



ZEEKOEVLEI PENINSULA SRA “ZVPSRA” NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022



Another glorious sunset on the vlei. Image Tom Schwerdtfeger

From the Chair (Graeme Cann)

Hello Vleibours,

It is with sadness that I must report a couple of incidents that have recently occurred (in our very own back yard) that have disturbed our blissful existence and are a sharp reminder that we are all vulnerable at any time. We must be as vigilant and as careful as ever. Both crimes, in my opinion, were perpetrated opportunistically and in that split second when one least expects it.

The first was in Heron Close when a Takealot delivery was stolen in broad daylight and with no witnesses. The parcel was placed on a table in the yard and was never seen again. Attempts to find the parcel or the thief were fruitless as was expected. I strongly advise that all such deliveries be collected from the various hubs in our area should no one be at home to sign and receive such.

The second, more serious crime, took place when a young man stopped at the UCT Rowing Club and, while battling to open the broken gate, was relieved of his vehicle and the attached boat trailer by a visitor that happened to be parked at the end of Peninsula Road. SAPS were immediately notified by a helpful vleibour and the hapless man was soon reunited with both vehicle and trailer, physically none the worse for wear, but clearly rattled as the spotlight and interior lights of the clubhouse were left on and remain such at the writing of this report... Footage has been recovered from the security hut and passed on to the relevant parties for further investigation.

Drawdown of the Vlei is scheduled for 10h00 on 2 May 2022 this year (postponed due to an event at the yacht club on 30 April) and the closing thereof should be around the end of July. In Tom's clever wording "hopefully we have a lot of rainfall and the Vlei gets a good flush"! While on the subject of flushing and cleaning, your Committee will be calling for volunteers in the next couple of weeks, via the various groups and media channels, to assist in cleaning up and doing general maintenance in and around our neighbourhood to enhance our surroundings as well as assisting our flora and fauna in theirs. The call to duty will be for a Saturday morning around 10am and I implore you to bring young and old, firm and not so much, to join us in what we hope will be a fun morning with lots getting done.

Please send us (zvpsra@gmail.com) your pictures and anything of interest so that we can share, in future communiques, with all and sundry.

Ramadan Kareem to all our Muslim neighbours and your families.

Remember to smile and wave!

Graeme Cann
Cell 082-338-2839.
E-mail at graeme@betsport.co.za



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



City Nature Challenge: Cape Town

29 April – 2 May 2022

Cape Town is participating in the 2022 City Nature Challenge. Volunteers from over 390 cities worldwide will be recording their animals and plants over 4 days at the end of April. You are invited to participate and show people worldwide that Cape Town is one of the most biodiverse cities in the world!



How does it work?

The City Nature Challenge runs from **29 April—2 May 2022**. During those days and nights use the iNaturalist app to record as many wild plants and animals that you can find in your nature reserves, suburbs, schools and gardens. There are no limits. You can submit hundreds of observations!

What do you need?

- A smartphone with camera and GPS turned on, **or** a camera that connects to a computer with internet access
- A Wi-Fi connection (at home, school, City Nature Reserve, or City Library)
- To install the free iNaturalist app, and sign up!

For information about the City Nature Challenge, visit

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2022-city-of-cape-town>

Take the
**City
Nature
Challenge
2022**
29 April–2 May



Making progress possible. Together.

The City Nature Challenge is about finding all the wildlife in a city. All that is required of residents when making an observation is to take a photo and upload it onto the iNaturalist app. Experts will then help to identify the fauna or flora.

Cape Town is competing with various international cities to record the most observations of local plant and animal species.

'Capetonians contributed over 71 000 observations during the 2021 challenge, achieving the most observations internationally. Cape Town participants were able to record an impressive 4 779 species last year. The Mother City has been the winner of at least two categories for the past few years, a title we are extremely keen to defend,' said Alderman Eddie Andrews, the City's Deputy Mayor and Mayoral Committee Member for Spatial Planning and Environment.

Participants who make the most observations or capture the most species will win various prizes, which include accommodation from CapeNature and SANParks. Spot prizes will also be available for anyone who participates.

Residents in Cape Town are spoilt for choice with an array of nature reserves and conservation areas right on their doorstep. Guided tours at coastal and inland protected areas across the city have been arranged. Here participants will have the opportunity to capture an array of species ranging from reptiles to birds and Fynbos to marine life.

Residents are to note the following information about conservation areas around Cape Town:

City of Cape Town reserves will be open to the public free of charge on the four days. For a list of all of the City's reserves and details about their location, facilities and attractions, please visit: <https://www.capetown.gov.za/Explore%20and%20enjoy/See-all-City-facilities/Our-recreational-facilities/Nature%20reserves>

Cape Point will be open free of charge to registered participants of City Nature Challenge events only.

Below is a list of planned walks that will take place during the challenge at various conservation areas across Cape Town:

- Tokai Park Night Walk: 29 April
- Kenilworth Racecourse Conservation Area Bioblitz: 29 and 30 April
- Penhill Conservation Area: 29 April
- Majik Forest conservation Area: 30 April
- Jack Muller Park: 30 April
- Die Oog Conservation Area: 1 May
- Meadowridge Conservation Area: 1 May
- Hout Bay River – Lower: 2 May
- Merpeople bioblitz: 30 April to 2 May
- The Beach Co-op New Moon Cleanup and Bioblitz: 30 April
- Smitswinkel Bay marine life: 1 May
- Smitswinkel Bay marine life: 2 May


- Table Mountain National Park guided walks: 29 April and 30 April
- Vesuvius Way Conservation Area: 29 April
- Macassar East Conservation Area: 29 April
- Wolfgat Nature Reserve: 29 April
- Tygerberg Nature Reserve City Nature Challenge Night Walk: 29 April
- Bothasig Bioblitz: 30 April
- Van Schoorsdrif Night Walk: 1 May
- Arriesfontein Night walk: 2 May
- Table Bay Nature Reserve Public bioblitz: 30 April
- Blaauwberg Nature Reserve Public bioblitz: 30 April
- Bracken Nature Reserve Bioblitz: 30 April
- Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve: 30 April

Residents can access a complete list of walks open to the public at [Planned Events for 2022 · iNaturalist](#) and are advised to confirm event details closer to the time.

Schools, universities and social groups are encouraged to use this as an opportunity to facilitate, manage and support student outdoor learning and exploration in schoolyards, nearby parks or other green spaces.

For more information, please contact Eleanor Hutchings at Eleanor.Hutchings@capetown.gov.za; Tony Rebelo at t.rebelo@sanbi.org.za or visit <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2022-city-of-cape-town>

Join our Muslim neighbours in celebrating the end of Ramadan



ZEEKOEVLEI

MASS EID

Salaah


Join us for the EID-UL-FITR
COMMUNITY EID GHAAH

prayers to celebrate the end of the
Holy Month of Ramadan 2022 | 1443.

Day of Eid - as determined by the Sighting of the Moon

VENUE

Zeekoevlei Tennis Courts
PENINSULA ROAD
ZEEKOEVLEI



7:00 Takbeer

7:45 Eid Talk -

7:55 Eid Salaah

8:00 Eid Khutbah

MI. Abdul Khaliq Allie (Pres.
United Ulama Council of SA
& 1st Deputy Pres. of MJC)

WOMEN ARE WELCOME. ALL COVID -19 **SUPPORTED BY**

Protocols to be strictly observed


Bring your own Musallah

FOR MORE INFO:

Mickael Collier 0822144269

Rameez Adams 0656925244

Ridah Hendricks 0834152344



Trash Bash Cleanup



Join the Two Oceans Aquarium, FoZR and the False Bay Nature Reserve for a cleanup of the eastern shore, Zeekoevlei on World Biodiversity Day.

When: Sunday 22 May 2022 from 09h00 to 11h00

Where: Eastern Shore, Zeekoevlei (access through the eastern shore gate)

What to bring: Weather-appropriate clothing, water (in a reusable bottle), reusable gloves (like the ones you'd use for gardening or doing dishes), and your enthusiasm.

Competition: Guess the trash weight and win

Simply guess the weight of the litter we will collect during the cleanup and you could win a small prize! Submit your guess when you register upon arrival. The closest 3 guesses will each take home a beautiful Consol water bottle, a Two Oceans Aquarium reusable shopping bag and two Aquarium entry tickets, once we've tallied the final weight.

Friends of Zeekoevlei and Rondevlei (FoZR) news

Officials, politicians, citizens work for the future of water - Mea Lashbrooke

Local civic initiatives tackling water problems in Cape Town are finding cooperation with City officials and politicians. During the recent Water Week (March 2022), WESSA Western Cape (Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa) held an open meeting on Saturday 26 March at the shores of Zandvlei, Muizenberg, to look at water quality solutions for Cape Town, fast becoming a water-sensitive city.



Active members of FoZR Sidney Jacobs, Tom Schwerdtfeger and Emma Oliver, attended the meeting on 26 March at Zandvlei. Image: Trevor Davies.

According to Chairman of WESSA Western Cape, Patrick Dowling, the aims of the gathering were to fill knowledge gaps, with a view to multi-stakeholder and silo-flexible understanding of problems, solutions, and actions, including advocacy, education, practical and technical intervention.

"We need to unravel how we have arrived at a perilous water situation of 'disastrous proportions'" said Dr Jo Barnes from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University. "The state of our rivers is a national disaster and needs urgent attention".

"Half the national treatment plants are in critical condition and in some areas there are no treatment plants, such as from Woodstock to Hout Bay where raw sewage (containing disease-causing organisms and a cocktail of synthetic chemicals) is spewed daily into the ocean". Western Cape rivers flow with household waste and disease, which in turn flow into the ocean. Plastic does not break down - it breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces which are ingested by aquatic life. "We need citizen action to put pressure on authorities" said Dr Barnes.

There were reassurances that the City has understood the urgency and has begun to implement action. PR Councillor of Sub council 3, and Chair of Water Quality in Wetlands and Waterways, Alex Lansdowne, assured delegates that his committee

has initiatives addressing many of the water waste problems, but that the “big ship will take several years to turn around”. Also present was city official Abdullah Parker, Manager CoCT Stormwater and Sustainability, who reported on a number of positive interventions and said the line of communication for complaints or disruptions is always open. Go to <https://www.capetown.gov.za/> and click on Report a Fault.

Caroline Marx, a scientist working with the many issues at the Milnerton Lagoon, attested to the input in recent weeks from the City, as could Katja Haslinger, Chair of PAAC (Protected Areas Advisory Committee) of Table Bay Nature Reserve where the problems have been severe.

“Even those water processing plants that are operating are no longer sufficiently reducing the overload of synthetic endocrine disrupting chemicals and compounds”, warned Professor Leslie Petrik, Department of Chemistry in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of the Western Cape and a leading expert in environmental remediation, water treatment, beneficiation of industrial wastes. “Not only do our officials not use the latest science of advanced oxidation to break down these chemicals so they cannot reassemble, but Government uses a limited guideline for testing”. Concentration increases up the line, from background water, to small marine organisms, to small fish and to the large fish which we eat. The longer we leave the problem the more lethal it is” said Dr Petrik.

Janssen Davies, Board Member of WESSA, said, “This meeting is perfectly timed given recent water pollution suffered by Cape Town residents in various suburbs. It's pleasing to see representatives from Ratepayers Associations and Protected Areas across Cape Town's spectrum. It's a constructive beginning for coordination of the efforts of civil society and CoCT, as well as accountability”.

Keep an eye on <http://www.zeekoevlei.co.za/> for more FoZR news and updates.



FoZR membership

Friends of Zeekoevlei and Rondevlei
NEDBANK Account Number: 204 6663 500
Branch Code: 198765
Savings account

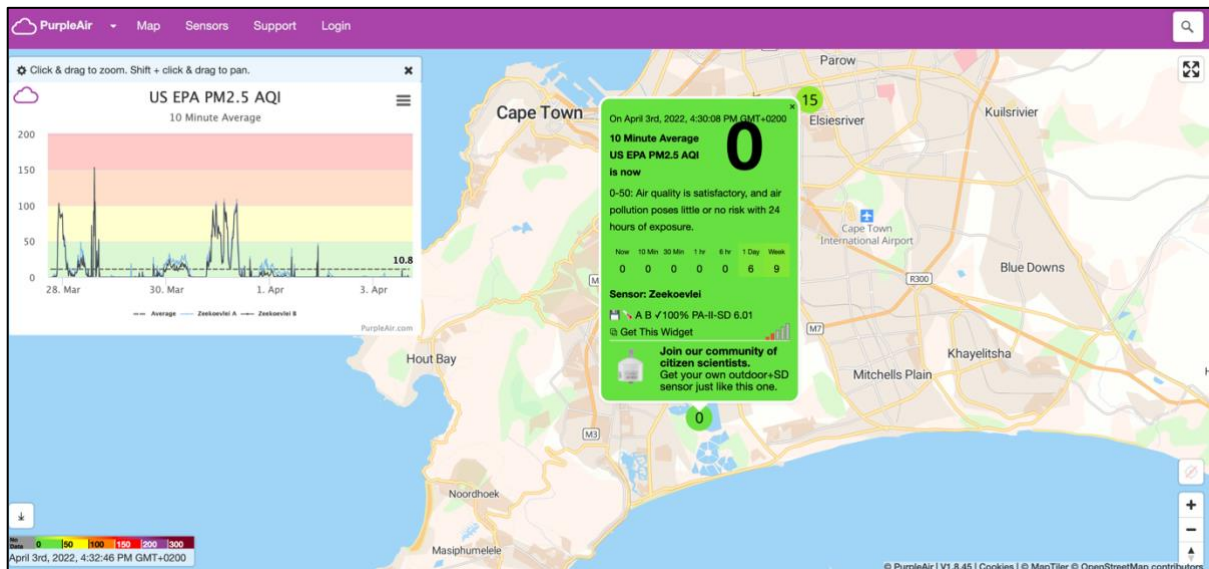
Please use your full name, surname and address as reference. Membership fees are R75 per family and R50 for individual membership.

Contact us on fozrmarketing@gmail.com for business membership.

Zeekoevlei air quality

Thanks to resident Professor Lesley Green we can now check on the air quality in our neighbourhood. Lesley ordered an air pollution sensor which is linked to this website – www.purpleair.com

Given the issues we have been having with fires burning in and around the Coastal Park landfill site and the toxic fumes being given off it will be extremely interesting to monitor the air quality over time.



Western leopard toad report 2021



Many thanks to Louise Baldwin and Jamy from Nature Connect who assisted with the 2021 toad migration. And thank you to all residents who came out at night to help the toads across the roads.

Louise Baldwin put together the following summary of the results of observations in the Zeekoewlei area during the western leopard toad migration of 2021. This includes information about the toads using the toad tunnels.

- A total of 187 toads were observed and photographed in the Zeekoewlei area (Dagny indicated this was low compared to previous years).
- 125 of these were male, 56 female, 6 unknown
- There was a peak in movement on 11 August and then again on 11 September (Dagny indicated that the move continued much later into September than any previous years).
- A total of 19 roadkills were recorded, 12 of these were found on Peninsula Road, but none in the vicinity of the underpasses or barriers.
- We initially installed a shade cloth netting style barrier (courtesy of Alison/Toadnuts), but we soon found that toads were getting stuck or were able to climb up and over the netting. As such, we removed the netting and installed a tough plastic sheeting barrier which the toads were not able to climb up.

The integrity of the barriers needed to be checked each night as windy weather tended to expose the bottom sections, potentially allowing animals to make their way underneath.

- 88 toads were recorded on Peninsula Road with 35 of these observed near the underpasses/barriers. Of these, 14 were observed utilising the underpasses and making their way safely to the other side. Unfortunately due to the curfew we were not able to observe where the remaining toads ended up.
- Our attempt at passive monitoring using camera traps (Courtesy of Cape Leopard Trust) was not successful as we found that a white flash disturbed the toads and the motion sensors did not appear sensitive enough to detect any toad movement.

Cape Flats Erica returns to Cape Town

The Cape Flats Erica, *Erica verticillata*, a plant that used to be found only in Cape Town, thought to have been extinct for two centuries after it was last seen near Zeekoevlei and believed to be lost to the world, was discovered in a Pretoria Park and returned to Cape Town. The plant was also found in Kirstenbosch Gardens as well as in Vienna in Austria.



Erica verticillata once grew as a narrow-range endemic, restricted to the southern edges of the Cape Flats Sand Fynbos in Cape Town. However, the remaining percentage of its host vegetation type was below the required levels of conservation, placing the species in a perilous state. It subsequently succumbed to the combined pressures of urban development, small-scale farming, draining of

wetlands, alien vegetation invasion, and extensive picking by flower sellers owing to its summer-flowering pattern when little else flowers on the Cape Flats.

By 1950, this plant was extinct.

However, this changed in the late 1980s and the 1990s, when five plants were discovered in cultivation across the globe, the most remarkable being the material in the Belvedere Palace Garden in Austria, grown from cuttings taken from the Cape in 1792/93 and between 1997 and 2003. The cuttings from the five collections were reintroduced to Rondevlei, where they thrived and produced a viable seed.

Since then, two other populations have been established in natural Cape Flats Sand Fynbos habitat at the Kenilworth Race Course and the Tokai section of the Table Mountain National Park.

March 2013 was significant in the history of restoring *Erica verticillata* when the first ecological burn was put through the population at Rondevlei since the plant was reintroduced in 1997. This was a first step in re-establishing a wild population and downgrading the species to Critically Endangered. Three generations of plant are needed to achieve this.



Dalton Gibbs in the Erica field with Erica verticillata

Thus, it was with eager anticipation that officials from the Biodiversity Management Branch set fire to approximately 150 of these plants. It was expected that the fire would race through the two-hectare population, since the vegetation was tinder-dry and a good 15 km/h northerly wind was fanning the flames. The officials stood ready with cameras as the flames engulfed the first plant. There was a burst of flames as the leaves torched up the tall bush and then, most unexpectedly, the fire

passed on, leaving behind a dead plant skeleton. The officials thought that the first plant was an anomaly and keenly watched the next bush. The same thing happened - after a brief burst of burning leaves, the fire died down.

What was more fascinating was that even the old dry twigs were not burning. This is not synonymous with fynbos fire behaviour in the dry fire season.

Although this behaviour was not anticipated, it is possible that the plant had evolved to dampen fires in order to protect its ripe seed capsules, thereby optimising post-fire seed dispersal. This plant is revealed as a master of its fire-prone landscape where it has managed to live in the midst of highly combustible neighbours who like their fires hot and furious, while taming these same flames to provide a cool fire environment for its fine seeds.

Now we wait in anticipation for the next two fire cycles so that we can say with confidence that the exquisite *Erica verticillata* is no longer extinct. Until then *Erica verticillata* will remain considered 'Extinct in the Wild' until it has regenerated naturally and proved to be self-sustaining.

Highlights from False Bay Nature Reserve quarterly report (January to March 2022)

Water hyacinth clearing

Efforts continue to remove and control the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) at Rondevlei. Approximately 250 tons of hyacinth was removed during the past quarter and 40% of the hyacinth left within the vlei died due to lack of water during the draw down. Patches of hyacinth that has not died is being removed manually. This will be an ongoing project for the next few of years.



Staff removing hyacinth in Rondevlei. Image Shihabuddeen Khan

Much of the focus for the Zeekoevlei team has been on water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) during the past quarter. In January a large quantity of water hyacinth was found along the eastern shore of Zeekoevlei. Upon further investigation more clumps of hyacinth was found along the southern shore, Big Lotus, Little Lotus and at the island on the western side of Zeekoevlei.

The entire Zeekoevlei team has been involved in clearing the water hyacinth from Zeekoevlei. Assistance was also received from our new project team. A special mention for Jonathan Fisher and Khulekani Sithebe, who have been instrumental with the removal and control of the water hyacinth and their constant enthusiasm has meant the vlei is now clear of water hyacinth. Daily follow-ups for water hyacinth are still being done, but focus has now been turned to clearing the solid waste out of the vlei.

Ecological burn on Erica field, Rondevlei

In order to prepare for the ecological burn taking place at the Erica field, the FBNR EPWP team together with other staff members created a 1.5m fire break around the burn block in the Erica field. This was completed through the use of various tools and equipment. Alien invasive species within the burn block such as Brazilian pepper tree were cut through with the use of a chainsaw. The newly cut branches were then placed directly on the stumps to create small brush piles in order to increase the fuel load. The main objective of the increased fuel load was to create a hot fire which is needed to kill the roots of the Brazilian pepper trees. A few days before the ecological burn, Amber Ing together with Crystal Moses and Zubayr collected the seed of various indigenous plant species from the Erica Field. The seeds were collected and placed into paper bags which were correctly labelled with the scientific name and date that the seeds were collected. The seeds were dried out and stored securely in the lecture hall at FBNR: Rondevlei section. Once ignition was called off, Dalton Gibbs together with Amber Ing successfully scattered all the seeds in the burn block. A few days after the burn, Amber Ing continued with seed collection and the scattering of seed. Seed together with soil scrapings were retrieved from the Erica field. Below shows some of the plant species from which seed was collected.

- *Erica verticillata*
- *Erica subdivaricata*
- *Erica margaritacea*
- *Erica turgida*
- *Seriphium plumosum*
- *Thamnochortus punctatus*
- *Psoralea pinnata*
- *Passerina corymbosa*
- *Helichrysum patulum*
- *Serruria aemula*
- *Leucodendron levisanus*
- *Cliffortia obcordata*

After the fire, Amber Ing together with other members of staff removed unwanted material such as litter together with unburnt brush and *Carpobrotus edulis* (sour fig) from the burn block. The sour fig and brush were placed into piles along the fence line and will be removed soon from the Erica field when resources are available.



The seed that was collected from the Erica field. The seed together with the soil scrapings were dried out overnight in the lecture hall and placed into paper bags that were labelled
Image: A. Ing



The seed of over 10 species that was collected placed out to dry in the lecture room at Rondevlei. Image: A. Ing

Search and rescue before, during and after the ecological burn

Search and rescue operations in the Erica field started on 18 March 2022 while conducting general field work and continued throughout until the day of the ecological burn which took place on 28 March 2020. The rescue operations were conducted by Amber Ing and the EPWP team of False Bay Nature Reserve: Rondevlei section. Numerous tortoises were removed safely from the Erica field before and during the burn. These tortoises were moved far away from the Erica field in order to prevent the individuals from returning to the burn site and getting injured or killed during the ecological burn.

Numerous species were recorded by Amber Ing while being removed from the Erica field before, during and after the ecological burning process. The search and rescue operation was successful due to the fact that numerous species were found alive and removed safely.

The table below depicts the number of species recorded in the burn block of the Erica field.

SPECIES NAME	DESCRIPTION
Angulate Tortoise (<i>Chersina angulata</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 live tortoises removed from the burn block prior to the burn • 6 live tortoises removed from the burn blocking during the burn • 2 dead individuals found in the burn block after the burn • 2 live individuals found in the burn block after the fire (post-fire monitoring)
Mole Snake (<i>Pseudaspis cana</i>)	3 dead individuals were found in the burn block after the fire
Slug eater (<i>Duberria lutrix</i>)	2 live individuals were found in the burn block after the burn (post-fire monitoring)
Cape Dune Molerat (<i>Bathergus suillus</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 live individual was rescued from the burn site during the burn • 1 individual was found dead (burned skeletal remains) in the burn block after the burn during post- fire monitoring
Arum Lily frog (<i>Hyperolius horstockii</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 live individuals rescued before and during the burn. A few individuals were found moving out the burn block during the burn • 2 live individuals found in the burn block during post-fire monitoring
Rain spider (<i>Palystes superciliosus</i>)	10 live individuals were found running out the burn block during the burn
Western Leopard Toad (<i>Amietophrynus pantherinus</i>)	2 live adult individuals found moving out the burn block during the fire.
Cape Sand Toad (<i>Vandijkophrynus angusticeps</i>)	1 live individual found moving out the burn block
Clicking Stream Frog (<i>Strongylopus grayii</i>)	2 live individuals found in the burn block during the burn
Marsh Terrapin (<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>)	1 dead individual found in the burn block after the burn



Three angulate tortoises which were rescued from the burn block during the burn. Although their shells got slightly burned, they survived and were safely moved away from the fire. The burnt tortoises were immediately covered with cold water in order to help them cool down and drink some water as they were very dehydrated. Images: Shihabuddeen Khan

Death of an spotted eagle owl

On 10 February 2022, an injured spotted eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*) that was found on Peninsula Road was brought in to the Reserve by Quemac. Shihabuddeen Khan brought the injured owl to the gate house in the morning. Through the use of a syringe, Amber Ing was able to provide the owl with water until it could be taken to a vet. It was decided by management to transport the injured owl to a rehabilitator in Pinelands who would then stabilize the owl and transport it to Eagle Encounters, a wildlife refuge in Spier. Unfortunately, the owl was euthanized by vets at Eagle Encounters a day later, due to the fact that it had extensive internal bleeding and a broken wing.



The injured spotted eagle owl. The picture on the left shows the extent of the broken wing which was quite a severe break. Image A. Ing.

Let's be owl wise

*Many of us have seen or heard the spotted eagle owls (*Bubo africanus*) in our neighbourhood. Also known as *Gevlekte ooruil* in Afrikaans and *ifubesi* or *isihulu-hulu* in Xhosa.*

Stand between 43 and 50cm tall.

Have a wingspan of 1m.

Have tufts of feathers on either side of the head which look like horns.

Have bright yellow eyes.

Can turn their heads and necks up to 270 degrees in both directions.

Fly in complete silence, thanks to their specially adapted feathers.

Hunt mostly at night and sleep during the day.

Eat rats, mice, shrews, frogs, snakes, lizards, insects and even small birds.

Owls are not evil or omens of death. They are birds of prey and play a vital role in the food chain, keeping rats and mice under control.



Emergency numbers

If you find an owl (or other wild animal) and suspect that it is injured or sick please contact the environmental rangers who are on duty 24/7. Call 083-499-1717.

The Cape Exotic Animal Hospital (CEAH) Tel: 021 975 0708

Mike Amira, the Owlbox Man, <http://theowlboxman.co.za/>, builds owl boxes, aviaries and bat boxes. He also rehabilitates all kinds of bird species for release back into the wild.

Be wise - rethink what you use in your home and garden

Please rethink the use of poisons and toxic chemicals and use more environmentally responsible alternatives wherever possible. Given that we share our neighbourhood with so many wild animals which are susceptible to poison we need to avoid rodent poisons and toxic chemicals at all times.

Responsible rodent control measures

Rats can enter your home through an opening the size of a R1 coin. The most effective way to prevent a home rodent infestation is to keep them outside. Seal all holes in roofs, walls, foundations, and sheds. Denying access to their 3 basic needs - food, water and shelter - will greatly reduce the chance of rodents in your home.

Vegetation

Cut trees back about a metre away from the roof and remove ivy. Don't put cooked food in compost. Toss compost frequently.

Kitchen

Keep your home clean and don't leave food lying around in the open, which will tempt rodents. Store your food in airtight containers.

Doors and windows

Should be closed when not in use. Doors should have sweeps installed. Provide tight fitting covers on cat/dog flaps.

Standing water

Provides rodents with essential hydration. Check outside faucets and gutters for leaks and puddles.

Food sources

Pet food should not be left sitting outside. Feed small amounts of birdseed at a time and bring feeders in at night.

Garbage

Should be stored in a strong container with a tight lid. Never leave plastic bags of trash sitting outside.

Stay away from:



Sticky traps:

or glue boards cause horrific suffering and other animals get caught in them including songbirds.



Snap traps:

Mouse traps used outdoors can maim and harm other animals.



Pesticides:

Rat poison kills birds and wildlife, not just rats. When an owl or other eats a poisoned rat, they too become ill and die from secondary poisoning.

Alternative rat traps:

- Put out essential oils like peppermint, eucalyptus and citronella – rodents hate the smell of these!
- Slice up an onion and put it areas where the rodents have been seen.
- Use humane traps – bait such as cheese and peanut butter can be used to attract the rodents into the trap. Once caught you can release the rodents away from your home.
- Use a deep bucket with bait in the bottom – the rodents can't get out once they're in the bucket. You can then take them elsewhere and release them.
- If you absolutely have to use poison, then use it in a contained area where the rodents cannot escape after feeding and cannot be caught by predators such as owls and cats.