

Botfriends newsletter

August 2020



Editor: Renee Austin

LETTER TO OSM – stripped fynbos

In Fisherhaven on Riverside Drive there is a strip of Fynbos on Erf 775 that has been slashed, just beyond the Caravan/ Yacht club site. This is an area that Botfriends cleared of alien species more than a year ago, with a subsequent follow-up.

We have been investigating who might have slashed this Fynbos, including the Proteaceae species. We spoke to a number of the residents in Riverside who had observed people busy there. We have not been able to establish any clear reasons as to who might have been responsible. There was a team of municipal workers who had been doing some clearing in the Fisherhaven area at that time but we are reasonably sure it was not them. We should like some clarity as to whether the OSM has knowledge of this clearing.

It makes very little sense why such a large area was slashed, obviously not just for clearing the path to the view site. See attached photographs.

Botfriends would like to report this damage of the environment officially to the Environmental Department of the OSM, and ask that it be investigated further. We would be happy to assist. (Edited)

Michael Austin



MORE TREES ATTACKED...

There has been pruning/damaging of trees on the verge of The Crescent. First was a Waterberry tree, one of the few indigenous trees that grows well in Fisherhaven, then a bottlebrush: an invasive species... the branch was left in situ, laden with seed! The latest victim is a milkwood which is a protected species in South Africa. Who is destroying our natural environment?

Begone, Patterson's curse!

Patterson's curse is an invasive weed which can be seen around Fisherhaven and its environs. See photographs.

Thank you to those, including Bruce and Daphne Bayer, who have been diligently removing it. You make our environment a better place to be.



Lamloch fence - a reply from the farm's owner



As mentioned in previously communication, this is not a new fence, the fence is an existing line that was repaired. Wire and posts were replaced in the same position as they had always been.

We can happily report that the horses are moving between Kleinmond and Fisherhaven without a problem. A picture published in the media (Die Burger 23 May 2020) shows a group of horses on the Kleinmond beach.

Finally, regarding indigenous/endemic animal movements, we have regular inspections from Cape Nature to ensure our fences are compliant. They have been specifically designed to make provision for the movement of all our local species to move through the fence without a problem.

Craig Saunders

ZERO WASTE kitchen



A COMMUNITY WHO CARES

No baby should feel rejected; it could leave a lifelong scar." Marie Matthee and her husband, Johan feel so strongly about this that they have created a small Place of Safety for abandoned babies on the Rooisand road near Kleinmond. Since 2015, when House Madalitsho ('Blessing to the People') was opened, 38 babies have passed through their caring hands. To offer assistance or for further information, Marie can be contacted on marie@zehandi.com or 079 740 7989.

Let the river run...

After very good rains, the Bot River estuary was artificially breached on 21 July by Cape Nature, with the result that it had emptied by the evening of 22 July, with a strong sea flow into the estuary at high tide.



There was an above average rainfall in June, followed by good rains in July. These filled the estuary to 2.9m above sea level. This still left 600-700mm to go before the estuary would breach naturally this year.

REMINDER!!!

We need your fees to be able to function. There are some 2019 fees which are still outstanding – please could you make payment? Thank you so much. To those who have paid their 2020-2021 membership – much appreciation. Also, we'd love to have some more committed, interested people on the Executive who are prepared to do the work – please consider standing when we have our AGM.



Please contact botvlei@gmail.com if you have any queries or wish to get more involved.

The estuary had been closed for 5 years and a well-compacted high bank of sand had built up. Only very high tides had flown over, which added very little water to the estuary. The estuary was still filling up by 100-140mm per day from fresh water. The previous week the estuary had filled more than a metre in six days. The more the estuary filled up, the stronger the flow became through Lamloch Swamps to the Kleinmond Estuary. The Kleinmond Estuary then breached naturally on 18 July 2020. The flow through to Kleinmond is a slow movement of water, over a long distance, through dense reeds, and only when the Bot Estuary is high. See our website www.botfriends.org.za for further info.