

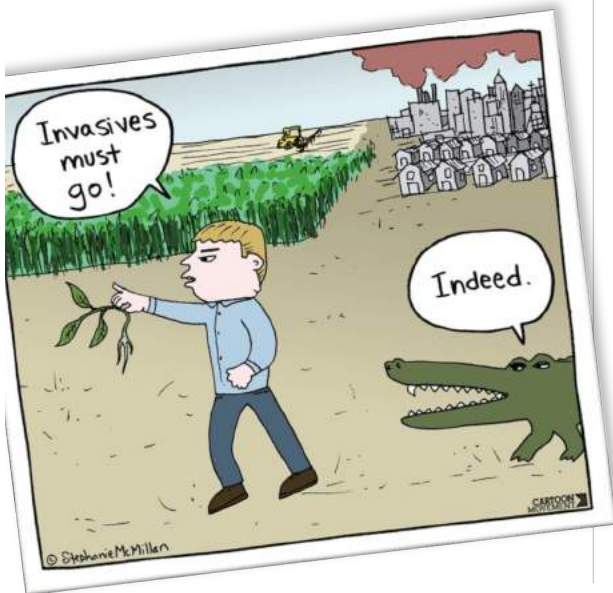
# FoZR Newsletter

FoZR is an apolitical, community-based, non-profit organisation that aims to assist the nature reserve authorities to protect the much-threatened flora and fauna that make this corner of the Cape Flats their home.



## Upcoming Events

**9 February 2017**     **Invasive Species Talk.**  
 Rondevlei Lecture Hall  
 19:00-20:00



## Invasive Species Talk

If you missed the fascinating talk on some of the most endangered butterflies in the world (only 30 – 40 *Kedestes barberae bunta* left ON EARTH!) don't miss this talk, presented by the Invasive Species Unit, on the effects of invasive species on our fauna and flora. Those not directly involved in conservation often do not understand the reasoning behind many management decisions based around invasive alien species in the Cape Peninsula. So if you have ever wondered about the invasive plant *Tradescantia fluminensis* "wandering jew", or want to know what a guttural toad looks like and how it affects the endangered Western Leopard Toad, come and ask/find out....

**Date:** 9 February 2017

**Time:** 19:00

**Venue:** Rondevlei Lecture Hall (Corner of Perth Rd & Fishermans Walk, Zeekoevlei, Cape Town) secure parking available.

**Cost:** R20 for non-members (FoZR members – free – please bring along your membership card)

## Want to become a FoZR Member?

Visit the website: [www.Zeekoevlei.co.za](http://www.Zeekoevlei.co.za) or follow the link below:

<http://www.zeekoevlei.co.za/fozr-membership->



## The Litter Cleanup

Thanks to every one who participated in the Zeekoevlei litter cleanup!

The litter cleanup started out swimmingly – sunny skies, a gentle breeze, and a wonderful bunch of enthusiastic litter pickers. Our first port of call was the “island” where to our amazement not much litter was found. We then decided to head to the shores of van Blommestein Park – the flotilla set off, once again to find only a few bits and bobs of litter. This led to the decision

to hit the place we knew we would get the jackpot – the Northern Shore! By this time the wind had picked up substantially and there was a fair bit of swell on the vlei, but this did not deter us. With only one other canoe in pursuit we headed off to collect more litter. Upon our arrival one need not venture far as the boat was soon overflowing with all sorts of man-made

objects (dolls, jackets, mattresses, pillows, and of course – LOTS of plastic!). We were all too excited to have been so successful with our pickings, and so we set off home – but this was just the beginning of the adventure! With the canoe in tow and the swell just that much bigger our dear tag-along began to sink! Soon we had three men in the water desperately trying to

Many thanks to Maryatta Wegerif for the lovely photos!

save the canoe. After much trial and error they eventually got the canoe to the surface. We immediately continued our journey back towards the yacht club, returning somewhat heroic, arriving not only with a mound of litter but also with an entertaining story to tell those whom luckily/unluckily missed out!



# The Elusive Cape Clawless Otter (*Aonyx capensis capensis*)

Considering this elusive creature is the “face” of the Friends of Zeekoevlei & Rondevlei, I thought it was about time this species had some publicity.

The Cape Clawless otter is 1 out of 4 otter species known to inhabit both marine and freshwater ecosystems. These adorably shy and playful creatures spend most of their time in the water where they play a crucial role in regulating the ecosystem. As a top predator, and a keystone species, the otter maintains a healthy ecosystem, feeding mostly on crustaceans such as crabs and crayfish, but they will also eat fish, frogs, birds, and molluscs.

Otters have soft, dark-brown fur and white chins and chests. Their front feet are adapted for digging but lack claws, hence their name: clawless otter.

Although the otter population of the Cape Peninsula is thought to be stable, these otters face a number of threats, such as habitat destruction and pollution. Living on the urban fringe these otters are unfortunately highly susceptible to the effects of pollution entering our rivers and wetlands – just another reason why we need to keep our rivers and vleis clean!



Cape Clawless Otter at Rondevlei. Image courtesy City of Cape Town.



Road sign on Peninsula Road, Zeekoevlei.

Images: <http://www.saramsar.com/p/pictures-of-false-bay-nature-reserve-sa.html>

# FoZR Committee

Chair – Dee Cranswick (083 2525 680)

Treasurer – Tracy Gibbs

Secretary – Nicky Stock

Fundraising – Tom Schwerdtfeger

Activities – Neil Major

Reserve Liaison – Liz Day

New to FoZR: Colleen McDowell



Critically endangered  
*Kedestes barberae bunta*,  
currently only found in the  
False Bay Nature Reserve.  
(Image: Ismat Adams)

## Contacts

**Friends of Zeekoevlei & Rondevlei Chair (Dee Cranswick): 083 2525 680**

**FoZR Acting Manager (Richard Cammell): 072 907 5196**

**FoZR Intern (Jocelyn van Eeden): 021 396 4283**

**False Bay Nature Reserve Office: 021 396 4283 / 81**

**Reserve's emergency response number: 083 499 1717**