



BRACKENRIDGE ESTATE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

Report: #4

Period: 1 August to 31 August 2024

Date: 31 August 2024

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OVERVIEW

The aim of this report is to document the deliverables agreed upon between the Homeowners Association (HOA), the Environmental Management Committee (EMC) and the newly appointed Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to ensure the proper management of Brackenridge.

The report will be updated every month by the ECO, detailing the action plans for each deliverable, what has been achieved, what still needs to be completed and any recommendations for both estate management and homeowners.

All environmental management on the estate will be done in accordance with the Environmental Audit conducted by Professor Patricia Holmes in October 2023 and the updated Environmental Management Plan drawn up in October 2023.

Any new environmental concerns that are discovered during maintenance, or any changes found regarding the guidelines of the environmental audit, will be communicated in this report.

Any concerns or questions that homeowners may have in reference to environmental management can be addressed to either the General Manager or the ECO.

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ACTION POINT: Prescribed burns.

RELEVANCE: Regeneration and maintenance of endangered Garden Route Shale Fynbos; help circumvention of wildfires.

DELIVERABLES: Invasive alien control, fire belt cutting, permits, fuel reduction, prescribed burn, mopping up.

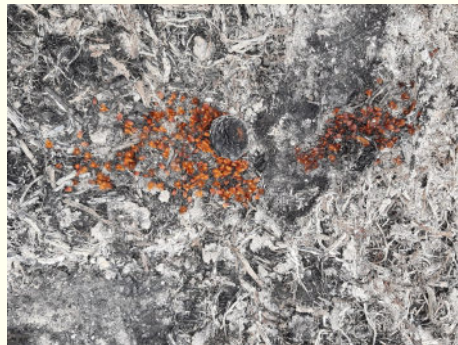
- Please refer to EMP, page 9 - 12 for more details.

Post-burn clean-up of Block 5 (1.68 ha).

During the last week of July the management team with assistance from Steve Ritky did the stack burns in block 5.

The Home from Home team have completed clearing the fire breaks of large stumps and invasive alien plants (IAS) (there was a lot of Lantana). The team have also removed all the sourfig from the burnt area.

There is already evidence of the success of the prescribed burn in block 5. A number of Protea cones have burst open and dropped seed.



On the 7th of August the contractors began digging the trench to lay the gravity feed pipeline for the reservoir. The route for the pipeline was marked out with the contractor, general manager and chairman of the EMC the week before. The goal is to limit the amount of disturbance in the burnt area of block 5 by sticking to a designated area with the heavy equipment.

Once the pipeline is complete the ECO will assess block 5 and determine if further intervention is required to assist with the rehabilitation of the area.

Post-burn clean-up of Block 6 (3.00 ha).

Now that the clean-up for block 5 has been completed the focus has moved to block 6 which requires more work. Ricky and his team have begun to cut back vegetation and stack it for the stack burn. Management plans to do the stack burn between the last week of August and first week of September.

The Home from Home team completed clearing of the breaks on the 6th of August and will turn their attention to the removal of the sourfig from the burnt areas of block 6. The ECO with the assistance of an intern from NewBridge Graduate Institute have begun to remove the larger sections of sourfig, which will be collected by the Home from Home team and taken to the composting area.

Two sizeable and deep erosion dongas have been found by the ECO and there are a few areas of concern for potential erosion problems in the future. The ECO will put a plan of action together to fill these dongas and address the other areas of concern.

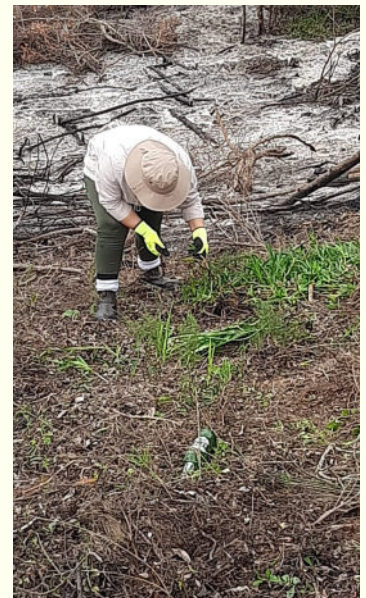
Block 6 is already showing positive signs of recovery with the emergence of fire lilies (*Cyrtanthus contractus*) shortly after the fire. Some of the sedge species have also begun to reshoot from their burnt tufts.



Two erosion dongas in block 6



Sourfig removal



To date the ECO has not come across any tortoise casualties as a result of the prescribed burns, indicating the search team did a fantastic job and did not miss any tortoises. Unfortunately, two snakes have been found, one in block 5 and one in block 6, that did not make it out of the area in time. These are the only casualties found so far.

Some of you may have noticed an increase in caterpillars in your gardens and along the walking paths, particularly on some of the *Sersia* species (taaibos is an example). These caterpillars are of no concern and the plants they are currently feeding on will bounce back.

They are pepper-tree caterpillars (*Bombycomorpha bifascia*) and are the larvae of the Barred eggarterlet moth. Every year during June and July you find these furry caterpillars in mass and they play an important role for cycling nutrients and provide a food source for cuckoos during the winter months.

Please be cautious and do not touch them as they will cause skin irritation and itchiness as the hairs are actually quills which are connected to poisonous sacs. Touching them releases the toxin which causes rashes, red, swollen and itchy skin.



ACTION POINT: Control growth and spread of invasive plant species.

RELEVANCE: Restoration of native ecosystems.

DELIVERABLES: Invasive alien control, Integrated Fire and Alien Species Management Plan.

- Please refer to EMP, page 13 for more details.

The ECO along with a volunteer removed some Port Jackson from block 6 that had not burnt in the prescribed burn. The area will be continually monitored for invasive alien seedlings.

Eldred and his team continue to clear along the fence line, removing and chipping all invasive species they encounter during the clearing.

The Integrated Fire and Alien Species Management Plan is currently being developed by the ECO.

Removal of alien invasives along fence line.



ACTION POINT: Maintain open spaces to standard specified in the approval of the site development plan.

RELEVANCE: Open spaces are aesthetically pleasing and ecologically viable.

DELIVERABLES: maintenance of roads, services and pedestrian network, erosion control, waste, and litter control.

- Please refer to EMP, page 14 - 15 for more details.

Green belt: The ECO has found some areas of concern along the green belt regarding the storm water outlets of residents. Not all areas have been investigated but thus far there are areas in block 6 and along the fence line in Protea Dale showing signs of erosion concerns.

In block 6, along parts of the fire breaks erosion rills are starting to form and some areas have washed away soil, resulting in deep erosion rills forming which will eventually lead to deeper dongas.

Along the fence line of the estate on the Protea Dale side, erosion as the result of properties storm water outlets are causing sections of the fence to collapse due to the amount of soil that has washed away.

The ECO along with the estate management request residents to please address issues with their storm water outlets as soon as possible. Letters will be sent out to residents whose outlets are a problem, along with photos showcasing the problem and potential solutions to help mitigate the issue.

We will appreciate your cooperation in this regard to help us maintain our green belts to ecological acceptable standards.

Erosion due to storm water outlets in block 6.



Erosion due to storm water outlets in block 6.



Appendix A

Block 5 pre-burn plant species list

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Acacia cyclops</i>	Rooikrans	Invasive
<i>Buddleja salciifolia</i>	Sagewood	
<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Asian pennywort	
<i>cf Carpobrotus</i>	Sourfig	Awaiting ID
<i>cf Gnidia</i>	Cape saffron	Awaiting ID
<i>cf Restio</i>	True Cape reeds	Awaiting ID
<i>cf Satyrium</i>	Satyr orchid	Awaiting ID
<i>Chironia baccifera</i>	Christmas berry	Endemic to SA
<i>Chloris gayana</i>	Rhodes grass	
<i>Cliffortia stricta</i>	Staid Cape rose	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Colpoon compressum</i>	Cape sumach	
<i>Erica canaliculata</i>	Hairy grey heather	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Eriocephalus africanus</i>	Wild rosemary	Endemic to SA
<i>Euryops virgineus</i>	Virgin true-eye	Endemic to SA
<i>Haemanthus sanguineus</i>	Smooth bloodlily	Endemic to SA

Appendix A

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Helichrysum cymosum</i>	Fume everlasting	Endemic to SA
<i>Helichrysum foetidum</i>	Stinking everlasting	Endemic to SA
<i>Helichrysum petiolare</i>	Silver everlasting	Endemic to SA
<i>Hippia frutescens</i>	Scrambling stinkals	Endemic to SA
<i>Leucadendron salignum</i>	Common sunshine conebrush	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Metalasia acuta</i>	Pointy blombos	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Metalasia pungens</i>	Stink blombos	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Osteospermum monolifera</i>	Bietou bush	Endemic to WC
<i>Oxalis imbricata</i>	Tile sorrel	Endemic to SA
<i>Passerina corymbosa</i>	Common gonna	Endemic to SA
<i>Pinus sp.</i>	Pine	Invasive
<i>Podalyria burchelli</i>	Hairy Cape sweetpea	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Selago canescens</i>	Skinny bitterbush	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Selago corymbosa</i>	Stiff bitterbush	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Seriphium plumosum</i>	Common snake bush	
<i>Sersia lucida</i>	Blinktaaibos	

Appendix B

Block 6 pre-burn plant species list

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Anthanasia dentata</i>	Geel Blombos	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Aspalathus ciliaris</i>	Fringe Cape gorse	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Asaragus asparagoides</i>	Bridal asparagus	
<i>Burchellia bubalina</i>	Wild pomegranate	
<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Asian pennywort	
<i>cf Anthospermum</i>		Awaiting ID
<i>cf Asteriodae</i>	Daisy	Awaiting ID
<i>cf Carpobrotus</i>	Sourfig	Awaiting ID
<i>Chironia baccifera</i>	Christmas berry	Endemic to SA
<i>Cliffortia stricta</i>	Staid Cape rose	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Colpoon compressum</i>	Cape sumach	
<i>Cyrtanthus contractus</i>	Common fire lily	
<i>Diospyros dichrophylla</i>	Poison star apple	
<i>Erica canaliculata</i>	Hairy grey heather	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Erica peltata</i>	Shield heath	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Grewia occidentalis</i>	Common cross berry	

Appendix B

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Halleria lucida</i>	Tree fuchsia	
<i>Helichrysum cymosum</i>	Fume everlasting	Endemic to SA
<i>Helichrysum foetidum</i>	Stinking everlasting	Endemic to SA
<i>Helichrysum petiolare</i>	Silver everlasting	Endemic to SA
<i>Hippia frutescens</i>	Scrambling stinkals	Endemic to SA
<i>Hypoxis villosa</i>	Shaggy star grass	
<i>Leucadendron salignum</i>	Common sunshine conebush	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Metalasia acuta</i>	Pointy blombos	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Metalasia pungens</i>	Stink blombos	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Monopsis unidentata</i>	Wild violet	Endemic to SA
<i>Nidorella ivifolia</i>	Oven bush	
<i>Nidorella ulmifolia</i>	Ulm vleiweed	
<i>Osteospermum monolifera</i>	Bietou bush	Endemic to WC
<i>Oxalis imbricata</i>	Tile sorrel	Endemic to SA
<i>Oxalis purpurea</i>	Purple sorrel	Endemic to SA
<i>Passerina corymbosa</i>	Common gonna	Endemic to SA

Appendix B

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Pinus sp.</i>	Pine	Invasive
<i>Plecostachys serpyllifolia</i>	Petite-licorice	Endemic to SA
<i>Podalyria burchelli</i>	Hairy Cape sweetpea	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Psoralea axillaris</i>	Violet-flash fountain bush	Endemic to SA
<i>Rapanea melanophloeos</i>	Cape beech	
<i>Selago canescens</i>	Skinny bitterbush	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Selago corymbosa</i>	Stiff bitterbush	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Seriphium plumosum</i>	Common snake bush	
<i>Sersia lucida</i>	Blinktaaibos	
<i>Sideroxylon inerme</i>	White milkwood	Protected
<i>Struthiola hirsuta</i>	Shaggy Cape spray	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Tarchonanthus littoralis</i>	Coastal camphor bush	Endemic to SA
<i>Tecomaria capensis</i>	Cape honeysuckle	
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i>	Coastal rosemary	