

Friends of
**ZEEKOEVLEI
& RONDEVLEI**



CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA

FoZR

Newsletter

August 2016

About FoZR

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.



Contacts

Friends of Zeekoevlei & Rondevlei (Richard Cammell): 021 705 3853

False Bay Nature Reserve Office: 021 396 4283 / 81

Reserve's emergency response number: 083 499 1717

Environment

Rehabilitation

Zeekoevlei Eastern Shore Project

The City of Cape Town: Environmental Resource Management Department in collaboration with TCT: Asset Management and Maintenance have implemented an ecological rehabilitation project on the Zeekoevlei Eastern Shore section of the False Bay Ecology Park (FBEP), to compliment the redevelopment of public facilities along this section. The Eastern Shore area has been subject to historic agricultural activities, which resulted in the degraded Cape Flats Dune Strandveld visible today. The primary project aim is to re-establish the historic endangered vegetation type, Cape Flats Dune Strandveld, and explore the possibilities of re-creating suitable habitat in the long term for key threatened species, such as the critically endangered butterfly, Barber's Cape Flats Ranger (*Kedestes barbarae bunta*), and the Endangered False Bay Unique Ranger butterfly (*Kedestes lenis lenis*). These two species only occur on the Cape Flats within the City of Cape Town, with the Barber's Cape Flats Ranger entire global distribution now restricted to only two remaining localities within the Cape Flats. The remaining habitats of both these butterfly species unfortunately still face on-going threats.



Before the commencement of earthworks on 18 July 2016, and after earthworks on 26 July 2016 (Photo: S. Dorse, 2016)

The rehabilitation of the Zeekoevlei Eastern Shore is a long-term project that will be rolled out over a number of years subject to the availability of the necessary funds, capacity and resources. The first phase is a pilot phase exercise, which focuses on an area recently subject to disturbance. The rehabilitation effort involves shaping of the subject area to better resemble the natural topography of the area, followed by planting with locally indigenous plant species. Care is taken to ensure that the plant species used are genetically sound and all propagation material is sourced from the surrounding area. This pilot project exercise will inform the larger Rehabilitation Plan for the entire Zeekoevlei Eastern Shore.

The first phase of the Zeekoevlei Eastern Shore Rehabilitation commenced on 19 July 2016, with earthworks completed on 26 July 2016, and on-going planting still taking place (approximately 3000 plants have been planted thus far).

(Many thanks to **Suretha Dorse, Project Manager**, for the information provided above).



Earthworks (Photo: S. Dorse, 2016)



Placement of plants prior to planting (Photo: S. Dorse, 2016)



Rehabilitation site, 5 August 2016 (Photo: J. van Eeden, 2016).

Planting at Rondevlei

Rondevlei recently underwent further rehabilitation planting along the main footpaths, as well as in the recent ecological burn sites. Approximately 1000 plants were planted near the fishing platforms along the western shoreline of Rondevlei (Fishermans walk), and the footpaths leading to the numerous bird hides. While over 300 plants of *Thamnochortus erectus*, among others, were planted near the Peninsula fence line.



Among the 1000 plants planted at Rondevlei, species included *Elegia tectorum*, *Leucadendron levisanus*, *Cliffortia strobilifera*, *Helichrysum*, *Passerina corymbosa*, *Thamnochortus erectus*, *Salvia africana-lutea*, and *Cliffortia ericifolia*.

Thank you to all who assisted with the planting at Rondevlei.



Planting of *Thamnochortus erectus* near the Peninsula road fence line
(Photos: J. van Eeden, 2016).

Season happenings:

Leopard Toads Calling

The Leopard Toads have started calling, which means that females will be crossing the roads. Dagny and Helen have put signage up, and will be doing nightly patrols. Please take extra care when driving, especially at night, and if you are able to assist with nightly patrols when numbers on the roads are high please contact Dagny (083 741 5787).

Known hotspots are: between the tennis courts and Skippers end, Perth Road, Rooikrans, Fishermans walk and surrounding roads of Rondevlei fence – i.e. Victoria from Peninsula superette towards the Vlei, Otters Creek, Woodrow, Crickets, and Egrets.



Please remain vigilant around all these areas and drive carefully.

(Thanks to **Dalton and Dagny** for the information).

If you would like to become a volunteer with the Western Leopard Toad group please call the **WLT HOTLINE: 082 516 3602**, alternatively you can contact Mark Day for the Zeekoevlei area (084 738 1130 / leopardtoad@gmail.com)

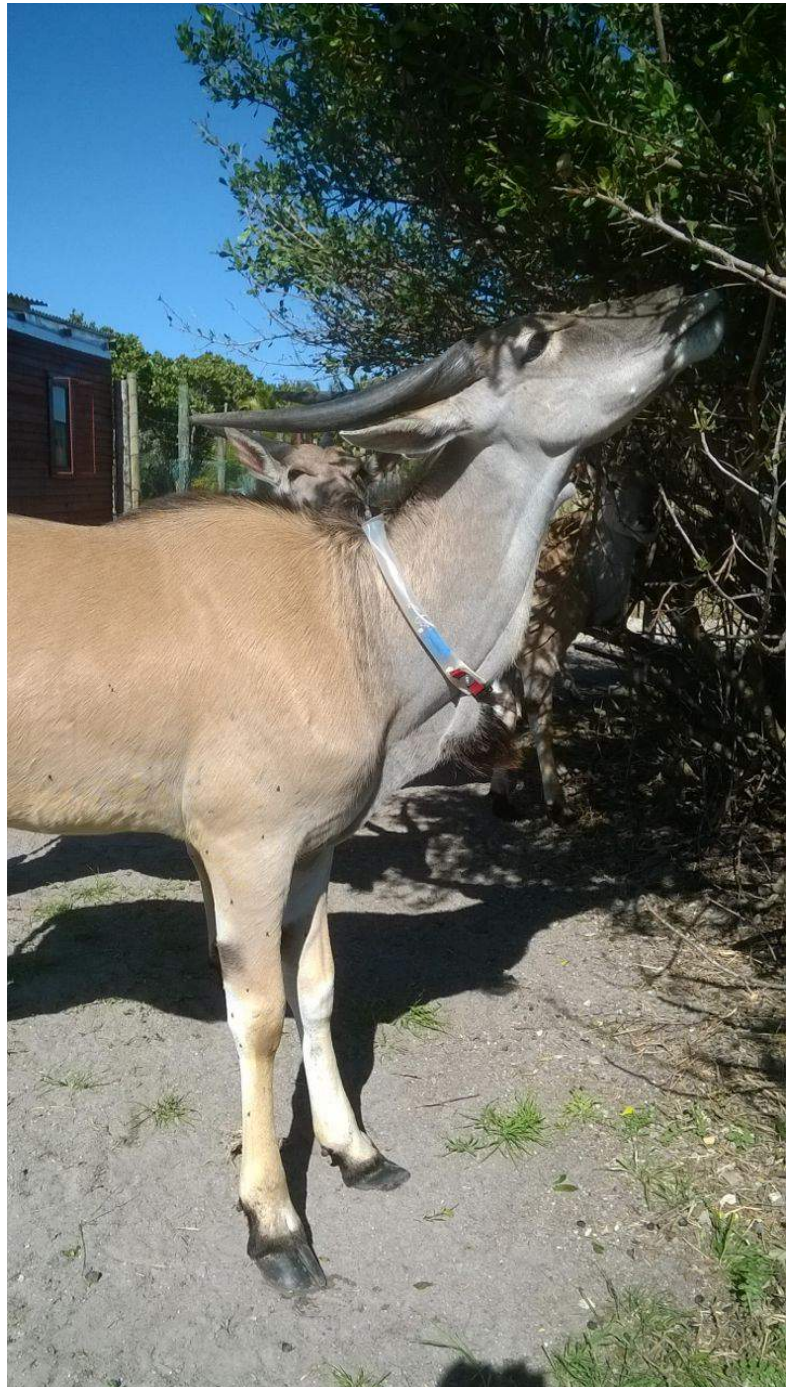
Updates:

Gantouw Project

One of the Eland, known as Gibbs, has recently been fitted with a GPS collar. This will be used to track the movements of the Eland, while providing coordinates of the areas they are utilising, and plants eaten in that vicinity. The GPS collar will also be handy in the event that the Eland escape, which is highly unlikely.

Thus far, recorded plants favoured by the Eland are members of the genus *Salvia* and *Osteospermum*; along with a high consumption of Buffalo grass.

The collar is currently undergoing alterations, in order to improve the fit.



(Photo: P. Botha, 2016)

Updates:

Fish Ladder Project

A fish ladder has been constructed behind the new office for the Gantouw Project (adjacent to CTEET). The aim of the fish ladder project is to test the viability of utilizing fish ladders to bring the harders back up the Zeekoevlei River and into the vlei.

A few test runs have been performed thus far with only seven fish surviving out of approximately 280. Water is being pumped into the ladder from the vlei, and flows back into the vlei via a small channel.

Currently, there are no fish present and the pump has been switched off...



(Photos: J. van Eeden, 2016)

Barn Dance 2016



After a brief meeting between the organisers, where responsibilities and allocation of tasks took place, we realized that we have done this a few times, and the planning was easy.

Then came the work – drinks, food, hall bookings, decorations, prizes, tickets, firewood, tables, stages etc.

Friday 29th July – the usual suspects arrived at the hall to do some decorating and much huffing and puffing; 450 balloons later the hall was beginning to take shape and the one broken toilet seat was replaced.

Saturday 30th July – by the time the doors opened all the heavy lifting was done. The stage had been ferried across the vlei on DeePurple, a.k.a. Barney the purple dino-boat, food, drinks, gas cylinders, pots & pans, tables, chairs, many extension cords, lamps and lights of every shape and size had all been placed, fires were lit, skottles fired up and the staff (yep that's us) had arrived. Caroline arrived (more heavy lifting) and by 19h00 we were ready for liftoff, with only one worry...

Having sold only 7 tickets online, we had no idea what the turnout would be like. However, this is the vleibourhood and of course the community and friends showed up. The bus was full! The crowd was made up of the usual suspects and many younger vleibours and their friends, it was fantastic to see so many 'young uns', it seems that even the boys dance (like they have a choice).

We sold – 27 burgers, 38 x 200g chips, and plenty of cool drinks and some beer.

Used and donated – 6L oil, 2 x 750ml tomato sauce, 1 x 500ml mayonnaise, napkins, chip packets, paper plates, 450 balloons, string, and 2 prizes.

Rolls were donated by **Victoria Bakery** (6 dozen), and by **Pick 'n Pay Gabriel Rd.** (10 dozen).

Sunday morning (not too early) – the clean up took place; thanks to willing volunteers the task was not too onerous.

Special thanks to Tom and Coleen for the organisation and heavy lifting, cooking and cleaning, and for the annual donation of a toilet seat, 2 prizes and all the balloons, strings and things - you are a team to be reckoned with. Angie, for her decorations and tons of furniture; Dee, for her work at the door; and the barmen, Todd and Kai; and last but not least, Caroline Blundell for the discounted price and fantastic calling and music.

Thanks all who assisted, if I forgot any (you know where I live) Simon (who brought 20 friends) and Angie, Nicky Stock, Dalton & Tracy, me, Jocelyn, Heidi, Nikki, Olivia (who brought 20 friends), Luke and the student from Crickets Gully (whose name I don't know).

Now here's the thing, it seems like we were all jolling / working too hard to take any pictures, I have managed to find only one. With all the youth I thought there would be tons – now that's a sign of a good party.

Profit was in the region of R6500 and will be accounted for at the upcoming FoZR AGM.
(**Richard Cammell**)

Coming up soon...

FoZR AGM (TBC)

New to FoZR

Hi there, my name is Jocelyn, for those that have not yet met me, I am a Cape Town Environmental Education Trust (CTEET) and FoZR intern. I have a BSc in Applied Biology, and Ecology & Evolution from UCT, and honours in Environmental Management. I have a passion for nature, constantly amazed by God's creation.

When I'm not working you can find me riding horses, hiking, surfing and having fun at the beach.



FoZR Committee

Chair – Dee Cranswick (083 2525 680)

Treasurer – Tracy Gibbs

Secretary – Nicky Stock

Fundraising – Tom Schwerdtfeger

Activities – Neil Major

Reserve Liaison – Liz Day

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Compiled & Designed by Jocelyn van Eeden