

**Milnerton Racecourse Conservation Area
MONTHLY EMS REPORT**

MRNR  **EMS**
Conservation

REPORT No.: 52

PERIOD: November 2011

DATE: 25 Nov 2011

CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT

1

CCT team assisted as follows:

- ✘ 2nd & 17th - Maintained barrier between kikuyu grass track and northern area.
- ✘ 18th - Alien clearing, litter cleanup.

INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

2

- ✘ Follow up woody alien clearing undertaken on the 18th Nov.
- ✘ Follow-up spraying of Kikuyu to be undertaken during Dec of MU 18-20.
- ✘ On the 2nd & 17th Nov the kikuyu and weeds were hand pulled from buffer zone.
- ✘ KR & SG to map *Paspalum* grass in Dec.



FIRE MANAGEMENT

3

- ✘ The planted *Carpobrotus edulis* in the firebreak along Stable Yard is growing well. A significant amount of weeds and grasses have also emerged. This will be monitored.
- ✘ Clearing of the firebreak will continue during Dec-Mar along Sandown Crescent and The Met. Other maintenance will entail cutting of all the Rhus in BB3 and herbiciding 80% thereof. This may require additional funding for labour from the EMC (Ref: APO, Fire Management 2.1).

REHABILITATION

4

- ✘ No specific rehabilitation projects undertaken this month.

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

5

- ✘ **Stormwater outlets:** All outlets are clear of vegetation and open.
- ✘ **Signage & Fences:** Southern area no entry signboards to be erected in Dec; Quotation for cat proofing of fencing not received.
- ✘ **Path maintenance:** In hand.
- ✘ **General:** Graffiti still to be removed from bench.
Litter cleanup was undertaken on the 18th Nov in the northern and southern areas.

FAUNA MANAGEMENT & OBSERVATIONS

6

- ✘ During Nov the monthly avifauna count was undertaken by Helm van Zijl in the northern and southern areas. Sightings for Nov to be uploaded onto the CoCT Biodiversity Database by SG.
- ✘ 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.
- ✘ Fauna sightings during Nov - Carpenter Bee (Photo 1)
- Social Bees (Photo 2)



Vegetation:

- ✘ Vegetation: Some species observed during this month.



1) *Disphyma crassifolium*, 2) *Orphium frutescens*, 3) *Unidentified sp*, 4) *Phyllobolus canaliculatus*, 5) *Cyanella hyacinthoides*, 6) *Ornothogalum thyrsoides*, 7) *Unidentified sp*, 8) , 9) *Senecio littoreus*, 10) *Aspalathus spp*, 11) *Crassula decumbens*, 12) *Athanasia dentata*, 13) *Lachnaea grandiflora*.

- ✘ SG & RM monitored BB1 & BB3 during Nov. Three transects were set in different vegetation structures, namely shrub, restio and grassland of each burn block. Monitoring data is currently being captured by RM. 3 vegetation transects in BB1 to be monitored during Dec.
- ✘ Fixed point photography of the vegetation will be undertaken during Dec.

Water:

- ✘ Fixed point photography of the wetlands for 21 Nov 2011.



- ✘ 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 30mm for Nov until 23rd.

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	71	97	101.5	150+	93	75
Oct	150+	160.5	143.5	95.5	59.5	83	91.5	150+	84	67.2
Nov	150+	139.5	138	75.5	48	68	77	92	71	61
Dec	135	108	91	46.75		52	58.5	69	45	

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

8

- ✘ On the 2nd Nov an article on the MRNR Spring Walk appeared in the Tygerburger.
- ✘ RM submitted her student year project to NMMU (Saasveld) on the 11th Nov.
- ✘ Compiling of the 2011 MRNR annual newsletter is underway.

GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS

9

- ✘ The 2011/2012 MRNR APO has been finalised.
- ✘ The MRNR EMS is currently being updated.

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	✓	Ongoing
✘ BB3 preparation	✓	Ongoing
✘ Woody Alien clearing	✓	Nov
✘ Litter cleanup	✓	Nov
✘ Flora transect survey	½	Nov
✘ Spring article	✓	Nov
✘ Map Paspalum (KR & SG)		Dec
✘ Herbiciding Kikuyu		Dec
✘ Insect survey		Dec
✘ MRNR Annual Report/Newsletter	½	Dec
✘ MRNR EMS update	½	Nov-Jan
✘ Update MRNR maps		Dec-Jan