



**ZEEKOEVLEI PENINSULA SRA “ZVPSRA” NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2020**



What an incredible spot we live in. Photo: Mary-G Hauptle

Friends of Zeekoevlei and Rondevlei (FoZR) news



Zeekoevlei Outdoor Community Market **Sunday 6 September from 09h30 to 14h30** **Tennis Club, Peninsula Road**

Come support and meet our fellow residents and local businesses who will be selling beautiful arts and crafts, yummy food, bric-a-brac (one person's trash is another person's treasure!), stylish clothing, and much more!

Entrance is free for everyone.

There will be a raffle with an overnight stay on the Rondevlei Island to be won!

Covid-19 health and safety protocols will be in place for all marketers and visitors. Masks must be worn – no mask, not entry – and a social distance of 2m must be kept between people at all times. Marketers will have hand sanitiser at their tables, but please bring your own too.



FoZR membership

Here are the banking details if anyone is keen to sign up as a FoZR member:

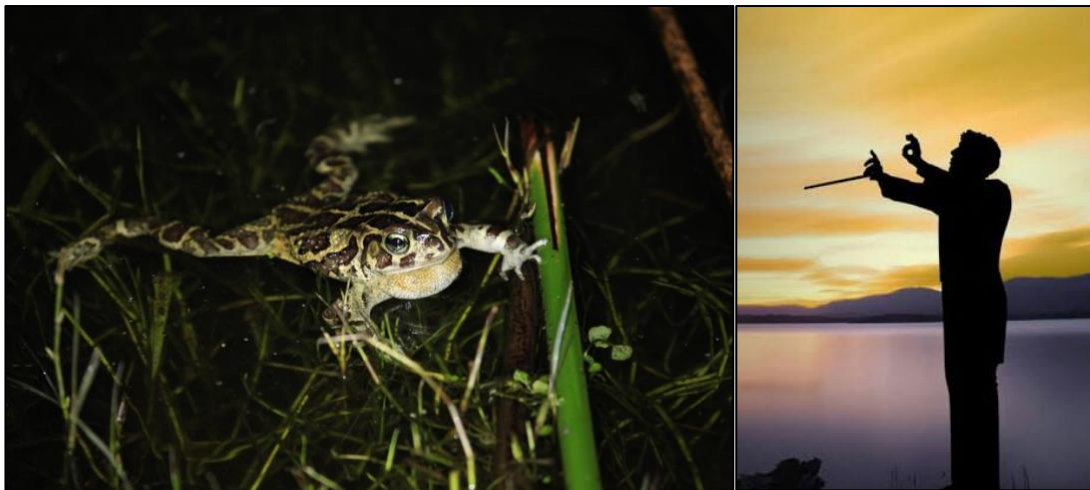
Friends of Zeekoevlei and Rondevlei
NEDBANK Account Number: 204 6663 500
Branch Code: 198765
Savings account

Please use your full name, surname and address as reference.
Membership fees are unchanged at R75 per family and R50 for individual membership.
Contact us on fozmarketing@gmail.com for business membership.



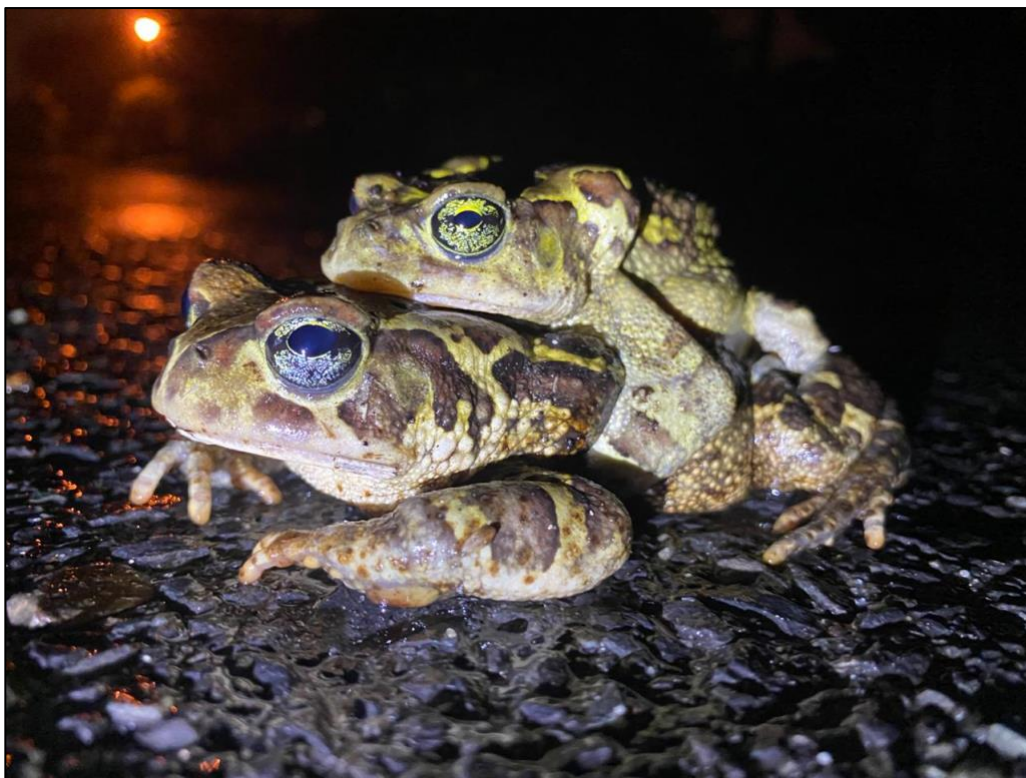
Spring spectacular: Princess Vlei looking splendid #weareallconnected. Photo: Dagny Warmerdam

Roar of thanks from the chorus of toads – Dagny Warmerdam



*Left: A male toad 'sings' his heart out, calling females to join him in the pond. Photo Dagny Warmerdam
Right: Found the cause of the intermittent toad callings.... A FOZR member conducting from the water.... It will be investigated! Photo and caption: Sidney Jacobs*

Residents around Zeekoevlei and Rondevlei have been delighted and astounded to hear the western leopard toad chorus booming out across the vlei at various times of the night and day. While the chorus isn't particularly musical and sounds more like a bunch of old men snoring in the sun, it is remarkable in that it is the first time that residents are hearing it coming from certain parts of the vlei e.g. the servitude in Heron Close. The snoring sound is made by the male western leopard toads (which is why they are sometimes referred to as snoring toads) calling the females to the breeding ponds. The calling of the males announces the start of the breeding migration when toads move from gardens and vegetation habitats to the breeding ponds in Rondevlei and now in Zeekoevlei.



*In the headlights - A smaller male hitches a ride on a female to the breeding pond.
Photo: Dagny Warmerdam*

We suspect that the toads have returned to breed in Zeekoevlei due to the tireless efforts of all the volunteers who have assisted them across the roads over the years, as well as those who have made major contributions to improving water quality in Zeekoevlei, thus making it habitable once more for this endangered species.

One of the biggest threats to migrating toads is urbanisation, which has interfered with and altered their natural breeding pathways with the installation of walls and roads. Many toads are injured or killed by unaware and careless road users who run them over. This has unfortunately decimated the population.

The toads are already making their way back from the water to their normal lodgings so please do still keep an eye out on the roads, and drive carefully to preserve this unique and endangered species. Remember, the more toads, the fewer miggies!



Thank you to everyone who braved the chilly and wet evenings to come out on the roads to look for toads. We had people in cars, on foot and on skateboards patrolling up and down. Your community spirit and care for the toads (and other frogs) is inspirational!

Based on a rough count of the images posted to the Leopard Toad Photo Group between 4 and 29 August, 164 toads were successfully assisted across the roads and to the breeding ponds while 30 were sadly injured or dead. This excludes those photographs posted on other groups or not photographed at all!

Left: A beautiful toad lantern made by Sofia, aged 4 years.

Game-changing “Waste Buster” legislation is on the horizon – Susanne Karcher, Envirosense

Any Zeekoevlei resident at the water’s edge knows only too well the unsightly impacts of floating (plastic) debris and any “vleibour” worth his/her salt is in one way or another supporting the regular vlei clean-up campaigns (typically headed-up and organised by FoZR) or just picking up litter from the water when sailing or paddling.

The plastic waste menace is clearly visible with pieces of litter bobbing around in between the reeds and clogging up litter traps such as the newly installed litter booms (on the Big and Little Lotus Rivers) at a frightening pace. Convenience-based single-use product packaging such as chip packets, candy wrappers, cigarette boxes, and entire fast food chain branded diner bags containing the empty remnants of the latest “deluxe meal” are prime candidates for littering. Careless and thoughtless folk discard of such “no value” items wherever they finish their contents and the next wind or rain picks them up and carries them to the nearest catchment - in this case our beautiful vlei.

After years of failed policy making attempts, finally, via the new Environmental Minister Barbara Creecy, the packaging industry was requested ([via Section 18 of the South African Waste Management Act](#)) to develop an “industry-managed” waste plan. This plan basically outlines to government how the industry itself will take measures (and provide the finance required) to ensure that packaging waste is reduced, that less wasteful packaging is designed and more packaging materials are recycled. At the heart of the new legislation (anticipated to be finalised in September 2020 and enacted on as early as beginning of 2021) is an internationally proven strategy - the principle of “Extended Producer Responsibility” (ERP).

Basically, ERP means that the entire South African packaging industry has to now account for the full “end of life” impact of their products. Gone are the days where the product distributor (retailer) was where the “responsibility buck” stopped because now each and every packaging item has to be scrutinized for the impact and cost throughout its lifecycle.

Soon it will be the responsibility of the various producer-authorized Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) to drive sector-based waste minimisation programmes; manage financial arrangements for funds to promote the reduction, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste; drive awareness programmes and waste collection initiatives, and innovate new measures to reduce the potential impact of products on health and the environment.

So how does this then translate to our litter problem? Well, the suggested strategy submitted by the industry (spearheaded by Packaging SA) has some very progressive elements. Basically the fees payable by packaging producers, sellers, importers and brand owners will be linked to the volumes/weights of packaging they are responsible for and the type of materials that are used.

The more wasteful/environmentally-problematic/socially concerning the packaging item, the higher the fee to the companies who make them, use them or sell them. The ones considered the worst then cost the most as they are typically bulky, light-weight, non-recyclable and utterly valueless items destined for landfill only. It does not take a genius to figure out who the prime candidates are going to be - just check your home bay. The answer is single-use plastic packaging items e.g. chip packets, straws, candy wrappers, sachets....

But, who pays for all of that in the end? Just watch the price of junk food over the next few months. If you enjoy junk and single-use packaged convenience food it is going to cost you a whole lot more in the near future - not only for your waistline, but also on the wallet because the industry will largely pass this “extra cost buck” on to the consumer.

Nevertheless, it is exciting what could soon be possible with this extra money. EPR-based waste management systems have proven to be very effective in many parts of the world so watch this space and place (the Vlei) to hopefully see some positive change coming our way soon.



Litter on the southern shore. Photo: Helen Lockhart

Pollination by sound?! – Helen Lockhart



Left: A carpenter bee buzzes around the sea rose in order to pollinate it. Photo: Dalton Gibbs

Right: You can't miss the bright pink flowers with their yellow anthers in summer. Photo: Helen Lockhart

Did you know that there is a plant right here in Zeekoevlei which is pollinated by sound? I learned this astounding fact from Dalton Gibbs recently. The plant, seen in the images above, is the sea rose *Orphium frutescens* and can be seen flowering during summer on the left hand side as one turns into Peninsula Road and also in the 'Erica field' in Rondevlei on the right opposite Van Blommestein Park.

The sea rose is pollinated by the buzz of the carpenter bee – the anthers on the flowers open and release the pollen in response to the vibration of the bee's wings! The carpenter bees are endemic to South Africa so pollination must be manually done if the sea rose is cultivated elsewhere in the world.

Local is lekker!

Tutor via Zoom

Qualified, experienced teacher.
I'll help your child improve all
Maths & numberwork
understanding and enjoyment.

Remedial help, practice, nr concept
development for all Primary school children
or homeschoolers.

Contact Charlene at
teachertutorsj@gmail.com
or 072 5316436

There has never been a more important or better time than now to support local businesses. In the best of times we should always try and support our local businesses, but with the economic havoc of Covid-19 and the lockdown, many of these businesses are struggling and livelihoods are at stake.

Please send your business info to helen.lockhart@aquarium.co.za if you would like it featured in future newsletters.



The Suncatcher

A Peace of Me

Mosaic artist Kim Schwerdtfeger discovered the art of mosaic in 2003, not thinking it would become her life 13 years later. Tired of the corporate sales world she started A Peace of Me and 4 years later her name is becoming known for her stunning designs, around the world.

Her work with stained and tiffany glass has put her in a category of her own in South Africa. She works on wood, glass and 3d substrates bringing her tiles to life.

Her main work consists of commissions for kitchen backsplashes, bird baths and pieces of art. Catch her wares at the FoZR Community Market on Sunday 6 September 2020.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/A-Peace-of-Me-1130520933747529>

Contact: 083 266 2899

Community spirit

Please send news of any community-oriented projects to helen.lockhart@aquarium.co.za so that we can highlight them in future newsletters.

Natural sightings

Here are some images shared by vleibours on the Zeekoevlei Leopard Toad Whatsapp group. Should you wish to join the Whatsapp Group, please message your details - name and tel number to Dagny Warmerdam on 083 741 5787. Dagny is the Endangered Western Leopard toad Conservation Committee representative for the Greater Zeekoevlei and Rondevlei areas.

Readers can also send any images of local flora and fauna to helen.lockhart@aquarium.co.za.

Thank you to Dalton Gibbs for patiently answering all the questions about sightings and for identifying many of them.



A beautifully marked Cape sand toad seen in Dabchick Road Photo: Dagny Warmerdam



Thanks for the rescue! Left: Juvenile western leopard toad. Right: Arum lily frog. Photos: Dagny Warmerdam



Van Blom this evening (black necked heron). Photos: Dagny Warmerdam



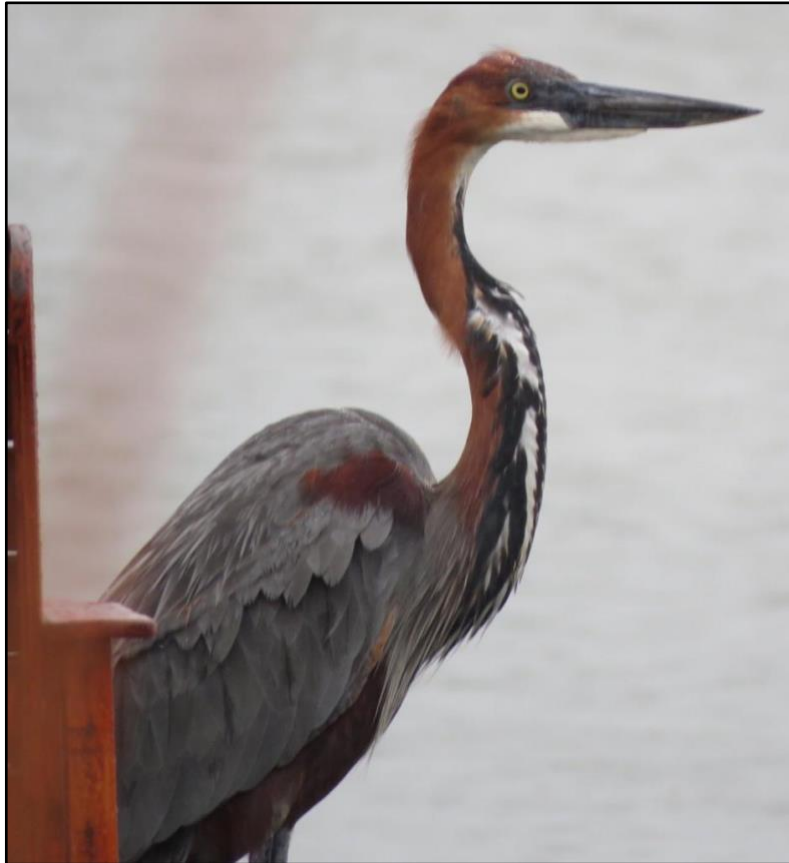
Pied kingfishers. Photos: Maryatta Wegerif



Visitor (juvenile night heron). Photo: Richard Gaertner



Female Cape river crab. Photo: Dalton Gibbs



Some lovely visitors today (purple heron). Photo: Gail Bristow



*The sparrow hawk was about to take off so not a great pic – but the tag is visible.
A regular visitor. Photo: Gail Bristow*



Gladiolus carinatus. Photo: Dalton Gibbs