

# Jongensfontein Nature Reserve



## Background

Erf 126, now referred to as the Jongensfontein Nature Reserve (JNR), was rezoned to Open Area Zone III, for a Nature Reserve on 26 June 2015 by the Hessequa Municipal Council. There are some pre-conditions stipulated in the declaration, the most important are the following:

- *It must be noted on the Title Deed that Erf 126 is rezoned for a Nature Reserve.*
- *That an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is created by the Hessequa Environment Team.*
- *The Jongensfontein Inwoners Vereniging (JIV) is given the mandate to look after the Nature Reserve (Management Authority in the Environmental Management Plan).*

The EMP has various facets pertaining to managing the JNR and different Jongensfontein residents have volunteered to manage these.

## Activities that have occurred so far this year

- A meeting was held with Hessequa Municipality to discuss the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and the Annual Plan of Operation (APO). A review of the Annual Plan of Operation has been done and forwarded to the Municipality. Discussions have been held with hiking, cycling and running groups.

- Hessequa Municipality has contracted Southern Cape Fire Protection Association to clear 1500m of Firebreak on the perimeter of Block D, Block B and Block A. This is currently ongoing and should be complete by end June.
- Hessequa Municipality have cleared waste at the gate and also in the green waste area. They have also cleared around the reservoir and storage room.



- In March this year, **a team of hackers was assembled to start removing the alien vegetation**. The team consists of volunteering residents of Jongensfontein are Dion Barnes, Hans Gericke, Jan Gericke, Johan Liebenberg, Peter Aligianis Protoulis, Pieter Stapelberg, Riaan van der Spuy, Schalk Kotze, Wynand Lambrechts and Ralph H Rudd. The team meets every Wednesday morning at 09:00 to hack for an hour. They are concentrating on rooipitjie (*Acacia cyclops*), utilising their own tools and chain saws to cut the trees down. The advice provided by Cape Nature was to first concentrate on low density areas as this entails quick wins. The advice has been followed and currently two of the fire break blocks of rooipitjie have been cleared, and lots of fun been had. The trees are not removed but left to rot and provide nutrients to the environment. The last rooipitjie removal was done in 2019 and therefore certain areas are relatively clear. Once the team has cleared the rooipitjie, they will concentrate on removal of other alien species as identified by local botanists.
- Eduard Fourie and Johan van Rensburg are currently managing the **flora of the reserve**. This entails identifying which plant species are to be kept, which plants should be eradicated, and



which plants may be tolerated. Further to attract more residents and visitors into the JNR to come and view the spectacular natural biodiversity. To this end, they are engaging with various specialists for advice and assistance.

- In the same vain, a group of birders has volunteered to review the **bird life of the reserve**. Also, with the goal of creating a space where twitchers / birders can view the avian diversity.

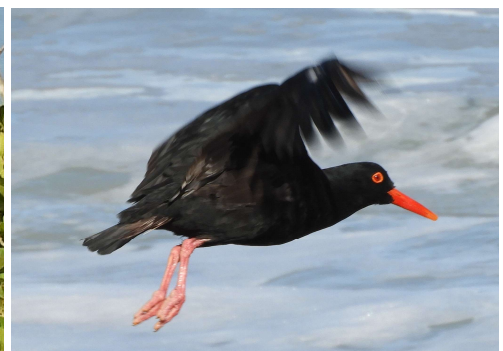
We should be vigilant as during one of the hacker sessions we discovered six bags of sheep skins and wool. The police were notified and came on-site. The Municipality removed the waste.

**Currently plans** are for drawing new hiking / walking and cycling paths and creating a map to incorporate the northern most area of the Reserve.

## 'n Goeie voëlkykbestemming



Jongensfontein is 'n goeie voëlkykbestemming waar reeds 165 voëlspecies aangeteken is. Ons is gelukkig om toegang te hê tot seevoëls, watervoëls by ons damme in die Reservaat en natuurlik ook ons voëls in die fynbos.



Besigtiging by die damme is vergemaklik deurdat daar nou 'n wandelpaadjie deur fynbos is na 'n grondwal Wes van die damme wat die voëlkyk baie vergemaklik. Stap in die Reservaat in of reis per motor tot naby die hek van die damme en volg dan die aanwysingbordjies.



## The Nature Reserve must have fire breaks as determined by the Environmental Management Plan

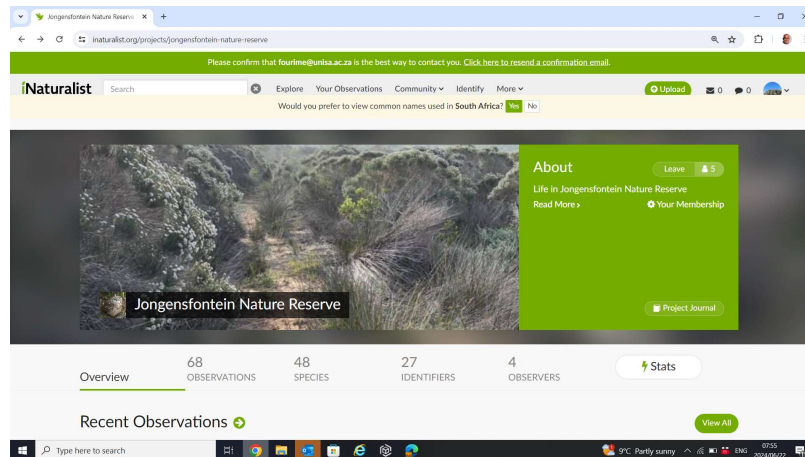
We have studied the plan and determined, in consultation, with the Hessequa Municipality a time line of ensuring all fire breaks are cleared and maintained. The Municipality sub contracted Southern Cape Fire Protection Association (SCFPA) to clear the fire breaks on the Western boundary as well as the northern boundary of the reserve. The added benefit of clearing these boundaries is that it creates an added foot, running and cycling path. The plan for further clearing will be followed and we will report on those in future newsletters.





## Die Natuurreseervaat as projek op iNaturalist

Die Jongensfontein Natuurreseervaat is vanaf Junie 2024 as projek gelys op iNaturalist. Gaan kyk gerus by <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/jongensfontein-nature-reserve>



Stilbaai\_herbarium is baie opgewonde oor die inheemse *Heliophila crassistyla* (foto's hieronder) wat sy op 18 Junie 2024 in die Reservaat gefotografeer het. Die plant versamel dou en soutwater sproeit tussen die klein haartjies.





Almal betrokke is baie entoesiasties oor die projek en nooi vrywilligers uit om betrokke te raak. Indien julle belangstel, vir algemene inligting oor die Reservaat kontak gerus per WhatsApp vir Ralph (0825735591), vir inligting oor die voëls vir Gerald (0833063266), en flora vir Eduard (0822022408) of Johan (0825727994).