Ultra has been sourced by KR from Louise Stafford. Northern kikuyu invaded areas to be sprayed when weather conditions are favourable. ✘ On the 24th Aug the Rietvlei team and 5 additional workers commenced with the clearing of the kikuyu buffer zone and started planting <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>. The corrugated iron barrier is to be installed after the 2012 ecological burn. ✘ On the 8th August <i>Vicia</i> sp were handpulled in the northern area. ✘ Port Jackson at Parade Rings still to be removed by Gold Circle. OUTSTANDING 	
FIRE MANAGEMENT	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Monitoring of post fire flora species is underway. ✘ On the 3rd, 17th, 24th August CoCT assisted in planting areas of the firebreak bordering onto Stable Yard with <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>. On the 17th and 24th the additional team assisted. The entire firebreak along Stable Yard is now complete. ✘ Clearing of the firebreak will continue during Jan/Feb 2012 along Sandown Crescent and The Met. 	
REHABILITATION	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ No specific rehabilitation projects undertaken this month. 	
INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Stormwater outlets: All outlets are clear of vegetation and open. ✘ Signage & Fences: MRNR southern area no entry signboards are still damaged by Gold Circle mower. ✘ Path maintenance: Path maintenance was undertaken on the 3rd August. ✘ Gold Circle broken concrete railing has not been removed. 	
FAUNA MANAGEMENT & OBSERVATIONS	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ During August the monthly avifauna count was undertaken by Helm van Zijl in both the northern and southern areas. Sightings for August have been uploaded onto the CoCT Biodiversity Database by RM. ✘ Surveys will be undertaken on a regular basis to prevent species captured on the CoCT Biodiversity Database from becoming extinct due to the lack of recorded sightings. ✘ On the 22nd Aug two Mallard ducks and one Dutch Quacker duck were removed from the northern area of MRNR. Three more were found on the 24th August. 	

- ✘ On the 24th August a frog survey was undertaken in the northern and southern areas dam and wetlands. Clicking stream frog, Sand River Frog and Cape Sand Frog were identified by their calls.
- ✘ On the 24th August a night walk was also undertaken in the northern and southern area to determine the abundance of Cape and Scrub Hare for a Rietvlei student's research project. Two Cape Hare were spotted in the southern area.

Some sightings in the Southern Area:



✘ Yellow billed duck chicks Citrus Swallowtail Cape Dwarf Chameleon Forest Shrew Brown House snake

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

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Vegetation:

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



1) Lampranthus sp, 2) Lampranthus sp, 3) Osteospermum clandestinum, 4) Wurmbea stricta, 5) Helichrysum sp, 6) Pelargonium sp, 7) Gladiolus carnatus, 8) Gladiolus carnatus, 9) Hermeria sp, 10) Unidentified sp, 11) Hebestretia dentata, 12) Morea gawleri.

- ✘ A member from CREW undertook an informal site visit of MRNR on the 18th July. 20 species were recorded. Species still to be uploaded onto the CCT Biodiversity database.
- ✘ On the 1st August historical GPS coordinates of *Leucadendron levisanus* were located in the northern area. Monitoring ongoing.

Water:

- ✘ Fixed point photography of the wetlands for 22 August 2011.



Wetland 1



Wetland 2



Dam

- ✘ Wetland 1 & 2 are still at its lowest level for this time period since monitoring commenced in 2007.
- ✘ Rain gauge data supplied by Niel van Wyk records 90mm.

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	0.5		1	12	29	1.5
Mar		53	28	25	0		0	0	13	0
Apr		35	18	13	0		0	5	3	0
May		22	37	35.6	0		1	33	46.6	4
Jun		59	69	70	14		51	62	71.8	43
Jul	123	153	143	35.6	61	82	94	102	46.6	50.2
Aug	150+	155	145	123.6	57	101	95.5	107	105	75.5
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	

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

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- ✘ Planning for the spring walk is currently underway. The 8th October has been set aside as a tentative date. Advertising this event with the CCT is in hand.
- ✘ On the 24th August an article on the MRNR appeared in the Tygerburger.

GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS

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- ✘ On the 3rd & 22nd August, dogs and their owners from Gold Circle were sighted on the kikuyu track.
- ✘ On the 24th August KR corresponded with Colleen from Gold Circle about the alien ducks in MRNR.

ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

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Regular monthly / bi-monthly tasks		
✘ Path maintenance & ad hoc alien clearing	✓	Ongoing
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring / bird counts		
✘ Finalising TBNR IRMP		Ongoing
✘ Red data species condition		2011
✘ Flora transect survey		Aug/Sep/Oct
✘ Handpull <i>Vicia</i>		Aug/Sep
✘ Grysbok reintroduction		2011
✘ MRNR Annual Review/Newsletter		Dec