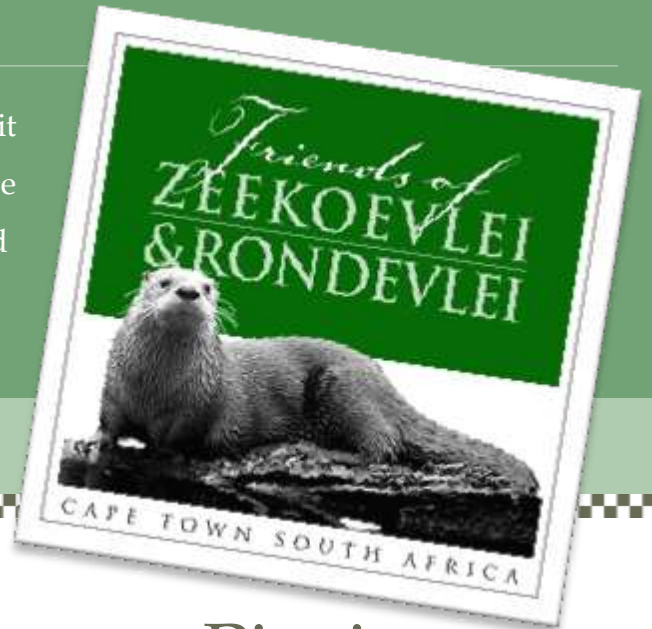


FoZR Newsletter

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 March **Sunset Picnic**

CTEET Island Camp Facility

19:00

25 March **Hyacinth check** (check www.Zeekoevlei.co.za for details)

Sunset Picnic

Come and enjoy the delights of a summer sunset picnic at the brand new CTEET island camp facility.

Picnic with the sun setting and flamingoes flying!

Bring your picnic, a blanket and a torch.

Park and meet outside the Cape Town Environmental Education Trust (CTEET) office (1 Peninsula road, Zeekoevlei). We will then walk across to the island – everyone is to please arrive and leave the island together for safety reasons.

Date: 9 March 2017

Time: 19:00

Venue: CTEET Island Camp Facility

Cost: R20 for non-members (FoZR members – free)



Want to become a FoZR Member?

Visit the website: www.Zeekoevlei.co.za or follow the link below:

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



Invasive Species – *Eucalyptus* Trees

The Friends enjoyed an informative talk on invasive species found in the South Peninsula, and were educated on the effects these species have on our indigenous fauna and flora. One of the species highlighted at the talk was *Eucalyptus* (gum trees). The genus *Eucalyptus* is diverse, consisting of flowering trees and shrubs, part of the myrtle family (*Myrtaceae*), none of which are indigenous in South Africa. *Eucalyptus* trees provide communities with a variety of

benefits, one of which is vital to beekeeping and agriculture in South Africa. As much as 75.6% of agricultural crops depend on pollination, while only 24.4% of crops are wind/self-pollinated. Honeybees, being an important pollinator for agricultural crops are under threat due to diminishing habitat and forage resources. Therefore, beekeepers rely heavily on eucalyptus trees, as different species flower at different times of the year, providing a constant flow of nectar and source of pollen

throughout the year.

On the other end of the spectrum, gum trees can have a detrimental effect on water, sediment, and biodiversity. In the case of False Bay Nature Reserve, non-listed gums can be found in van Blommestein Park (corner of Victoria and Peninsula Road). According to the legislation, *Eucalyptus* species within riparian areas, protected areas or ecosystems identified for conservation purposes must be removed.

Therefore, in consideration of the location of these gum trees, where they are not required for bee-keeping or agriculture, one cannot argue that keeping these gums is necessary from an ecological point of view. It is therefore imperative that the appropriate management of gums, allowing them to occur only in the correct landscape is key to maintaining biodiversity.

For more information on the NEMBA regulations and specific eucalyptus species go to www.invasives.org.za or <http://www.sanbi.org/sites/default/files/documents/documents/gumsbees-web-version-hyperlinks.pdf>.

Thank you to Marco Meyer, from the Invasive Species Unit, for the informative talk.

Rondevlei Spiderhead

(*Serruria aemula* var. *foeniculacea*)

Serruria aemula (the strawberry spiderhead) is a critically endangered member of the Proteaceae family, endemic to Cape Flats Sand Fynbos. *Serruria aemula* forms low, sprawling shrubs reaching heights of 0.5 m. The leaves are soft and needle-like, pointing upward. Flowering from winter to spring, *S. aemula* produces a bounty of silvery-pink, sweetly scented flowers resembling loose tassels. The sub-species of *S. aemula*, the Rondevlei spiderhead (*Serruria aemula* var. *foeniculacea*) is virtually identical, however some report *S. foeniculacea* to be slightly more robust in its structure.

Once occurring in huge stands on the Cape Flats *S. aemula* is now restricted to a few populations along road reserves and under power lines (Platteklouf Natural Heritage Site), totaling 1000 plants. In comparison, *S. foeniculacea* is found only at False Bay Nature Reserve:

Rondevlei. Threatened by urbanization, too frequent fires, and alien species, *S. foeniculacea* was thought to be extinct, until 1987 when the then Rondevlei manager, Howard Langley, found a few plants outside the reserve. The plants were moved into the reserve and cuttings were sent to Kirstenbosch to be propagated. In 1994, 350 plants were planted at Rondevlei and 300 at Kirstenbosch. Sadly, all the Kirstenbosch plants died, leaving Rondevlei as *S. foeniculacea*'s only known locality in the world!

Until recently, as part of the Lower Tokai restoration programme, cuttings have been successful in a number of blocks. So things might be looking up for this endangered plant...



Rondevlei Spiderhead (*Serruria aemula* var. *foeniculacea*)

Image: <http://www.ispotnature.org/node/494027>

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

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FoZR Acting Manager (Richard Cammell): 072 907 5196

FoZR Intern (Jocelyn van Eeden): 021 400 3447

False Bay Nature Reserve Office: 021 400 3437

Reserve's emergency response number: 083 499 1717