

# Milnerton Racecourse Conservation Area MONTHLY EMS REPORT

MRNR  EMS  
Conservation

REPORT No.: 45

PERIOD: Mar 2011

DATE: 25 March 2011

## CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT

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- ✘ On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March CoCT assisted with clearing of the firebreak within the northern area.

## INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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- ✘ All the *Typha capensis* within the firebreak of the northern area has been removed.
- ✘ *Persicaria* plants within burn block 2 are being monitored to prevent infestation.
- ✘ Follow up clearing of woody alien vegetation to be undertaken during April.

## FIRE MANAGEMENT

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- ✘ Monitoring of post fire flora species is underway. *Leucodendron levisanus* & *Crassula* sp have not regenerated, dead stands have been noted in Burn Block 2.
- ✘ On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March the Rietvlei team assisted with clearing of the firebreak within the northern conservation area. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> a firebreak cleanup day was undertaken with the assistance of the Rietvlei & BCA teams whereby half of the firebreak along Stable Yard was cleared partially down to soil level.
- ✘ A follow up herbicide spray of the firebreak will be undertaken in April.
- ✘ Methods preventing the edge effect of the kikuyu grass track on the northern area are currently being investigated.



Action Items to be followed up with adjacent Precincts:

- ✘ All landscaping bordering onto the northern area needs to be cleared away from the palisade fence in preparation for the 2012 ecological burn.
- ✘ Kikuyu within landscaped area of Sandown Crescent also needs to be removed to reduce the edge effect it has on the reserve.

## REHABILITATION

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- ✘ Awaiting further contact from SANBI MSB regarding seed collection for Milnerton Ridge rehabilitation. This project will be undertaken by SG as part of her B-Tech and Masters Research.
- ✘ RM is currently rehabilitating a Cape Dwarf Chameleon (*Bradypodion pumilum*) aka "Paco" which was accidentally injured during the clearing of the firebreak.

## INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

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- ✘ **Detention ponds:** Need to be maintained. Paving at pond 4 to be fixed.  
A large amount of vagrants' litter noted at pond 1.
- ✘ **Toilet:** Has been serviced and cleaned out.
- ✘ **Stormwater outlets:** All outlets are clear of vegetation and open.
- ✘ **Signage & Fences:** No vandalism or other damages noted.  
The emergency fire entrance to the northern area has been compromised by electrical fencing.
- ✘ **Path maintenance:** Path maintenance has been rescheduled for April.

- ✘ The 4<sup>th</sup> cat trapping exercise will commence within the northern area during April.
- ✘ During Feb the monthly avifauna count was undertaken by Helm van Zijl within the northern and southern areas. Sightings for Feb & Mar have been uploaded onto the CoCT Biodiversity Database by RM.
- ✘ No owl activity noted at the owl box.
- ✘ Survey will be undertaken on a regular basis to prevent species captured CoCT Biodiversity Database from becoming extinct due to the lack of recorded sightings.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

Vegetation:

- ✘ **Vegetation:** Some species observed during this month.



1) *Sarcocornia perennis*, 2) *CF Plecostachys serphillifolia*, 3) *Senecio CF burchellii*, 4) *Orphium frutescens* 5) *Unidentified sp*, 6) *Pelargonium sp*, 7) *Pelargonium sp*, 8) *Monopsis lutea*

Water:

- ✘ Fixed point photography of the wetlands for February 2011.



Wetland 1



Wetland 2



Dam

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	5	3	
May		22	37	35.6			1	33	46.6	
Jun		59	69	70			51	62	71.8	
Jul	123	153	143	35.6		82	94	102	46.6	
Aug	150+	155	145	123.6		101	95.5	107	105	
Sep	150+	187	161.5	112.5		97	101.5	150+	93	
Oct	150+	160.5	143.5	95.5		83	91.5	150+	84	
Nov	150+	139.5	138	75.5		68	77	92	71	
Dec	135	108	91	46.75		52	58.5	69	45	

- ✘ Wetland 1 is at its lowest volume since monitoring commenced in 2008.
- ✘ Rain gauge data supplied by Niel van Wyk records 1mm.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

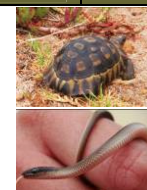
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- ✘ The first Annual Review Newsletter was distributed on the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011.
- ✘ Milnerton Racecourse has now been incorporated into the Table Bay Nature Reserve Integrated Reserve Management Plan for the purposes of the reserve proclamation process. Comments were submitted by WET-LAND Solutions on the 18<sup>th</sup> March.
- ✘ APO has been updated including baseline surveys of Wetland 1 & the Dam.  
Action Items to be followed up with adjacent Precincts:
- ✘ Domestic cat policy to be distributed to the body corporates of Sandown Crescent, The Met and Stable Yard prior to the carrying out of the next cat trapping exercise due to non compliance by body corporates in enforcing the no cat policy.
- ✘ While undertaking the firebreak preparations much dumped material consisting of dog faeces and garden refuse was found along the Stable Yard boundary wall. An e-mail needs to be sent to the body corporate of Stable Yard that no dumping is permitted within MRNR.

## GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS

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- ✘ A male and female Angulate tortoise (*Chersina angulata*) have been observed within the northern area on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- ✘ A juvenile Brown House snake (CF *Lamprophis capensis*, identification still to be confirmed) has been observed within the northern area on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- ✘ Aerial Photographs have been taken of MRNR on the 11<sup>th</sup> March.



## ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

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Regular monthly / bi-monthly tasks		
✘ Path maintenance & ad hoc alien clearing	✓	Ongoing
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring / bird counts		
✘ Finalising TBNR IRMP		Ongoing
✘ Cat trapping project		April
✘ Firebreak in Burn Block 3		Ongoing
✘ Fish species survey		April
✘ Small mammal trapping		April
✘ Large mammal Night Game Drive		April

✕ School Holiday Program	June/July
✕ Handpull <i>Vicia</i>	Aug/Sep
✕ Grysbok reintroduction	2011
✕ MRNR Annual Review/Newsletter	Dec

**AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF MRNR (taken on Friday 11 March 2011)**

