



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
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TRANSPORT & URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

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BLAAUWBERG NATURE RESERVE

QUARTERLY REPORT
1 JANUARY – 31 MARCH 2018

Photograph: Tessa Louw and Patrys Marais

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Making progress possible. Together.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Provincial Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning in the Western Cape, Mr Anton Bredell, under section 23(1)(a)(i) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, (Act 57 of 2003), declared Blaauwberg Nature Reserve in the Provincial Gazette 7837 on Friday, 20 October 2017. The provincially-owned portions of the reserve were proclaimed as Blaauwberg Provincial Nature Reserve by means of P.N. 06/2007 dated 2 March 2007. The City of Cape Town manages both its' own and the provincially-owned land as a single entity called [Blaauwberg Nature Reserve](#) (BBNR).

Vision of the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve: To conserve, protect and enhance the unique diversity of natural, historical and cultural resources of this area for the sustainable enjoyment and development of present and future generations through education.

Mission of the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve: Through judicious land acquisition and the development of economically viable conservation and education-related facilities and activities, we aim to secure the protection of the entire area and ensure its long-term sustainability based on sound ecological and cultural values.

2. HIGHLIGHTS & CHALLENGES

Battle of Blaauwberg Anniversary Festival – 6 January 2018

The [Friends of Blaauwberg Conservation Area](#) (FoBCA) and its partners once again organised an important and exciting commemorative event for the Battle of Blaauwberg of 1806. The Festival was held on Saturday 6 January 2018 and included many activities to participate in such as a guided **Battle of Blaauwberg walk, exhibits of Battle artefacts, fun walks, trail run, fun events for children** and **gifts** to all finishers of the events. The centre of the festivities was at the historic Blaauwberg Farm. The fun walks, trail and guided walk took place on the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve – site of the Battle and an important biodiversity spot in the heart of Cape Town.

All funds went towards the FoBCA activities, in support of the protection and utilisation of the BBNR for the benefit of the general public now and in future.



Figure 1 to 3 FoBCA and its partners once again organised an important and exciting commemorative event to commemorate the Battle of Blaauwberg of 1806 (Photographs: FoBCA).

- FoBCA launched a floral guide to plants found in and around BBNR. The **Coastal Walk Flower Guide** is aimed at raising awareness about local indigenous plants and is available for purchase from BBNR and [Stark Ayres Garden Centre](#), West Coast Village.
- BBNR's fleet of vehicles was bolstered by the acquisition of a Isuzu NPR400 3 ton tip truck. The tip truck replaced the 1986 Toyota Dyna.

CA643893 retired after 32 years of service. The 1986 Toyota Dyna with 2 000 litre capacity, two 30 m hose reels and a 18 hp Honda twin pump was handed over by Fire & Rescue Services to the Environmental Management Department (EMD) in 2010. The vehicle bolstered EMDs firefighting capacity by ferrying water along tarred roads to replenish 4x4 vehicles that needed to fight fires in the bush.

Figure 4 CA643893 retired after 32 years of service
 (Photograph: Contact, April/May 2010).

ERM gets fire-fighting wheels

Fire & Rescue's donation of a small fire-fighting truck to Environmental Resource Management will greatly assist in stamping out minor vegetation fires.

Biodiversity management and conservation have been highlighted as the main functions of a fire-fighting vehicle donated by Fire & Rescue Services to Environmental Resource Management (ERM) of Bloubaai Nature Reserve.

"We're always looking for vehicles to assist in our nature reserves but all the donors have to get the car itself on the road first in a word," says Environmental Manager Nicolas Bunting.

"I believe this fire truck can have some very useful work to do in our reserves and it's a possibility to get it into the area with a pump capacity of 2 000 litres per minute. It also carries a short extension ladder."



Next phase of life

"It will eventually be in a larger water tank," says Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Johannes. "The vehicle will eventually be used to assist in the fire-fighting of the area. It will be a very useful vehicle in the area."

The 1986 Toyota Dyna has a 2 000 litre capacity water tank and a 18 hp Honda twin pump. It also carries a short extension ladder.

The vehicle was donated by Fire & Rescue Services to ERM of Bloubaai Nature Reserve. The vehicle will be used to assist in the fire-fighting of the area. It will be a very useful vehicle in the area.

The vehicle will be used to assist in the fire-fighting of the area. It will be a very useful vehicle in the area.

- The **occupants at Blaauwberg's valley** continued refusal to vacate the property poses a threat to the reserve's fauna and flora, vegetation restoration efforts and archaeological research. The legal matter is on-going.
- **Increased incidents of crime and other illegal activities** continue to be a challenge for the nature reserve.

2. CONSERVATION PLANNING

- **The Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC)** for BBNR had its meeting on 16 February 2018. The meeting was attended by 17 representatives from six organisations. The objective of the Advisory Committees is to facilitate interaction, communication, engagement and the development of partnerships with stakeholders and surrounding communities to promote the objectives of the nature reserves and natural areas. Committees are mandated to give advice and input on strategies, management plans and reports, as well as monitor progress of implementation, promote involvement in decision-making and facilitate linkages and integration of nature reserves with surrounding communities.
- The City's **Planning and Building Development Management** served notices, by registered mail, on properties in Bato Way, Melkbosstrand which contravened the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act, Act 103 of 1977 for the unauthorised erection of boundary walls and structures on a Portion of Remainder Erf 1694 Melkbosch Strand.
- The City's Director: Property Management on 10 February 2017 approved of the **reservation of Erf 1677 and a Portion of Remainder Erf 1694 Melkbosch Strand** for the Biodiversity Management Branch. In terms of the initial reservation application, a larger portion of Remainder Erf 1694 Melkbosch Strand was applied for. The two portions were split by Melkbosstrand Road, and subsequently the additional portion was captured on a separate sketch plan in a separate file, which resulted in the oversight when the reservation report was concluded. This issue was corrected and the additional portion of Remainder Erf 1694 Melkbosch Strand reserved for the Biodiversity Management Branch. The property, 76.7628 ha in extent, shall be utilised for conservation purposes only, and managed as such by the Biodiversity Management Branch. The vision is to include this section as an extension of the BBNR to eventually link to Koeberg Nature Reserve and the Eskom Duynefontein Conservation Area in order to provide a viable ecological corridor and ensure the seamless flow of ecological processes.
- The author commented on the **Big Bay Operational Phase Environmental Management Plan (OEMP)**. The Big Bay development area of approximately 120 ha is situated on the west coast immediately north of Bloubergstrand and comprises of various density residential, commercial, mixed use areas and the public and private open space associated therewith. An area of about 33 ha has been set aside as the Big Bay Open Space System (BBOSS). The BBOSS forms an integral part of the larger open space system

of the Blaauwberg area that links the BBNR in the north with the open space system to the south. Ecological corridors assist with this linkage.

- The **Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool South Africa** version 3 (METT-SA 3) review of BBNR was conducted during this quarter by the Biodiversity Area Co-ordinator and Coordinator: Monitoring and Evaluation. The METT-SA 3 is a rapid, site-level assessment tool adapted from the World Bank and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) system. The system is based on the idea that good protected area management follows a process comprising six distinct stages or elements. It begins with understanding the context of existing values and threats (**where are we now?**), then progress through planning (**where do we want to be?**), followed by allocation of resources (inputs) (**what do we need?**). As a result of management actions (processes) (**how do we go about it?**), it eventually produces products and services (outputs) (**what were the results?**), which result in impacts or outcomes (**what did we achieve?**).

4. FLORA

- BBNR conserves **three highly threatened lowland vegetation types**: Cape Flats dune strandveld, Swartland shale renosterveld and Cape Flats sand fynbos. The combination of these vegetation types are seldom found in a single conserved area. Over 620 plant species have been identified, of which more than 40 are considered to be threatened with extinction.



Figure 5 Cape Flats dune strandveld

- The BBNR **Cape Flats sand fynbos ecological restoration project** east of Blaauwberg Hill is ongoing. Over 400 ha of dense invasive alien vegetation will be cleared and restored to Critically Endangered Cape Flats sand fynbos over a period of several years. This project includes an important research component that resulted from collaborations between the Millennium Seed Bank Project (MSB) of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Stellenbosch University and City of Cape Town, initiated at the Fynbos Forum.
- The BBNR **Restoration Subsidiary Plan** is in draft format. The restoration goal is to reinstate the natural fynbos, renosterveld and strandveld vegetation structure and functioning. The aim of restoration efforts is thus to ensure that the ecological integrity of the BBNR reaches a mostly near-natural state, whereby these three vegetation types and their ecotones are conserved. The implementation of an effective management plan, with particular reference to veld restoration, fire management and invasive species management, will assist in the long-term contribution that the site makes towards the overall conservation efforts of three threatened lowland vegetation types.
- The **Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers** conducted a botanical survey at Melkbos Conservation Area and recorded 145 plant species of which 13 species are Red Listed.
- The City of Cape Town's Tender for the **Control of Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive Plants** and the removal and disposal of biomass and litter came to an end in June 2017. The new Tender is in the process of being finalised. As a result the City initiated a Request for Quotations (RFQ) for the control and eradication of invasive alien species at BBNR. The contractor was appointed and commenced with follow-up work in February 2018.
- **Invasive alien vegetation monitoring, control and eradication** were conducted by BBNR staff (follow-up of BCA03) and the FoBCA hack team (follow-up of BCA011 and BCA017). The FoBCA hack team spent 26 person days on follow up clearing of invasive alien vegetation in management blocks BCA02, BCA15, BCA11 and BCA18.

5. FAUNA

- **African Black Oyster Catcher Counts (OCC)** were conducted every second week under the guidance of Dale Slabbert (Visitor Controller). The African Oyster Catcher survey for the BBNR is a fortnightly event where data on the breeding African Oyster Catcher population is collected on the beach from Big Bay to Melkbosstrand. The walk is roughly 8 km long and takes approximately 3 hours.
- Ad hoc **mammal, bird, reptile and amphibian observations** were recorded during this quarter.
- BBNR staff assisted with a **Large Marine Animal Stranding** (False Killer Whale, *Pseudorca crassidens*) at Big Bay, Bloubergstrand during this quarter
- Two **road mortality observations** (*Caracal*, *Caracal caracal* on the M19 and R27) were recorded during this quarter.



Figure 6 *Taurotragus oryx* (Eland)



Figure 7 *Mellivora capensis* (Honey Badger)



Figure 8 *Sylvicapra grimmia* (Common Duiker)



Figure 9 *Tyto alba* (Barn Owl)



Figure 10 *Chersina angulata* (Angulate Tortoise)



Figure 11 *Homoroselaps lacteus* (Spotted Harlequin Snake)



Figure 12 Juvenile *Pseudaspis cana* (Mole Snake)



Figure 13 *Caracal caracal*

6. WATER

DROUGHT CRISIS: LEVEL 6B WATER RESTRICTIONS

The City of Cape Town has approved Level 6B Water Restrictions, effective from 1 February 2018 until further notice. All water users are required to immediately use less than 50 litres of water per person per day in total irrespective of whether you are at home, work or elsewhere.

Figure 14 below indicates the monthly rainfall records of BBNR in 2018. Figure 15 below indicates the total rainfall records of BBNR from 2013 to 2018.

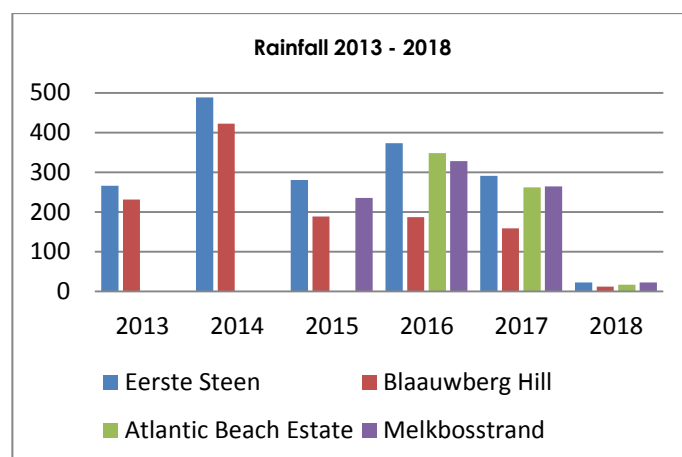
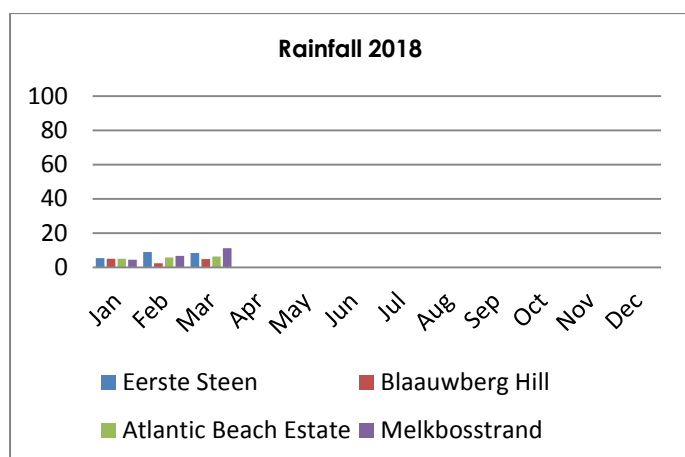


Figure 14 Monthly rainfall figures in and around the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve for 2018.

Figure 15 Total rainfall figures for the period from 2013 to 2018.

7. FIRE

• Fire Protection Association

The National Veld and Forest Fire Act, Act 101 of 1998, Chapter 2 clause 4(8) states that "The owner in respect of State land must join any fire protection association registered in the area in which the land lies. The City of Cape Town being a statutory body is obliged to join the [Cape Peninsula Fire Protection Association](#) (CPFPA) within the boundaries of the CPFPA, which includes the entire Cape Metropolitan. The City of Cape Town Environmental Management Department (EMD) Biodiversity Management Branch is a fully compliant member of the CPFPA.



- BBNR assisted the Dassenberg Coastal Catchment Partnership (DCCP) with a wildfire on 13 March 2018.

8. PEOPLE, TOURISM & EDUCATION

8.1 Internal Meetings

BBNR staff attended the following internal meetings during this quarter:

- BBNR staff meeting (Weekly)
- Individual Performance Management review
- Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool South Africa version 3 (METT-SA 3) review
- Biodiversity Management Branch Meeting (Quarterly)
- Electronic venue booking system information session
- Bi-Monthly Safety Meeting (Bi-Monthly)
- North Region Monthly Meeting (Monthly)

8.2 External Meetings

BBNR staff attended the following external meetings during this quarter:

- South African Police Service Station Joint Meeting (Weekly)
- Melkbosstrand Community Police Forum Meeting (Monthly)
- Friends of Blaauwberg Conservation Area Committee Meeting (Monthly)
- Blaauwberg Nature Reserve Protected Area Advisory Committee Meeting (Quarterly)
- Cape Peninsula Fire Protection Association North Ward Meeting (Monthly)
- Supply Chain Management SP11800107 Conversion of the World War II Generator Building on the Blaauwberg Hill into an interpretive centre
- Supply Chain Management SP11800110 Refurbish car shade ports
- Supply Chain Management SP11800120 Preparation & paintwork - Melkbos House
- Supply Chain Management SP11800121 General maintenance work at Blaauwberg Nature Reserve
- Supply Chain Management SP11800122 Liquid Petroleum Gas installation at Blaauwberg Nature Reserve
- [Atlantic Beach](#) Home Owner Association Environmental Liaison Committee Meeting (Bi-Monthly)
- [Cape Peninsula University of Technology](#) Lecturer / Work Integrated Learning Student Meeting
- Sunningdale Phase 13 development – Meeting with Land Surveyors

8.3 Visitor Statistics

	TARIFF	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	VISITORS FOR YEAR	MONEY PER YEAR
Pensioners: Tygerberg, Blaauwberg, Table Bay	R 8	15	33	40	18	16	182	165	38	71	578	R 4 624
Adults: Tygerberg, Blaauwberg, Table Bay	R 15	232	422	522	386	652	2375	1481	367	791	7228	R 108 420
Children; 3-17 yrs: Tygerberg, Blaauwberg, Table Bay	R 8	60	147	153	134	203	903	644	105	226	2575	R 20 600
Scholars - student card: Tygerberg, Blaauwberg, Table Bay	R 8	0	0	2	181	0	1	3	0	0	187	R 1 496
Children <3yrs & free	R 0	2	7	13	2	7	7	18	3	11	70	R 0
Scholars - school groups free visit	R 0	0	0	200	44	0	0	0	0	250	494	R 0
Scholars - school groups	R 7	0	28	85	184	57	0	2	159	16	531	R 3 717
Season Ticket - free entry	R 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	R 0
Season Ticket - adult	R 144	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	R 0
Season Ticket - snr citizen	R 74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	R 0
Season Ticket - family	R 223	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	R 223
Season Ticket-student with valid card	R 75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	R 0
Vehicles (Table Bay & Blaauwberg)	R 23	106	170	239	176	296	871	630	158	324	2970	R 68 310
Commercial activity 1-9 people per day	R 170	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	8	R 1 360
Commercial activity 10-20 people per day	R 395	3	3	0	5	6	10	6	7	4	44	R 17 380
Overnight accommodation: Blaauwberg per night 1-2 people (Peak Season)	R 741	0	0	14	1	3	2	0	1	10	31	R 22 971
Overnight accommodation: Blaauwberg per night per additional person	R 127	0	2	0	2	5	2	0	0	8	19	R 2 413
Overnight accommodation: Blaauwberg per night 1-2 people (Off-peak Season)	R 565	3	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	12	R 6 780
TOTAL FOR YEAR												R 258 294

8.4 Environmental Interpretation and Education Full Details

DATE	NAME OF SCHOOL/ORGANISATION	GRADE/AGE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (learners + teacher+ adult)	PROGRAMME
2018 Feb				
21	Blouberg Ridge primary	Gr.2	66	Marine pollution & beach clean-up
22	Blouberg Ridge primary	Gr.2	66	Marine pollution & beach clean-up
23	Blouberg Ridge primary	Gr.2	27	Marine pollution & beach clean-up
Mar				
1	EPWP group	Adults	15	Introduction to BBNR
2	SNAP academy	Mix	8+0+8	Marine pollution & beach clean-up
3	Foundation Backbone	Gr.7	46	Marine pollution & beach clean-up
10	Foundation Backbone	Gr.7	45	Marine pollution & beach clean-up
27	Bishop Lavis High school	Mix	250	Beach clean-up
TOTAL			531	

Friends of Blaauwberg Conservation Area – walks, talks, youth group

DATE	NAME OF ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	PROGRAMME
Feb			
3	FoBCA Dave Honour	9	Battlefield walk
24	FoBCA	15	Two hills walk
Mar			
3	CREW - BCA	3	Botanical walk – coastal dune trail
17	FoBCA Dave Honour	27	Orde van den Prins
Total		54	

Eerste Steen Education Cabin usage and benefits to people

DATE	NAME OF ORGANISATION	Number of people	Contact person
Jan			
26	FoBCA (APP launch)	17	Roy Fuller-Gee
30	SJW Civils	10	Marco Lategan
Feb			
16	BBNR PAAC	17	Roy Fuller-Gee
Mar			
12	SJW Civils	10	Marco Lategan
TOTAL			



Figure 16 to 19 Blouberg Ridge Primary marine pollution and beach clean-up programme (Photographs: Elzette Krynauw).

9. STAFF MATTERS

- The [Cape Town Environmental Education Trust](#) (CTEET) in partnership with the City of Cape Town Environmental Management Department and the [Atlantic Beach Management](#) PTY Ltd appointed **Hester Pentz** on a two-year contract position of Site Manager and **Jerry Khalo** on a contract position of Field Ranger for the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve Atlantic Beach Section. Reporting to the Biodiversity Management Branch, Hester Pentz, Nigel Maart and Jerry Khalo will be required to manage the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve Atlantic Beach Section including the 20ha Atlantic Beach Golf Course Conservation Area in liaison with the Environmental Liaison Committee (ELC).
- **Lamla Sigenu** was appointed as Engineering Artisan (Welder).
- **Ruan Pieter Strauss** and **Ruan Jansche Van Rensburg** was appointed on a contract position of student for the BBNR.
- **Gavin Olivier** and **Monwabisi Varoyi** successfully passed their Code C1 Heavy Vehicle licence test and Professional Drivers Permit.

Figure 20 Monwabisi Varoyi successfully passed his Code C1 Heavy Vehicle licence



- **Monwabisi Varoyi** was elected as the Health & Safety Representative for BBNR in terms of Section 17 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Act 85 of 1993. As a Health and Safety Representative and a member of the Health and Safety Committee he will be playing an important role in the furtherance of health and safety objectives for the nature reserve.
- BBNR staff attended training on the use of the City of Cape Town Language Style Guide.

10. LAW ENFORCEMENT

- BBNR staff conducted **weekly patrols** of BBNR and Melkbos Conservation Area to check for any illegal activities and/or maintenance which may be required.
- BBNR installed **new information and regulation signage** in the BBNR coastal section and at Melkbos Conservation Area.
- **Theft / Loss of Council property** (chainsaws, grinder, toolbox, socket set) reported to the [South African Police Service](#) (SAPS) Table View (CAS137/02/2018).
- **Damage to Council property** at Eerste Steen Resort reported to SAPS Table View (AR62/03/2018).
- **Illegal dumping** of builder's sand occurred in Kreeftebaai coastal parking area.
- **Illegal dumping/littering** occurred in Melkbos Conservation Area.
- **Trespassing/illegal overnighting** occurred in the BBNR coastal section.



Figure 21 Illegal dumping of sand at Kreeffebaai



Figure 22 Illegal structures at Melkbos Conservation Area



Figure 23 Trespassing on Blaauwberg Nature Reserve

12. INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT

CAPITAL/OPERATIONAL/WARD FUNDED PROJECTS	COMMENT	BUDGET	% SPENT
Laundry Services: North Region Nature Reserves (Table Bay Nature Reserve, Blaauwberg Nature Reserve, Dassenberg Coastal Catchment Partnership)	Purchase Order 4503110906		On-going
Conversion of the Word War II Generator Building on Blaauwberg Hill into an interpretive centre for the Battle of Blaauwberg 1806.		R30 000	0%
Conversion of the Word War II Generator Building on Blaauwberg Hill into an interpretive centre for the Battle of Blaauwberg 1806.	Purchase Order 4503250470	R70 000	53%
SP11800120 Preparation and paintwork at Melkbos House			0%
SP11800121 General maintenance work at Blaauwberg Nature Reserve			0%
SP11800122 Liquid Petroleum Gas installation at Blaauwberg Nature Reserve			0%
Refurbish shade car ports	Purchase Order 4503250289	R17 500	0%
Supply and deliver polywood bollards	Purchase Order 4503237272	R44 460	0%
Supply and installation of signage at Blaauwberg Nature Reserve	Purchase Order 4503180453	R68 106.86	100%
Repairs and Maintenance of fencing at Melkbos Conservation Area (Bato Way)	Works Order 400820558	R79 153.20	33%

BBNR staff conducted the following **infrastructure repairs and maintenance** during this quarter:



Figure 24 to 27 BBNR staff commenced with the repairs and maintenance of the Melkbos Conservation Area fence at Bato Way.

Figure 28 Steyn Signage & Maintenance completed the supply and installation of signage in the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve coastal section.



Figure 29 Lamla Sigenu repaired the door of the public ablutions at Blaauwberg Hill



Figure 30 The EPWP Working for the Coast team painted the public ablutions at Eerste Steen Resort



Figure 31 The leaking fire hydrant at Eerste Steen Resort was repaired by contractors



Figure 32 The Environmental Education Centre roof was repaired by contractors

For more details with regards to items mentioned in the above Report Document, please refer to the relevant site calendars on www.biodiversity.co.za. For more information on the City's nature reserves, visit <http://www.capetown.gov.za/Explore%20and%20enjoy/Nature-and-outdoors/Our-precious-biodiversity/City-nature-reserves>

APPENDIX B: MEDIA RELEASES



TYGERBURGER Table View **NU**

Friends of the Blaauwberg Conservation Area recently launched a guide to plant species found across the West Coast. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Get to know our local plants

A floral guide to plants found in and around the West Coast was launched recently at the end-of-year function of the Friends of the Blaauwberg Conservation Area (FOBCA).

The floral guide, titled *Coastal Walk Flower Guide*, is aimed at creating awareness of local indigenous plants, and can also be referenced for water-wise gardening, says Kay Loubser, FOBCA member.

"The guide is cleverly arranged by flower colour to make it user friendly.

The page layout was done by Karen Venter of Birdesign, and the text by local citizen scientists.

"The added bits of botanical information make for interesting reading," Loubser adds.

The guide is available at R100, and each purchase will support local environmental education.

FOBCA also offers guided botanical walks on the first Saturday of every month at Eerste Steen, Blouberg.

▶ For more details, send an email to petrabroddle@yahoo.com or call 072 428 4488.

▶ The guide is also available at Starke Ayres, Sunningdale.

Tabletalk

NEWS



■ Friends of Blaauwberg Conservation Area held a Battle of Blaauwberg commemoration in Blaauwberg Nature Reserve on Saturday January 6. Pastor Marius Breytenbach, flanked by highland pipers and a brass band, read a eulogy.



■ The cannon gave several onlookers a fright.



■ The cannon was fired at noon in remembrance of all those who fell in the Battle of Blaauwberg 1806.

