



STEENBOK UPDATE

Two Exciting Projects to Start The Year

During the next two weeks we are embarking on two important projects. Both are aimed at further improving for all the Steenbok Nature Reserve experience and ensuring its longevity for future generations.



Free Doggy Fun Day for You and Your Four Legged Friend Saturday 8th February

We want to celebrate the faithful dogs and dog walkers that come so regularly to the park and also to encourage best practices, such as picking up after their dogs. KAWS are jointly staging the event and we have things going on all morning, things to buy and a Doggy Do raffle

7-11am Doggy Do Raffle

9.30am Join the KAWS Dogs for a walk in the park

10.30am Enjoy a Dog Agility Demonstration

What's a Doggy Do Raffle? Collect the one thing that your dog can donate during a walk...poo...and exchange the bagged donation for a raffle ticket! If you don't have a dog - then find a donation from a previous dog left by a less discerning walker... or make a donation to KAWS

Opportunities to win every 30 mins, free choice of prize and the final grand prize draw is a weekend for two at The Knysna Belle Guest House in their amazing luxury suite "The Captains Quarters" on Leisure Isle. Knysna Belle recently gained the prestigious Liziwela award as the best 4 Star B&B in the Western Province.

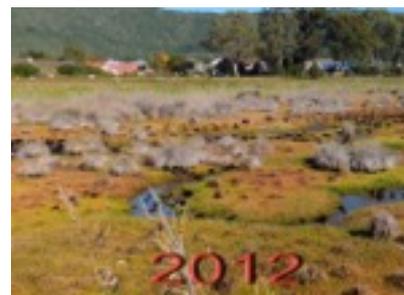


Come and join us, bring your four legged friend or just meet one there...

Restoration of Further Saltmarsh

In 2006 investigations were undertaken in regard to opening the Steenbok Park seawall to permit natural tidal flow of seawater into the Park in order to restore salt marsh. Due to the significant effect the proposal could have on some usage of the Park, and fears related to global warming, the idea was abandoned.

Instead a manhole and two drainage pipes linking the Park with the estuary were cleaned out and free exchange of sea water into the Park was restored. In the years that followed a considerable quantity of stone, rubble and litter was removed and channels cleared to facilitate more efficient water flow in and out. As indicated in the "before and after photographs" the improvement over 5 years has been dramatic.

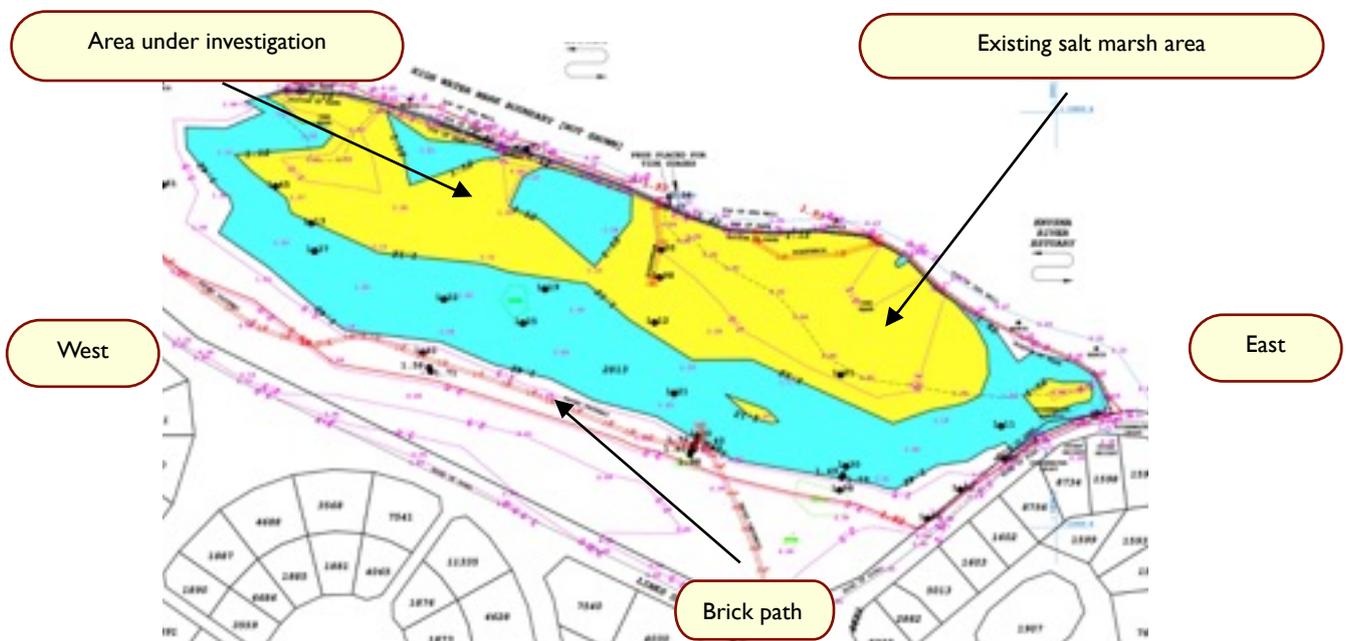


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Following completion in 2011 of a detailed Management Plan, and extensive vegetation discussions with experts, management came to realise that the vegetation mix of Steenbok Park is not natural and could inhibit the possibility of securing formal “Nature Reserve” status. Steps are continually being taken to eradicate *Imperata cylindrica* (Cottonwool grass) and to restore coastal fynbos but a plan is needed to restore a large area of salt marsh. The area identified lies to the west of the already restored salt marsh and is currently a brackish wetland.

As part of our action plan for 2014 we decided to investigate, with the assistance of professionals, the desirability of restoring salt marsh to this brackish wetland west of the board walks, by allowing tidal flow through pipes, as is the case east of the access boardwalk.

The project under investigation involves replication of the existing and already successful inlet/outlet pipes to allow regular flow of salt water with the objective of restoring a further large area of salt marsh. The existing and successful area is the right (east) part of the area coloured yellow in the plan that appears below. The area covered by the investigation and which is being considered for inundation is the left (west) part of the area coloured yellow on the same plan. The area coloured blue is that portion of the Park inundated occasionally (once every 5 years or so) when abnormally high spring tides are experienced.



In pursuance of our investigation we have commissioned Mr Piet Huizinga a well known hydrologist to visit us on Friday 31 January to conduct tidal measurement over a spring tide period, and after discussions with SANParks, the Municipality and engineer Mr Gerrit Niewoudt, to make recommendations on the viability and desirability of proceeding with the project. It is planned to receive reports from the professionals in time for these to be circulated before our Annual General Meeting to be held in the latter part of March. Those involved will be making their observations on the Steenbok Park seawall from noon on Friday. You are welcome to chat to them.

Management Committee : Councillor Lizwani, Councillor Hart, and Jonathan Mabula nominated by Knysna Municipality, Ricky Maskew and Roger Voysey by LIRA, Peter Godsell by Friends of Steenbok, Maretha Alant by SANParks and James Botha and Dave Edge co-opted by MANCOM.

Operations committee : Roger Voysey (Chairman & Manager), Andrew Campbell, Alix Coxon, Peter Godsell, Esther Townsend and Leonie Twentyman Jones.

www.steenboknaturereserve.org.za