

# Cape Town Environmental Education Trust 2011



## C T E E T – A G M – 2 0 1 1

### C T E E T ’ S H I S T O R Y

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- CTEET’s History
- Current projects
- CTEET’s achievements
- Financial statements 2010-2011

In 2001 the Zeekoevlei environmental Education Programme was started with funding from the then South Peninsula Municipality and The Table Mountain Fund.

The aim was to provide a low cost, high quality environmental experience for children from under privileged homes.

In the past, the approach to conservation was to put up fences and protect the environment by keeping the people out. This however does not work in the context of

Local Nature Reserves because the reserves are located within urban areas and in many cases are surrounded by urban areas.

Very often these urban areas consist of sub economic housing and informal settlements. This poses a very real threat to the safety of the staff, fauna, flora and the infrastructure of such reserves.

The residents of these informal settlements do not see the value of the natural environment and only view it as a means to

raw materials and food. The aim of the education programme was to offer the young people and children from these areas the opportunity to interact with nature in a non threatening way. This is done through a fully facilitated environmental experience which would facilitate a change in mindset.

(Author: M. Ogilvie )



Learners engaging with “Pippa” the porcupine.

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### C T E E T 1 0 T H A N N I V E R S A R Y

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 Cape Town Environmental Education Trust, had the privilege of hosting their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The event was held at the Kenilworth Racecourse and all whom attended enjoyed the celebration. The evening included :

A presentation on the successes and challenges faced by CTEET over the past 10 years, a dramatization by Grassy Park High which illustrated the positive impacts that the EE programme has had on their lives as well as a heart-rending account of the life of Grant Revelle, who went from drugs to conservation through the intervention of the skills development programme.

The evening was a reminder that anything is possible through working together. (Author: C. Schroeder )



Board of Trustees

## THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS SATELLITES CONSERVATION AREA

The Southern Suburbs Satellites (SSS) conservation area is a City of Cape Town Biodiversity Management area that includes a number of small natural open spaces that have been flagged on the Biodiversity Network.

These open spaces are not under ownership of the Biodiversity Management branch, but through the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust and their Memorandum of Under-

standing with the City of Cape Town, they form part of the branch's network. The SSS includes sites such as Kenilworth Racecourse Conservation Area (KRCA), Liesbeek River, Two Rivers Urban Park, Youngsfield Military Base Natural Open Space, Rondebosch Common and more.

Some of these sites are privately owned, while others fall under different City of Cape Town and government departments;

but one thing unites them, their inherent unique and irreplaceable biodiversity.

Projects in the SSS have been numerous, but as time has progressed, certain ones have reached a point where they could be handed over to the community and back to the landowners for management that takes their biodiversity into consideration.

At present, our initiatives are focused on the management of KRCA,

the Liesbeek River; and a large scale environmental education initiative.

We frequently host volunteer and community initiatives on the sites that lack staff and funding, such as the Vincent Pallotti wetlands.

In addition we continue to offer our services to the area in terms of animal rescue, rehabilitation and relocation, as well as consultancy and guidance with environmental issues.

*"We continue to offer our services to the area in terms of animal rescue, rehabilitation and relocation"*

The entire team within the SSS includes the KRCA Reserve Manager, Liesbeek Maintenance Project Manager, KRCA Projects Coordinator, two KRCA Field Rangers, Liesbeek Maintenance Project Supervisor, three River Wardens and three tertiary students.

This team is funded through private funding and donations, and are supported by the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust or



2011 Pre & Post Burn Kenilworth

the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA).

Initiatives that have recently drawn to a close, have been our efforts assisting with the management of Rondebosch Common and Meadowridge Common, as the management of these sites has been handed over to the Friends of Rondebosch Common and the Deep South management area (City of Cape Town), respectively.

(Author: S Marks & J Cooper)

## KENILWORTH RACECOURSE CONSERVATION

Kenilworth Racecourse Conservation Area and Youngsfield Military Base Natural Open Space (YMB-NOS) encompass one of the last remaining remnants of the Critically Endangered vegetation type Cape Flats Sand Fynbos (CFSF).

These two sites are managed together, by the team based at KRCA.

The aim of this project is to encourage the conservation of the Critically Endangered vegetation type and associated ecological processes as part of the City of Cape Town's Biodiversity Network.

This is achieved through funds managed by CTEET received from Gold Circle and other sources; public involvement; and collaboration with other organiza-

tions. CTEET ensures additional resources are provided through streamlined and efficient administrative and management support.

The full time staff and the South District's Nature Conservation unit of the City of Cape Town are instrumental in the planning and execution of conservation projects. The Friends of KRCA are a very active group who

To maximize this help and ensure that Cape Flats Sand Fynbos is conserved it is essential that we source more tools and equipment, such as Tree Poppers of assorted sizes, hand held spray bottles, hand held spotlights and headlamps. (Author: S Marks)

## THE LIESBEEK MAINTENANCE PROJECT



**Liesbeek Maintenance team stabilising the river banks**

The Liesbeek is an important historical and ecological river that runs from its source, on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain, through nine suburbs until it joins the Black River at Raapenberg and enters the

ocean at Salt River. It has been highly impacted by urbanisation, but still acts as a natural 'green' corridor for the movement of fauna and flora species and boasts a wonderful river trail along most sections.

The Liesbeek Maintenance Project (LMP) was set up by Friends of the Liesbeek (FoL) in 2005. The objectives of the project are to create awareness of conservation and rehabilitated as an environmental, aesthetic, recreational and educational asset for all – now and in the future. Secondly to provide training and development of skills for people from

previously disadvantaged backgrounds.

The general maintenance of the river includes weekly litter cleanups, trimming vegetation found hanging over the path and canalised sections of the river; removal of alien invasive vegetation, painting out graffiti, and soil erosion control.

In order to increase the scope of work we require funding for: wages to work five days a week, extra staff, tools and equipment (brush cutter and chainsaw), GPS, a vehicle and a computer. (Author: J Cooper)

## THE SSS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE



The SSS Environmental Education initiative aims to offer quality environmental education programmes and outreach experiences to the communities within and surrounding the southern suburbs.

Our focus is on curriculum-based, topic driven programmes, which include engaging, hands on activities that convey key messages of the values of biodiversity and ways in which we can affect change in our lives.

We wish for learners to reconnect with the natural world, to be filled with wonderment and excitement about the little things in life, and for this to translate into positive attitudes of change and compassion for our environment.

Since the beginning of 2011, Skye Marks (Projects Coordinator, KRCA) took over the responsibility of coordinating and developing the environmental education of the SSS

area. This was done in conjunction with the City of Cape Town's decision to enhance and refine their Environmental Education projects.

As the programmes are all new, our work has been focused on offering schools a quality and enjoyable learning experience.

We now run programmes from a number of the SSS sites, as well as in schools; covering a variety of curriculum based topics to suit the groups' needs.

Currently all the programmes are free of charge and this would not be possible without the support of our partner organisations, such as Friends groups and other stakeholders.

CTEET has been a great support, assisting with staff provisioning from fellow projects and guidance from colleagues.



**Environmental Education at SSS.**

In addition, CTEET handles the project's finances, as we frequently receive donations from the groups we work with. Due to the fact that our programmes are free of charge, we are in great need of equipment sponsorship and donations to allow the project to continue and flourish. (Author: S Marks)



*“Our work is focused on offering schools a quality and enjoyable learning experience”*

## GREATER PRINCESS VLEI CONSERVATION

The Greater Princess Vlei Conservation Area (GPVCA) is a portion of City of Cape Town (CCT) owned land, managed by the City Parks department. The main features of the conservation area are undoubtedly its two wetlands: Princess Vlei and Little Princess Vlei.

These vleis are connected permanently by groundwater and by an overflow canal system during flooding events.

These small urban wetlands are surrounded by the suburbs of Grassy Park, Southfield, Heathfield and Retreat on the Cape Flats. Vegetation types include Cape Lowland Freshwater Wetlands, Cape Flats Dune Strandveld from False Bay



**GPVCA: Before Clearing**



**GPVCA: Hyacinth Clearing Team**



**GPVCA: After Clearing**

(endangered) and Cape Flats Sand Fynbos (critically endangered).

As with the BioNet, the GPVCA is in the process of undergoing a systematic planning approach in concurrence with the implementation of work on the ground such as data collection and invasive species clearing programmes.

The most successful of which has been the removal of water hyacinth from the Princess Vlei inlet. A system of floating booms used to contain the hyacinth for ease of removal and to limit its spread into the rest of the water body.

Clearing was undertaken by a passionate company which removed the entire weed mat manually using specialised tools and a system of floats and ropes over a two month period. It is hoped, apart from the environmental benefits, that it may also serve as a model and encourage City Parks to carry forward a biodiversity minded management approach to its other sites, especially those on the CCT's BioNet.

(Author: G Smith)



## MUIZENBERG EAST SITE CLUSTER



**Map: MEPNR**

When residential areas were begin planned in Muizenberg, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA's) ear marked areas that were worth persevering for conservation, which created stepping stones between the lager nature reserve.

These areas are inside of complex developments, they are Soralia Village, Sunrise Villas and South Break. Within these complexes is conservation land:

- Soralia Conservation Area inside Soralia Village.
- Muizenberg East Private Nature Reserve inside South Break.
- Sunrise Villa.

Each site has biodiversity importance, such as, Soralia Park, which was named after the endangered



**Water Thick-knee  
(*Burhinus vermiculatus*)**



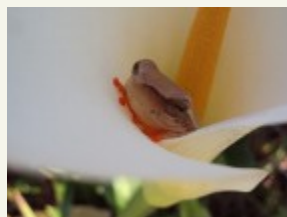
*Psoralea glaucina*, is one of the last viable populations on the Cape Flats.

One of our long term plans is to join the coastal strip with Sunrise Villas to reduce the alien vegetation in the coastal strip and to control wild fires.

The sites are managed by a site manager and in partnership with the Biodiversity section of the City of Cape Town and CTEET.

The main need for this project is more funding to employ labour staff. At the moment, there is only a site manager and there needs to be more hands so that alien clearing can take place and general maintenance on each site.

(Author: M van Heerden)



**Arum Lilly Frog  
(*Hyperolius horstockii*)**



**Aerial photograph: Soralia Park**

## STRANDFONTEIN BIRDING AREA PROJECT

The current Strandfontein Birding Area project was started in 2004 by the Cape Bird Club (the Julie te Groen Trust Fund) and the City of Cape Town, with the Nature Conservation Corporation (NCC) acting as the the pay role administrators in 2004. Since 2008 the pay role administration was taken over by the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust Fund (CTEET).

The Julie te Groen Trust Fund was left by Mrs. te Groen to improve the habitat at Strandfontein Birding Area. The Cape Bird Club thought that the best was to do this would be to employ

someone with a Nature Conservation back ground to manage the area.

Strandfontein Birding Area has also played host to three members of the Skills Development Team. An initiative that provides 12 unskilled and unemployed people from the local community with a job for two years and training in certain skills e.g. Chainsaw / brush cutter competency, basic fire fighting, first aid level 1 and 3 etc...

The Strandfontein Birding Area project focuses on the conservation management of the pans and surrounding land of the Cape Flats Waste Water

Treatment Works (CFWWTW) for habitats for birds, particularly water birds, as well as providing jobs and training (if funds are available) to members of the local communities.



Bird information Centre Mural.

*“This is an example of a project with few resources but yet many achievements”*

### S U C C E S S E S :

- Clearing water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) to a manageable level in pans & infected canals.
- Catching an escaped hippo from Rondevlei (Zorro).
- Terrestrial alien clearing.
- Setting up a Bird Information Centre.
- Building on three fishing & birding Platforms platforms.
- Funding arranged through the CBC to employ a foreman for one year (2010).
- Strandfontein Birding Area hosted a successful hike round the False Bay Ecology Park with a local church group. Secure funding for site manager.
- Secure funding for field staff and foreman.

### W I S H L I S T :

- Tools: binoculars, electric motor for boat, working chain-saws and weed eaters, an extra vehicle.
- Materials for new infrastructure (bird hides, fishing platforms, board walk etc.).



Birding Platform & staff removing water hyacinth

## F R I E N D S O F Z E E K O E V L E I A N D R O N D E V L E I

The FRIENDS OF ZEEKOEVLEI AND RONDEVLEI group (FoZR) is an apolitical, community-based organization that aims to promote local environmental interests.

Its focus is to assist local authorities with the protection of our unique biodiversity, especially the much-threatened sand plain fynbos, through creating public awareness and assisting with efforts to eradicate alien invasive species

FoZR was granted R120 000- from the City of Cape Town in order to establish links within the communities of Pelican Park and Vrygrond. This was achieved by appointing two community conservation officers who were tasked to establish the existence of the nature reserves as well as to bring environmental education to those communities.

FoZR also contributes towards the salary of an Assistant Education Officer based at

Rondevlei Nature Reserve in partnership with CTEET.

FoZR is in the process of funding labour for the clean up of Von Blommenstein Park (part of Zeekoevlei Nature Reserve) again in partnership with CTEET and we look forward to many more such projects in the future.



Clearing of Von Blommenstein Park



Volunteers building a braai

The first 3 years as a pilot project in the Environmental Resource Management Department, the Project will be called “Wolfgat / Macassar Dunes Nature Reserve Eco-Tourism Project”.

Initiated and been developed by a Nature Conservation Reserve Community Partner, but managed by us, “Cape Flats TEDA”. It will cover a variety of recreational activities, environmental education, guided walks, camping, horse riding, etc...



Ecotourism facility (braai area)



Evaluation of the dunes

This project was created to lay out a foundation and to find the eco-tourism potential for the nature reserves in the Western Cape

The main objective is to strengthen the environmental conservation approach and to emphasize the need to broadly distribute local benefits as incentives for conservation or to support the activities that is provided as alternatives to unsustainable actions.

Deliver net benefits to the poor as a goal itself. The environmental objectives are just one part of projects focus areas; another priority is to increase local people’s involvement in Eco-Tourism and Biodiversity.

For this project to achieve its goals, it requires equipment, budget for skill development as well as over all project funding.

So far the project has built many relationships with the community, surrounding business and law enforcement officials etc this will assist in the combined management and growth of the project.

Details:  
 Nature Conservation  
 (o) 021 392 5134  
 Weltevreden Road  
 (c) 079 349 7831  
 Rocklands  
 (f) 086 613 3892  
 Mitchells Plain  
 (e) Selwyn.Kondowe@yahoo.com



WORKING ON FIRE

Combating the scourge that is uncontrolled wildfire in our natural areas and mountains during the summer months, has always been synonymous with Nature Conservation within the City of Cape Town’s borders.

This dangerous, though exciting activity dominates all other priorities during the hot, windy summer months and has enormous cost implications for the City’s in both manpower and costly protective equipment.

In 2008 the City of Cape Town, Nature Conservation and Working on Fire (W.o.F), a government poverty elevation scheme, came together and formed a partnership.

And the W.o.F, Falsebay Fire Fighters or “Hippo Hotshots” were born, using impoverished members from the local communities. The Hippo Hotshots assist Nature Conservation with active wildfire fighting, ecological control burns and fire suppression.

During November of 2008 a massive wildfire struck the Kogelberg mountain range in gale force winds and within hours, properties in Gordons Bay were under threat.

The team was stationed on a cull de sac high up on the slope of the mountain where several houses were under down the slope were lost to the inferno.

One resident whose house had been saved was so grateful that she donated R25000.00 to the Nature Care Fund for the Hippo Hotshots for protective equipment, uniforms, ad hoc equipment and of course a legendary end of fire season “thank you” braai. The same resident in 2009 after receiving a letter of thanks for the donation then donated a further R25000.00 for the team.



2008 Kogelberg Mountain fire

FRIENDS OF THE HELDERBERG NATURE RESERVE

The Mike Woods Environmental Education Centre (EEC), located centrally within the Reserve, was created in 1986 by the Friends of Helderberg Nature Reserve to provide education for underprivileged children.

Groups of school children are brought into the EEC where they learn about the reserve, the animals and plants in it, using a variety of activities and educational aids. Over the past 10 years, the EEC has grown tremendously and has provided Environmental Education for ever increasing numbers of learners.

The EEC project has the potential to become a vibrant, effective instrument of change, providing world-class educational opportunities within the heart of an area where rapid and uncontrolled development threatens the natural environment.

To realise this vision, the EEC project needs financial support and the Helderberg Friends request the City of Cape Town considers taking over the running of the EEC Centre partially or totally to achieve the following objectives:

- Take over the running of the EEC Centre in line with the currently centers' under the CoCT's control.
- Provide a career path for the existing EEC staff.
- Follow an agreed education programme set out and maintained by CoCT

To this end the Friends and the City of Cape Town approached CTEET as the administrator for this project and as of 1 March 2011 the Education staff have been administered through CTEET. The project partnership continues to grow highlighting the need for sustainable funding into the future.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAMME



Phase one: KRCA



Phase two: Zeep

The Young Professionals Programme is run by the Table Mountain Fund.

The Cape Town Environmental Education Trust has assisted in placing a young professional for a period of 26 months. The main aim of this programme is to assist and skill young professionals in the work place. This includes a specially drawn up budget dedicated to training, salaries and equipment.

The young professional is also required to attend workshops and training run by WWF and the Table Mountain Fund.

The TMF Young Professional Programme has allowed Ms Farha Ally to be placed with the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust since June 2009.

Over this period, she has worked at the Kenilworth Racecourse Conservation Area and attended numerous training courses. With these courses and work experience, Farha has greatly broadened her skills and made a positive difference in the functioning of the Trust.

The Cape Town Environmental Education Trust has provided office space, work experience, and mentorship from many skilled individuals.

Over this period, Ms Ally's direct mentors included Maya Beukes and Mark Ogilvie. She has also had access to many all staff from the City of Cape Town and the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust.

What is still needed to achieve the projects main aims (e.g. Money, staff, Equipment etc)

As set out at the beginning of Ms. Ally's work placement, all development objectives have been achieved. We would like to thank the Table Mountain Fund and WWF for allowing the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust to host Farha Ally and take part in this wonderful initiative.

We wish her all the best for her future and hope that she continues to Change Lives Through Nature.

*"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."  
George Washington Carver*



Ms F Ally

**GRAND WEST SPONSORSHIP**

In 2008 GrandWest CSI generously became a partner with the Trust by granting CTEET camp sponsorship to the value of R100 000.00.

The aim was to offer an environmental experience to the most underprivileged young people on the Cape Flats in a radius of 70km around GrandWest.

From then on, GrandWest CSI has been a principal contributor to the Trust and to date has afforded more than 5000 young people from Khayelitsha, Phillipi, Grassy Park, Lotus River, Mitchells Plain, Manra, West coast and Langa a life changing environmental experience.

CTEET has also assisted GrandWest CSI with the Elsies River Cleanup project and sponsored a few trees to beautify the banks of the river. Grand West CSI has truly been a blessing to the environmental education programme and we look forward to making them proud in the future.

Without partnerships, like the above mentioned, it would be impossible to fulfill our mandate to the City of Cape Town and to the poorest of the poor to afford environmental education to members of the community that would otherwise be excluded from such activities.



The fact that GrandWest CSI has graciously partnered with us shows that their hearts are in the right place and that they truly have the interest of the community at heart.

As an international corporation they really do not need to interact with a small NGO such as CTEET, but we are honoured that they have the foresight and the environmental conscience to do so.

Our heartfelt thanks and the thanks of all the children and young people who's lives they have touched go out the GrandWest CSI team and management.



**Grand west Sponsored camps**

**CITY OF CAPE TOWN SPONSORSHIPS**

The Cape Town Environmental Education Trust has a very good relationship with the City of Cape Town, particularly with the Environmental Resource Management Department.

With the aid of a very dynamic person in the form of Joanne Jackson, The trust was granted funds to afford underprivileged children an environmental experience that changed their lives. The children that benefited from these experiences came from Grassy Park, Lotus Rives, Vrygrond and informal settlements surrounding the Rondevlei and Zeekoevlei Nature Reserves.

The response from the campers was overwhelmingly positive and a fun and education experience was had by all.



**CoCT Sponsored camps**

It is because of people like Joanne Jackson that we are able to fully realise our potential at environmental educators and to make a positive impact on the lives of those less fortunate children.

**WARD ALLOCATIONS**

The Cape Town Environmental Education Trust has been the recipient of two very generous Ward allocations. These allocation were used to run camps for particular school which fell within that ward. The first was from the fishhook sub council to the value of R 11 000.00 thanks Councilor Demetry Qually and his team. The second was from the Rondevlei sub council to the value of R88 000.00

This allocation was specifically to run camps for four secondary schools namely Zeekoevlei, Pelican Park, Lotus River and Grassy Park Secondary Schools. We received very positive responses from all the schools and they were very grateful for the opportunity afforded them.

The Cape Town Environmental Education Trust truly values the good relationship that it has with the City of Cape Town and with its Councillors. The fact that elect to grant funds to the education programme is witness to the fact that we are fulfilling our obligation to the City and to the poor people on the Cape Flats to Change Lives Through Nature.

WE ARE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.CTEET.CO.ZA



If you would like to make a donation or contribute to the work done please feel free to engage with us:

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**Phone:** 021- 7130510

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*BANK DETAILS:*

*CAPE TOWN ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION TRUST*

*BANK : STANDARD BANK*

*Acc No : 272120456*

*CHEQUE ACCOUNT*

THE PURPOSE OF THE TRUST IS TO PROVIDE A  
MEANS FOR CONSERVATION CONSCIOUS  
INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES TO HAVE A  
POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
THROUGH:

- PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED FAUNA AND FLORA ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND.
- PROVISION OF GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENTLY GRADUATED CONSERVATORS.
- PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND ENGAGING WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNICATE.

***“Changing Lives Trough Nature”***

## WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH:

