



THE EILAND



ISSUE: 9

MAY 2024

Letter from the editor:

*During the past month, PECID experienced an increase in business burglaries despite the fact that two well-known wanted criminals was caught by our Patrol Officers. PECID has also seen an increase in vehicles that appear suspicious in their actions. We would like to emphasise the fact that we have had remote vehicle jamming in our area which have led to the creation of signboards to warn the public of the possibility of this kind of crimes in the area. Always remember: **Should you find that a crime has been committed at your premises, please inform PECID as well as SAPS as this will help us in the deployment of our resources throughout day and night shift to ensure the most effective security presence. We might also be in a position to assist you if we are indeed informed of incidents.***

The Paarden Eiland Environmental Team has also been hard at work by removing rubbish and keeping the area litter free. Several large tasks were taken on and the team completed them properly and thereby contributing to the overall appearance of the area.

Our Security Service Provider has been calling in the assistance of their Tactical Team on a regular basis during the night, to come and assist our PECID Patrol Officers. This has greatly improved our presence and have surely acted as a deterrent to the criminal.

We are still busy getting people out of our area who think they have a right to sleep on private our council property as we believe that the true criminals hide between them while they wait for the best opportunity to commit a crime.

Regards

Chris Matthee – CID Manager PECID

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FACEBOOK POST

SUSPECT ARRESTED

At about 09h40 on the morning of 15 May, a detective with Maitland SAPS alerted PECID that they are searching for a female criminal who might be hiding in the Paarden Eiland area. The female had warrants of arrest on her name for theft, housebreaking and trespassing. All the cases she was wanted for, happened in Paarden Eiland and surrounds making SAPS believe that she was still hiding out in the area. The information was then handed over to the PECID Control Room and distributed to the Patrol and Armed Response officers. The officers remained alert while on their patrols and at about 15h30, the female was spotted in Service Road where she was detained by the PECID officers as well as our female Law Enforcement Officer. SAPS was alerted and the female was placed in custody. A huge thank you goes out to our Excellerate Service Provider team and our Law Enforcement Officer for their observation and dedication that lead to the arrest.

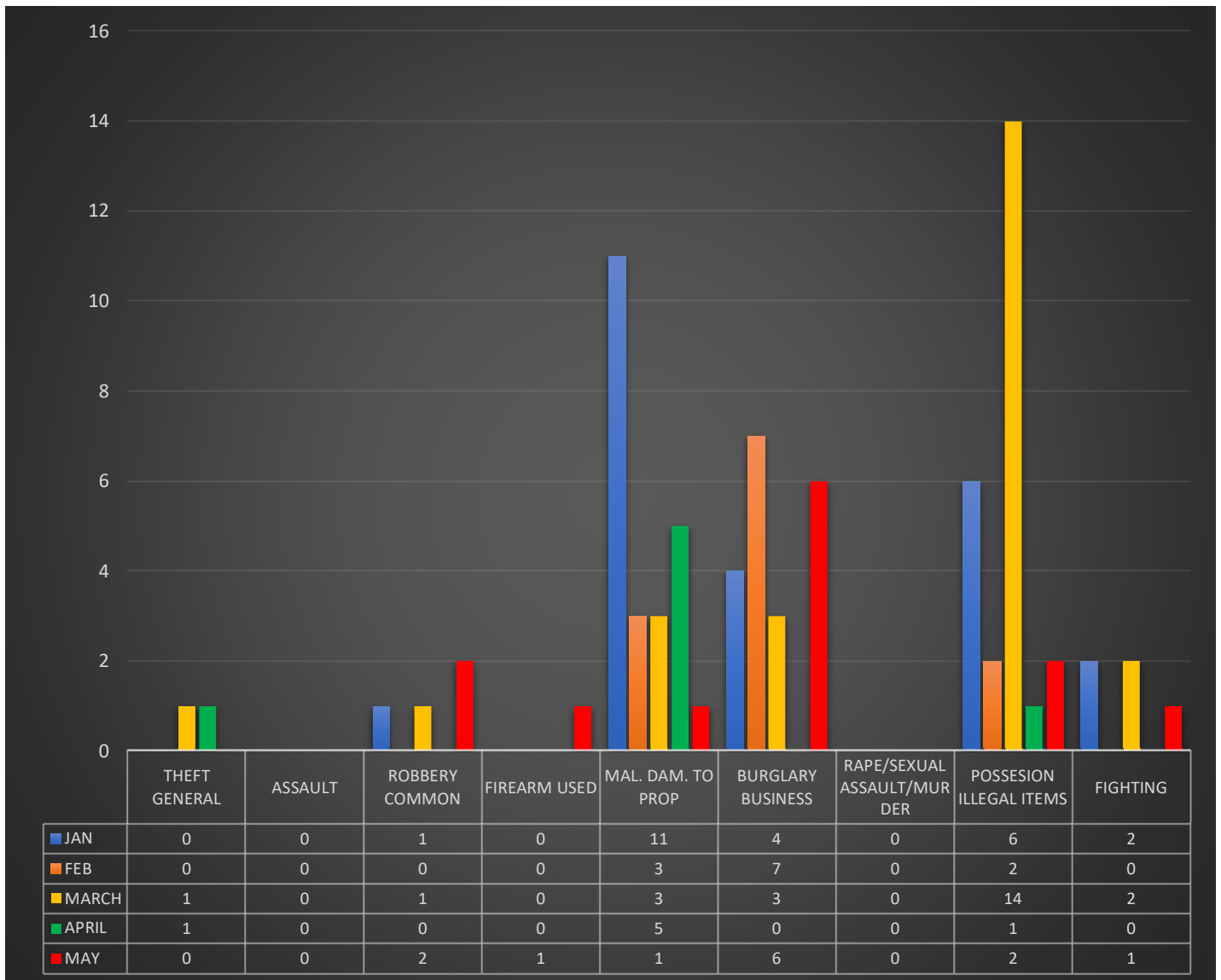


SUSPECT ARRESTED

On the evening of 16 May at about 18h25, the Excellerate Armed Response Officer spotted a male jumping over a property fence in Section Street. The Officer was suspicious of the bag the man was carrying so he proceeded to stop the man and call for back up from the PECID Patrol Officers. Upon arrival, they arrested the male who is well-known to PECID staff. They also decided to search his belongings and found copper piping that he had stolen from the property in question. SAPS Maitland and the Client was contacted, and the suspect was removed to Maitland SAPS. PECID would like to thank the officers for their dedication and commitment to the safety and security of property in Paarden Eiland. Your efforts are highly appreciated.

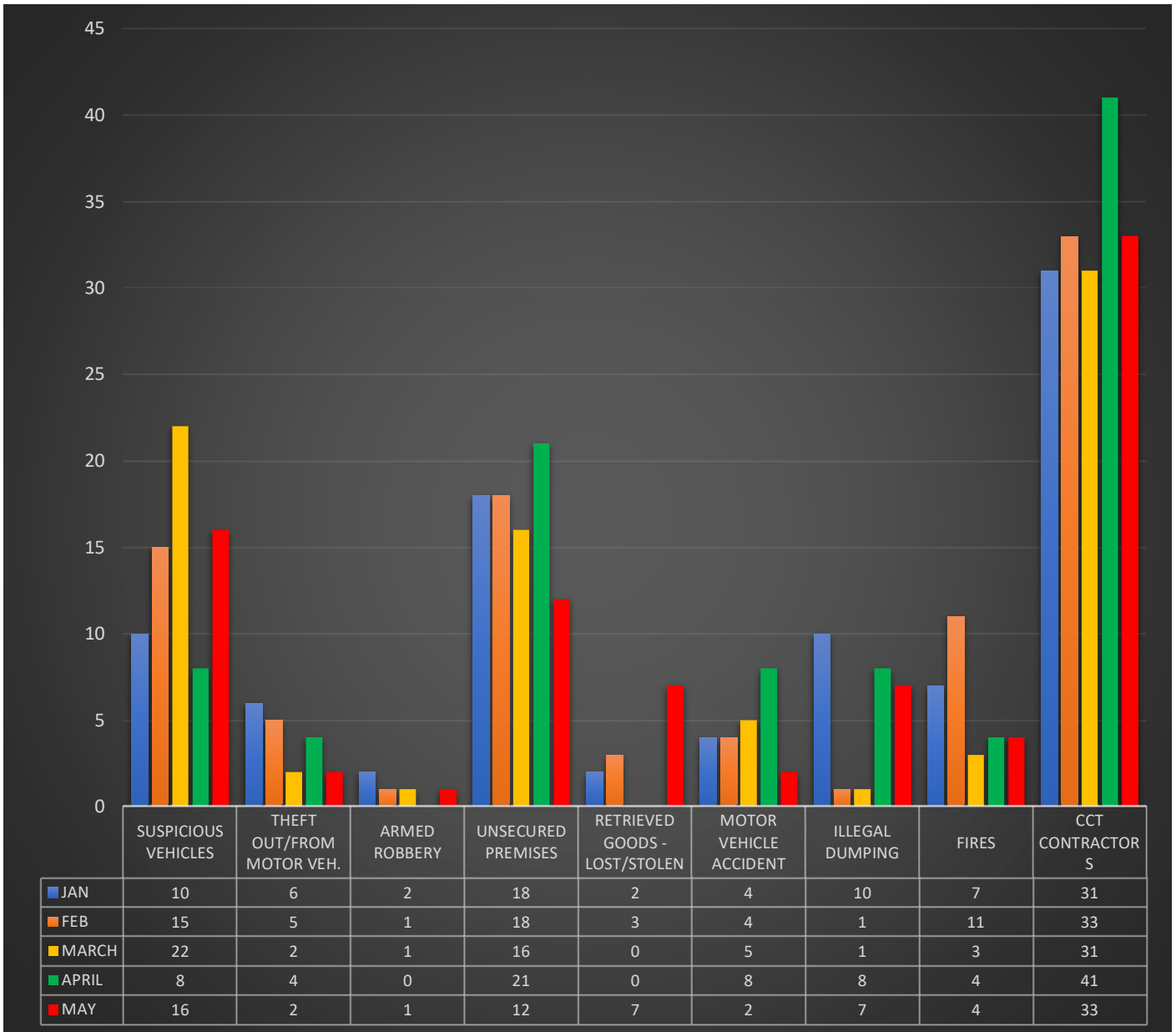


PAARDEN EILAND STATISTICS COMBINED JAN/FEB/MAR/APR/MAY AS RECORDED BY THE CONTROL ROOM



CATEGORY	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
THEFT GENERAL	0	0	1	1	0
ASSAULT	0	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY COMMON	1	0	1	0	2
FIREARM USED	0	0	0	0	1
MAL. DAM. TO PROP	11	3	3	5	1
BURGLARY BUSINESS	4	7	3	0	6
RAPE/SEXUAL ASSAULT/MURDER	0	0	0	0	0
POSSESSION ILLEGAL ITEMS	6	2	14	1	2
FIGHTING	2	0	2	0	1





CATEGORY	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES	10	15	22	8	16
THEFT OUT/FROM MOTOR VEH.	6	5	2	4	2
ARMED ROBBERY	2	1	1	0	1
UNSECURED PREMISES	18	18	16	21	12
RETRIEVED GOODS - LOST/STOLEN	2	3	0	0	7
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	4	4	5	8	2
ILLEGAL DUMPING	10	1	1	8	7
FIRES	7	11	3	4	4
CCT CONTRACTORS	31	33	31	41	33



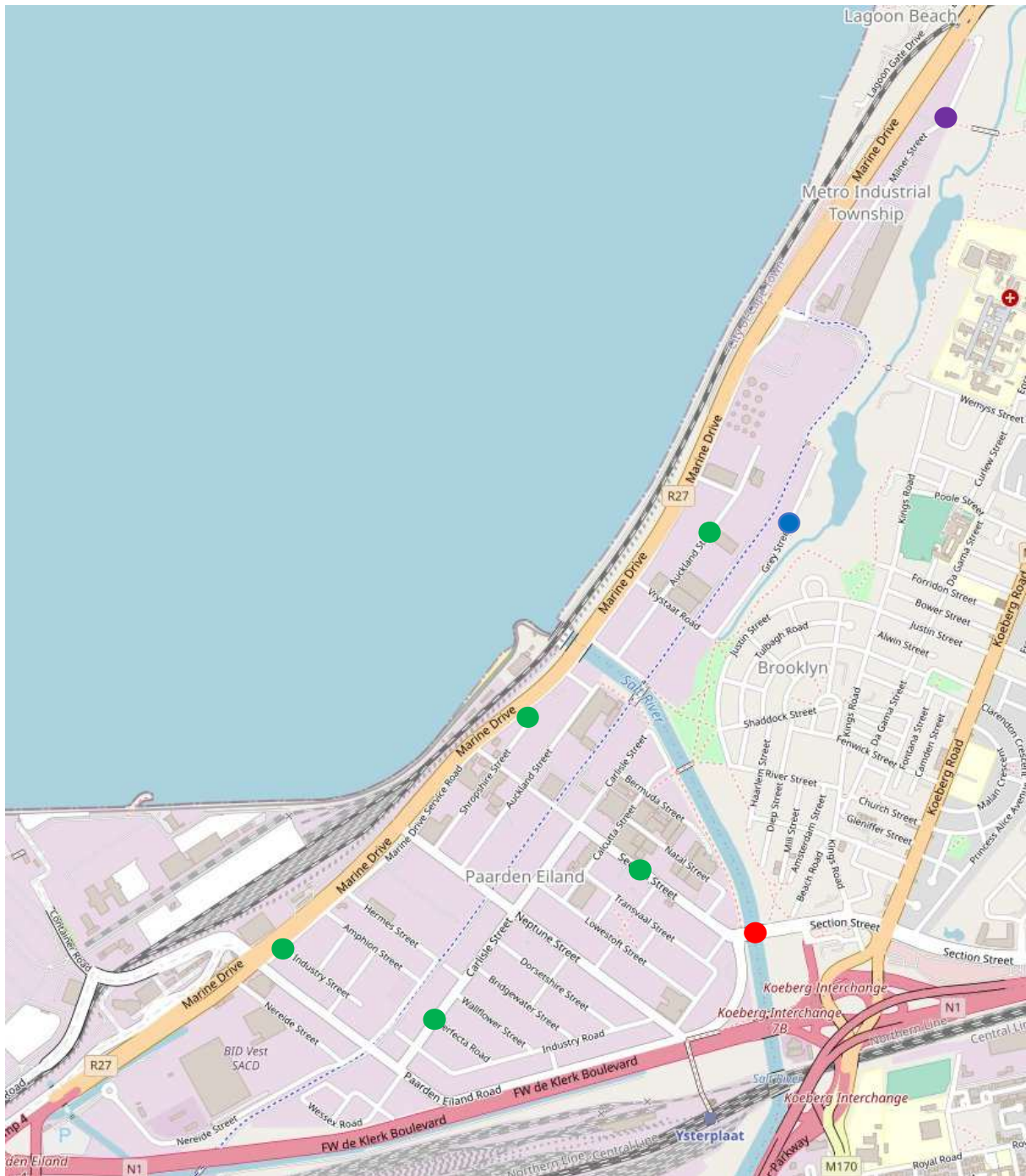
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SAPS CRIME STATISTICS – CASES OPENED FOR MAY 2024



- Theft out of/from vehicle.
- Burglary business.
- Robbery aggravated.
- Theft of motor vehicle

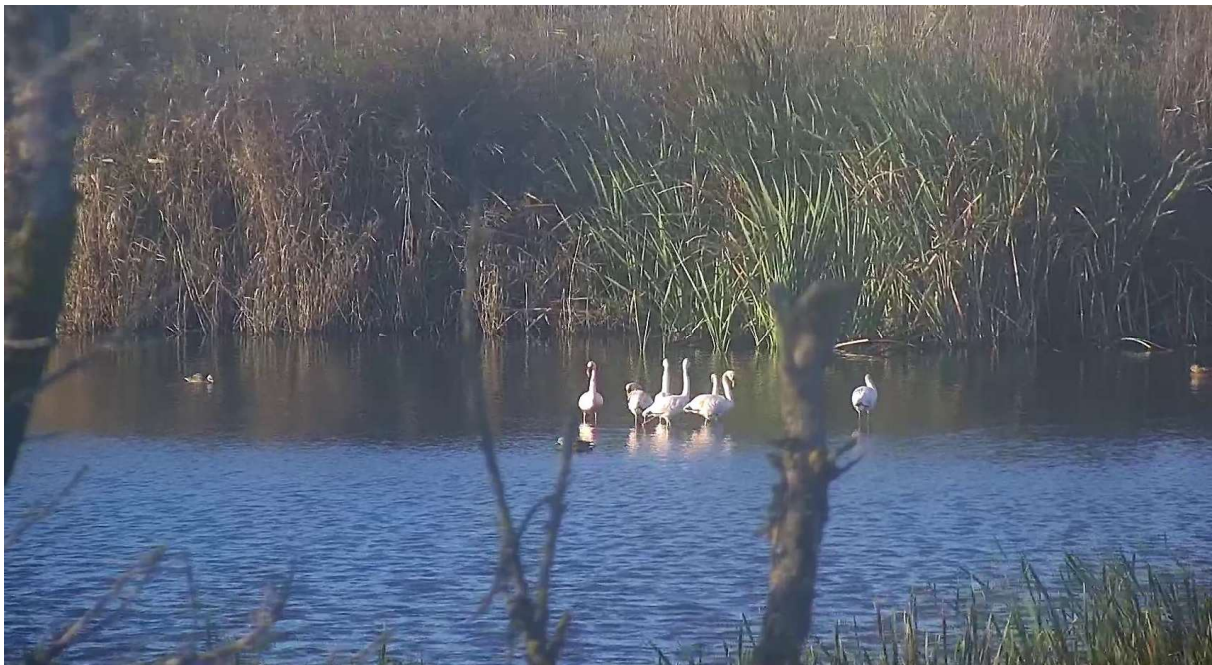


SPOTTED IN PAARDEN EILAND

THE FLAMINGO

A long legged, long neck bird that changes colour according to its diet. The Flamingo is a wading bird, which means they search for food in water. They can filter feed for several hours a day, with their long legs and webbed feet that support them in soft mud. They eat algae, small seeds, shrimp, fly larvae and other plants. When they gather in their groups in the water it is known as a flamboyance of flamingos. You will often see that when in the water, they have one leg up and their head is placed on their back, this is when they are sleeping. The backward bending of one knee on a flamingo is actually done in the ankle area of the leg and not the knee as the knee is situated much higher and hidden underneath its feathers. They mate for life but are very social creatures that lives in large groups that creates the colour spectacle that is unique to them.

They build their nests on the ground in what looks like mounds of mud along waterways. Parents take turns looking after a single large egg which hatches after 30 days. This baby Flamingo chick is called a flaminglet who is born white and raised on crop milk. As they get older, their colour will change into pink. The pink colour in flamingos is due to the food that they eat that contains carotenoid pigments. The change in colour normally takes place between ages 3 – 5 years. The life span of a flamingo is 20 – 30 years. It's very difficult to see the difference between males and females, the only thing that sets them apart is that the male is usually taller than the female. Their natural enemy is lions, hyenas, cheetahs and jackals. Flamingos symbolises elegance, beauty and extravagance. At PECID, we are truly blessed to see these beautiful birds grace our Zoarvlei area which spans along Gray and Milner Road. When having your tea break or lunch break, be sure to take time and observe these elegant birds wading in the water.



This flamboyance of flamingos has been visiting Zoarvlei regularly and have already attracted a lot of bird watchers to the area



CITY OF CAPE TOWN BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT TEAM

SEED SMOKING

As part of our ongoing conservation efforts, the Zoarvlei team has focused on preparing seeds for the upcoming restoration season using the traditional method of seed smoking. During the summer, our team collected seeds from various indigenous plants around the reserve. This preparation is essential for successful restoration, as many fynbos species require specific treatments to break dormancy and promote germination. From May 13th to May 17th, our seeds were smoked at the Westlake Conservation Centre.

This involved exposing the seeds to smoke in a controlled environment, mimicking the natural effects of fire. Smoke contains chemicals that trigger germination, ensuring a higher success rate when the seeds are planted. The seed smoking process is a critical step in our restoration efforts. By ensuring the seeds are primed for germination, we increase the likelihood of successful plant establishment and growth.

This contributes to the reestablishment of native plant species and supports the overall health of Zoarvlei wetland ecosystem. With the seed smoking now complete, the Zoarvlei team is ready to begin dispersing the seeds across the reserve. This will help restore the wetland to its natural state, enhancing biodiversity and ecological balance.

PORT JACKSON READICATION

In May, we successfully eradicated a dense thicket of Port Jackson (*Acacia saligna*) from management block ZVL004. This significant achievement was made possible through the dedicated efforts of contractors from the Invasive Species Unit (ISU), organized by Zoarvlei management.

Port Jackson, an invasive species introduced from Australia, has posed a significant threat to the fynbos biome. This aggressive invader outcompetes native vegetation, reduces biodiversity, and alters fire regimes, making it a major concern for conservationists. Its dense growth patterns and rapid spread make it particularly challenging to manage and eradicate.

In block ZVL004, Port Jackson had established incredibly dense thickets, severely impacting the native flora and fauna. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Zoarvlei management coordinated with ISU contractors to tackle the problem head-on. The contractors employed a combination of mechanical removal and herbicide application to ensure complete eradication of the invasive species.

Clearing alien species like Port Jackson is crucial for several reasons:

- **Biodiversity Restoration:** Removing invasive species allows native plants and animals to thrive, restoring the natural balance of the ecosystem.
- **Water Conservation:** Invasive species like Port Jackson consume large amounts of water, depleting valuable resources that native plants depend on.
- **Fire Management:** Dense thickets of Port Jackson can alter natural fire regimes, increasing the frequency and intensity of wildfires, which can be devastating to the fynbos biome.
- **Soil Health:** Native plants help maintain healthy soil structure and nutrient cycles, which are disrupted by invasive species.



Despite the significant effort, the completion of this alien clearing initiative is not the end. The management block has been invaded to the point where ongoing efforts will be required for years to come.

CLEARING OVERGROWN REEDS AND WATER PRIMROSE IN ZOARVLEI'S SOUTHERN SECTION

Zoarvlei Nature Reserve's management team recently addressed a significant challenge in the main water body of the southern section. The area was heavily overgrown with reeds and invaded by water primrose, which posed serious issues by obstructing stormwater outlets and impeding water flow. To combat this, Zoarvlei management once again collaborated with the Invasive Species Unit (ISU) to undertake comprehensive plant clearing efforts. The overgrown reeds were not only blocking stormwater outlets but also disrupting the natural flow of water within the reserve. This obstruction can lead to flooding and the degradation of the wetland ecosystem. Therefore, it was crucial to clear the reeds to restore proper water management and maintain the health of the reserve.

Water primrose, in particular, is known for its invasive nature. Originating from South America, this plant has spread rapidly across water bodies in South Africa. It forms dense mats that cover the water surface, outcompeting native aquatic plants and reducing biodiversity. Its ability to grow rapidly and reproduce vegetatively makes it difficult to eradicate once established. The ISU employed various methods to clear the overgrown reeds and water primrose from the southern section's water body. Mechanical and manual removal techniques were used to clear as much of the invasive vegetation as possible. This included cutting and removing the reeds and water primrose from the water and surrounding areas. Several truckloads of cleared plant biomass were collected and are scheduled to be removed in the coming weeks.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

In addition to the restoration efforts, we organized a compliance patrol in collaboration with the City of Cape Town Law Enforcement's Marine Unit on May the 14th. The primary objective of this initiative was to identify and address the issue of illegal occupants residing within the reserve. The patrol was comprehensive, covering all areas of the reserve, including known hotspots where illegal occupancy has previously been an issue. The combined expertise and resources of Zoarvlei management team and the Marine Unit ensured a thorough and efficient operation.

During the patrol, the teams meticulously searched for any signs of illegal camping or overnight stays. This included inspecting secluded areas, dense vegetation patches, and other potential hideouts that might be used by individuals seeking unauthorized shelter within the reserve. The results of the patrol were highly encouraging. No illegal occupants were found during the sweep of the reserve. While the absence of illegal occupants is a positive sign, Zoarvlei management remains vigilant. Regular patrols and continuous monitoring are essential to uphold the standards of the reserve and prevent any future issues.



BIRDS SPOTTED AROUND THE ZOARVLEI AREA THIS MONTH:

Black wing stilt	16	Cape canary	3
Black winged stilt	16	Cape sparrow	2
Yellow-bill duck	11	Barn swallow	2
Yellow-billed duck	11	African black duck	2
Blacksmith lapwing	10	Common moorhen	2
Hartlaub's gull	9	Cape wagtail	2
Levaillant's cisticola	8	Lesser flamingo	15
Cape spurfowl	8	Cape wagtail	2
Redknobbed coot	8	Pied crow	1
Cape weaver	6	Malachite sunbird	1
Cape shoveller	5	Fiscal shrike	1

EXCELLERATE SERVICES – SAFETY TIPS

SAFETY TIPS TO PREVENT PROPERTY CRIME

1. Ensure that your property can be secured properly. This includes checking all locks, gates, doors, windows and roller shutters.
2. Ensure there are no gaps in your fence or perimeter wall or unintentional points of access to your home which may need additional security.
3. Make sure that all bushes or trees close to your walls, gates and fences are trimmed, to avoid the possibility of intruders hiding behind them or using them to access your property.
4. Adequate lighting around the perimeter of your house acts as a good deterrent
5. Connecting outdoor lights to timers and motion sensors act as an additional deterrent.
6. Have an alarm installed by a reputable security company with armed response.
7. The key to effective security lies in being able to detect a potential intruder before they gain access. Adding detection beams and sensors of electrical fences vastly contributes to property security
8. Ensure that your alarm is in working order. Business and property owners should test their alarms at least once a month and should the system require servicing this should be arranged as early as possible.
9. Please ensure that all the key holder information is available and ensure that key holders are available and able to come out to the property should the alarm activate, and checking be required.
10. Don't leave ladders, spades or tools outside as these can be excellent break-in tools.
11. Ensure that remote controls for automatic gates and garage doors are not left lying around.
12. Always be alert to vehicles or persons following you into your entrance or the parking area.



SAFETY TIPS IN RAINY WEATHER

Driving in the wet requires that motorists take extreme caution to ensure their and other road-user's safety.

1. **Reduce Speed:** Slow down to a safe speed that allows you to have better control of your vehicle.
2. **Increase Following Distance:** Leave more space between you and the vehicle in front of you. This allows for greater reaction time in case of sudden stops.
3. **Use Headlights:** Turn on your headlights, even during the day. This improves visibility for both you and other drivers.
4. **Avoid Sudden Movements:** Sudden acceleration, braking, or sharp turns can lead to loss of control. Gently apply the brakes and steer.
5. **Check Tires:** Ensure your tires have adequate tread depth for better grip on wet roads. Bald tires can lead to hydroplaning.
6. **Defog Windows:** Use your defogger or air conditioning to keep windows clear. Visibility is crucial for safe driving.
7. **Beware of Hydroplaning:** Avoid driving through large puddles or standing water. If you do hit a puddle, try to drive in a straight line and lift off the accelerator.
8. **Stay Away from Flooded Areas:** Don't attempt to drive through flooded roads. It's hard to gauge the depth of the water, and your vehicle may get stuck.
9. **Use Turn Signals:** Indicate your intentions well in advance, giving other drivers more time to react.
10. **Avoid Cruise Control:** Using cruise control in wet conditions can be dangerous as it may cause you to lose control of the vehicle.
11. **Stay Calm:** If you do start to skid or slide, remain calm. Gently steer in the direction you want to go and avoid slamming on the brakes.
12. **Maintain Vehicle Lights and Brakes:** Ensure your brakes are in good working order, and check that all lights are functioning properly.
13. **Be Mindful of Others:** Pay extra attention to the behaviour of other drivers. Anticipate potential hazards and give them space.
14. **Plan Your Route:** If possible, choose routes with better drainage and less exposure to potential flooding.
15. **Pull Over if Necessary:** If conditions become too severe, it's better to find a safe spot to pull over and wait for the weather to improve.





Infrastructure damaged seem to be a persistent problem that is happening in our area. Companies and owners of heavy vehicles are kindly requested to remind their drivers to be extra vigilant while operating heavy transport on our roads as damage takes long to get repaired. These damages also make our area look disrespected and dilapidated which does not encourage new and better investment.

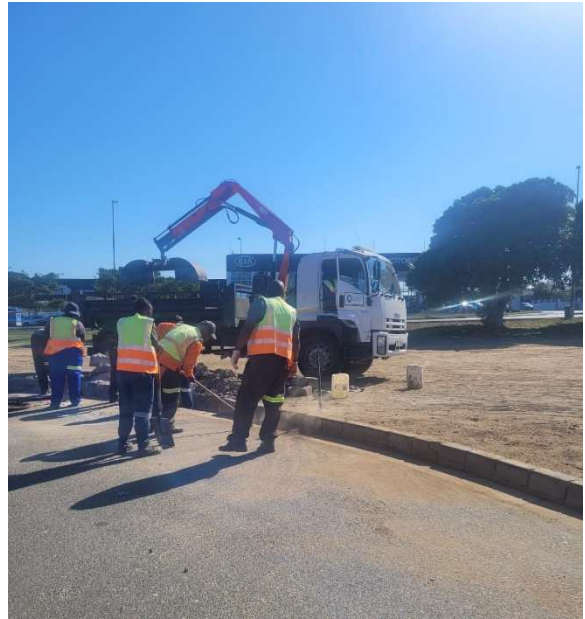


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Infrastructure repairs being performed by the City of Cape Town



Illegal dumping





Law enforcement Operations in action





Confiscated weapons

