



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
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SPATIAL PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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Conservation Wise

Conserving Biodiversity for Future Generations

APRIL – JUNE 2026: REPORT OF THE MILNERTON
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



From left to right: Sand Purplegorse (*Muraltia saturejoides*); Common Opal/Copper Butterfly (*Chrysoritis thysbe*); Rock Kestrel (*Falco rupicolus*); Red Fingerflox (*Manulea rubra*)

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Rehabilitation efforts at Milnerton Racecourse Conservation Area



Figure 1: TBNR Staff ready to plant.

Over **1,170 indigenous plants** have been successfully planted into the Milnerton Racecourse section of the Table Bay Nature Reserve as part of a major ecological rehabilitation effort. Collected from the Westlake Conservation Centre nursery, the planting took place over several days - 7th, 13th, 14th, and 15th May 2026 - with reserve staff leading the initiative. On 7th May, the team was joined by Abdul-Gakeem Rakiep (Site Manager), Clifford Dorse (Head of the Scientific Service Unit), and Lumka Madolo (Habitat Restoration Coordinator.), whose expertise strengthened the establishment of plantings in key areas. The species planted included Large Cape Rush (*Elegia elephantina*, 40 individual plants with conservation status: Least Concern), Dekriet (*Elegia tectorum*, 320 individual plants with conservation status: Least Concern), Cape Flats Conebush (*Leucadendron levisanus*, 620 individual plants with conservation status: Critically Endangered), and Thistle Protea (*Protea scolymocephala*, 109 individual plants with conservation status: Vulnerable). The *Elegia* species and Cape Flats Conebush were carefully placed in moist sandy soils around wetland areas to ensure their long-term survival. The Thistle Protea was positioned in drier zones near mature individuals to strengthen the local population and enhance genetic diversity. This targeted approach not only stabilizes soils and improves habitat quality but also supports the long-term ecological restoration of the reserve, ensuring that biodiversity is preserved and a thriving ecosystem is created for future generations.



Figure 2; The TBNR student packing the plants for transport.

Milnerton Racecourse Night Walk:

The Milnerton Racecourse night walk, conducted on the 8th of May, was successfully completed. A total of 17 participants were initially expected; however, only five adults attended. The low attendance number was due to some individuals feeling unwell on the day, as well as a disruption in the Site Manager's email communications.

Despite the smaller group size, the walk proved to be both positive and engaging. The walk was guided by Table Bay Nature Reserve students, Simamkele Raneke and Khuselwa Maxhala. They introduced the session by providing a brief overview of the reserve's history. They also shared information on the fauna that could be encountered within the reserve during the evening hours.

The walk started at 18:45 and ended at 20:30, extending slightly over the planned duration. Participants actively searched for chameleons among the restios. During the walk, several species were observed, including five Cape Dwarf Chameleons, a Cape Sand Frog, and a ginger-and-white domestic cat.



Figure 3: Simamkele showing the attendees a Cape Dwarf Chameleon that is latched onto a restio.



Figure 4: Cape Dwarf Chameleon (*Bradypodion pumilum*)

Biodiversity Monitoring

Flora Sightings:

iNaturalist was used to record all flora sightings for the period of April – June 2026. Some notable species are photographed in the images below:



Figure 5: Cape Flat Conebush (*Leucadendron levisanus*)
(Conservation Status: Critically Endangered)



Figure 6: Trailing Dollsrose (*Hermannia procumbens*)
(Conservation Status: Critically Endangered).



Figure 7: Spiderhead (*Serruria* sp.) (Conservation Status: Critically Endangered/ Endangered)



Figure 8: Thistle Protea (*Protea scolymocephala*)
(Conservation Status: Vulnerable)



Figure 9: Tortoise Berry (*Muraltia spinosa*) (Conservation Status: Least Concern)



Figure 10: Cape Deckreed (*Elegia tectorum*)
(Conservation Status: Least Concern)