



STEENBOK UPDATE

December 2013

Orchids Galore

Once again October produced a magnificent show of *Satyrium princeps* flowering along the path west of the tennis courts leading through the thicket to Kingfisher Creek. In that same area, and in fact in many parts of the Reserve, *Eulophia speciosa*, another beautiful orchid, will soon be visible pushing out of the sandy soil in hot open areas.

Then from late December we should see the first blooms of our most prolific orchid, *Brunsvigia orientalis*, appearing in many different parts of Steenbok Park. It is a large spectacular bulb with a sturdy stem that carries up to 50 crimson flowers in a rounded head. The large flat leaves appear after the flowers have died.



Satyrium princeps



Eulophia speciosa



Brunsvigia orientalis,

Dog Walker Awareness Day

A dog awareness day is planned for 8 February 2014 and will be run in conjunction with Animal Welfare (KAWS). It will include “poo” raffles, dog ability demonstrations, advice from vets, demonstrations from Groomers, bold signage and “red flags” hi-lighting the poo problem. Alix Coxon who recently joined our Operations Committee is organising the event.



If you have any suggestions or would like to be involved phone Alix on 076 124 6427 or email her at alixireland@gmail.com.



Leisure Isle Festival

Favourable weather and a large contingent of enthusiastic volunteers resulted in a most successful event. Our thanks to the ladies of Gardening at Leisure, the local garden club, who raised R17000 for Steenbok Nature Reserve.

Restoration Work

Having received the necessary approval from SANParks, our gardening team recently covered up the rather unsightly sluice gate west of the tennis courts with a rock bern covered by soil and vegetation. This once operated as a means to control seawater from the estuary flooding the area adjacent to the tennis courts.



The objective of the project was to restore the natural appeal of the area and this has been achieved. Although no longer visible the sluice covered by the new bern will continue to block the entry of sea water.

The photograph on the left shows the newly constructed bern before it was covered by soil and vegetation.

Friends of Steenbok - Greetings and Thanks

Our sincere thanks to our members and supporters for the enthusiastic and generous support we continue to enjoy. The Steenbok Nature Reserve is clear evidence that when communities work together, good things happen. We trust you and your family will have a relaxed, enjoyable and blessed festive season.

Finally, we are hoping to increase our support base in the year ahead. If you know anybody who might consider joining "Friends" would you please print this news letter out and give it to them.

Joining is easily done by emailing us at info@steenboknaturereserve.org.za or via our website

<http://www.steenboknaturereserve.org.za/index.html>

Steenbok Operations Committee

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.

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