



Steenbok Nature Reserve News

November 2012

Successful Plant Sale



Despite rain all day Saturday and in the early part of Sunday the annual plant sale organised by Gardening at Leisure as part of the Leisure Isle Festival, held over the weekend of 20/21 October, was a tremendous success raising R17 000. This amount together with subscription fees contributed by Friends of Steenbok (last year raising nearly R40 000) provides the finance that enables us to continually undertake new projects and up-grades. Thanks so much to all who continually provide this amazing support.

Information & Storage Hut



The new Wendy hut that was recently erected at the east entrance to Roger's Way will serve two important functions. Firstly it became necessary to house securely in one place machinery, tools, fertilizer, pots and many other items used by our

labour and secondly it will become the main information centre of the Reserve. Within a few days a large display unit will be put in place at the back of the covered porch and this will be used to provide added information about the Reserve. At the same time burglar guards and more secure locks on the door will be fitted.

Important Annual Happenings



We have come to expect in October each year excitement with the birth of baby *Spotted Eagle Owls* in the owl box near the tennis courts and the flowering of our important *Satyrium princeps* orchids. Whilst the orchids provided another feast of beauty, with about the same number flowering as last year, the owls gave the box a miss.

We cannot be sure of the reason but it seems to be accepted that the Egyptian Geese took over the box for a period and frightened the owls away. However the owls are still with us with their new chicks and they nested again in the gum trees along Links Drive in the vicinity of Horne Drive.



Naturally Knysna Go Local Campaign

We are participating this year in the Naturally Knysna campaign starting with a photographic display on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week outside “Woolies” in the Knysna Mall.

We are hoping to attract more people to join as Friends of Steenbok. This will be followed by guided tours of the Reserve on 25 November and 22 December. Visit our stand in the Mall for further details.

Listing of frogs to be added to our website.



Two of the more popular frogs identified as occurring locally will be featured for the first time at our forthcoming display at the Mall and the complete collection will shortly be posted to our website.



Clearing of Cotton Wool Grass

A large area at the north/west end of the brick pathway, on either side of the path, was treated during the past 6 months with herbicide to commence the process of eradicating this highly invasive grass (*Imperata cylindrica*).



The grass was killed and in recent weeks has been cleared. In the process it was also necessary to severely prune back some of the *Searsia* shrubbery to obtain access to the grass. In an experiment conducted over two years ago it was found that within 12 months the area treated was regenerated with a variety of other indigenous plant species. It will be interesting to observe whether this happens again.



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

