



BRACKENRIDGE ESTATE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

Report: #3

Period: 1 July to 31 July 2024

Date: 31 July 2024

Author: Kellyn Whitehead, MSc / ECO Brackenridge Estate



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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.

Boet Grobler, General Manager
manager@brackenridge.co.za
044 533 6547

Kellyn Whitehead, ECO
kellynwhitehead4@gmail.com
044 533 6547

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.

Prescribed burning of Block 5 (1.68 ha).

On the 17th of July the controlled burn for block 5 took place with teams on site from the Southern Cape Fire Association, Plett South Fire and Rescue, Bitou Fire and Rescue and Working on Fire.

The fire teams worked into the evening and the fire moved successfully through block 5, leaving only a few spots that will require an extra stack burn. Upon inspection of block 5 the day after the burn, the ECO was delighted to see that the fire was successful as protea cones had burst open, releasing seed into the nutrient rich ash.

Post-burn clean-up: Ricky and his team will cut back some burnt bitou bushes and stack them in the areas where a stack burn is needed. They will also remove any rubble and litter from the area.

The Home from Home team will clean up the fire breaks surrounding block 5, removing large stumps and any plants which will grow into larger shrubs. They will maintain the fire breaks from this point on to ensure accessibility by the fire team. Home from Home will also remove all of the sourfig (vygie) as it has overgrown into the area as it will alter the soil composition.

Once the pipeline has been completed, the ECO will assess block 5 and determine if further intervention is required to support rehabilitation of the area. The management team along with the EMC and ECO are working hard to give the fynbos the best chance to regenerate in block 5.

Prescribed burning of Block 6 (3.00 ha).

On the 17th of July the controlled burn for block 6 went under way with teams from the Southern Cape Fire Association, Plett South Fire and Rescue, Bitou Fire and Rescue and Working on Fire on site.

As expected, a few areas in block 6 which did not burn to standard. These areas will undergo a stack burn between the last week of August and the first week of September when Steve Ritky is back on the Estate.

There are two areas of dense thicket with some large trees that did not burn during the prescribed burn. It has been decided to leave these areas as thicket.

Post-burn clean-up: Ricky and his team will cut back some burnt bitou bushes and stack them in the areas where a stack burn is needed. They will also remove any rubble and litter from the area. There is a large area at the top of block 6 that will be cut back and stacked ready for the burn.

The two thicket areas will be tidied up by Ricky and his team, removing as much of the dead and burnt material as possible.

The Home from Home team will clean up the fire breaks surrounding block 6, removing large stumps and any plants which will grow into larger shrubs. They will maintain the fire breaks from this point on to ensure accessibility by the fire team. Home from Home will also remove all of the sourfig (vygie) to avoid further altering the soil composition.

To address the concerns surrounding the effect the burns will have on the wildlife, the ECO arranged the following:

- **Tortoises**: A walk through of block 5 and 6 with Ashley Wentworth was undertaken on the 16th of July. Ashley's team from Storms River assisted with the search and they were joined by Deborah Constant, Sandra Rippon and the ECO. During the search one tortoise (number 30) was located in block 5 and moved to Ashley's garden for safe keeping until after the burns. A big thank you to Ashley, his team and residents who came to assist with the tortoise search. We truly appreciated it.



BURN DAY

Block 5



Block 6



The ECO has the following recommendations for block 5 and block 6.

Fixed-point photography: ECO will liaise with Steve Ritky upon his return to arrange for aerial shots of block 5 and 6 in September.

Post-burn: ECO will walk block 5 and 6 post-burn in August to identify any potential areas which may be susceptible to soil erosion.

The ECO will begin to monitor block 5 and 6 for alien invasive seedlings and will use block 5 and 6 to train the staff of Home from Home on alien invasive identification (IAS) whereafter the team will take over monitoring of these block for IAS.

The ECO will begin documenting species which emerge post-burn and populate the plant species list.

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.

Now that the chipper has arrived, Eldred and his team have begun clearing the fence line on the Klein Piesang River side of the estate. Part of the fence line clearing is the removal of invasive plants, with the team having made good progress, removing hundreds of individuals.

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

INVASIVE ALIEN CONTROL

Removal of alien invasives along fence line.



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 conebush	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>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	
<i>Halleria lucida</i>	Tree fuchsia	

Appendix B

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>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
<i>Pinus sp.</i>	Pine	Invasive
<i>Plecostachys serpyllifolia</i>	Petite-licorice	Endemic to SA

Appendix B

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<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	