

Support our work

There are three ways you can support the work of maintaining the Steenbok Nature Reserve:

- 1 Become a member of The Friends of Steenbok Nature Reserve. The annual subscription fee is a modest R 250.00. Membership application forms are available from dispensing boxes at the main entrances to the Park and on our website under the features page.

Our thanks to all those who have already paid their renewal fees for 2010/2011.

To those who have yet to do so we have included our banking details below.

- 2 Make a one off donation.
- 3 Include a legacy in your will.

Banking details:

Bank: Standard Bank,

Branch: Knysna

Account name:

The Friends of Steenbok Nature Reserve

Account number: 082579342

For further information go to our website or contact Roger on 083 754 5390

WWW.STEENBOKNATURERESERVE.ORG.ZA

Our Funders

We thank the Leisure Isle Residents' Association and the Knysna Municipality for funding the costs of daily maintenance activities. This has made it possible to create two part-time jobs for gardeners who keep the Reserve looking cared for.

All the costs of improvements and new projects are covered by generous support from members of 'Friends of Steenbok', Gardening at Leisure (our local Garden Club), Leisure Isle Festival and donations from members of the public.

We are very grateful for all your support.

Trustees

Keith Hollis (Chairman), Roger Voysey (Manager), James Botha, Peter Godsell, Terry McLintock, Myles Ruck and Brian Steele.

Management Committee

Roger Voysey (Chairman & Reserve Manager), Peter Godsell, Mike St Quintin, Esther Townsend, Leonie Twentyman Jones and Flo & Derek Vosloo,

Gardeners

Brave Mtonga and Johnny Nyirenda.

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Photos: Margaret Richards, Roger Voysey

Design: Peter Godsell

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STEENBOK NEWS

ISSUED BY FRIENDS OF
STEENBOK NATURE RESERVE
WITH OUR BEST WISHES FOR A
VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
DEC. 2010

2010 HIGHLIGHTS



This last year has been busy and productive. Better rains supplemented by a new automated sprinkler system have encouraged some wonderful botanical displays, two of which are highlighted inside this newsletter. Birdlife has increased, as has the usage of the Reserve by residents and visitors.

We thank all who have contributed to a successful and enjoyable year and hope that you will enjoy this brief end-of-year newsletter.

January-February:

Brunsvigia Orientalis –

Candelabra flower



There were many more blooms of this spectacular crimson flower on higher ground throughout the Reserve during this summer. In total 347 blooms were counted, in contrast with 2009's 10-year-low of 220.

Experts are uncertain as to the reasons for this increase as Brunsvigias are erratic in their flowering behaviour. Perhaps there were fewer Lily borer worms feeding on the brunsvigia leaves during 2010. Certainly removing the invasive Cotton grass from particular areas in the Reserve has resulted in an increased growth of many indigenous plants.

It will be interesting to see if 2010's increase in rainfall will impact on the 2011 flowering.



September-December:

Nesting Spotted Eagle-Owls

For the second year running, the Island's pair of Spotted Eagle-owls chose the specially made nesting box in the large Gum tree near the tennis courts to raise their brood. The female laid her eggs round about 18 September. The eggs were due to hatch 30-32 days later, and by mid-November two chicks could be seen moving around in the box.



Before it could fly, the larger chick left the nest on 27 November to explore the territory around the base of the tree, while its sibling watched from the safety of the nesting box or nearby branch. The parents were stationed close by to see that the chick on the ground kept out of harm's way and to warn off any dogs or humans who got too close.

A little while later the other chick also left the nest. We hope it won't be too long before both chicks spend more time together with their parents in the safe surroundings of the bowling green - learning how to fly and catch their own food.

October-November:

Satyrium Princeps – Wild orchid



This beautiful orchid, which is classified in the SANBI Red List as 'vulnerable', i.e. facing a high degree of extinction in the wild, increased from 20 blooms in 2009 to 111 blooms from 136 plants in 2010. The majority of the flowering plants are now located in open areas where invasive Rhus species were cut back earlier in the year.

A group of volunteers from Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers (CREW), part of the SA National Biodiversity Institute's Threatened Species Programme, visited the sites at the end of November and registered them officially.

They have put us in contact with two local botanical experts who they believe will be able to advise us on the nurturing and protection of these special plants and plan to visit Steenbok Nature Reserve again in mid-summer and next spring to look at our wide diversity of flora.