

Table Bay Nature Reserve - Milnerton Racecourse Section
MONTHLY EMS REPORT

REPORT No.: 66

PERIOD: Mar 2013

DATE: 29 Mar 2012

FIELD WORK / CONTRACTS

1

Reserve Management Activities

- ✘ Alien clearing - 27th Feb, 5th & 27th Mar
- ✘ Southern area clearing access path - 5th Mar
- ✘ Flora monitoring - 6th & 26th Mar
- ✘ EE - 12th & 13th Mar
- ✘ Northern area path maintenance - 27th Mar

Contract work in Precincts

- ✘ Refurbishment of Stable Yard fencing along the boundary of the northern area - site inspections undertaken on 27th Feb, 5th * 27th Mar

INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

2

- ✘ Handpulling of Port Jackson seedlings was undertaken in the northern area on the 27th Feb, 5th & 27th Mar. Area to be completed in April.
- ✘ Minimal Kikuyu regrowth in the northern area noted. Focus Ultra has been sourced from CCT. Spraying will commence in the beginning of April.
- ✘ The planted *Carpobrotus edulis* is successfully preventing the invasion of kikuyu into the northern area from the grass track. This area will be monitored and sprayed if necessary. The installation of a physical barrier will only be investigated if this approach is unsuccessful.



FIRE MANAGEMENT

3

- ✘ On the 6th Mar Block 3 (N Area) regrowth was monitored. (See 7. Biological Monitoring, Vegetation).
- ✘ Data capturing and species identification of Burn block 3 transect monitoring is underway.

REHABILITATION

4

- ✘ Recovery following the dumping of garden refuse and other domestic waste along the Stable Yard boundary is being monitored.

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

5

- ✘ **Stormwater outlets:** All outlets are open.
- ✘ **Signage & Fences:** No issues noted.
- ✘ **Path maintenance:** A path has been cleared at the southern area entrance along Grand National Boulevard on the 5th Mar.
 Path maintenance in the northern area was undertaken from the stile to the boardwalk on the 27th Mar.

FAUNA MANAGEMENT & OBSERVATIONS

6

- ✘ On the 25th Mar the monthly avifauna count was undertaken by Helm van Zijl in the northern and southern areas. Sightings will be uploaded onto the Biodiversity Database.
- ✘ Two interesting sightings for the southern area were a Steppe buzzard (last spotted in 2004) and a White-faced Whistling duck (a new sighting).

Vegetation:

✘ Some species observed during Mar.





✘ Quarterly fixed point vegetation photography was undertaken on the 26th Mar.



Water:

✘ Feb fixed point photography of the wetlands.

WETLAND 1	27 Mar 2012		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Mnth</th> <th colspan="7">Wetland 1 - Southern Area(cm)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jan</td> <td></td> <td>114</td> <td>76</td> <td>67</td> <td>18</td> <td>0</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb</td> <td></td> <td>61</td> <td>46</td> <td>44.2</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>0</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar</td> <td></td> <td>53</td> <td>28</td> <td>25</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr</td> <td></td> <td>35</td> <td>18</td> <td>13</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>May</td> <td></td> <td>22</td> <td>37</td> <td>35.6</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jun</td> <td></td> <td>59</td> <td>69</td> <td>70</td> <td>14</td> <td>26</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jul</td> <td>123</td> <td>153</td> <td>143</td> <td>35.6</td> <td>61</td> <td>96</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug</td> <td>150+</td> <td>155</td> <td>145</td> <td>123.6</td> <td>57</td> <td>133</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep</td> <td>150+</td> <td>187</td> <td>161.5</td> <td>112.5</td> <td>71</td> <td>127</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct</td> <td>150+</td> <td>160.5</td> <td>143.5</td> <td>95.5</td> <td>59.5</td> <td>117</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov</td> <td>150+</td> <td>139.5</td> <td>138</td> <td>75.5</td> <td>48</td> <td>86</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dec</td> <td>135</td> <td>108</td> <td>91</td> <td>46.75</td> <td>24</td> <td>70</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Mnth	Wetland 1 - Southern Area(cm)							2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Jan		114	76	67	18	0	23	Feb		61	46	44.2	0.5	0	10	Mar		53	28	25	0	0	0	Apr		35	18	13	0	0		May		22	37	35.6	0	0		Jun		59	69	70	14	26		Jul	123	153	143	35.6	61	96		Aug	150+	155	145	123.6	57	133		Sep	150+	187	161.5	112.5	71	127		Oct	150+	160.5	143.5	95.5	59.5	117		Nov	150+	139.5	138	75.5	48	86		Dec	135	108	91	46.75	24	70	
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WETLAND 2	27 Mar 2012		Mnth	Wetland 2 - Northern Area (cm)						
	26 Mar 2013			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
			Jan		31	34	47.5	29	10	11
			Feb		1	12	29	1.5	0	0
			Mar		0	0	13	0	0	0
			Apr		0	5	3	0	9	
			May		1	33	46.6	4	31.6	
			Jun		51	62	71.8	43	61	
			Jul	82	94	102	46.6	50.2	91	
			Aug	101	95.5	107	105	75.5	100	
			Sep	97	101.5	150+	93	75	96.5	
			Oct	83	91.5	150+	84	67.2	94.5	
			Nov	68	77	92	71	61	73	
			Dec	52	58.5	69	45	43.5	61	

DAM	27 Mar 2012		Mnth	Rainfall Data (mm)						
	26 Mar 2013			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
			Jan	0	3	3	2.5	13	5.75	7.5
			Feb	28	12	8	5	5.5	2.5	41
			Mar	20	7	0	8.5	5.5	18	24
			Apr	65	18	44	7	30	78	
			May	61.5	54	166	121	47	61	
			Jun	111	107	81	100.5	55	81.5	
			Jul	106	175	96.5	62	70	111.5	
			Aug	102	87	80	60.5	101	100	
			Sep	18	160	67	14.5	42	60	
			Oct	20	15	45.5	30.5	20	36	
			Nov	34	60.5	82	36.5	31	15.5	
			Dec	24	5	9	10.5	32.5	3	

✘ Rain gauge data supplied by Niel van Wyk records 24mm for Mar indicating the highest rainfall since monitoring started in 2007.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH **8**

- ✘ The Annual Newsletter for 2012 has been finalised and distributed. 80 copies have been made available at the Seniors Walk held in March, Milnerton Library, Biodiversity Management Offices, Rietvlei EE Centre, BCA EE Centre and notice boards of precincts within Royal Ascot.
- ✘ The Milnerton and Claremont groups from The Cape Jewish Senior Association visited the southern area on the 12th & 13th Mar. Four members from the Milnerton group and 7 from the Claremont group each enjoyed a 1.5 hour guided walk informing them about the reserves history, flora, fauna and why fynbos needs fire. See article published in the Tygerburger on the 27th March at the end of the report.



GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS **9**

- ✘ The updating of the EMS by Maya Beukes and WLS is complete. 3 full copies of the finalised EMS and updated OEMP will be made available to the EMC, CCT & ECM at the next meeting in April.
- ✘ SG undertook site inspections of the Stable Yard palisade fence work on the 27th Feb, 5th & 27th Mar. No issues noted.

ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS		10
Regular monthly / bi-monthly tasks		
✘ Path maintenance & ad hoc alien clearing / litter cleanups	✓	Ongoing
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring / bird counts		
✘ Updating of flora species list		
✘ Annual newsletter - printed and distributed	✓	Nov-Feb
✘ Brush cut southern area entrance	✓	Feb/Mar
✘ Walk - The Cape Jewish Senior Association	✓	12,13 Mar
✘ Port Jackson clearing	¾	Mar/Apr
✘ Spray kikuyu		April
✘ APO planning for 2013/14		May/Jun
✘ School holiday programme		25,26 Jun
✘ Spring walk		Sep
✘ Handpulling / weeding of Northern Area		Sep-Nov
✘ Annual report		Dec
✘ Grysbok introduction		2013
✘ Road signage		2013
✘ Update maps		2013
✘ Investigation of Bird hide possibilities		2013

Article that appeared in the Tygerburger (27 March) on the Senior Citizens Walk, held on 12 & 13 March.

Meeting nature: Members of the Cape Jewish Seniors' Association were treated to a two-day walk with members of the Table Bay Nature Reserve through the Milnerton Racecourse section on 12 and 13 March. The guided walk provided an informative morning where participants learnt about the different plants and animals found in the reserve's 19 ha of Cape Flats sand fynbos. Other topics discussed were the area's history and why fynbos needs fire. The next environmental education events at the reserve will be a two-day school holiday programme during June and a spring walk in September. Here some members of the group get closer acquainted with a Cape dwarf chameleon (*Bradypodion pumilum*). For more information about the reserve visit www.royalascot.co.za.

