



**MILNERTON RACECOURSE  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
MONTHLY REPORT**

Report number 82 for the period 22 July – 21 August 2014

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**1. FIELDWORK/CONTRACTS**

**Invasive vegetation clearing:** 8 and 19 August

**Firebreak maintenance:** 19 August

**Path maintenance:** 18 and 19 August

**2. INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

**Pampas grass, Port Jackson, Manatoka, Rooikrans, Palm, Disseldoring (*Cirsium vulgare*), *Vicia* sp. and Smartweed (*Persicaria* sp.)** were removed from the Northern and Southern Areas on 8 and 19 August.

**3. FIRE MANAGEMENT**

**Cutting of *Typha capensis* reeds** touching the electric fence on the boundary between the Northern Area and Sandown Crescent took place on 19 August.

**4. REHABILITATION**

Nothing to report.

**5. INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT**

**Stormwater outlets are open.** Shallow water has started to back up into both outlets due to the current high water levels of Wetland 1 and 2.

**Path Maintenance** was done in the Northern Area on 18 and 19 August.

**6. FAUNA MANAGEMENT AND OBSERVATIONS**

**Reports of Chameleons being electrocuted** on the electric fence between Milnerton Racecourse and La Camargue were reported by a resident of La Camargue during May 2014. The construction of a slick fence was suggested. Engineer and reptile enthusiast, Olivier Lazare, undertook a site visit to the Southern Area on 8 August. Mr Lazare concluded that a slick fence cannot be constructed in the problem area, and recommended that garden bushes close to the fence must be manually trimmed by home owners on a regular basis to at least 30 away cm from the fence.

**A survey of aquatic invertebrates** in permanent and temporary pools at Milnerton Racecourse took place on 12 August. The data will be used for a UNISA student's (Robyn Kadis) research project, titled "The comparison of the aquatic invertebrates present in permanent and temporary pools at Milnerton Racecourse".

**The Grysbok capture and release** at Milnerton Racecourse will commence as soon as the permits from Cape Nature have been finalised and the walk-in traps have been constructed.

**A pair of Spur-wing geese** has been seen for the past two weeks, in the Northern and Southern Area. The female of the pair has an injured leg.

**The Biodiversity Database** was used to record all fauna and flora sightings for August.

**Additional fauna observations** for August can be seen below:



Figure 1: Marsh terrapin (Photo: D. Hope)



Figure 2: Cape Shoveler nest



Figure 3: Spur-wing geese



Figure 4: Cape dwarf chameleon (Photo: O. Lazare)



Figure 5: Unidentified caterpillar (Photo: O. Lazare)



Figure 6: Chironomidae midge



Figure 7: Cape Grysbok



Figure 8: Amphipoda

**7.1 BIOPHYSICAL MONITORING – VEGETATION**

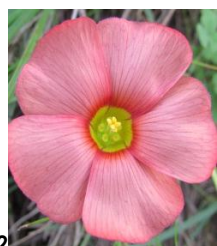


Figure 9: Flora species observed during August are as follows from left to right – 1) *Gladiolus carinatus* 2) *Oxalis obtusa* 3) *Wurmbea stricta* 4) *Corycium orobanchoides* 5) *Romulea tabularis* 6) *Carpobrotus acinaciformis*

## 7.2 BIOPHYSICAL MONITORING – WATER



Figure 10: Fixed point photography of the Dam, taken on 18 August.



Figure 11: Fixed point photography of the Dam, taken on 18 August.



Figure 12: Fixed point photography of Wetland 1 on 18 August.



Figure 13: Fixed point photography of Wetland 2 on 18 August.

Table 1. Monthly rainfall records at Milnerton Racecourse since 2007.

Rainfall Data (mm)													
Year	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
2007	0	28	20	65	61.5	111	106	102	18	20	34	24	589.5
2008	3	12	7	18	54	107	175	87	160	15	60.5	5	703.5
2009	3	8	0	44	166	81	96.5	80	67	45.5	82	9	682
2010	2.5	5	8.5	7	121	100.5	62	60.5	14.5	30.5	36.5	10.5	459
2011	13	5.5	5.5	30	47	55	70	101	42	20	31	32.5	452.5
2012	5.75	2.5	18	78	61	81.5	111.5	100	60	36	15.5	3	572.75
2013	7.5	41	26.5	48.5	41.5	148	74	232	64	3	89	2.5	777.5
2014	24.5	4.9	50	33	65.4	167.5	81.9	42					

Table 2. Monthly records of water-levels, measured at the calibrated measuring points in Wetland 1 and 2.

Mnth	Wetland 1 - Southern Area (cm)								Mnth	Wetland 2 - Northern Area (cm)							
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Jan		114	76	67	18	0	23	91	Jan		31	34	47.5	29	10	11	51
Feb		61	46	44.2	0.5	0	10	38	Feb		1	12	29	1.5	0	0	18
Mar		53	28	25	0	0	0	31	Mar		0	0	13	0	0	0	0
Apr		35	18	13	0	0	0	17	Apr		0	5	3	0	9	0	15
May		22	37	35.6	0	0	0	20.5	May		1	33	46.6	4	31.6	4.3	24.5
Jun		59	69	70	14	26	56	45	Jun		51	62	71.8	43	61	67.5	48
Jul	123	153	143	35.6	61	96	86	117	Jul	82	94	102	46.6	50.2	91	85.5	86.5
Aug	150+	155	145	123.6	57	133	150+	150+	Aug	101	95.5	107	105	75.5	100	150+	103
Sep	150+	187	161.5	112.5	71	127	150+		Sep	97	101.5	150+	93	75	96.5	97	
Oct	150+	160.5	143.5	95.5	59.5	117	150+		Oct	83	91.5	150+	84	67.2	94.5	91	
Nov	150+	139.5	138	75.5	48	86	150+		Nov	68	77	92	71	61	73	92	
Dec	135	108	91	46.75	24	70	104		Dec	52	58.5	69	45	43.5	61	75	

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Nothing to report.

## 9 GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS

The fixed point photography pole in the Northern Area was stolen. The other three poles in the reserve are still intact.

A bicycle track was seen on the pathway in the Northern Area.

## 10 ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

- Fauna Management Procedures Manual - in progress
- Data collection for research on aquatic invertebrates – done
- Data collection for research on exclusion plots – September 2014
- Springwalk – 14 and 21 September 2014
- GPS recording of Red Data plant species – September 2014
- CREW visit – 19 September 2014
- Lepidopterist Society visit – Spring 2014
- SA Spider Club visit – Summer 2014/2015
- Add law enforcement section to management plan – 2014
- Grysbok introduction – 2014

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