KOOS RETIEF OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2013 T A B L E B A Y N A T U R E R E S E R V E QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE MILNERTON AREA CITY OF CAPE TOWN: BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT All photographs by author, unless otherwise stated.





Figure 1. Senior People & Conservation Officer: North Region, Elzette Krynauw, and Environmental Education Intern, Jade Kastoor, recording bird numbers at Rietvlei (photo: Bruce Sutherland).

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1 AREA MANAGER'S SECTION

1.1 This quarterly report summarises the activities of the Biodiversity Management Branch in the Table Bay Nature Reserve (TBNR) for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2013. This report is written in such a way that stakeholders and role-players may refer to it for information purposes, but it does not contain all the official internal reporting information.

1.2 Some of the main headlines in the local media that were relevant to Table Bay Nature Reserve this quarter include stories on the City's "Reserve of the Year" and sewage contamination at the Milnerton Lagoon and Milnerton Beach.



LOUISA STEYL

Thanks to its dedicated staff, many improvements, and the co-operation of the surrounding community, Table Bay Nature Reserve has won the City of Cape Town's Reserve of the Year award, for a second time.

The biodiversity area manager for the Milnerton area, Koos Retief, explains that the Table Bay Nature Reserve (TBNR) is owned by the city and managed by the Environmental Resource Management Department (ER-MD).

"We see this award not just as recognising the nature reserve, but the team of people who work to promote the reserve, and all of the stakeholders who are involved in some way to benefit from or contribute to the nature reserve," Retief says.

The reserve protects about 258 plants, 185 birds, 30 mammals, 20 reptiles, 13 fish, and seven amphibian species.

"Some of these species and vegetation types are threatened with extinction and re-

Last year July, the TBNR launched a new new administrative office complex at Rietvlei.

Since then, the building and reserve infrastructure has seen upgrades to make the reserve more accessible.

"The reserve promotes opportunities for environmental education as well as bird watching and various water and shorebased recreational activities," Retief says.

The Rietvlei water area is also used by police and rescue divers, boat skippers and firefighters as a training venue and is often used to test water craft.

The Friends of Rietvlei constructed a wheelchair access ramp to the Rietvlei education centre and the Milnerton Aquatic Club repainted the water sports club house to blend in with the reserve's colour scheme.

The arrival of a very rare Black Skimmer (seabird from the Americas) this year caused bird watchers from as far as Gauteng to stream to Rietvlei while there have also been several sightings of caracals, one of which was captured at the Potsdam Wastewater Treatment Works and relocated to Rietvlei.

Tygerburger readers might also recall the stray plains zebra which wandered into the Milnerton Horse Riding Club. Retief says the zebra was captured and relocated.

"The reserve management team consists of an area manager with three assistants, as

ly on protected areas to survive," Retief says, adding: "Rietvlei is listed as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife South Afri-

ca." The reserve covers designated areas in Table View, Milnerton, Paarden Island and Du Noon

Retief says the TBNR has partnered with organisations in the area, namely Friends of Rietvlei, Milnerton Aquatic Club, SANC-COB, Milnerton Canoe Club and BirdLife SA

SA. "Many local wildlife photography hobbyists now find the Rietvlei wetlands a very safe place to photograph birds because of the upgrades we have done," Retief says. Through the subcouncil, the reserve

Through the subcouncil, the reserve sources labour from the Du Noon community and has made natural resources available to support a reed craft group in Du Noon. Retief says the reserve interacts with stakeholders through management forums to ensure the community is involved with decision-making. They also keep neighbouring residents informed of activities. > To page 2.

1.2.1 The City's Reserve of the Year 2013 was awarded to Table Bay Nature Reserve for a second year in a row. Table Bay NR also won this award in 2012 (see Figure 3).

The director of Environmental Resource Management, Mr Osman Asmal, and the manager of Biodiversity Management, Ms Julia Wood, handed over the award during the Branch's annual team building day.

<u>Subcouncil 1</u> and a local paper published the story which cites various improvements and upgrades that have raised the profile of the Nature Reserve, and generated many jobs as well as various other opportunities for the public to benefit.

The vision for the Table Bay Nature Reserve is to become an internationally recognisable natural feature in Cape Town.

We feel that the recognition that was received from the City will promote the Nature Reserve to higher levels of recognition in times to come.



This South American Black Skimmer caused quite a stir when it visited Rietvlei in October last year, attracting bird watchers from as far as Gauteng.

well as environmental educators, students, an intern, and a team of field rangers," Retief explains.

Pollution, alien vegetation, increasing amounts of stormwater runoff into the reserve, dumping and illegal structures on the edges of the reserve are some of the challenges the reserve faces due to its urban surroundings.

"We work closely will Law Enforcement, Table View Neighbourhood Watch and the Paarden Island City Improvement District to respond to such transgressions," Retief says.

He says residents can help protect the reserve by reporting illegal activity, by not dumping, by not allowing their pets in the

reserve and by not planting any plants in the area.

"Communities have a right to be represented in decision-making around nature reserves and therefore must ensure that their residents' associations make contact with us," Retief says.

us," Retief says. "It is an honour to be recognised in such a way and we want our neighbours to be equally proud and help us to tackle the challenges that we are faced with in the future," Retief concludes.

For more information about the Table Bay Nature Reserve, visit www.capetown.gov.za/tablebaynr, call 021 444 0315, email tablebay.naturereserve@capetown.gov.za, or visit the Nature Reserve at 10 Sandpiper Crescent, Table View.

Figure 3. Article in the local press about Table Bay Nature Reserve being "Reserve of the Year" in 2012 and 2013.

1.2.2 Sewage contamination at the Milnerton Lagoon and Milnerton Beach, caused by a collapsed bulk sewer pipe at the Koeberg Road sewer pump station, resulted in the temporary closure of access to these water areas.

The incident took place on 31/10/2013. Various user groups of the lagoon and the beach were notified via email, alerts were published in the media, and warning signs were posted at various public access points.

Environmental Health Department continuously The monitored the water throughout the process of repairs. By 12/12/2013 a significant improvement in the quality of the water was recorded, leading to the Department lifting the closure in a media release on 23/12/2013, and removing warning signage.

Several articles appeared in the local press regarding this incident, which are an indication of how important environmental health and a clean environment are to Capetonians (see Figures 4-5 and Appendix A).

The fact that the Table Bay Nature Reserve is in a very urbanised part of Cape Town exposes the natural area to a wide variety of threats and hazards.

Apart from sewage contamination from aging bulk infrastructure, it is clear that large amounts of other pollutants and contaminants, including litter and runoff from roads and industrial areas, constantly enter our waterways.

What is required for Cape Town's nature reserves and natural areas to persist in a clean and healthy state is that every citizen should realise their responsibility to limit waste and to dispose of waste correctly.

Illegal dumping of garden refuse, building rubble, household waste and even industrial chemicals is still taking place. For this to stop every citizen has to change their attitude and work towards a cleaner and healthy environment for all.

Sewage spill in Milnerton lagoon

STAFF REPORTER

All recreational activities in the Milnerton Lagoon have been put on hold following a sewage spill.

In a statement issued yesterday, Tuesday November 5, the City said it had put up signs and notified recreational clubs after a bulk sewer pipe collapsed on Thursday October 31, spilling sewage into the lagoon.

The statement said the City's water and sanitation department had been working over the past few days to fix the pipe, which carried sewage to the Koeberg pump station from the areas of Milnerton, Montague Gardens, Century City and Monte Vista.

Seven weeks ago, a City-appointed contractor had started repairs and the construction of a temporary pump station to upgrade the infrastructure and reduce the risk of spills. But during construction of the last section of the new pipeline, the stormwater canal had flooded the site after a storm. Sand had washed into the pipe and into the Koeberg pump station, which had then been unable to pump at full capacity, causing flooding and spillage at the station during peak periods, said the City statement.

Water and sanitation department staff were treating the spill area with enzymes to improve the water quality and minimise harm to residents and the environment, said the City.

Meanwhile, the contractor continued to repair the pipeline and planned to do the final connection and clean out as soon as possible. Pump station staff were cleaning sand and debris from the Koeberg pump station.

Figure 4. Article in the local press about the sewage spill in the Milnerton Lagoon and beach.

MILNERTON LAGOON: NO SWIMMING Sewage spill 'fixed

LOUISA STEYL 🖸 @lounotes

he pipe connection which caused a sewage spill in Milnerton Lagoon has been fixed.

This is according to the City of Cape Town's mayoral committee member for utilities, Ernest Sonnenberg, who said that the pipe connection was fixed on Monday and that the department would hopefully be able to seal it by last night.

The City of Cape Town warned residents and recreational clubs in a press release last week not to use Milnerton Lagoon, following a sewage spill in the area.

According to a press release, the bulk sewer pipe which carries sewage from Milnerton, Montague Gardens, Century City and lapsed, causing the spill.

Repairs and the construction of a tempo-rary pump station were started about two months ago by a contractor appointed by the city. This would allow upgrades to be made to the current infrastructure to reduce the risk of spills.

Spillage

While busy with the last section of the new pipeline at the end of October, the stormwa-ter canal flooded after a storm, causing sand to be washed into the pipe and the Koeberg pump station.

According to the city, this means that the Koeberg pump station could not operate at full capacity, causing spillage and flooding during peak periods.

Sonnenberg explains that the pipe was Monte Vista to Koeberg pump station col- damaged under a stormwater canal feeding

into the lagoon. "The pipe that was damaged says. was around one to two kilometres upstream from the lagoon," he says.

The city has assured residents that the contractor has been working throughout the night to fix the damage.

The harmful effects of the spillage on residents and the environment are also a con-cern and the city has stated that they are working to minimise the effects of the spill.

One of the measures they are taking is to treat the spillage with enzymes to improve water quality.

"The city's Water and Sanitation Depart-ment has been working outside of peak sewer flows, has maximised the retention of the flows within the reticulation system, has diverted sewage from the damaged section and placed booms at strategic sections to limit the amount of floating debris," Sonnenberg

Prohibited

The city's Water and Sanitation Department is working with the Roads and Storm-water; Health; and the Environmental Resource Management Departments alongside Scientific Services laboratories and Cape Nature to minimise and rectify the effects of the spillage.

While some recreational activities, like swimming, are prohibited in the area, others, like canoeing are temporarily prohibited while the city monitors the water quality in the area.

"The city will advise once the quality has improved," Sonnenberg says. He says construction is due to be complet-

ed this week and other possible damage fixed as it is identified.

Figure 5. Article in the local press about the sewage spill that contaminated the Milnerton Lagoon and beach.

2 HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

2.1 The Reserve of the Year 2013 award went to Table Bay Nature Reserve for a second year in a row (Figure 6).

This is undoubtedly the highlight of this quarter and is testimony to years of strategic planning, financial investment, relationship building, capacity development, and persistant hard work.

Various public partners also invested much into the reserve, including but not limited to the Friends of Rietvlei, Milnerton Aquatic Club, Milnerton Canoe Club and BirdLife South Africa.

Although so much work has been done there are still many opportunities for achieving even greater heights as well as continued improvement. We are looking forward to 2014 and what lies ahead.



Figure 6. Reserve of the Year 2013 award.

2.2 Staff at the Table Bay Nature Reserve continued to develop and achieve excellence:

2.2.1 Nature Consevation student from UNISA, Landi Louw, passed the practical component of her National Diploma course and will be graduating shortly. Landi also managed to obtain a three-year contract placement as Site Manager for the Milnerton Racecourse Section of Table Bay NR. She will start on 02/01/2014. The post is paid by the Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee (EMC) and is administrated by the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust (CTEET). Landi will be seconded to the Nature Reserve team and report directly to the area manager.

2.2.2 Nature Conservation student from CPUT, Simonne Afonso, also passed the practical component of her National Diploma course and will be graduating in the new year. Simonne was offered a one-year internship at Tygerberg Nature Reserve, starting on 01/02/2014 as an Assistant Environmental Educator.



Figure 7. Simonne Afonso, Jade Kastoor, and Landi Louw at a Friends of Rietvlei evening meeting.

3.1 **Biodiversity Database**

3.1.1 The species richness of the Table Bay Nature Reserve is recorded in an online database, which keeps records of sightings in three categories. Species that have been seen within the last 10 years are presumed to be present at the reserve, although this is not always true as in the case of vagrant species. Records that are older than 10 years but less that 15 years are in a category between present and lost, whereas records that are older than 15 years are deemed to be species that are lost to the site, such as old historic sightings that cannot be verified today.

Nature Reserve staff undertake active searches to confirm the presence of species. Appendix B is a list of species recorded for Table Bay Nature Reserve. Table 1 below is a summary of the currect statistics for various classes of species in each of the three categories:

CLASS	PRESENT (0-10 years)	NOT SEEN (10-15 years)	PRESUMED LOST (15+ years)	TOTAL
Amphibians	8	2	2	12
Fish	13	1	-	14
Mammals	30	-	1	31
Reptiles	21	11	1	33
Birds	185	9	16	210
Plants	254	70	109	433
TOTALS	511	93	129	733

Table 1. Summary of species richness of Table Bay Nature Reserve.

3.1.2 Introduced and alien species are not acceptable to stay in the Table Bay Nature Reserve. Leopard tortoises are widesperad in southern Africa, but are not indigenous to the Western Cape. The below tortoise must have escaped from a private garden as a pet. It was captured while walking in the road near the Rietvlei entrance gate. This particular tortoise was delivered to the SPCA for relocation.

Workers and field rangers at the Nature Reserve assist Reserve Management with recording sightings of species, as is seen with field ranger Qalile Lisa inspecting a Cape dwarf chameleon below.



Figure 8. Alien leopard tortoise (Stigmochelys pardalis) sent to SPCA. Figure 9. Cape dwarf chameleon (Bradypodion pumilum).

3.1.3 Wildlife photography is a hobby that visitors are encouraged to participate in at the Nature Reserve. Jan and Frieda Prinsloo are members of Friends of Rietvlei and they regularly visit the Rietvlei wetlands to photgraph wildlife in their natural behaviour and habitat. Reserve Management awarded a certificate of recognition to Jan and Frieda Prinsloo for having some of their wildlife photography published in a local newspaper earlier in 2013. See a selection of their latest photographs overleaf.

3.1.4 Some amazing wildlife photography submitted by Jan and Frieda Prinsloo (Figures 10-12):



Figure 10. Great white pelican (Pelecanus onocrotalus) eating a Common carp (Cyprinus carpio).



Figure 11. Common greenshank (Tringa nebularia).



Figure 12. African marsh harrier (Circus ranivorus) catching an Egyptian gosling (Alopochen aegyptiacus).

4 NATURE CONSERVATION

4.1 Flora Management

4.1.1 The clearing of alien vegetation during this quarter was focussed on the areas indicated red in Figure 13. The areas include Diep River Section East at Killarney Racetrack, Diep River Section West at L'Afrique and Herons Cove, Rietvlei Section including the SANCCOB/Pentz Drive boundary, the Bird Hide Block, the recreational area, Potsdam Waste Water Treatment Works and near the McPherson's Nursery, as well as the Milnerton Racecourse Section and the Milnerton Lagoon Section East.

The person days spent on this work amonted to almost 800. The main target species included Port Jacksons, Rooikrans, Blue-gum trees, kikuyu grass, water hyacinth, annual weeds, and other trees including Brazilian peppers and manatokas.

4.1.2 A Working for Wetlands contractor also cleared a section of alien plants in the diep River Section North-East of the Railway line. This is a section of land that was recently incorporated into Table Bay Nature Reserve.

4.1.3 Firebreaks were also maintained along SANCCOB, Pentz Drive, and Sandpiper Crescent.



Figure 14. Chrisopher Singo work Working for Wetlands contractors.



Figure 13. Map indicating focus areas of alien clearing work.



Figure 15. Diep River Section East of the railway line.

4.1.4 Annual Workload Assessments for alien clearing in 2014 were compiled by C. Singo.

4.2 Fauna Management

4.2.1 Monitoring of wildlife: Counts and sightings

4.2.1.1 A grysbok census was conducted at the Mitchells Plain Hospital site by City staff to determine numbers of antelope in the area. Only one antelope was found in this area on 17/12/2013. The Milnerton Racecourse Section of Table Bay NR requires that two antelope be introduced from outside the area to supplement the genetic health of the population inside the Nature Reserve.



Figure 16. City staff doing grysbok census at Mitchells Plain.

4.2.1.2 An integrated bird census was conducted on 15/10/2013. The census was done by nature reserve and other North Region staff, covering 11 survey sections. The census incorporate water birds as well as bush birds.

The water birds numbered a total of 1,777 birds comprising of 42 different species, including:

8 Great crested grebe, 7 Little grebe, 4 White pelican, 49 Whitebreasted cormorant, 8 Reed cormorant, 23 African darter, 9 Grey heron, 9 Blackheaded heron, 3 Purple heron, 10 Little egret, 3 Yellowbilled egret, 3 Cattle egret, 2 Blackcrowned night heron, 53 Sacred ibis, 5 Glossy ibis, 4 Hadeda ibis, 2 African spoonbill, 114 Greater flamingo, 167 Egyptian goose, 32 Yellowbilled duck, 38 Cape teal, 1 Hottentot teal, 28 Redbilled teal, 9 Cape shoveller, 2 African fish 2 African marsh harrier, Purple eagle, 1 swamphen, 2 Common moorhen, 515 Redknobbed coot, 2 African black oystercatcher, 29 Blacksmith lapwing, 1 Marsh sandpiper, 4 Pied avocet, 26 Blackwinged stilt, 3 Water thicknee, 103 Kelp gull, 360 Hartlaub's gull, 9 Swift tern, 1 Sandwich tern, 107 Common tern, 7 Pied kingfisher, and 12 Cape wagtail.

Additional species include Clicking stream frog, Karoo prinia, Helmeted guineafowl, Cape spurfowl, Redwing starling, Masked weaver, Common starling, Levaillant's cisticola, White-throated swallow, Pied crow, Mole snake, and Red bishop.

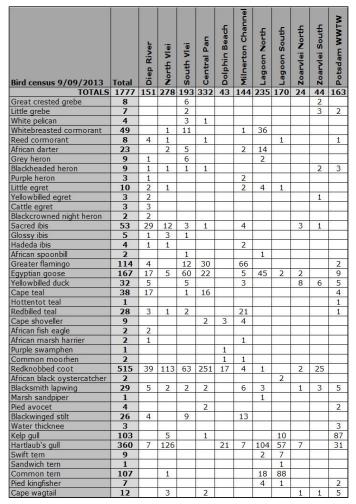
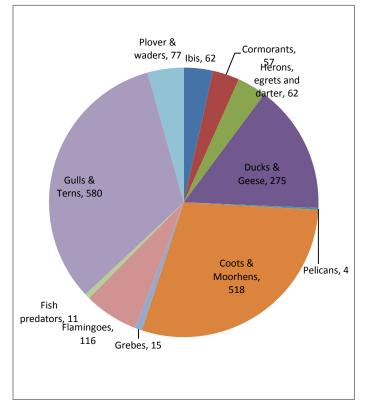


Figure 17. Waterbird census results from 15/10/2013.



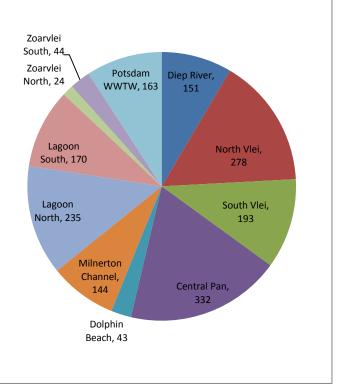


Figure 18. Pie chart of various types of birds.

Figure 19. Pie chart f numbers of birds per section.

5 WATER MANAGEMENT

5.1 Water Quality

5.1.1 The water quality of the Table Bay Nature Reserve was monitored by reserve staff on three occasions at 15 monitoring points. The monitoring dates were 29/10, 26/11, and 10/12/2013.

5.2 Rainfall Measurements

5.2.1 Rainfall records from two locations in the Table Bay Nature Reserve, Rietvlei Water Area and the Milnerton Racecourse, are stored in a central database.

Below Figure 20 indicates the rainfall records of Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse for 2013, plotted over the average rainfall for the reserve. Half of the months in 2013 recorded **rainfall in excess of the average**, with the total for 2013 being **the highest since 2001**.

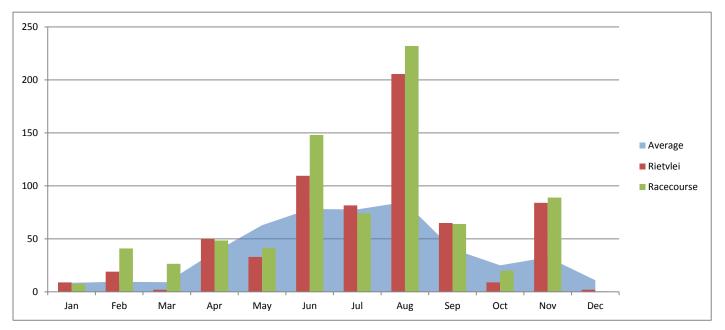


Figure 20. Monthly rainfall records at Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse plotted over the average rainfall in Table Bay NR since 2000.

Below Figure 21 indicates the accummulation of rainfall in 2013 at Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse, plotted over the average accummulation curve for the reserve. The rainfall in 2013 was well **above the average** annual rainfall and the **highest since 2001**.

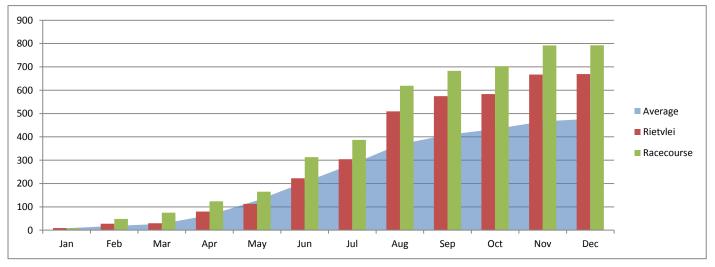


Figure 21. Accumulation of rainfall at Rietvlei and Milnerton Racecourse during 2013, plotted over the average annual rainfall accumulation in Table Bay NR since 2000.

6 FIRE MANAGEMENT

6.1 A planned controlled burn of an area of wetlands between Pentz Drive and the R27 is being prepared for exectution in March 2014. The wetlands lie in the Rietvlei Section of the Nature Reserve.

A permit application has been submitted to Air Pollution Control Department for review early in the new year. A public notification process will commence and site inspections will be held with Fire, Traffic and Air Pollution.

The site is being prepared for the controlled burn by means of the cutting of protective firebreaks along the Pentz Drive fence and outside SANCCOB. Old internal fencing and disused structures, that do not need to be burned, have also been removed (Figures 22-24).

The controlled burn may only take place once a permit is obtained, and this decision will be made by Subcouncil 1, once a report has been submitted subsequent to all due processes being undertaken. Similar firebreaks were being cut along Heron Cove in the Diep River Section for fire protection.



Figure 22. Firebreak next to SANCCOB.



Figure 23. Disused structures and old internal fences were removed.



Figure 24. Layout of the firebreak.

COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT

7.1 **Illegal occupations in the Nature Reserve** continue to be a problem. The reserve staff repeatedly removed several illegal structures from areas including the Zoarvlei Section, the Wooden bridge, Blaauwberg Road bridge, and Diep River Section. Stakeholders, including Neighbourhood Watch, are working hard with Law Enforcement to improve the situation. Cultural and religious gatherings in Diep River, including initiation schools, compound the problem. Below article in the local press (Figure 25) demonstrates the extent of the vagrancy problem from the public perspective.





The Table View Neighbourhood Watch took the initiative to clean the mess left behind by homeless people.

Kitchen knives were found among dumped rubbish.

ye on the neigh bourhood

FAATIMAH HENDRICKS

The Table View Neighbourhood Watch (TVNW) said it has desperately been trying to make residents aware of crime trends in the area so that they can take measures to keep their families and properties safe over the festive season.

The TVNW has been using Facebook to reach everybody and encourage them to get involved to help keep their neighbourhood safe. "We want to teach our community how they can best take care of themselves and one another and work with us to eradicate crime," said TVNW spokeswoman, Gemma Redelinghuys.

She said residents need to be aware of their surroundings at all times, double-check that all doors and gates are locked and to activate their house alarms. She also said residents must refrain from putting out their dirt bins long before the City of Cape Town's refuse removal is meant to collect it, as it

attracts homeless people into the area. The recent discovery of rubbish littering a vacant piece of land near Happy Valley along the R27 has left the TVNW frustrated with residents giving generous handouts to homeless people and leaving items on dirt bins for them to take. The TVNW has since launched an appeal to the

community to donate unwanted items to charity organisations in the area or the City's Give Responsibly campaign. The campaign allows people to SMS to donate R10, of which an average of R8 goes towards NGOs working in partnership with the City of Cape Town to help homeless people. On Tuesday December 3 TVNW member Garth Bruwer was driving along the R27 near Happy Valley when he spotted a mess in the bush. He stopped to

when he spotted a mess in the bush. He stopped to take photos of it and posted it on Facebook, showing the community the mess left behind from their

donations.

This rubbish (your rubbish) was not left by the Happy Valley locals but rather all the vagrants that have made the bush their temporary home before they go back to their real homes in Atlantis for the weekend," he wrote on Facebook. He said the mess was now left behind for the TVNW to clean up. When asked how he knew the

items found were all given to homeless people, Mr Bruwer responded by saying he spent many hours on the road at night, in the middle of the night and during early mornings to observe the behaviour of people scratching in bins. "I've physically seen people hand stuff to them, place clothes and food on top of bins, leave broken lawnmowers, computers, televisions, fridges and couches to be removed by vagrants,' said Mr Bruwer. He said he has also spoken to

many homeless people who have told him residents had given unwanted goods to them. "In fact, we have on several occasions gone back to the houses to confirm the story with the residents themselves.

On Sunday December 8 more than 40 people belonging to the TVNW and members of the public from the age of 13 to 65 helped clear the area where all the rubbish was found. They ended up with more than 150 bags of waste and found items such as televisions, blankets, trolleys and paddle skis. It took them 90 minutes to get the area spotless and two truck-loads of rubbish bags were taken away to the dump site.

"For the 'newbies' it was a real eyeopener as to how much mess these vagrants actually make and their general disregard for our suburb and the environment we live in," said Ms Redelinghuys.

She said residents need to stop dumping unwanted items that are too large for the bins on the pavements for the homeless people to

"This is a lazy and irresponsible attitude on the part of the home-owner and is directly responsible for the increase in vagrants to our area.

Ms Redelinghuys said criminals come into the area pretending to be trolley pushers when most actually have homes elsewhere.

She said residents not disposing of goods properly causes several prob-lems. When homeless people take items they find on top of bins and on pavements, they discard what they don't want in the greenbelts, parks and bushy areas, leaving the community to clean up the mess. Often there are also dangerous items thrown away which criminals use as weapons. "We often hear stories where victims are held at knife-point for their cellphone or purses. The resident is enabling the perpetrator, The said Ms Redelinghuys.

She said homeless people also earn a steady income begging or sell-ing the unwanted items that were generously donated to them. She said metal, such as stolen drain cover's and metal wall numbers, is being sold to illegal scrap dealers.

Figure 25. Article about the problem of vagrancy in the local press.

7.2 **Illegal structures** are constantly removed from the Table Bay Nature Reserve (Figures 26-30).



Figure 26. Illegal structures removed under Wooden Bridge.



Figure 28. Illegal structure under Blaauwberg Road bridge.



Figure 27. Illegal sleeping place removed from under a bush.



Figure 29. Illegal structure removed next to Rietvlei Section.



Figure 30. Initiation hut in the Diep River.

8 **PEOPLE AND CONSERVATION**

- Table Bay NR staff attended no less than 28 official meetings with stakeholders;
- The reserve facilities were used to benefit no less than 417 people over 18 events; and
- Environmental education and outreach benefited no less than 294 people over 12 events.

8.1 Stakeholder Engagement

8.1.1 External meetings

TBNR staff attended no less than 16 meetings with external stakeholders this quarter (see Table 2).

AREA	DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE
	03/10/2013	Meeting Niel van Wyk (Friends of Rietvlei) about Milnerton Racecourse management	
	04/10/2013	Zoarvlei Management Advisory Committee	
	07/10/2013	Joe Slovo cleanup with Emeritus Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu	
	10/10/2013	SANCCOB AGM at Iziko Museum	
	17/10/2012	Rietvlei Management Woking Group meeting	
	17/10/2013	Ficus tree and boundary inspections at Zoarvlei with ZMAC members	
TBNR	25/10/2013	Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee meeting	
	01/11/2013	Inter-organisation workshop on reserve fencing	Planning and feedback
	07/11/2013	Combined fencing workshop with Portuguese and Italian Clubs	
	07/11/2013	Nicky Stander from SANCCOB regarding proposed controlled burn	
	29/11/2013	Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee meeting	
	06/12/2013	Zoarvlei Management Working Group meeting	
		Meeting Niel van Wyk (Friends of Rietvlei) about hippo management	
	10/12/2013	Conservation Learnership induction meeting	
	11/12/2013	Rietvlei Management Working Group meeting	

Table 2. Summary of external stakeholder meetings attended

8.1.2 Internal meetings

TBNR staff attended no less than 12 meetings with internal stakeholders this quarter (see Table 3).

Table 3. Summary of internal stakeholder meetings attended.

AREA	DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE
	02/10/2012	Kikuyu management and restoration planning with Dr Pat Holmes	
	02/10/2013	Portuguese Club site inspection	
	08/10/2013	Signage task team meeting	
	22/10/2013	Helderberg Nature Reserve site visit	
	05/11/2012	Meet Dalton Gibbs and Cliff Dorse about hippo population management	
	05/11/2013	Monthly DEA EPWP project progression	
TBNR	08/11/2013	Branch Entertainment and team building day	Planning and feedback
	19/11/2013	City flora management committee	
	21/11/2013	Post-fire site inspection at Zoarvlei with Dr Pat Holmes	
	02/12/2012	Branch quarterly meeting	
	03/12/2013	Branch Business Improvement meeting	
	06/12/2013	North Region Business Improvement meeting	
	13/12/2013	Reserve staff year-end function	

8.2 Partnerships and Benefits to People

8.2.1 Rietvlei Education Centre Usage

The usage of the Rietvlei Education Centre at the Table Bay Nature Reserve, excluding school groups, generated 42 person days of benefit to people over 3 event days (see Table 4).

Table 4. Summar	/ of Rietvlei Education	Centre usage.

DATE	GROUP	ACTIVITY	PERSON DAYS
17/10/2013	Rietvlei Management Working Group	Meeting	9
05/11/2013	Environmental & Heritage Management: District B&C	Meeting	8
14/11/2013	Friends of Rietvlei	End year meeting	25
TOTALS			42

8.2.2 Rietvlei Boma Usage

The usage of the Rietvlei Boma at the Table Bay Nature Reserve generated 375 person days of benefit to people over 15 event days (see Table 5).

Table 5. Summary of Rietvlei Boma usage. DATE GROUP ACTIVITY PDs 07/10/2013 EPWP working group Health and Safety 21 14/10/2013 Health and Safety 24 EPWP working group 19/10/2013 New Apostolic Church Introduction to TBNR 25 21/10/2013 EPWP working group Health and Safety 20 28/10/2013 EPWP working group Health and Safety 19 04/11/2013 EPWP working group Health and Safety 20 11/11/2013 EPWP working group Health and Safety 22 18/11/2013 EPWP working group 19 Health and Safety 25/11/2013 EPWP working group Health and Safety 12 29/11/2013 Finance Directorate, Treasury Dept Quarterly departmental workshop 25 02/12/2013 EPWP working group Health and Safety 16 06/12/2013 Environmental Health: Air Quality Management End year function 20 13/12/2013 EPWP working group End year function 22 18/12/2013 Ntinga Destiny Consulting Health & Safety, First Aid training 55 19/12/2013 Ntinga Destiny Consulting Health & Safety, First Aid training 55 TOTALS 375



Figure 31. Table Bay NR offices and Rietvlei boma.



Figure 32. Interior of Rietvlei boma.

8.2.3 Environmental Education and Outreach

Environmental education and outreach at the Table Bay Nature Reserve generated 294 person days of benefit to people over 12 event days (see below Table 6 and Figures 33-36).

DATE	GROUP(S)	PROGRAMME	LEARNERS	ADULTS	PD'S
19/10/2013	New Apostolic Church	Introduction to TBNR & walk	4	21	25
01/11/2013	Cape Town Studies	Introduction to TBNR & wetlands	28	2	30
06/11/2013	Sophakama Primary	Wetlands: miniSASS & birding	61	1	62
14/11/2013	Sophakama Primary	Wetlands: miniSASS & birding	53	1	54
22/11/2013	Table View Brownies	Overnight camp	10	3	13
23/11/2013	Table View Brownies	Overnight camp	10	3	13
09/12/2013	Sports & Rec Atlantis Holiday group	Fishing holiday programme	12	1	13
10/12/2013	Sports & Rec Atlantis Holiday group	Fishing holiday programme	12	1	13
11/12/2013	Sports & Rec Atlantis Holiday group	Fishing holiday programme	12	1	13
17/12/2013	Holiday group	Fishing holiday programme	13	5	18
18/12/2013	Holiday group	Fishing holiday programme	13	5	18
19/12/2013	Holiday group	Fishing holiday programme	15	7	22
	·	TOTALS	243	51	294





Figure 33. Table View Brownie Camp (photo E. Krynauw).



Figure 34. Group from Sophokama Primary (photo E Krynauw).



Figure 35. Sport & Recreation's fish programme (photo E Krynauw).



Figure 36. TBNR's fishy holiday programme (photo E. Krynauw)

8.2.4 The Biodiversity Management Branch's annual photo competition received two winning pictures from Table Bay NR, thanks to Elzette Krynauw and Landi Louw's photography skills.



Figure 37. Photograph of Elzette Krynauw that won first place in the Branch's photo competition in the category "visitors".



Figure 38. Photograph of Landi Louw that won second place in the Branch's photo competition in the category "landscapes".

9 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

9.1 Work-integrated learning (WIL) students at the Table Bay Nature Reserve, Landi Louw of UNISA, and Simonne Afonso of CPUT, both passed the practical component of their National Diploma courses and will be graduating in the new year. Landi Louw has been working as a permanent Visitor Control Officer at the Blaauwberg NR since the previous quarter. New student placements at Table Bay NR in 2014 will be Damon Hope, Stuart van Blerk and Braden Wilkinson (all from CPUT).

9.2 The Milnerton Racecourse Site Manager post, which is presently filled on a part-time basis by former Blaauwberg NR student Simone Greveling through a contract with WetlandSolutions, became vacant due to Simone planning to take up residence and employment in Hermanus from 2014.

The Milnerton Racecourse Environmental Management Committee (EMC) and the City decided to advertise a new full-time Site Manager post through the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust (CTEET) to fill Simone's vacancy. The Milnerton EMC, CTEET and Table Bay NR worked together to recruit and select a suitable candicate to fill this post on a three-year full-time contract starting from January 2014 and ending December 2016. **Landi Louw**, former Table Bay NR student and currently Blaauwberg NR Visitor Control Officer, was successul in her application for the post. From January 2014 Landi will report to the Table Bay NR as a CTEET employee seconded to the City of Cape Town.

9.3 Environmental Education Intern, Jade Kastoor, will complete her internship year during the next quarter in 2014. The process to recruit and select a new intern for 2014 was already completed. **Karen Merrett**, Current Blaauwberg NR student, was successful in her application for the internship post at Table Bay NR for 2014. Karen was voted by the CPUT as the best WIL student of 2013.

9.4 Current Table Bay NR student Simonne Afonso was also successful in her application for the Tygerberg NR's Environmental Education Internship for 2014. We wish her all the best for 2014.

9.5 NQF level 4/5 Conservation Learnerships, administered by the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA), are being offered to Nature Conservation staff in the City that do not have formal qualifications. Table Bay NR staff Clinton Roux, Kyle Kelly and Christopher Singo entered into the course and have attended the induction programme. The learnership course will be presented by NCC Environmental Services (Pty) LTD in partnership with the City of Cape Town.

9.6 The Cape Peninsula University of Technology's Work-Integrated Learning Programme for conservation is geared to offering students practical work opportunities in the conservation industry. This is required for the completion of the National Diploma. Koos Retief served on the evaluation panel with the CPUT from 26-29/12/2013 to evaluate the outcomes of almost 50 students during 2013.

9.7 The North Regional Manager Bongani Mnisi was on leave during the festive season and Koos Retief acted in his behalf from 12-27/12/2013.

9.8 Basic Supervisory Training was presented to Table Bay NR staff Kyle Kelly, Clinton Roux, Christopher Singo, Bulelwa Nomna and Qalile Lisa from 24-25/10/2013.

9.9 Annual audiometric testing of Table Bay NR staff took place on 29/10/2013.

9.10 Former staff of Table Bay NR continued to exceed expectations in their career development:

- **Robert Slater**, 2012 student, is now the Kenilworth Racecourse Conservation Site Manager;
- **Chanelle Naidoo**, 2011/12 intern, is now the Kenilworth Racecourse Conservation Area's People and Conservation Officer;
- Rifqah Johnson, 2010/11 intern, is an Environmental Education Officer at SANCCOB;
 - Noxolo Sidzumo, 2009 student, is now the Senior Operational Supervisor at Wolfgat NR;
- **Sandiso Kraai**, Site Manager at Diep River Section from 2007 to 2009, is now the Senior Operational Supervisor at Durbanville NR;
- Elana Kellerman, 2008/09 intern, is now the Site Coordinator at Kogel Bay Resort;
- Jeremy Keyser, 2003 student, now works with Doug Jeffery Consultants; and
- **Bronwen Foster**, 2003 student, is an Environmental Education Officer at the False Bay Nature Reserve: Rondevlei Section.

9.11 Staff at the Table Bay NR consisted of 11 permanent and 30 non-permanent staff (Table 7).

TBNR	POSITION	PURPOSE	PERMANENT	CONTRACT
	Area manager	Functional / Operation management of TBNR	1	
	Assistant Cons Off	Site management / compliance / visitor management	3	
	Snr People & Cons Off	Education and Outreach	1	
Internal	Snr Field Ranger	Management of work output	1	
Internal	Field Ranger	Field ranging & supervision of teams	4	
	Worker	Work output	1	
	Intern	Education programme		1
	Student	Work-integrated learning		1
External	ernal Worker EPWP services			28
	TOTALS			30

Table 7. Staff establishment at Table Bay Nature Reserve.

9.12 Learnership, Internship and Work-Integrated Learning Programmes have been incorporated into the Nature Reserve's daily activities to capacitate students to develop skills and to facilitate their career development in the conservation industry. The work that interns and students do also directly contributes to the management of Nature Reserves.

The transition from "student" to "intern" is an additional stepping stone for people to enter the formal conservation industry (Figure 39).



Figure 39. Former student and intern Elzette Krynauw (left) is working with intern Jade Kastoor to develop her skills (photo: B Sutherland).

10 VISITORS AND INCOME

10.1 Income from visitors at the Table Bay Nature Reserve's Rietvlei Water Area during this quarter were R8,812.50 from 322 visitors in October; R15,716.00 from 548 visitors in November; and a record high of R28,353.00 from 1,093 visitors during December 2013.

This totals to R52,881.50 from 1,963 visitors in this quarter (excluding figures of Milnerton Aquatic Club members that access the club's leased area). It is important to note also that the tariffs are adjusted annually by the Council of the City of Cape Town on every 1 July.

Figures 40-41 indicate **an above average amount of visitors and income** recorded in some months during 2013, with a record high in December. The figures also indicate seasonal trends, with December and January being the busiest months, and June and August being the quietest months.

R30 000

R25 000

R20 000

R15 000

R10 000

R5 000

R-

Average income 2010-13

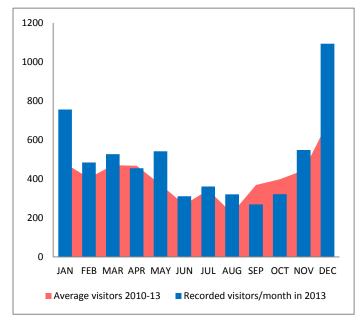




Figure 41. Monthly income plotted over averages since 2010.

IAN FEB MAR APR MAY IUN IUI AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Total income/month in 2013

Figures 42-43 indicate a **strong increasing linear trend** in both visitor numbers and income over time since January 2010. The strong increase marks higher demands from Capetonians to access natural areas for outdoor recreation, wildlife appreciation and nature-based environmental education. It is also testimony to better compliance enforcement and management by the reserve team.

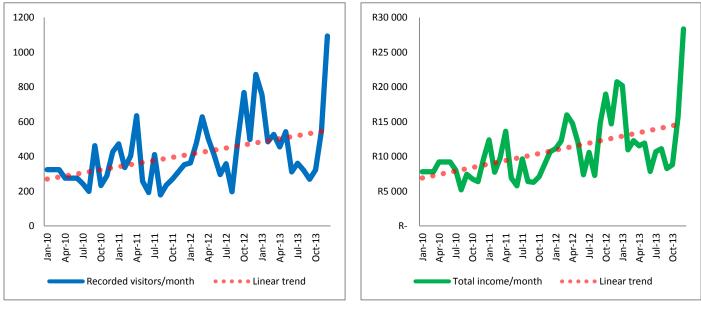




Figure 43. Monthly income since 2010 plotted with a linear trend.

11 INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAINTENANCE

11.1 Maintenance activities in Table Bay Nature Reserve were focussed on the following:

- Sanding and varnishnig of all wooden benches;
- Litter picking in various areas including the Milnerton Lagoon;
- Installation and maintenance of landscaping around the offices and Aquatic Club boat park;
- Mowing of grass at picnic and fishing sites as well as around the offices;
- Cleaning of braai areas, litter bins, picnic sites, bird hides and toilets;
- Repairs to machinery including brushcutters and lawn mowers;
- Repairs to 2 fire fighting skid unit pumps;
- Repairs to vehicles including the 4x4 bakkies and the truck;
- Removal of dumping and derelict infrastructure;
- Removal of illegal constructions such as bicycle jump ramps; and
- Repairs and maintenance of the office's flushing system and toilets.

11.2 A pocket book system was introduced for the field rangers to capacitate them to record more information about what is happening on the Nature Reserve and to give feedback about items that require attention. The pocket book system is an essential tool for field rangers to support management. Assistant Conservation Officer, Christopher Singo, inspects and signs the pocket books of field rangers on a weekly basis.



Figure 44. Litter cleaning at Milnerton Lagoon.



Figure 45. Landscaping around the Aquatic Club boat park.

12 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

12.1 Capital Projects that were managed this quarter included:

- Installation of an underground water conservancy tank at the Rietvlei offices;
- Installation of a set of solar water geysers at the Rietvlei recreational ablution block;
- Construction of a pedestrian pavement sidewalk towards the Rietvlei entrance gate;
- Upgrading of a public parking area near the Rietvlei gate; and the
- Replacement of a PC workstation and a laptop computer at the Rietvlei offices.

12.2 Pending projects that will be managed during the next quarter include:

- Installation of insulation and a ceiling in the Rietvlei boma;
- Repairs to the all-weather canvas blinds in the Rietvlei boma,
- Construction of fishing platforms; and
- Repairs to the Rietvlei boardwalk system.

12.3 Construction and installation works during this quarter (Figures 46-51):



Figure 46. Construction of a section of the pavement sidewalk.



Figure 47. A completed section of the pavement sidewalk.



Figure 48. Upgrading of the parking area in progress.



Figure 49. Completed upgrade of parking area.



Figure 50. Solar geysers installed at ablution block.



Figure 51. Underground water conservancy tank being installed.

APPENDIX A: Additional articles concerning the Table Bay Nature Reserve in the media

Penguin release streams live

Be a part of the action at the V&A Water- penguin on stage. front's penguin release and meet-a-penguin event on 12 October from 09:30 to 11:30.

This year the The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) will be bringing the experience closer to Cape Town audiences by streaming the release live to the V&A Waterfront amphitheatre where attendees will also get the opportunity to meet a real live ambassador

Come and experience a release of a large group of rehabilitated African penguins back into the wild as they stream it live on the big screen directly from Simon's Town. Learn about SANCCOB's amazing conser-

vation efforts with African penguins and seabirds; and get the opportunity to meet one of SANCCOB's very own ambassador penguins.



Free the PenguinsI Coming to you live at the waterfront.

PHOTO: MARK WESSELS



Bird's eye view: SANCCOB (the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) is in need of volunteer drivers and general cleaners for its busy festive season at its seabird rehabilitation centre in Table View, Cape Town. Individuals who are 18 years and older and are able to volunteer half or full day shifts between November and January can call Louise Myburgh (volunteer co-ordina-tor) on 021 557 6155 or email volunteers@sanccob.co.za. PHOTO: SANCCOB (FRANCOIS LOUW)



The chief executive officer (CEO) of the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB), Margaret Roestorf, was announced the winner of the Eco-Angel Award at this year's Eco-Logic Awards. The awards ceremony was held on Thursday September 26 in Gauteng. It was hosted by The Enviropaedia in partnership with SABC 3. Sanccob, based in Table View, is dedicated to the rehabilitation of seabirds.



Andre Dicks of Rugby spends many lonely hours wandering the Milnerton coastline at low tides, including the middle of the night using a head torch. This past winter saw the beach sand at one of its lowest levels which exposed new areas to explore.



The fossilised sharks' teeth he finds are used in the making of necklaces and similar jewellery. They are very difficult to see among the natural stones and sand, especially at night.

A six-month-old baby grysbok, which was injured by a water mongoose on Intaka Island at Century City, is now back with his mother after being nursed back to health Century City's environmental manager, Alan Liebenberg, said a vet treated the grysbokkie and it was kept in a box with staff administering antibiotics and feeding it through a syringe. After a few days it was fully recovered and it was released back onto the island.





Floral gems: The Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve held their annual Spring Walk recently. The floral display showcases another of the reserve's hidden gems. The guided walk provided an informative morning where eager walkers learnt about the different plant and animal life of the reserve. It was truly unique to see how these species have adapted to survive in the Cape Flats Sand Fynbos. Be on the lookout and join them again next year and experience Milnerton's floral gem.

Playing Russian 'poolette'

A scientist is worried that the way the City gathers data on sewage spills fails to give the public adequate warning about dangerously high spikes in pollution levels.

CLEMENT DEANE

Sewage spills can spoil your day at the beach, just ask Milner-ton lifeguard Dean Burger, 24. After swimming in water polluted by sewage three weeks ago,

Mr Burger suffered a severe skin infection and had to take antibi-otics. He was also given penicillin and steroid jabs and a hepatitis shot. Mr Burger took a dip daily in Milnerton lagoon three weeks ago

to train for a lifeguard exam. He is

His coach emailed him a week after he started training warning that anyone who had been in the lagoon should see a doctor. The lagoon water was polluted

when a sewerage pipe the City of Cape Town was working on col-lapsed on Thursday October 31. ("Sewage spills into Milnerton lagoon," Tabletalk, November 6).

Iagoon, Tabletaik, November 0. In a press statement, issued five days after the spill, the City said it had put up signs and notified recre-ational clubs, but Mr Burger said he had not seen signs and he had not been the only one in the water.

"There are still no signs by the oon, but there is one by the lagoon, but there is one h lighthouse," said Mr Burger.

His skin infection has left his legs scarred. He went to a clinic for treatment, but boils on his thighs have not disappeared and they are leaving scars where they formed. He hopes raising awareness will help others realise the impact of polluted water. He has had to skip raining and may not be able to

training and may not be able to take part in the lifesaving exams in December.

Continued on page 5

Call for transparency on sewage-spill data Have your say



TALK with your message, name area you live in to 3CCN3 (32263) es charged at R1 each

"I wanted to work for the City of Cape Town, not be held back by them," said Mr Burger. While the sewage spill was an iso-lated incident, it highlighted ongo-ing concern about sewage leaks affecting the city's beaches. Water expert and epidemiolo-gist Dr Jo Barnes says the City needs to be more open with the results of its water samples, especially at Blou-bergstrand, Big Bay and Melk-bosstrand.

bergstrand, Big Bay and Melk-bosstrand. Unlike the Milnerton Lagoon spill, Dr Barnes is worried about the sewage leaks happening daily in Cape Town. Sewage leaking from blocked and ageing pipes seeps into the nearest water source, usually a river, and flows into the sea

and flows into the sea. The risks of swimming in pol-luted water included ear infections, eye infections, skin irritations and diarrhoea, said Dr Barnes.

"Unfortunately, we're talking straight-forward sewage," said Dr Barnes, who has a PhD in commu-nity health and an interest in water-borne disease.

borne disease. She said sewage leaks were a haz-ard for people with chronic illness, such as diabetes or HIV. They risked getting sick every time they swam or surfed. There is less risk for healthy beach-goers, but their chances of getting an infection rises the more time they spend in the water. Dr Barnes said she was con-cerned about the way the City had reported the statistics. Instead of

reported the statistics. Instead of breaking down what organisms were in the water, it summarised its findings and smoothed over the



Surfers, kiteboarders and bathers are at risk of diarrhea, ear infections, and eye infections as long as sewage leaks continue to pollute the beach

els of sewage in the water, such as the sewage spill at the lagoon, but it needed a quicker response and ought to make signage as promi-nent as possible. She is also concerned about the City reducing the number of sam-ples it takes over the years because of budget cuts, She said this could lead to it missing a crucial time when sewage leaks increased and left a gap in the early warning system, because the highest amount of pollution took place soon after a spillage. An expanding population and ageing sewerage infrastructure would most likely lead to more leaks, more pollution, and more

would most likely lead to more leaks, more pollution, and more leaks, more pollution, and more infections if not curbed. The City said many of its beaches complied with guidelines and regulations. Those which failed, did so by a small margin. Brett Herron, mayoral commit-tee member for transport, roads and stormwater, said for July 2012 to June this year, Melkbosstrand and Big Bay failed by a small mar-gin, while Bloubergstrand was fully complian.

Since then, Melkbosstrand had cleaned up its act was fully compli-

"Water samples are collected twice a month from each site and then analysed by microbiologists at the Scientific Services Laborato-ries. *E coli* and *Entermoccus* levels are measured using standard labora-tory techniques for these bacterial organisms. organisms.

> work for the City of Cape Town, not be held back by them 9

"The results for a particular date are assessed and follow-up sampling is undertaken should the *E coli* or

Enterococcus results differ signifi-cantly from the previous sampling. "Consecutive sample results can differ significantly as water quality can change within a matter of hours, depending on environmen-tal conditions. It is for this reason that the guidelines recommend evaluation of the longer-term statis-

health risk," Mr Herron said. Escherichia coli (E coli) and Entero-coccus are species of bacteria nor-mally present in the intestinal tract

coccus are species of bacteria nor-maly present in the intestinal tract of humans and other animals. Mr Herron said the water would by the safe for swimming if the guidelines were not met by a large margin, but he did not state how large the margin needed to be. He said it was wrong to call the results an average because of how they were calculated. For the 80th percentile, the *E coli* concentration had to be less than 100 *E coli* for every 100ml of water. For the 95th percentile, the *C it's* guidelines were far more lenient: up 2 000 *E coli* for every 100ml of water. The percentiles refer to the sam-ples taken throughout the year. If the City consistently takes two sam-ples by the end of the year. These would be ranked in ascending order, from least polluted to most polluted, with the 19th sample usu-ally indicating the 80th percentile (19 is 80% of 24), which needed to have an *E oli* concentration of less than 100 for every 100ml.

nificantly higher health risks if beach-goers are unfortunate enough to take a dip on a highly

enough to take a dip on a highly polluted day. The leap from the 80th pecen-tile to 95th percentile for Melk-bosstrand is from $84 \ col/100ml$ to 200 *E col/100ml*, Big Bay shot up from 150 to 700, and Blou-bergstrand went from 62 to 300. The City's guidelines, which favour a long-term statistical analy-sis, do not appear to account for short-term spikes in pollution lev-els, meaning there is little chance of it issuing timely warnings to beach-goers.

it issuing timely warnings to beach-goers. By remeasuring results when they differ dramatically there is a chance that pollution spikes will not be recorded as such if levels set-tle by the time new readings are taken, although well after surfers or swimmers have been affected. Contrav to Dr Barnes's view, Mr Herron said sewage leaks were not the only factor impacting water quality. Illegal dumping of refuse, rubble, animal carcasses, garden and domestic waste contributed to the deterioration of the city's rivers, beaches and wetlands. "Even seemingly insignificant activities like washing out your refuse bin, washing your car in the driveway, hosing your patio or driveway, using pesticides, washing tools and paintbrushes and not picking up your dog waste, actually seriously impacts on the environpicking up your dog waste, actually seriously impacts on the environ-ment since these pollutants are washed into the stormwater system and from there into rivers, wetlands and onto beaches," said Mr Herron

ron. Residents should take more responsibility for the condition of the environment because of increasing pollution levels, he said. However, these types of pollu-tion cannot account for the pres-ence of fecal matter at the City's beaches, as E.coli and enterococcus

Sewage spill 'busy getting fixed'

LOUISA STEYL

he pipe connection which caused a sew-age spill in Milnerton Lagoon has been fixed.

fixed. This is according to the City of Cape Town's mayoral committee member for util-ities, Ernest Sonnenberg, who said that the pipe connection was fixed on Monday and that the department would hopefully be able to seal it by last night. The City of Cape Town warned residents and recreational clubs in a press release last week not to use Minerton Lagoon, following a sewage spill in the area. According to a press release, the bulk sew-er pipe which carries sewage from Miner-

er pipe which carries sewage from Milner-ton, Montague Gardens, Century City and Monte Vista to Koeberg pump station col-

lapsed, causing the spill.

Repairs and the construction of a tempo-rary pump station were started about two months ago by a contractor appointed by the city. This would allow upgrades to be made to the current infrastructure to reduce the risk of spills.

Spillag

While busy with the last section of the new pipeline at the end of October, the stormwa-ter canal flooded after a storm, causing sand to be washed into the pipe and the Koeberg nump station.

According to the city, this means that the Koeberg pump station could not operate at full capacity, causing spillage and flooding during peak periods. Sonnenberg explains that the pipe was damaged under a stormwater canal feeding

into the lagoon. "The pipe that was damaged was around one to two kilometres upstream from the lagoon," he says. The city has assured residents that the

The barmful effects of the spillage on residents and the environment are also a con-

dents and the environment are also a con-cern and the city has stated that they are working to minimise the effects of the spill. One of the measures they are taking is to treat the spillage with enzymes to improve water quality. "The city's Water and Sanitation Depart-ment has been working outside of peak sew-er flows, has maximised the retention of the flows within the reticulation system, has di-verted sewage from the damaged section and verted sewage from the damaged section and placed booms at strategic sections to limit the amount of floating debris," Sonnenberg

savs.

Prohibited Prohibited The city's Water and Sanitation Depart-ment is working with the Roads and Storm-water; Health; and the Environmental Re-source Management Departments alongside Scientific Services laboratories and Cape Nature to minimise and rectify the effects of

while some recreational activities, like swimming, are prohibited in the area, others, like canoeing are temporarily prohibit-ed while the city monitors the water quality

ed while the city monitors the water quarky in the area. "The city will advise once the quality has improved," Sonnenberg says. He says construction is due to be complet-ed this week and other possible damage fixed as it is identified.



6 I wanted to



Johannes Koering from Milnerton attached a light GoPro camera to his remote controlled quadcopter and snapped this picture of Milnerton from 100 metres.

Fishing programme: The City of Cape Town's Table Bay Nature Reserve will host yet another holiday fishing programme from 17 to 19 December. The programme is open to all children between the ages of eight and 12 years. It will run from 09:00 to 14:00 on each of the three days with a focus on the art of fishing, including practical and interactive lessons at the Rietvlei section of the Table Bay Nature Reserve. Space is limited so parents are encouraged to book as early as possible. Bookings can be made from Monday 2 December until 14:00 on Thursday 12 December. To book, or for more information regarding the programme, please contact Elzette Krynauw on 021 444 7221 or via email to elzette.krynauw@capetown.gov.za.

Editorial

Sewage in the sea

No one likes a crappy beach. Sewage leaking into beach water makes for an unpleasant, and smelfy, experience indeed. When Tabletalk contacted epidemiologist Dr Jo Barnes she was concerned the City of Cape Town was playing down the amount of sewage seeping onto beaches. Big Bay has been known to have sewerage blockages and leaks, but it seems the stuff is getting into the sea from almost everywhere.

Severage blockages and leaks, but it seems the stuff is getting into the sea from almost everywhere. What was particularly disturbing was the City's response to the issue, which was essentially quoting policy. They did not provide more details, such as the exact point when a beach is declared unsafe for swimming. Mayoral committee member for transport, roads and stormwater, Brett Herron, said it was only declared unsafe if the concentration of *E coli* meant the beach failed by a large margin. He didn't say what this margin was. This is what Dr Barnes's main concern is. She wants the information to be made available for academics to study so they can clear up a murky issue. Durban's beaches lost their Blue Flag status because of a similar

Durban's beaches lost their Blue Flag status because of a similar issue – too much sewage in the sea. The City may be concerned about a similar issue. Bloubergstrand and Big Bay lost their Blue Flag status and, unless the water quality improves, it could mean far fewer tourists, fewer beach side property sales and a tougher clean-up for the City.

The real issue here is that of aging sewerage infrastructure. While the City says not all the pollution is caused by sewage leaks, the presence of faecal matter is not caused by residents dumping building rubble or not disposing of chemicals properly. *E coli* and *enterococcus* are formed in the gut, which means our sewer pipes are leaking due to blockages and an increasing population. The first step would be to warn beach-goers as soon as possible when leaks are detected or there is a high presence of *E coli* in the water. The sooner they tend to the problem, the sooner they can mitigate further health risks before the sewage hits the fan.

AMPHIBIANS

Species seen within 10 years *Amietia fuscigula*

Amieta hasegula Amietophrynus pantherinus Breviceps gibbosus Kassina senegalensis Strongylopus grayii Tomopterna delalandii Vandijkophrynus angusticeps Xenopus laevis **Species seen 10-15 years ago** Breviceps rosei Cacosternum platys **Species seen longer than 15 years ago** Amietophrynus rangeri Cacosternum boettgeri

FISH

Species seen within 10 years

Anguilla mossambica steinitzi Caffrogobius nudiceps Clarias gariepinus Cyprinus carpio Galaxias zebratus Gambusia affinis Gilchristella aestuarius Lithognathus lithognathus Liza richardsonii Mugil cephalus Oreochromis mossambicus Sandelia capensis Tilapia sparrmanii **Species seen 10-15 years ago** Rhabdosargus globiceps

MAMMALS

Species seen within 10 years Aonvx capensis

Arctocephalus pusillus Atilax paludinosus Bathyergus suillus Canis lupus familiaris Cryptochloris asiatica Cynictis penicillata Equus burchellii Felis caracal Felis silvestris catus Galerella pulverulenta Genetta tiarina Georychus capensis Herpestes ichneumon Hystrix africaeaustralis Lepus capensis Mellivora capensis Mus minutoides Mus musculus Myosorex varius Neoromicia capensis Oryctolagus cuniculus Otomys irroratus Raphicerus campestris Raphicerus melanotis Rattus norvegicus Rattus rattus Rhabdomys pumilio Sylvicapra grimmia Tatera afra Species seen longer than 15 years ago Cryptomys hottentotus

REPTILES

Species seen within 10 years Acontias meleagris meleagris Afrogecko porphyreus Bradypodion pumilum Chersina angulata Dasypeltis scabra Duberria lutrix Lamprophis aurora Lamprophis capensis Lycodonomorphus inornatus Lycodonomorphus rufulus Meroles knoxii Naja nivea Pelomedusa subrufa Psammophylax rhombeatus Pseudaspis cana Scelotes bipes Stigmochelys pardalis Tetradactylus seps Trachylepis capensis Trachylepis homalocephala Typhlosaurus caecus Species seen 10-15 years ago Bradypodion occidentale Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia Dispholidus typus Gerrhosaurus flavigularis Homopus areolatus Homoroselaps lacteus Leptotyphlops nigricans Psammophis crucifer Psammophis leightoni Psammophis notostictus Rhinotyphlops lalandei Species seen longer than 15 years ago Pachydactylus geitje

BIRDS

Species seen within 10 years

Accipiter melanoleucus Accipiter tachiro Acrocephalus baeticatus Acrocephalus gracilirostris Actitis hypoleucos Actophilornis africanus Alcedo cristata Alopochen aegyptiaca Amaurornis flavirostra Anas capensis Anas erythrorhyncha Anas hottentota Anas platyrhynchos Anas smithii Anas sparsa Anas undulata Anhinga rufa Anthus cinnamomeus Apalis thoracica Apus affinis Apus apus Apus barbatus Apus caffer Ardea cinerea Ardea goliath Ardea melanocephala Ardea purpurea Asio capensis Batis capensis

Bostrychia hagedash Bradypterus baboecala Bubo africanus Bubulcus ibis Burhinus capensis Burhinus vermiculatus Buteo vulpinus Calandrella cinerea Calidris alba Calidris canutus Calidris ferruginea Calidris minuta Cecropis cucullata Centropus burchellii Ceryle rudis Charadrius hiaticula Charadrius marginatus Charadrius pallidus Charadrius pecuarius Charadrius tricollaris Chlidonias leucopterus Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus Chroicocephalus hartlaubii Chrysococcyx caprius Chrysococcyx klaas Ciconia ciconia Cinnyris chalybeus Circus maurus Circus ranivorus Cisticola juncidis Cisticola subruficapilla Cisticola textrix Cisticola tinniens Colius colius Colius striatus Columba guinea Columba livia Corvus albicollis Corvus albus Corvus capensis Corvus splendens Cossypha caffra Crithagra albogularis Crithagra flaviventris Crithagra sulphurata Dendrocygna bicolor Dendrocygna viduata Dicrurus adsimilis Egretta alba Earetta aarzetta Egretta intermedia Elanus caeruleus Emberiza capensis Erythropygia coryphoeus Estrilda astrild Euplectes capensis Euplectes orix Falco biarmicus Falco peregrinus Falco rupicolus Fulica cristata Gallinago nigripennis Gallinula chloropus Haematopus moquini Halcyon albiventris Haliaeetus vocifer Himantopus himantopus Hirundo albigularis Hirundo dimidiata Hirundo fuligula Hirundo rustica

Hirundo semirufa Hvdroprogne caspia Ixobrychus minutus Laniarius ferrugineus Lanius collaris Larus dominicanus Limosa lapponica Macronyx capensis Megaceryle maximus Merops apiaster Milvus migrans Milvus parasitus Morus capensis Motacilla capensis Nectarinia famosa Netta erythrophthalma Numenius arguata Numida meleagris Nycticorax nycticorax . Oena capensis Onychognathus morio Oxyura maccoa Passer domesticus Passer melanurus Pelecanus onocrotalus Phalacrocorax africanus Phalacrocorax capensis Phalacrocorax coronatus Phalacrocorax lucidus Phalaropus tricolor Philomachus pugnax Phoeniconaias minor Phoenicopterus roseus Platalea alba Plectropterus gambensis Plegadis falcinellus Ploceus capensis Ploceus velatus Pluvialis squatarola Podiceps cristatus Podiceps nigricollis Porphyrio madagascariensis Porphyrio martinicus Prinia maculosa Pternistis capensis Pycnonotus capensis Recurvirostra avosetta Riparia cincta Riparia paludicola Rostratula benghalensis Rynchops niger Scleroptila africana Scopus umbretta Serinus canicollis Sigelus silens Sterna balaenarum Sterna hirundo Sterna vittata Streptopelia capicola Streptopelia semitorquata Streptopelia senegalensis Sturnus vulgaris Sylvietta rufescens Tachybaptus ruficollis Tachymarptis melba Tadorna cana Telophorus zeylonus Thalasseus bergii Thalasseus sandvicensis Thalassornis leuconotus Threskiornis aethiopicus Tricholaema leucomelas Tringa glareola Tringa nebularia Tringa stagnatilis

Turdus olivaceus Tvto alba Upupa africana Urocolius indicus Vanellus armatus Vanellus coronatus Vidua macroura Xenus cinereus Zosterops capensis Zosterops pallidus Species seen 10-15 years ago Anthropoides paradiseus Buteo rufofuscus Caprimulgus pectoralis Delichon urbicum Indicator indicator Numenius phaeopus Saxicola torquatus Sphenoeacus afer Tringa totanus Species seen longer than 15 years ago Arenaria interpres Calidris melanotos Cercomela familiaris Chlidonias hybrida Ciconia nigra Coturnix coturnix Hirundo spilodera Lamprotornis bicolor Mycteria ibis Oenanthe pileata Passer diffusus Phylloscopus trochilus Porzana pusilla Rallus caerulescens Sarkidiornis melanotos Sylvia subcaerulea

PLANTS

Species seen within 10 years Acacia cyclops Acacia saligna Aizoon sarmentosum Albuca juncifolia~ Albuca spiralis Amaryllis belladonna Amellus asteroides~ Androcymbium capense Androcymbium eucomoides Anthospermum aethiopicum Anthospermum prostratum Anthospermum spathulatum ecklonianum Anthospermum spathulatum~ Aponogeton distachyos Arctotheca calendula Arctotheca populifolia Arctotis hirsuta Aristea africana Arundo donax Aspalathus cymbiformis Aspalathus ericifolia~ Aspalathus hispida~ Aspalathus ternata Asparagus asparagoides Asparagus capensis Asparagus rubicundus Athanasia dentata Atriplex cinerea~ Atriplex semibaccata~ Avena fatua Azolla filiculoides Babiana tubiflora Babiana tubulosa

Berkheya rigida Bolboschoenus maritimus Briza maxima Brunsvigia orientalis Bulbine lagopus Calopsis viminea Carpanthea pomeridiana Carpobrotus acinaciformis Carpobrotus edulis Ceratophyllum demersum~ Chlorophytum undulatum Chrysanthemoides incana Chrysanthemoides monilifera Cliffortia ericifolia Cliffortia falcata Cliffortia hirta Commelina benghalensis Conicosia pugioniformis~ Cortaderia selloana Cotula coronopifolia Cotula filifolia Cotula turbinata Cotyledon orbiculata~ Crassula decumbens Crassula fallax Crassula flava Crassula glomerata Cyanella hyacinthoides Cynanchum africanum Cynodon dactylon Cysticapnos vesicaria Dasispermum suffruticosum Diascia capensis Dimorphotheca pluvialis Disa bracteata Dischisma capitatum Dischisma ciliatum ciliatum Disphyma crassifolium Drimia filifolia Drosanthemum candens Echium plantagineum Ehrharta calycina Ehrharta villosa~ Eichhornia crassipes Elegia tectorum Erica subdivaricata Eriocephalus africanus~ Euphorbia burmannii Euphorbia mauritanica~ Euphorbia peplus Falkia repens Felicia tenella~ Ferraria crispa Ferraria crispa~ Ficus natalensis~ Geissorhiza aspera Geissorhiza tenella Geranium incanum~ Gladiolus carinatus Gladiolus cunonius Gladiolus griseus Gnidia spicata Haemanthus pubescens Haemanthus pubescens pubescens Haemanthus sanguineus Harveya squamosa Hebenstretia dentata Helichrysum patulum Helichrysum revolutum Heliophila africana Hermannia alnifolia Hermannia linifolia Hermannia multiflora Hermannia pinnata Hermannia procumbens

Hermannia procumbens procumbens Hermannia procumbens~ Holothrix villosa Indigofera complicata Ixia paniculata Lachenalia contaminata Lachenalia pallida Lachenalia reflexa Lachnaea grandiflora Lampranthus amoenus Lampranthus calcaratus Lampranthus explanatus Lampranthus glaucus Lampranthus reptans Lampranthus sociorum Lavatera arborea Lemna gibba Lemna minor Leucadendron levisanus Leysera gnaphalodes Limonium equisetinum Limonium scabrum~ Limosella africana~ Lolium multiflorum Ludwigia adscendens diffusa Lycium afrum Lycium ferocissimum Lyperia lychnidea Lyperia tristis Lythrum salicaria Malva parviflora~ Manulea rubra Melianthus major Mesembryanthemum crystallinum Metalasia densa Metalasia muricata Micranthus junceus Monopsis lutea Monopsis simplex Moraea albiflora Moraea flaccida Moraea fugax Moraea gawleri Morella cordifolia Morella quercifolia Muraltia dumosa Muraltia satureioides Myoporum tenuifolium Myriophyllum aquaticum Nemesia affinis Nidorella foetida Nylandtia spinosa Olea europaea africana Ornithogalum flaccida Ornithogalum thyrsoides Orphium frutescens Otholobium fruticans Otholobium virgatum Othonna filicaulis Oxalis hirta~ Oxalis luteola Oxalis obtusa Oxalis pes-caprae~ Oxalis purpurea Oxalis pusilla Paspalum vaginatum Passerina corymbosa Pelargonium capitatum Pelargonium hirtum Pelargonium myrrhifolium~ Pelargonium senecioides Pelargonium triste Pennisetum clandestinum Persicaria lapathifolia Petalacte coronata

Pharnaceum lineare Phoenix canariensis Phragmites australis Phylica cephalantha Phylica ericoides~ Phylica parviflora Phyllobolus canaliculatus Phyllopodium cephalophorum Plantago crassifolia Plantago crassifolia~ Plecostachys serpyllifolia Pseudalthenia aschersoniana Pterygodium catholicum Putterlickia pyracantha Rhynchosia ferulifolia Romulea hirsuta~ Romulea schlechteri Romulea tabularis Rumex crispus Rumex lativalvis Ruschia caroli Ruschia macowanii Salvia africana-lutea Sarcocornia natalensis~ Sarcocornia perennis~ Satyrium coriifolium Satyrium odorum Schinus terebinthifolius Searsia crenata Searsia laevigata Searsia lancea Searsia lucida~ Searsia tomentosa Sebaea albens Sebaea aurea Senecio arenarius Senecio burchellii Senecio elegans Senecio halimifolius Senecio hastatus Senecio littoreus~ Senecio pubigerus Senecio rosmarinifolius Sideroxylon inerme~ Sparaxis bulbifera Spergularia media Spiloxene capensis Spiloxene curculigoides Stenotaphrum secundatum Stoibrax capense Struthiola striata Sutherlandia frutescens Tetragonia decumbens Tetragonia fruticosa Thamnochortus erectus Thamnochortus spicigerus Thesium spicatum Torilis arvensis Trachyandra divaricata Trachyandra revoluta Tribolium hispidum Triglochin bulbosa Typha capensis Vicia benghalensis Vicia sativa~ Wachendorfia paniculata Wahlenbergia androsacea Wahlenbergia capensis Watsonia meriana~ Zantedeschia aethiopica Zyqophyllum sessilifolium Species seen 10-15 years ago Acrolophia bolusii Albuca fragrans Alternanthera sessilis

Amellus tenuifolius Ammophila arenaria Arctotis stoechadifolia Aspalathus acanthophylla Avena sativa Calopsis rigorata Carissa macrocarpa Chasmanthe aethiopica Cissampelos capensis Cladoraphis cyperoides Cynosurus echinatus Cyperus textilis Didelta carnosa~ Ehrharta longiflora Elegia verreauxii Erodium moschatum Eucalyptus gomphocephala Eucalyptus lehmannii Euclea racemosa Ficinia indica Ficinia nodosa Geranium molle Grielum grandiflorum Helichrysum niveum Ipomoea purpurea İschyrolepis eleocharis Juncus kraussii Juncus kraussii~ Kedrostis nana~ Lactuca serriola Lampranthus stenus Lavatera cretica Lobelia erinus Lolium perenne Lolium rigidum Medicago polymorpha Moraea miniata Nemesia ligulata Olea capensis~ Othonna coronopifolia Paspalum distichum Passerina ericoides Pelargonium gibbosum Pistia stratiotes Plantago coronopus Plantago lanceolata Psoralea repens Rapistrum rugosum Ruschia geminiflora Ruschia tumidula Salicornia meyeriana Sarcocornia capensis Sarcocornia pillansii~ Satyrium bicorne Schoenoplectus scirpoides Searsia glauca Senecio pterophorus Sonchus oleraceus Sporobolus virginicus Tetragonia spicata Thinopyrum distichum Trachyandra brachypoda Trachvandra filiformis Willdenowia incurvata Xanthium strumarium Zaluzianskya villosa Żygophyllum morgsana Species seen longer than 15 years ago Acrosanthes humifusa Agave sisalana Albuca maxima Ammocharis longifolia Aponogeton angustifolius Asparagus lignosus

Athanasia crithmifolia~ Athanasia trifurcata Babiana ambigua Bromus diandrus Capnophyllum africanum Cassytha ciliolata Chenopodium murale~ Cineraria geifolia Cliffortia stricta Corycium crispum Corycium orobanchoides Cotula eckloniana Cotula vulgaris Crassula cymosa Crassula dichotoma Crassula vaillantii Cuscuta nitida Datura ferox Dicerothamnus rhinocerotis Dimorphotheca sinuata Diosma aspalathoides Dipogon lignosus Drosanthemum floribundum Eriocephalus racemosus~ Eucalyptus grandis Euclea undulata Euphorbia caput-medusae Euphorbia helioscopia Eustegia filiformis Exomis microphylla~ Ferraria divaricata Ficinia nigrescens Frankenia pulverulenta Fumaria muralis~ Galenia africana Galium tomentosum Gladiolus undulatus Gomphocarpus physocarpus Gymnosporia heterophylla Haemanthus coccineus Hebenstretia cordata Hebenstretia repens Helichrysum cymosum~ Helichrysum helianthemifolium Hellmuthia membranacea Hemimeris racemosa Hemimeris sabulosa Hypochaeris radicata Lampranthus aureus Lampranthus multiradiatus Lapeirousia anceps Lessertia rigida

Lichtensteinia obscura Lvcium horridum . Manulea tomentosa Melasphaerula ramosa Microloma sagittatum Moraea setifolia Myoporum tetrandrum Nemesia versicolor~ Oncosiphon suffruticosum Ornithogalum hispidum~ Ornithoglossum viride Osteospermum junceum Otholobium hirtum Oxalis compressa~ Paraserianthes lophantha~ Passerina rigida Pelargonium cucullatum~ Pennisetum macrourum Pennisetum setaceum Persicaria decipiens Polygala myrtifolia~ Pterocelastrus tricuspidatus Ranunculus rionii Raphanus raphanistrum Romulea flava~ Romulea obscura~ Rumex sagittatus Ruppia maritima Ruschia serrulata Salvia lanceolata Schinus molle Senna didymobotrya Seriphium plumosum Sesbania punicea Silene pilosellifolia Solanum americanum Solanum quineense Solanum linnaeanum Sonderina hispida Sonderina tenuis Spartium junceum Spiloxene aquatica Steirodiscus tagetes Stoebe capitata Stuckenia pectinata Trachyandra ciliata Trachyandra muricata Trichogyne repens Tylecodon grandiflorus Viscum capense Zygophyllum flexuosum