

Jongensfontein Natuurreservaat



Die sewende kwartaalikse nuusbrieff en vierde uitgawe van 2025

Desember 2025, en die somer en vakansiegangers is hier. In hierdie sewende nuusbrieff vertel ons oudergewoonte meer oor die doen en late waarmee die Woensdagoggendgroep besig was, oor die stappaadjies wat mooi versorg is, watter plante in die somermaande blom, watter geveerde en ook viervoetige inwoners en besoekers in en om die fonteindam waargeneem is, en die splinternuwe houtdek by die fonteindam.

Geveerde besoekers aan die fonteindam in die reservaat



‘n Rooiborsjakkalsvoël
Jackal buzzard



Bruinkopvisvanger
Brown-hooded Kingfisher



Paradysvlieëvanger
African Paradise Flycatcher



Swartkopreier
Black-headed Heron



Rooivink
Southern Red Bishop



Kopereend
South African Shelduck

Die Boksombende (the Wednesday Morning Club)

Twenty twenty-five review by Ralph Rudd

The Wednesday group had a very successful year.

A couple of highlights

A pipeline was dug at the grass area next to the tennis courts to enable watering of the area. This, due to a large amount of time and effort by Dirk, has resuscitated the grass and created a fantastic parking area as well as an entrance into the tennis courts.



Before



After

The local birders met to create requirements for a bird hide. A local architect has created plans for a bird hide and the following steps of finding funding and obtaining approval are ongoing.

The firebreaks were cut in March and again in November. The internal paths were also cleared.

Agaves were removed by a contractor at the entrance to the reserve.

An area above the tennis courts was identified as not being part of the reserve. We held discussions with the Municipality and agreed that we would treat the area as part of the reserve and would start a process to add the area to the reserve.

The team cleared alien vegetation as well as walked the area. A vast amount of Blombos / Stilbaai / Mossel Bay pin cushions were seen. We counted in excess of 30 covering the slopes of the fountain.

Various small mammalia spoors were seen and spotted.

The municipality donated funds as well as renewable benches.

The benches were placed on the southern parking area where visitors can view the passing ships, whales as well as the setting sun.

The group also assisted with re-positioning the benches in front of Drie Pikkewyne to ensure more stalls can be housed for the Xmas market.



Die stappaadjies is gereed vir die somervakansie



Splinternuwe houtdek by die fonteindam

A short story by Ralph Rudd

It all started when a wagtail was spotted in the Jongensfontein dam area. The birders were all a twitter and came from afar to see if they could also see this rarely spotted bird. (Was the second time it was seen in South Africa this year).

As you may be aware, the fountain and the dam area are enclosed and only certain personnel are allowed in.

Arrangements were made to accommodate the birders for a period but a need was identified to have a viewing spot across the Jongensfontein dam. (Thanks Gerald)



A site was identified, on the southern slope of the fountain area, approval was gained to create a small path to the viewing site.

The path was built, and the viewing site flattened, deck chairs were donated for the first viewers ... but ...the edge of the viewing site is 2-3m above the dam and there is a potential for erosion and people falling.

A plan was made to prevent future erosion by erecting a barrier and to anchor the barrier we had to build a fencing style structure. This meant three flat poles were lying across the flattened viewing area.

Planks were then donated to erect a platform (deck) across the poles, instead of people sitting in the sand, this again raised a concern as there was no hand railing to prevent people from falling off.

A handrail was then erected with a counter top donated from a shop in Ladismith.

The municipality had donated a renewable bench to the JIV and this was installed.

And suddenly voila, we had a deck on the side of the Jongensfontein dam that can be used by anybody.

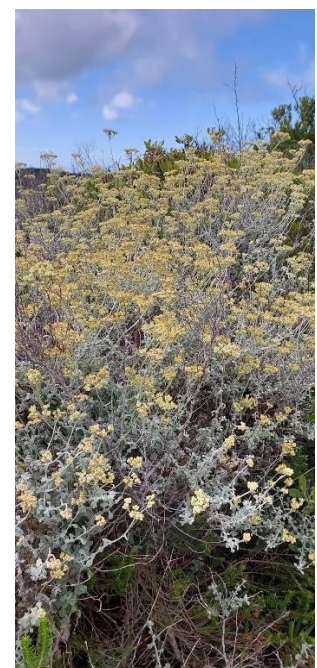
I would like to thank Coenie for the timber, Dirk for the shop counter, Riaan, Mike and Dion for screws, rebar, nuts and bolts and the usage of their tools.

All the others whom also arrived to do manual labour and provide advice and guidance.

This ends the short story, that started as a small idea but grew into something larger, but I hope a longer story continues with people enjoying the view and the site.



Kooigoed (Honey Everlasting; *Helichrysum patulum*) blom van vroeg in die somer met hul kenmerkende heuningreuk wat in die lug hang.



Viervoetiges in en om die fonteindam



Bosbokke

Bushbuck



Kaapse Kloulose Otter

Cape Clawless Otter



Kommetjiesgatmuishond

Water mongoose

Tot volgende keer

Vir algemene inligting oor die reservaat, kontak gerus per WhatsApp vir Ralph Rudd (0825735591), vir inligting oor die voëls vir Gerald Gaigher (0833063266), en flora vir Eduard Fourie (0822022408). Besoek ons ook aanlyn:

Friends of Jongensfontein Nature Reserve op Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1570815726807019>

Jongensfontein Nature Reserve op Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/jongensfontein_nature_reserve/

Vir meer inligting en fotos van die fynbos en bome in die Reservaat, besoek gerus die **Jongensfontein Nature Reserve project** op iNaturalist by

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/jongensfontein-nature-reserve>

Om meer uit te vind oor die voëls wat in die Natuurreseervaat sowel as langs die Jongensfontein kuslyn tot by Stilbaai asook tot by Blombos voorkom, besoek gerus die **Jongensfontein Nature Reserve projek** op GoBirding by

<https://gobirding.birdlife.org.za/jongensfontein/>

