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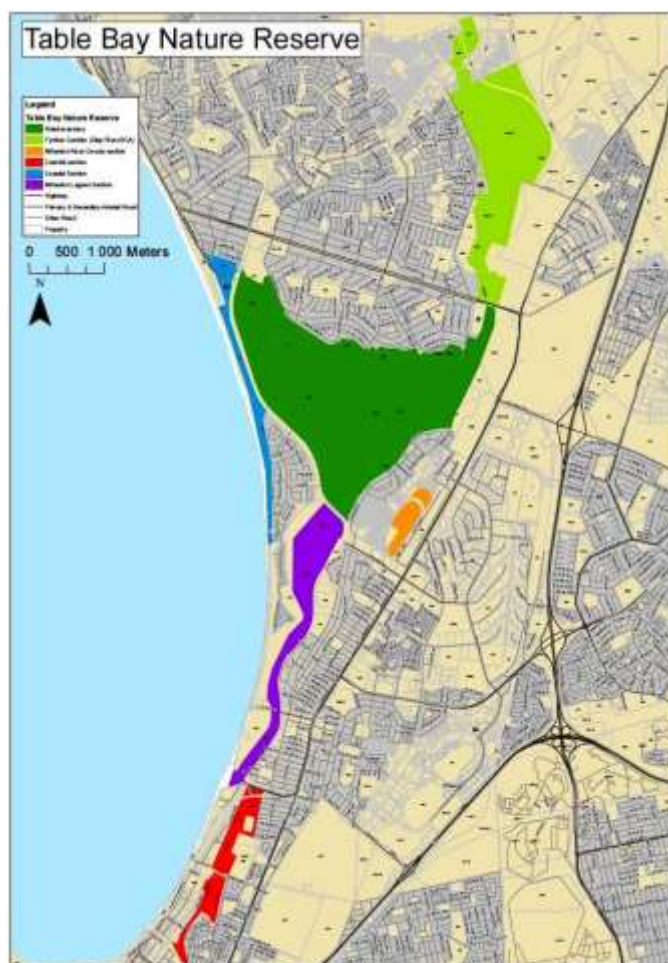
# TABLE BAY NATURE RESERVE

## QUARTERLY REPORT APRIL – JUNE 2015

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For the Nature Reserve webpage, click the link or type [www.capetown.gov.za/tablebaynr](http://www.capetown.gov.za/tablebaynr) in your browser.

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The study of the **Rietvlei hydrology and geohydrology** has started to collect data;
- The landing strip of the **Cape Radio Flyers** at Rietvlei remains unused pending Council's final decision on the lease application;
- **Protected Area Reviews** were conducted for all North Region nature reserves;
- The **Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC)** for Table Bay Nature Reserve was established;
- A **dead Caracal (Rooikat)** was found on the R27 adjacent to Rietvlei;
- A very rare **African Jacana** and a **Gymnogene (African Harrier-Hawk)** were seen in Rietvlei;
- **Cape Gysbok animals were exchanged** between Milnerton Racecourse and Atlantic Beach;
- A **Cape Gysbok, and other birds and animals, were killed by dogs** in the Nature Reserve.
- A **water-bird census** counted 2,313 birds of 34 different species;
- Despite **higher rainfall in June**, overall rainfall in 2015 is still very low;
- A **prescribed ecological burn** was successfully done in the Zoarvlei Section;
- **Education and outreach** benefited over 441 people
- **Visitor usage and income** at Rietvlei continues to rise;
- Three NQF level 2 **Learnership candidates graduated**; and
- **Displaced people** continued to put pressure on the Nature Reserve.



Figure 1. Two African fish eagles photographed at Rietvlei by Jan and Frieda Prinsloo.

## 2 HIGHLIGHTS & CHALLENGES

**2.1 Highlight: A study of the Rietvlei hydrology and geohydrology and the compilation of a hydrodynamics model** are being undertaken by a research team from the University of Stellenbosch.

The start of the project involved the installation of certain hardware for the purposes of data collection from the environment, which includes water level loggers and an electronic weather station.

A digital elevation model (DEM) was used to create a study area for the modelling work (see Figure 2 below). This study will run over two years while gathering environmental data.

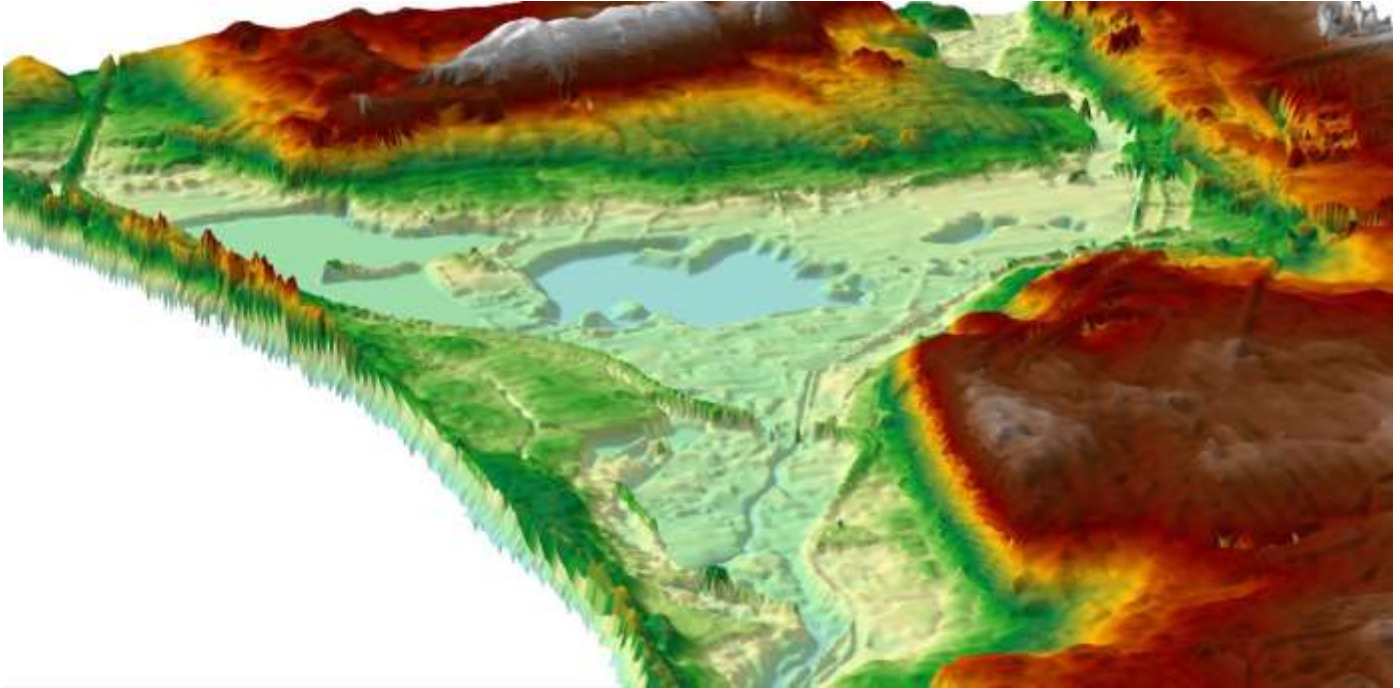


Figure 2. A 3D view of the study area obtained from the digital elevation model (DEM).

**2.2 Challenge: The Cape Radio Flyers' application for a new lease at Rietvlei remains unresolved.** During the 19/03/2015 meeting of Subcouncil 1, a decision on the matter was not made. Discussion of the application was deferred to a future meeting. Only once Subcouncil has made a recommendation can the application go to the Immovable Property Adjudication Committee of Full Council.

In the meantime, the Cape Radio Flyers amended their application which was re-circulated for comment by Property Management on 21/05/2015. It therefore appears that an amended application is due to appear before the Subcouncil. The Environmental Resource Management Department and the Biodiversity Management Branch do not support this proposed lease of a portion of the Nature Reserve.

Presently the landing strip has not been used since 31/05/2014, pending the final decision from Full Council on the club's future at Rietvlei. This Department's intention is to restore the site of the landing strip back to natural vegetation and to re-integrate it into the nature reserve.



Figure 3. Is it a bird, or is it a plane...?

### 3 CONSERVATION PLANNING

**3.1 Protected Areas Reviews** of the North Region's nature reserves were conducted on 2-3/06/2015. These include Table Bay, Blaauwberg, Tygerberg, and Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserves.

**3.2 The Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC) for the Table Bay Nature Reserve** was established during this quarter. Eighteen interested parties were successful in their applications, and were advised of the outcome in writing. These eighteen members are listed below:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Nominated delegate</b>
• Brooklyn & Ysterplaat Residents Association	Mr Rudi Wolter
• Cape Bird Club	Dr Doug Harebottle
• Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve	Mr Martin Halvorsen
• CapeNature	Ms Yzelle Brockman
• Department of Water and Sanitation	Ms Thandi Mmachaka
• Dolphin Beach Body Corporate	Mr Jacobus Botha
• Friends of Blaauwberg Conservation Area	Mr Roy Fuller-Gee
• Friends of Rietvlei	Ms Fern Whitehead
• Heron Waters and Villa du Cap	Ms Tegan Bertram
• Milnerton Aquatic Club	Ms Pat Downing
• Milnerton Canoe Club	Mr Gordon Laing
• Milnerton Golf Club	Mr Craig Helstrip
• Milnerton Ridge Ratepayers Association	Mr Rolf Spaeth
• Nick Helme Botanical Surveys	Mr Nick Helme
• Paardeneiland City Improvement District	Ms Patricia Tallant
• Sunset Beach Homeowners Association	Mr Peter Andrianatos
• Western Province Freshwater Angling Association	Mr Raymond Stebbing
• Woodbridge Island Body Corporate	Mrs Ruth Ward-Cox

The Director also approved various internal departments in the City to attend the PAAC, including:

<b>Line Departments of the City of Cape Town</b>	<b>Representative</b>
• City Parks Operations: Northern District	Mrs Pauline McConney
• Environmental and Heritage Management	Ms Harriet Cliff
• Environmental and Heritage Management	Ms Patricia Titmuss
• Wastewater Treatment: Operations (North)	Mr Werner Rossle
• Water Services: Reticulation	Mr Brian Thomson
• Rivers, Stormwater & Catchment Management	Mrs Candice Haskins
• Rivers, Stormwater & Catchment Management	Mr Ben de Wet
• Sport and Recreation: District Management 1	Miss Ne-Ray Serfontein

The Executive Mayor also approved the following ward councillors to attend the PAAC:

<b>Subcouncil</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
• Subcouncil 1	Councillor Dr Joy McCarthy
• Subcouncil 15	Councillor Bernadette le Roux

This PAAC will meet on a quarterly basis for three years, after which the City may advertise for interested and affected parties to re-apply for membership. The PAAC is intended to facilitate a participative approach and to allow representation of stakeholder interests. The objectives of the PAAC are:

- I. Facilitate constructive interaction between the nature reserve and surrounding communities;
- II. Promote communication and conflict management between the nature reserve and surrounding communities;
- III. Facilitate engagement on strategic issues of mutual concern to the nature reserve and surrounding communities;
- IV. Develop strategic partnerships with stakeholders; and
- V. Promote implementation of approved management plans relating to the nature reserve.

## 4 FLORA

**4.1 Terrestrial invasive species management** was conducted in the Nature Reserve at the Milnerton Ridge Section, the Bird Hide Block, Coastal Section, the Milnerton Lagoon Section, the Diep River Section, and the Fynbos Corridor. This consisted mostly of Port Jackson follow-up clearing.

**4.2 Water hyacinth removal** was conducted by manual clearing teams in the Diep River (at Heron Waters and Villa Du Cap), as well as at Milnerton Ridge canal and the Milnerton Lagoon during this quarter. This work is funded by the City's Expanded Public Works Programme and is still ongoing.

## 5 FAUNA

**5.1 Erratum:** The previous report mentioned a sighting of an Egg-eater, but the photograph that was inserted was of a juvenile Mole snake. The correct picture of the Egg-eater is in Figure 5 below.



Figure 4. Juvenile mole snake.



Figure 5. Egg-eater.

**5.2 A bird ring recovery was made at Rietvlei** from a bird carcass found on the Rietvlei shore line on 14/05/2015. The ring number was reported to SAFRING at the Animal Demography Unit of the University of Stellenbosch.

SAFRING then confirmed that the ring was from a rehabilitated Swift Tern that was rescued from the Waterfront and treated at SANCCOB (near Rietvlei) two weeks prior to being found dead at Rietvlei. The rehabilitated bird was released at Robben Island but for some reason flew back to Rietvlei, where it died a few hundred meters from SANCCOB.

Any person who recovers a bird ring can report the ring number to the respective ringing authority indicated on the outside of the ring. SAFRING's website is at <http://safring.adu.org.za/>.

**5.3 A Caracal (Rooikat) carcass** was seen at the R27 between Rietvlei and the Dolphin Beach Hotel on 29/05/2015. Staff set out to recover the carcass to preserve the skin for educational purposes. The carcass was however already removed by someone without notifying the Nature Reserve.

Deborah Winterton, from the Urban Caracal Project, collected some remaining skin material from the scene and this will be used for research on genetics, disease and poison exposure in Caracals. The Urban Caracal Project's website is at [www.urbanacaracal.org](http://www.urbanacaracal.org).

**We discourage private collection of wild animal carcasses for various reasons. Dead animals may transfer diseases to people, and legislation may require permits to be in possession of wild animal parts.**

**We recommend that people report wild animal carcasses to a nature conservation authority, but never try to remove them without permission.**

**5.4. A very rare African Jacana** was seen at Rietvlei by various bird watchers during this quarter. According to SASOL Birds, the African Jacana is a common resident and nomad at wetlands with floating vegetation, especially water lilies.

The African Jacana is however very rare at Rietvlei.

Jan and Frieda Prinsloo graciously allowed the photograph of Rietvlei's African Jacana (Figure 6 opposite) to be reproduced in this report.



Figure 6. African Jacana at Rietvlei.

**5.5 A juvenile Gymnogene (African Harrier-Hawk)** was seen at Rietvlei on 11/06/2015 by Jan and Frieda Prinsloo.

According to SASOL Birds, the African Harrier-Hawk is a fairly common resident in woodland, forests, and more open, scrubby habitats.

This bird is however not regularly seen at Rietvlei and is therefore an exceptional sighting.

Jan and Frieda Prinsloo graciously allowed the photograph of Rietvlei's Gymnogene (Figure 7 opposite) to be reproduced in this report.



Figure 7. A juvenile Gymnogene (African Harrier-Hawk).

**5.6 The remains of a barnacle** was discovered at the Rietvlei shoreline on 15/05/2015.

Mr Aiden Biccard from Anchor Environmental Consultants confirmed that this barnacle was a **Coronula diadema**, which is known for attaching to Southern Right and Humpback whales.

It is not known how old this specimen is or how it came to Rietvlei (see Figure 8 opposite).

Mr Biccard compiled an academic thesis on these types of organisms, and one of his entries in the thesis refers to the **Coronula diadema** barnacle.



Figure 8. A *Coronula diadema* barnacle.

**5.7 A Cape Grysbok exchange** between Milnerton Racecourse Section and the Atlantic Beach Golf Estate in Melkbos took place on 13-14/04/2015. The Nature Reserve staff, assisted by CTEET staff and about 30 students, learners and volunteers, conducted the capture and relocation programme (see Figure 9 opposite).

One female and one male were captured from Milnerton Racecourse and relocated to Atlantic Beach, while two other males from the Atlantic Beach were relocated to the Milnerton Racecourse.

All the animals were micro-chipped by the City's veterinarian for future identification during similar management interventions. The aim of the project was to manage animal numbers and genetic diversity at the Milnerton Racecourse. This management block is isolated from other larger grysbok populations, and therefore it is necessary to remove closely related animals to prevent inbreeding.



Figure 9. The release of a Cape Grysbok at Atlantic Beach.

**5.8 Dogs have killed several animals** in the Nature Reserve during this quarter, including a Cape grysbok at the Milnerton Racecourse Section, as well as birds and small mammals in the Rietvlei Section.

Some dog owners in Table View, Milnerton Ridge, Sunset Beach and Royal Ascot let their dogs run off their leashes into the Nature Reserve. Several bird watchers have seen dogs hunting for birds on the Rietvlei seasonal pans during the dry season in April and May, when dogs are able to walk all the way into the wetlands from Table View and Milnerton Ridge. Some streets such as Sandpiper Crescent, Stilt Avenue, Pentz Drive, Grebe Road, Porcupine Way, Sprigg Road, and Milnerton Drive are used by dog owners to gain access for their dogs to the Nature Reserve.

The dunes in the Nature Reserve's Coastal Section between Sunset Beach and Dolphin Beach have virtually been stripped of antelope due to dogs being allowed to run freely.

In Royal Ascot, dog owners have been seen lifting their dogs over a fence to let them run free in the Milnerton Racecourse Section. Dogs have also been seen entering this section from the Milnerton Horse Stables along Koeberg Road, which is adjacent to the Nature Reserve. Some of these dogs are owned by people who work at the Milnerton Horse Stables.

The below pictures may be disturbing, but they illustrate the brutality of dogs in a nature reserve. Most dog owners, that have been apprehended, claim that "their dogs will never kill any animals," but the evidence clearly suggests otherwise (see Figures 10-13 below).

**Dog owners must note that only areas that are demarcated as "free-running zones" may be used to run dogs off leashes. If this happens anywhere else, it is a criminal offence.**



Figure 10. A Cape grysbok that was mauled to death by a dog in the Milnerton Racecourse Section.



Figure 11. The hind-quarters of the killed antelope where the dog bite marks were found.



Figure 12. This dog from 32 Sandpiper Crescent was left to its own devices while its owners were away on holiday, and was found killing small mammals in the Nature Reserve for food.



Figure 13. This dog was photographed at the Milnerton Horse Stables from where it was seen going into the Milnerton Racecourse Section to hunt.

**5.9 An integrated bird census** was conducted on 17/04/2015. The census was done by the Nature Reserve team and staff from other nature reserves and covered 11 survey sections (see Figures 14-16 for details). The water birds numbered a total of 2,313 birds comprising 34 species. These included:

- 1 Glossy ibis, 1 Purple swamphen, 1 Three-banded plover, 1 Pied kingfisher, 1 Malachite kingfisher, 2 Hadedda ibis, 3 Blackheaded heron, 3 African spoonbill, 4 Purple heron, 4 Yellowbilled egret, 4 Cape teal, 5 African black oystercatcher, and 7 Mallard hybrid, that together only made up **1,6%**;
- 14 Great crested grebe, 17 Little grebe, 17 Little egret, 23 Sacred ibis, 25 Cape shoveller, 25 Cape wagtail, 27 Grey heron, 32 African darter, 36 Swift tern, 43 Common moorhen, 53 Spurwinged goose, 61 Whitebreasted cormorant, and 72 Reed cormorant, that together only made up **19,2%**; and
- 110 Greater flamingo, 129 Blacksmith lapwing, 156 White pelican, 202 Kelp gull, 232 Yellowbilled duck, 272 Hartlaub's gull, 344 Egyptian goose, and 386 Redknobbed coot, that together made up the other **79,2%** of the survey.
- Additional species observed included: Pied crow, Yellow-billed kite, Common waxbill, Guinea fowl, Fiscal shrike, Cape bulbul, Masked weaver, Rock kestrel, Black-shouldered kite, African jacana, Orange-throated longclaw, and Cape spurfowl.

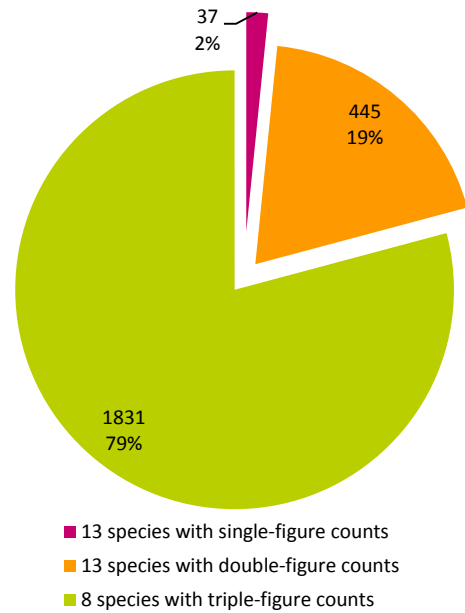


Figure 14. Relative contribution of low, medium and high counts.

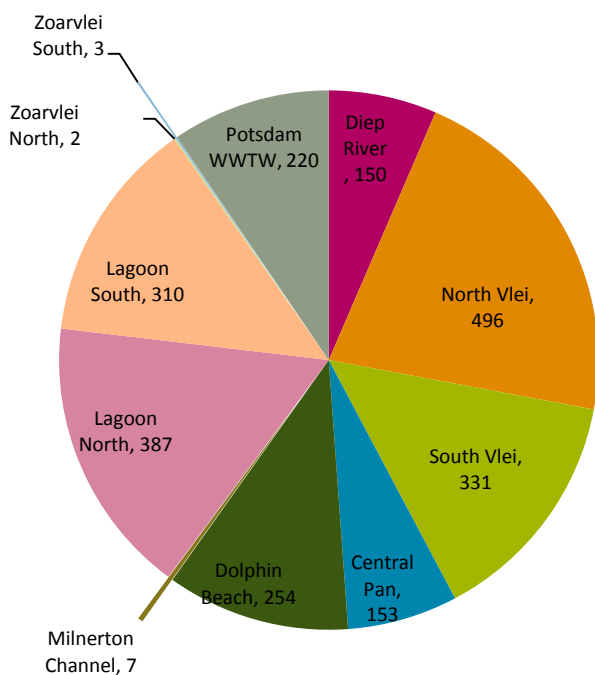


Figure 15. Relative contribution of birds from the survey sections.

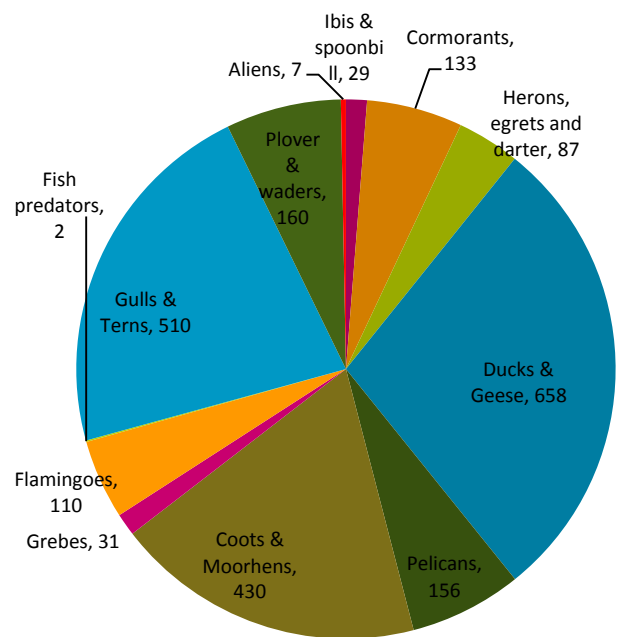


Figure 16. Relative contribution from the various groups of birds.

**Any keen birders who want to participate in the bird censuses are welcome to volunteer their time between 09:00 and 12:00 on the predetermined dates. The next bird censuses will take place on 17 July and 16 October 2015. Please call the office at 021 444 0315 to confirm.**

**6 SOIL**

Nothing to report.



## 7 WATER

**7.1 Water samples** were taken by Scientific Services at 15 sampling points in the Rietvlei system on 28/04/2015, 26/05/2015, and 30/06/2015. The reports from these samples are received on a monthly basis.

**7.2 Rainfall records** at Table Bay Nature Reserve are recorded from two locations (Rietvlei Water Area and Milnerton Racecourse).

Figure 17 below indicates the rainfall records from Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse for 2015 to date, plotted over the average rainfall pattern for the Nature Reserve since 2000. Only January and June recorded above-average rainfall, with all the other months recording well below average.

Figure 18 below indicates that the cumulative total of rainfall this year is still well below the average annual accumulation curve of rainfall at Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse.

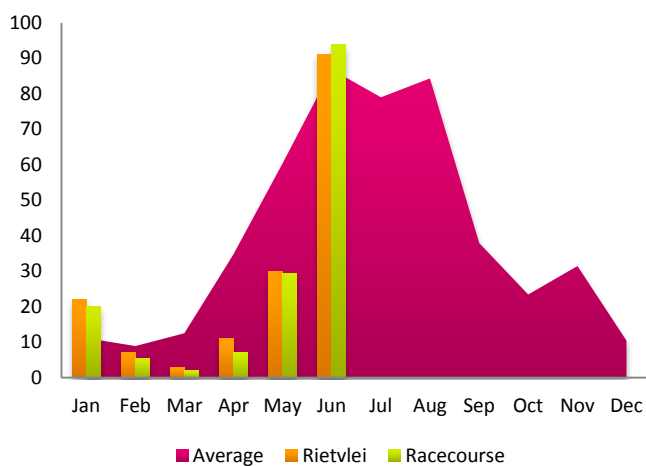


Figure 17. Monthly records plotted over the average.

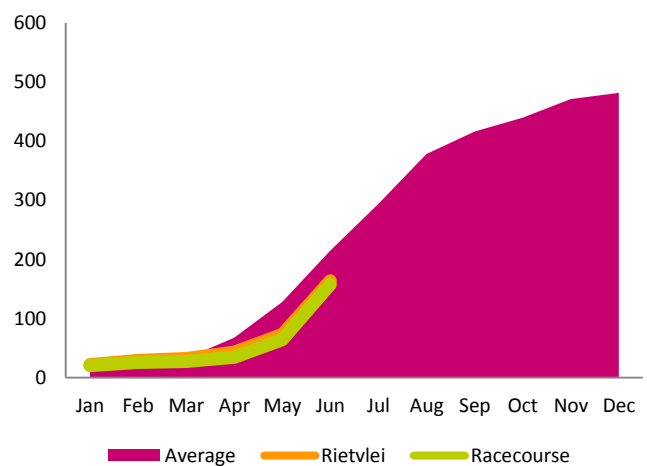


Figure 18. Rainfall accumulation plotted over average accumulation.

## 8 FIRE

**8.1 A prescribed ecological burn** was conducted in a portion of reed beds in the Zoarvlei Section of Table Bay Nature Reserve on 21/04/2015.

Dalton Gibbs and Jacques Kuyler were sector bosses, and the various crews from Helderberg, Witzands, Blaauwberg, and False Bay Nature Reserves assisted the Table Bay Nature Reserve.

**8.2 Table Bay staff also assisted with brush pile burning** at Franco Three Fountains (stewardship conservation area) on 07/05/2015, and Klein Dassenberg on 1/06/2015. See Figures 19-21.



Figure 19. The portion of the Zoarvlei Section that was burned.



Figure 20. Prescribed ecological burn at Zoarvlei Section.



Figure 21. Brush pile burning at Franco Three Fountains.

## 9 PEOPLE, TOURISM & EDUCATION

### 9.1 Stakeholder Engagement

#### 9.1.1 Internal Meetings

Table Bay Nature Reserve staff attended no less than 11 internal meetings during this quarter:

- 15/04/2015: Discussion regarding Cape Radio Flyers with Kobus Coetzer at Property Management;
- 23/04/2015: North Region management meeting;
- 23/04/2015: Disciplinary tribunal;
- 24/04/2015: Discussion group on Protected Area Advisory Committee;
- 21/05/2015: Business Improvement update and feedback;
- 28/05/2015: Branch management meeting;
- 2-3/06/2015: North Region Protected Area Reviews;
- 05/06/2015: North Region Health & Safety meeting;
- 05/06/2015: North Region management meeting; and
- 26/06/2015: North Region management meeting.

#### 9.1.2 External Meetings

Table Bay Nature Reserve staff attended no less than 13 external meetings during this quarter:

- 01/04/2015: Site inspection with research team for the hydrology and geohydrology study;
- 16/04/2015: Blaauwberg Development Area Environmental Liaison Committee;
- 24/04/2015: Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee;
- 07/05/2015: Site inspection with research team for the hydrology and geohydrology study;
- 07/05/2015: Friends of Rietvlei Annual General Meeting;
- 08/05/2015: Milnerton Aquatic Club regarding plans for the containers in the boat parking area;
- 29/05/2015: Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee;
- 29/05/2015: 2014 NQF2 Nature Conservation Certificate Ceremony;
- 04/06/2015: Dr Radloff from Cape Peninsula University of Technology about student progress;
- 09/06/2015: Christine Rabie from Ecosense about Milnerton Racecourse track re-alignment;
- 18/06/2015: Louise Matschke about NQF 5 learners;
- 19/06/2015: Rolf Spaeth & Wouter Groenewald about security measures along Milnerton Ridge; and
- 26/06/2015: Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee.

### 9.2 Partnerships and Benefit to People

**Various volunteers** from SANParks, UNISA, CPUT, and the public took part in management and monitoring projects during this quarter. Below Figures 22-23 indicate some of the volunteers in action. Elzette Krynauw and Landi Louw supervised the volunteers in the field.



Figure 22. Landi Louw with SANParks volunteers.



Figure 23. Landi Louw with various volunteers in the field.

A **Universal Access Tourism** listing was done for Table Bay Nature Reserve on the Cape Town Universal Access Tourism webpage. This a register of tourism destinations with information about access options for people with special needs. The listing can be seen at <http://ctuaf.co.za/listing/table-bay-nature-reserve/>

### 9.2.1 Rietvlei Education Centre Usage

The **usage of the Rietvlei Education Centre**, excluding visiting school groups, generated about 69 person days of benefit to people over five event days.

DATE	GROUP	ACTIVITY	PERSON DAYS
16/04/2015	Blaauwberg development area ELC	Meeting	12
23/04/2015	NQF level 5 CTEET learners	Training	13
30/04/2015	NCC Environmental Services	Learnership training	12
7/05/2015	Friends of Rietvlei	AGM	20
18/04/2015	Blaauwberg development area ELC	Meeting	12
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>69</b>

### 9.2.2 Rietvlei Boma Usage

The **usage of the Rietvlei Boma** generated 491 person days of benefit to people over 18 event days.

DATE	GROUP	ACTIVITY	PERSON DAYS
8-10/04/2015	NCC Environmental Services	Learnership training	30
20-22/04/2015	NQF Level 5 CTEET learners		39
23/04/2015	North Region managers	Regional meeting	13
24/04/2015	NQF Level 5 CTEET learners	Training	13
30/04/2015		Training	13
8/05/2015		Computer training	13
9/05/2015	PetHealthCare – Juanita Aitkenhead	Snake handling course	24
21/05/2015	BMB staff	BI meeting	65
27/05/2015	Atlantis Electrical (Mr. I Prince)	Teambuilding and maintenance planning	15
1-4/06/2015	NQF Level 5 CTEET learners	Stats training and learner support	52
8-9/06/2015			26
11/06/2015	Daniels Contracting	Basic firefighting – DEA EPWP programme	24
12/06/2015			31
15/06/2015			15
17-19/06/2015	Department of Environmental Affairs	Training	42
25/06/2015	ERMD	Environmental Training	30
26/06/2015	IDP & OPM Department	Departmental workshop	26
27/06/2015	PetHealthCare – Juanita Aitkenhead	Snake handling course	20
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>491</b>

### 9.2.3 Environmental Education and Outreach

**Environmental Education and Outreach**, including the now famous school holiday programmes, generated 441 person days of benefit to people over eleven event days (see Figures 24-25 below).

DATE	GROUP(S)	LEARNERS	TEACHER +ADULTS	PERSON-DAYS	PROGRAMME
8-9/04/2015	Holiday group	20	13	33	Fishing programme
9/04/2015	Cape Jewish Senior association	0	10	10	Talk on Table Bay Nature Reserve and other reserves
10/04/2015	Holiday group	10	6	16	Fishing programme
29/04/2015	Nerina primary	70	2	72	Joined SANCCOB programme
21/05/2015	Kunterbunt Kidz Kindergarten	18	4	22	Birds and footprints
22/05/2015	Windermere Primary school	97	3	100	Biodiversity programme at schools
22/06/2015	Wolraad Woltemade Primary school	33	3	36	
23/06/2015	Bosmansdam Primary school	44	1	45	
24/06/2015	Wolraad Woltemade Primary School	32	1	33	
25/06/2015	Bosmansdam Primary School	72	2	74	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>396</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>



Figure 24. The April holiday fishing programme.



Figure 25. The April holiday fishing programme.

### 9.3 Visitors and Income

**9.3.1 Income from visitors at the Rietvlei Water Area** during this quarter was R58,049.50 from 3,246 visitors.

Figure 26 indicates the income from the first half of the year to date, compared to the same months from previous five years.

Despite the winter season decline, the overall trend still indicates strong growth in income generated from visitors at Rietvlei.

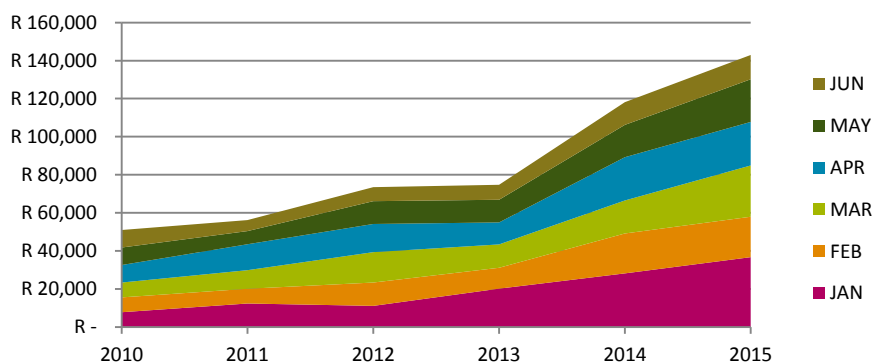


Figure 26. Income to date, compared to corresponding months from previous years.

## 10 STAFF

**10.1 Training of staff** at the Table Bay Nature Reserve amounted to no less than 75 person days over 26 event days, including the following:

- 8-10/04/2015: Project Plan Training (9 person days)
- 14-15/04/2015: NQF5 learnership Induction (6 person days)
- 20-22/04/2015: NQF5 learners' course on Communication (9 person days);
- 23-24/04/2015: NQF5 learners' course on Time Management (6 person days);
- 11-14/05/2015: NQF5 learners' course on Project Management (12 person days);
- 27/05/2015: Mentorship training workshop (2 person days);
- 1-4/06/2015: NQF5 learners' course on Statistics (12 person days);
- 9-10/06/2015: Fynbos Plant Identification (4 person days);
- 22-26/06/2015: NQF5 learners' course on Biophysical Environments (15 person days);

**10.2 Three NQF level 2 Nature Guardianship learners**, that completed their courses during the previous quarter, attended a graduation ceremony at False Bay Nature Reserve on 29/05/2015. The graduates are Viwe Maposa, Ntombesithathu Mathontsi, and Pamela Mrebe. They are now studying at NQF level 5.

## 11 LAW ENFORCEMENT

**11.1 Several displaced people** were removed from the Coastal Section and from under various bridges in the Milneton Lagoon Section. Figures 27-30 illustrate their living conditions. All these people have files opened at Social Development, but they are either unable or unwilling to re-integrate into society.



Figure 27. Displaced person in the Coastal Section.



Figure 28. Displaced person in the Coastal Section.



Figure 29. Illegal occupation under the Wooden Bridge.



Figure 30. Displaced person in the Coastal Section.

12 INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT

- A complete asset verification was conducted according to the asset register;
- All vehicles and equipment were licenced and serviced at the prescribed intervals;
- New signs indicating the water zonation and the opening and closing times were constructed;
- A post box was put up for the Nature Reserve at 10 Sandpiper Crescent, Table View 7441;
- Old and disused fencing material was removed from around Rietvlei and on the seasonal pans
- The repairs to the boardwalk at the Sunset Hide was completed; and
- A 50 meter section of the R27 fence line at Rietvlei was destroyed as a result of a motor-vehicle accident. A police case of damage to property was made, and an insurance claim was filed.



Figure 31. Sign indicating the water use zonation.



Figure 32. Sign indicating the patterns of use and operating times.

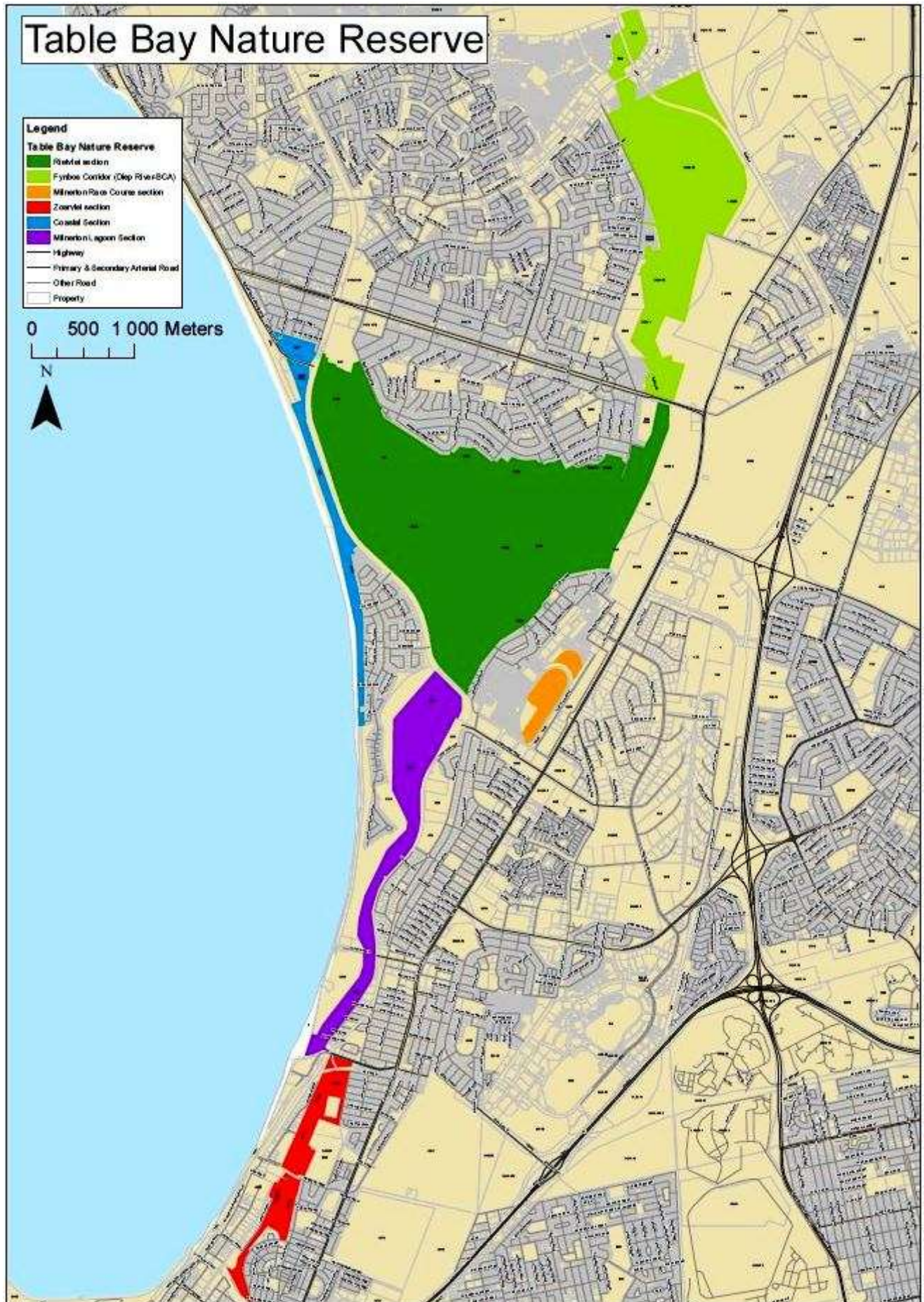


Figure 33. The post box at 10 Sandpiper Crescent.



Figure 34. Boardwalk repairs under way.

APPENDIX A: MAP OF RESERVE



APPENDIX B: PRESS ARTICLES



Fynbos fans needed

Julia Hollander inspecting fynbos during her time as a volunteer at the Table Bay Nature Reserve. Young people who are interested in protecting nature can follow in Julia's footsteps and avail themselves to volunteer. Full story on page 2.

## Join the fight to save nature, and ourselves

Alien clearing and litter clean ups were part of an "eye-opening" experience for Julia Hollander.

Julia volunteered to assist the Biodiversity Management staff at Table Bay Nature Reserve at Rietvlei during her December vacation

Now in the second year of her three-year Nature Conservation Course at CPUT, Julia said she always felt strongly about injustice and as a pupil at Elkanah House she saw Al Gore's movie *An Inconvenient Truth*. This made her aware of the injustice to our planet, but also to poor people who suffer the effects of climate change disproportionately to their environmental footprint.

As a Grade 9 pupil, she'd had her first hands-on experience of tackling an environ-

mental issue as one of a group of pupils who volunteering on an Alien Invasive Hack in the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve. Sound like fighting aliens from outer space? No, these aliens are invasive exotic plants. Notably in this case, Port Jacksons (*Acacia Saligna*), introduced from Australia to stabilise the drifting sands of the Cape Flats.

Julia and friends took turns hacking back the plants and spraying them with an approved herbicide. "We covered a line of about 30 metres, over three hours on a Saturday in winter. Very worthwhile!"

Apart from the satisfaction of physically contributing to conservation, Julia found the experience fun. That practically-focused action morning was sufficient to get Julia volunteering on subsequent occa-

sions, mainly at Table Bay Nature Reserve.

Holiday volunteering now over, and back at her studies, Julia knows that she's made the right study course selection.

"The time spent at Rietvlei opened my eyes to how much work there is to do to enlighten us all to our impact on the environment. We need to recognise that what we do to our environment ultimately impacts us. We tend to take our environment for granted. We forget that we need nature for our own survival," she says.

▶ If you're a high school student or young visitor to Cape Town who is interested in the environment, you're invited to join the first of this season's alien invasive hacks in the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve on Saturday 18 April. For more info, email Heinz Geiger on [hnzgeiger@gmail.com](mailto:hnzgeiger@gmail.com) or call on 073 225 3174.

## Oversight for protected areas

MONIQUE DUVAL  
@monique\_duval

The formation of committees to oversee protected areas across Cape Town has been tabled, with reports sent to several subcouncils calling for councillors to be nominated.

The report covers 17 nature reserves and natural environments across the city, including Blaauwberg Nature Reserve, Table Bay Nature Reserve and Witzands Acquirer Nature Reserve.

According to the report, Protected Area Advisory Committees (PAAC) facilitate a participative approach in the management of protected areas and represent all stakeholders. The committees' objectives will be to facilitate interaction between management of these areas and the surrounding

communities and to develop strategic partnerships.

They will be statutory bodies under the National Environment Management Act serving as a communication channel and assisting with the implementation of management plans.

The PAAC constitution was finalised in November and public participation for nominations closed in March. The committees will consist of communities, councillors, ward communities and user groups. They may also include other affected and interested parties such as academic and research institutions, nature-based recreation bodies and tourism stakeholders.

Committee members will serve a three-year term after which their membership will be reviewed and the City can either re-

new or terminate their membership or request new nominations.

The PAAC will have a maximum of 20 members and a minimum of six.

The report recommends two councillors be nominated to serve on the committees which fall in their respective subcouncil.

According to the resolutions for subcouncil 15, councillors Bernadette le Roux and Patrick Chapple will serve on the committee for Table Bay Nature Reserve, along with councillor Joy McCarthy and subcouncil chairperson Heather Brenner.

For the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve committee councillor Nora Grose and Dirk Smit were nominated.

In addition, subcouncil 1 nominated councillors Cynthia Clayton and Barbara Rass to serve on the Witzands committee.



# Explore City's nature reserves

**T**he City of Cape Town's nature reserves will be hosting several fun-filled holiday programmes throughout the month of July.

According to a statement, these programmes will be offered at the Tygerberg, Durbanville, Blaauwberg and Table Bay Nature Reserves during the school holidays. Parents are urged to book a spot for their children now to avoid disappointment.

The City's Mayco member for energy, environmental and spatial planning, Johan van der Merwe says these programmes prove to be very popular among younger residents.

"This is very encouraging as these learners are our future partners in the creation of a more sustainable city. It is essential for us to find innovative ways to nurture a love and understanding for our unique natural environment among the youth, and to educate them about how they are able to contribute to the future of their natural surroundings," he says.

● The Tygerberg and Durbanville nature reserves will be hosting two different holiday programmes during the upcoming July holidays, on Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 July from 09:00 to 12:00 aimed at children between the ages of six and nine years old.

These programmes will be held simultaneously at each reserve, teaching children about the different kinds of tortoises and birds, as well as highlighting their importance in nature.

Each programme is divided into two sessions. The first session will be conducted in Afrikaans and the second will be in English. This will give children the opportunity to attend both programmes and alternate between the two nature reserves.

● Shortly thereafter, the Tygerberg Nature Reserve will host a Nature Calls programme for adventurers between the ages of 10 and 13. This programme will run for two days on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 July between 09:00 and 12:00.

Bookings for the Tygerberg and Durbanville Nature Reserve programmes close on Friday 26 June.

● There's also a chance to explore nature's coastal life at the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve with an educational programme which starts on Tuesday 7 July. Children will have an opportunity to learn more about the different shells found on the beach, the dunes and the invasive alien plants surrounding the nature reserve. The week ends with a hike to the top of the hill to enjoy the lovely scenic views of Cape Town.

● The programme continues from Monday 13 to Thursday 16 July at Table Bay Nature Reserve, with reptiles being the main theme. Not only will children learn about the differences between snakes and skinks, but they will have the opportunity to explore the Milnerton Racecourse in search of chameleons to learn more about them.

Musical skills will be tested on Wednesday 15 July when the children will make some "noise for nature".

This will be followed by the last programme of the week in which they will be taught the differences between tortoises, turtles and terrapins.

Activities at the Table Bay and Blaauwberg Nature Reserves start at 09:00 and end at approximately 13:00 daily.

The programme will be aimed at children between the ages of 8 and 12 years old. Bookings for the Blaauwberg and Table Bay Nature Reserves programmes close on Thursday 2 July.

► For more information about the Durbanville and Tygerberg Nature Reserves holiday programmes or to make a booking, contact Lizelle van der Merwe at [tygerbergnaturereserve.intern@cape-town.gov.za](mailto:tygerbergnaturereserve.intern@cape-town.gov.za) or call 021 444 9263. For the Blaauwberg and Table Bay Nature Reserves holiday programmes or to make a booking, contact Elzette Krynauw at [elzette.krynauw@capetown.gov.za](mailto:elzette.krynauw@capetown.gov.za)

# Holiday fun for kids at nature reserves

ATHINA MAY

The City of Cape Town will host educational holiday programmes for children between the ages of eight and 12 at the Blaauwberg and Table Bay nature reserves over the July school holidays.

On Tuesday July 7, children will be able to explore coastal life at the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve and learn more about the different shells found on the beach and dunes, and also find out about the invasive alien plants surrounding the nature reserve. At the end of the week they will hike to the top of the hill to enjoy the lovely scenic views of Cape Town.

The programme will continue from Monday 19 to Thursday July 16 at Table Bay Nature Reserve, with a reptile themed course. Here children will be able to learn about the differences between snakes and skinks, and have the opportunity to explore the Milnerton Racecourse and search for chameleons.

On Wednesday July 15 children will be making "a noise for nature" at the Table Bay Nature Reserve where their musical skills will be tested, and this will be followed by the last programme of the week, which will teach the differences between tortoises, turtles and terrapins.

"It is essential for us to find innovative ways to nurture a love and understanding for our unique natural environment among the youth, and to educate them about how they are able to contribute to the future of their natural surroundings – especially the nature reserves located right on their



Children in Dunoon enjoy some of the City planned activities hosted at community facilities.



Children can play stimulating mind games during the holiday at community facilities

doorstep," said Johan van der Merwe, the City's mayoral committee member for energy, environmental and spatial planning.

Activities at the Table Bay and Blaauwberg Nature Reserves will start at 9am and end around 1pm daily. Bookings for the Blaauwberg and Table Bay Nature Reserves programmes close on Thursday July 2.

The City's Library and Information Services Department and the Sport, Recreation and Amenities sector have also teamed up to host a range of activities at many of the City's community facilities to keep children's minds and bodies active during the winter holidays.

Indoor programmes will be hosted at Dunoon Community Centre and Joe Slovo Sport and Recreation Centre. On the programme are board games, gymnastics, rope-skipping, karate, pool,

poetry, drama, concerts, indigenous games, cultural dances, fitness training, talent shows and arts and crafts.

Outdoor programmes include, five-a-side soccer, mini-netball, basketball, cricket, hockey, learn-to-swim programmes, kayaking, canoeing, angling, BMX, sport against crime, excursions, big walks, fun runs, jumping castles, face-painting, trampolines, touch rugby and various recreational activities and family fun festivals.

Library activities will focus on arts and crafts, storytelling, puppet shows, DVD screenings, games and skills programmes.

Residents can visit the City's Library and Information Services website for the detailed list of planned activities at their local libraries and also find their contact and location details at [www.capetown.gov.za/library](http://www.capetown.gov.za/library).

For a list of activities at Dunoon Community Centre, contact Yonelani Msido on 063 010 5014 or Mzingisi Vunala on 084 352 1992. For the Joe Slovo Sport and Recreation Centre, contact Simcelile Makuola on 021 551 4146.

The Recreation Officer, Amelia Botha, can also be contacted on 021 444 7300 for activities happening in Blouberg, Joe Slovo, Dunoon, Table View, Edgemead, Richwood, Bothasig and Milnerton area. And for more information about the Blaauwberg and Table Bay Nature Reserves, please contact Elzette Krynauw at [elzette.krynauw@capetown.gov.za](mailto:elzette.krynauw@capetown.gov.za)

**Upcoming events at Blaauwberg and Table Bay nature reserves:**

● Blaauwberg Nature Reserve will host a coastal dune hike on Wednesday July 8, for children aged eight to 12. Entry is: R6 a

child.  
● Blaauwberg Nature Reserve will host a free hack and hike event on Thursday July 9, for children aged eight to 12.

● Table Bay Nature Reserve, Rietvlei section will host a Legless lizards event on Monday July 13. Entry is: R6 a child aged eight to 12.

● Table Bay Nature Reserve, Milnerton Racecourse section will host a free, "chameleon communion" event on Tuesday July 14, for children between the ages of eight and 12.

● Table Bay Nature Reserve, will host an enviro-school of rock event on Wednesday July 15, for children aged eight to 12 years.

● Table Bay Nature Reserve, Rietvlei section will host a Triassic trio event, costing R6 a child on Thursday July 16, for children aged eight to 12.

# Zoarvlei's beauty under threat

MONIQUE DUVAL  
@monique\_duval

Brooklyn residents have raised the alarm about the condition of Zoarvlei.

They claim the vlei, which provides a picturesque view of Table Mountain, is being plagued by dumping, illegal squatters, fires, alleged drug dealing and problematic properties.

The issue was raised at a recent meeting held by the Brooklyn, Ysterplaat and Rugby Residents' Association (BYRRA).

TygerBurger joined BYRRA members on a walk of the vlei last week where various issues were raised.

BYRRA chairperson Rudi Wolter explains many Brooklyn residents have raised concerns about the condition of the vlei which the association has taken up with the City of Cape Town. He highlights the litter and says it has a negative impact on the vlei environment.

He reports with the construction of a MyCiti station in Paarden Island, a footbridge over the vlei was built for residents. This bridge, he explains, forms an integral link for residents to access the MyCiti buses but has fallen victim to petty thieves and vandals.

"When this bridge was built it was so beautiful. There were little lights which lit it up and residents could safely cross it to access the MyCiti station. But sadly, thieves and vandals have broken and stolen various items when they realised parts of the bridge were made from metal. These wooden railings are new," he says.

From the bridge, waste can be seen strewn across the vlei and people can be seen walking into the thick vegetation. Asked where these people were going, Wolter explains the vlei is home to many displaced people who seek shelter in the thick vegetation.

The members then walk along the soccer field to a gate which leads off Festival Street. Here more litter, consisting of mainly domestic waste can be seen. "This



Brooklyn residents have raised concern about the condition of Zoarvlei. Here rotten fruit along with other domestic waste can be seen dumped in the thick vegetation. PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL

is nothing, wait until we go around those houses," one member says.

She leads the group to a row of houses where loud shouting can be heard. Another member explains these houses are occupied by various people. During the formation of the unit, she says these properties were "lost".

### Notorious residents

She claims they are owned by the City and says the occupants have no formal lease. Members say the residents of the properties are notorious for anti-social behaviour and dumping. When the group arrive at the back of these homes, the stench of excrement fills the air. This, they explain is a result of no sewerage services at these homes and say occupants dump their waste in the vegetation near the vlei.

According to the City's zoning map, while the properties are clearly residential properties, they are zoned as public open

space. The City's map also shows no erf numbers for these properties.

The City could not confirm whether or not they own these properties.

As night falls, the glow from various fires can be seen. A man and a woman huddle near a fire made in a drum and appear to be cooking.

Wolter says there have been several fires in the vlei and residents have expressed concern about the difficulty experienced by firefighters to access the area. He highlights the vandalism of benches and says the vlei is not used by the community for recreational activities.

"It's been an issue for a while and we would like to engage with the City about what their vision for the vlei is.

"It has the potential to be a great space where families can come and picnic and enjoy the natural environment. However in its current condition, nobody can enjoy it,"

he concludes. TygerBurger sent several questions to the City regarding the vlei, fires, dumping, ownership of the properties and squatters, but at the time of going to print, the City's media office could not respond.

According to ward councillor Bernadette Le Roux the problems relating to squatters are being dealt with.

She explains that a list of everyone living in the vegetation at the vlei was drawn up but as people moved in an out of the area, it was difficult to keep tabs on them. Commenting on the bridge, she says the City spent a considerable amount of money and she was discouraged to see the theft.

"The bridge is a concern and I remember there were issues with it being used by motorbikes. It was an upliftment project and it was damaged by people who don't care. It's important for people to report dumping when they witness it. This is the only way we can take action."

# Bugs keep aliens at bay

**I**nvasive plants in the City of Cape Town will now be destroyed by their natural enemies.

Some 80 000 bugs reared by the Invasive Species Unit's Insect Mass Rearing Facility will soon be released city wide to curb invasive plants.

"I am incredibly pleased with the growing success of this initiative which has made use of innovative approaches to create a more sustainable future. Programmes to mitigate against the ecological and other damage believed to be caused by invasive plants, which can spread aggressively, are an important facet of a more sustainable tomorrow. This exciting facility, which offers inclusive job creation for people with special needs, has been focusing on insects to control prickly pear and devastating infestations of invasive aquatic weeds, such as water lettuce, parrot's feather, water hyacinth and Kariba weed, which are considered the worst weeds in South Africa," said the City's mayco member for energy, environmental and spatial planning, Johan van der Merwe.

## Biological control

To date, five employees have reared over 80 000 insects, which have been released since operations began at the facility.

A well-known biocontrol agent, the cochineal insect was reared and later released on the invasive drooping prickly pear (*Opuntia monacantha*), with much success, says Van der Merwe.

The plant on which the insect was released was destroyed within six months.

This scale insect from the dactylopiidae family is used widely across the dry Eastern and Northern Cape to control prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.) invasions on farms.

The cochineal insect thrives on the moisture and nutrients of prickly pear.

"Treating prickly pear with cochineal biocontrol is a vastly superior method to



The cochineal insect

removing the plant manually, which is difficult and dangerous for City workers as it has many thorns. Another problem with the manual removal of prickly pears is that bits of the plant, especially the cladode, will drop to the ground and grow. The risk of unintended introduction of prickly pear plants is eliminated when using the biological control cochineal insect," he said.

## University input

The Cape Town Biological Control Programme is a partnership between the Department of Environmental Affairs and Rhodes University's Department of Entomology, led by Professor Martin Hill.

Rhodes University is an international leader in the field of biological control and guides the City on rearing and releasing insects to control selected invasive plants.

Last year, the City's biological control team was trained by experts from Rhodes University.

"Biological control is increasingly becoming a cost-effective method of control in the war against infestations of invasive plants," he adds.

The City's Invasive Species Unit plans to increase the awareness of the application of biological control by working with schools.

"The aim is to show learners how biocontrol insects are reared for release, thereby creating awareness about this exciting part of invasive plant management.

The school outreach programmes will not only raise awareness, but will also provide learners with the opportunity to see first-hand how these highly specialised insects are reared," he says.

## Tracking and controlling invasive 'hitch-hiker' crows

Environmental Resource Management is now able to track the movements of the invasive Indian house crow between the harbour and the central city thanks to a partnership between the City's Invasive Species Unit (ISU) and the Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA), which has given the City access to the harbour.

Over the past six years, the City, in partnership with the National Department of Environmental Affairs, has worked to control the Indian house crow population and to prevent the establishment of new roosts.

Since the start of the Indian house crow control programme in December 2009, the population has been reduced to less than 500 birds. They are regarded as one of the world's 100 most damaging invasive species and arrived in South Africa in the early 1980s.

House crows are "hitch-hikers", travelling by ship from their native range of India, Pakistan

and Burma to countries where they do not naturally occur, such as South Africa.

The ability to monitor the birds at the harbour gives the Indian house crow team a better chance of detecting them as they enter.

Indian house crows are aggressive, opportunistic feeders and compete with indigenous birds and damage agricultural crops. They also pose a health hazard to humans, as they are carriers of enteric (intestinal) diseases.

Indian house crows should not be confused with indigenous Cape crows or pied crows, the latter of which are common in many suburbs of Cape Town. The indigenous pied crows are the only crows with a white breast, while the Cape crow is black and is larger than the invasive Indian house crow.

- All sightings of house crows, together with GPS coordinates, can be reported to [www.ispot.org.za](http://www.ispot.org.za).



*Friend or crow? The indigenous pied crow (top) should not be confused with the invasive and destructive Indian house crow (bottom).*



Concerns over the derelict wooden bridge across Milnerton Lagoon have been raised.

PHOTO: MONIQUE DUVAL

# History to be bridged

MONIQUE DUVAL  
 @monique\_duval

**F**unding to restore the century-old bridge across Milnerton Lagoon has been secured.

This was revealed by City mayco member for transport Brett Herron amid questions about future plans for the historic walkway.

Last week *TygerBurger* joined resident Agi Orfanos on a walk of the bridge where broken railings, dumping and broken barbed wire stained the view of the picturesque lagoon.

Orfanos says residents should feel proud having a national heritage site in their community, but the derelict state of the bridge left much to be desired.

"It is part of our history and I believe it should be restored and maintained. People used to walk here but not anymore," he

says.

Orfanos said the bridge is just over 100 years old and was originally built to connect Woodbridge island to the rest of Milnerton.

Herron explained the bridge was built in 1901 during the South African War by the Fortress Company of the Royal Engineers in order to gain military access to the island which subsequently become known as Woodbridge Island.

He says the bridge was closed to pedestrian and vehicular traffic in 1990 and was reopened to pedestrian traffic again in 1995 after some repairs to the bridge had been carried out.

"The bridge was closed again to all traffic in 2007 and has remained closed since then. All closures have been for safety reasons as a result of the ongoing deterioration of the timber elements."

Orfanos said use of the pedestrian bridge dwindled after the construction of a concrete bridge which is also used by vehicles.

"The bridge is one of the main things you see when driving along West Coast Road. It provides a great view of Table Mountain and Milnerton Lagoon. It should be restored and made user friendly so locals and tourists can enjoy it," he says. During the walk, Orfanos highlights the broken railings and dumping. Herron says the City has received reports of displaced people using the bridge structure as an overnight shelter, as well as littering and fishing from the bridge and the project team will consider how best to manage these issues.

"The deterioration of the handrails is largely as a result of the weathering of the timber elements, although some degree of vandalism of the weakened structure cannot be ruled out," Herron says.



■ Helena Sousa took this picture of a cloud extravaganza in the sky over Milnerton last Wednesday afternoon, May 27. The sky was patterned with small, rounded puffs of cirrocumulus clouds, that usually indicate cold weather is on the way.

## Flora burns



PICTURE: COLIN BROWN

■ Huge plumes of black smoke rose as reeds burned in Zoarvlei wetlands behind the Italian Club in Rugby, on Wednesday April 21. The fire burned for about two hours.



**Outstanding:** Jessica Kavonic (left) and Karen Merrett shared the "Most Outstanding Intern" award of 2014.

### Top interns of 2014

After a 12-month internship, 36 students graduated from the City's urban sustainability internship programme, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

The programme has produced exceptional young professionals over the past decade, and more than 50 of the 282 participants have been employed by the City after their internships.

At this year's awards ceremony, seven outstanding interns were honoured. Jessica Kavonic and Karen Merrett shared the "Most Outstanding Intern" award.

Shannon Newman, Liza Volkwyn, Sarah Chippendale, Charnelle Dunn and Sibongiseni Nyangiwe received certificates of high commendation for their excellent work and contributions.

### Talk on birds' pollination role

The Friends of Rietvlei will be having their AGM and an evening talk on 7 May.

The AGM will be followed by a short introduction by Bongani Mnisi (nature conservation manager with the City of Cape Town) to a documentary on long-billed pollinators in fynbos vegetation.

This topic raises the question of how certain fynbos plants would manage without these pollinators and how "stepping stones" of bird-friendly vegetation could assist them in moving around urban environments.

The event will be at the Rietvlei Environmental Education Centre in the Table Bay Nature Reserve at 19:30 for 20:00. Non-members are welcome.

► Contact Pauline on 083 255 2537 or Pat on 083 701 4318 for further information, or check the events diary at [www.friendsofrietvlei.co.za](http://www.friendsofrietvlei.co.za).