



THE EILAND



ISSUE: 13

SEPTEMBER 2024

From the editor:

The past month has seen a drastic decline of crime in the area. This could be attributed to more visibility from our service providers (combined) in the area as well as the joint efforts made to keep all service providers informed via the newly established communication lines opened up by PECID. Our main focus for the past month was to continue to convert our operations into proactive, instead of reactive response in order to plan in advance for any situation. This is a combined effort with our service provider to motivate our staff to rather look at what might happen instead of what has happened.

Our cleansing team has been hard at work with the cleansing of the area but has also reached out and assisted the Biodiversity Team responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of Zoarvlei. The removal of litter from Zoarvlei was done in commemoration of international cleaning day. Several tons of litter were removed from Zoarvlei and taken to the Municipal dumpsite. Our mowing team have started and will continue through the area with mowing to ensure that our grass surfaces are kept in good shape so that they may be enjoyed by all.

Regards

Chris Matthee – CID Manager PECID

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**EXCELLERATE
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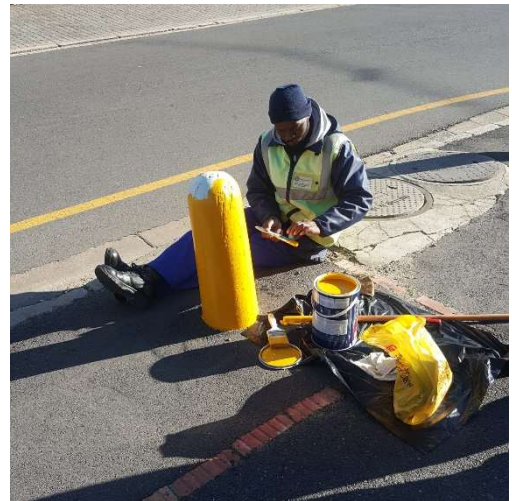
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FACEBOOK POST

Beautification of Paarden Eiland

Over the past week, one of our employees have been busy painting City bollards in Paarden Eiland and will continue to do so until all the bollards and protection poles have been repainted. This is part of our beautification efforts in our area but unfortunately, we will not be painting privately installed barriers or bollards. PECID always puts the safety of their staff first, we would therefore like to ask motorists to please be careful if they spot our employees busy working on the side of the road. The painting will make the bollards and protective poles much more visible which we hope will also assist with the damage caused by trucks. Please continue to drive safely in Paarden Eiland.



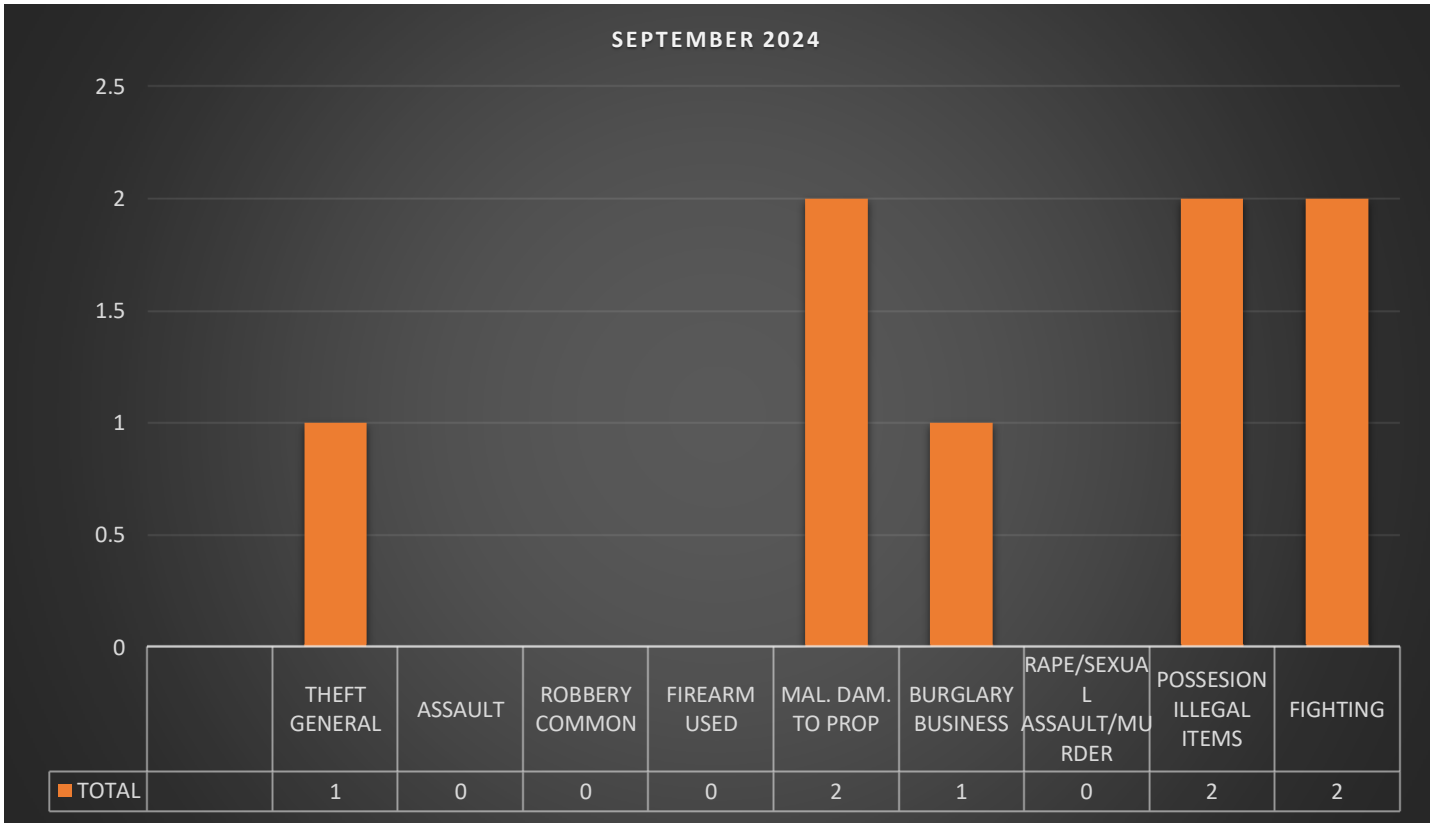
NATIONAL AND WORLD CLEANUP DAY

This Day is celebrated annually by bringing communities and people together to clean and care for their environment. This year the day falls on Saturday, 21 September and because of this, the Biodiversity Team from Zoarvlei requested PECID to assist with a cleanup today. Our team gladly assisted the Bio Team as they were walking down both sides of Zoarvlei in order to remove rubbish and illegal dumping in an effort to return the area to its natural beauty. By removing waste, the teams also made the area much safer for animals, birds and insects. PECID would like to thank both teams for spending their day removing other people's waste and would like to call on everyone to make use of the bins in the area to dispose of their waste instead of dumping it.

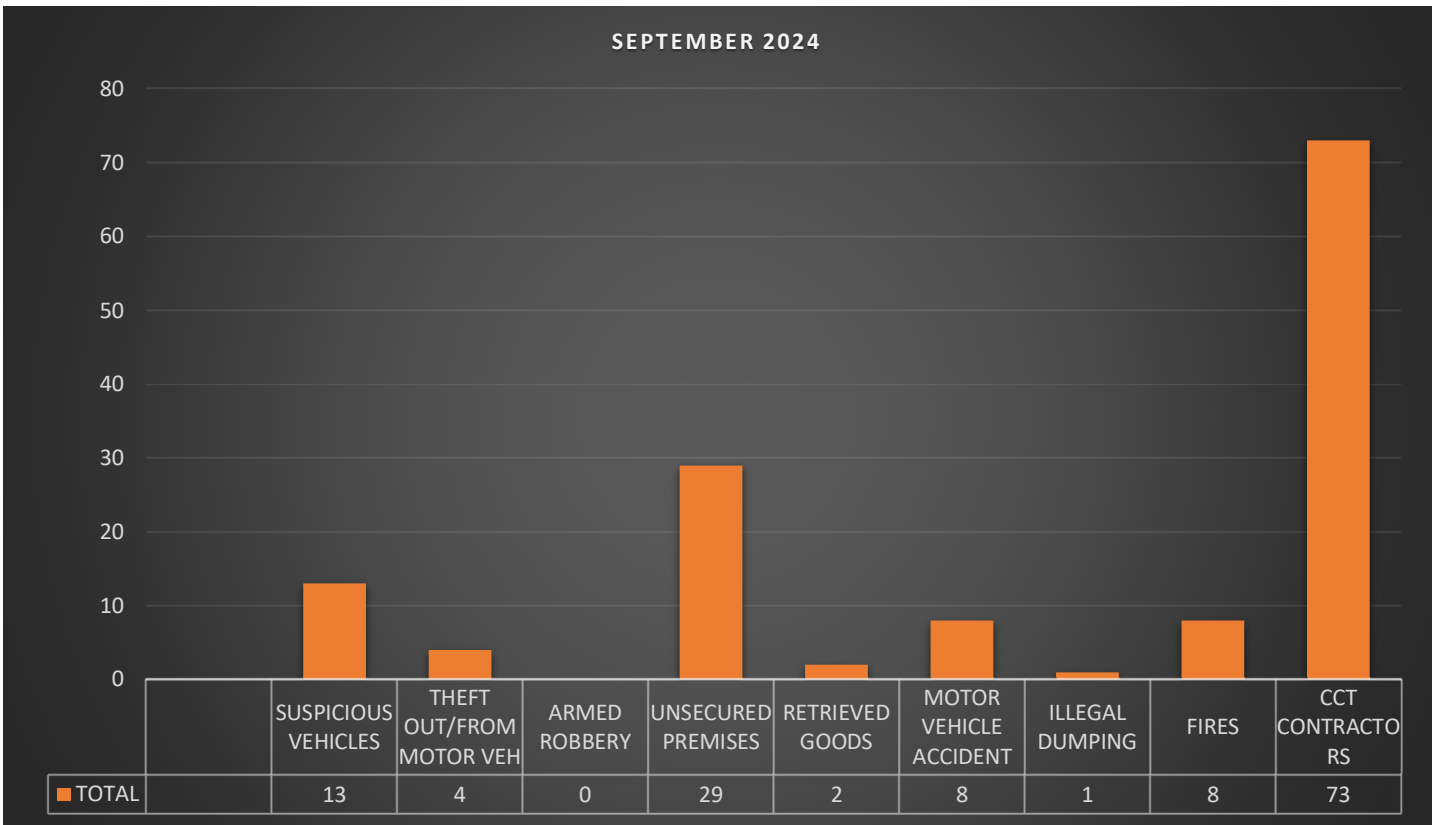


INCIDENT BREAKDOWN

SEPTEMBER 2024



SEPTEMBER 2024



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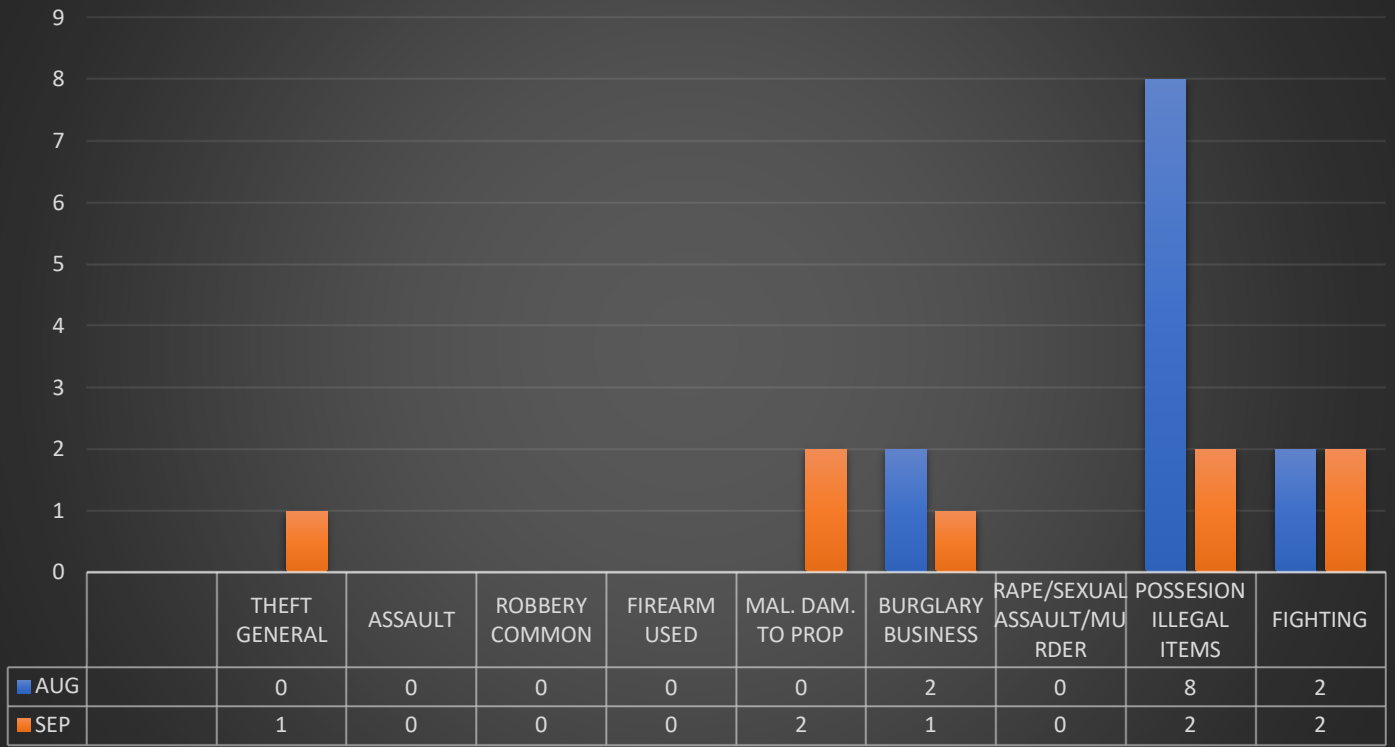


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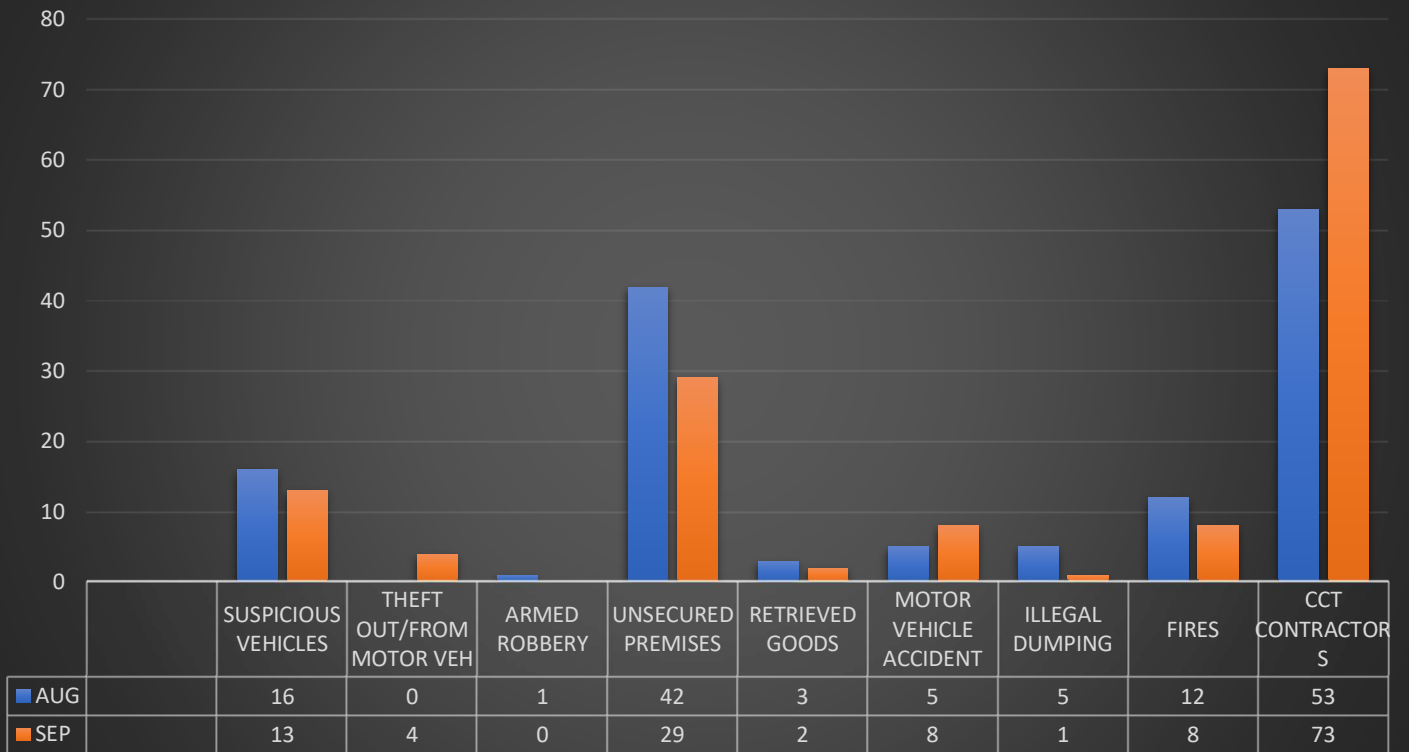


COMPARISON

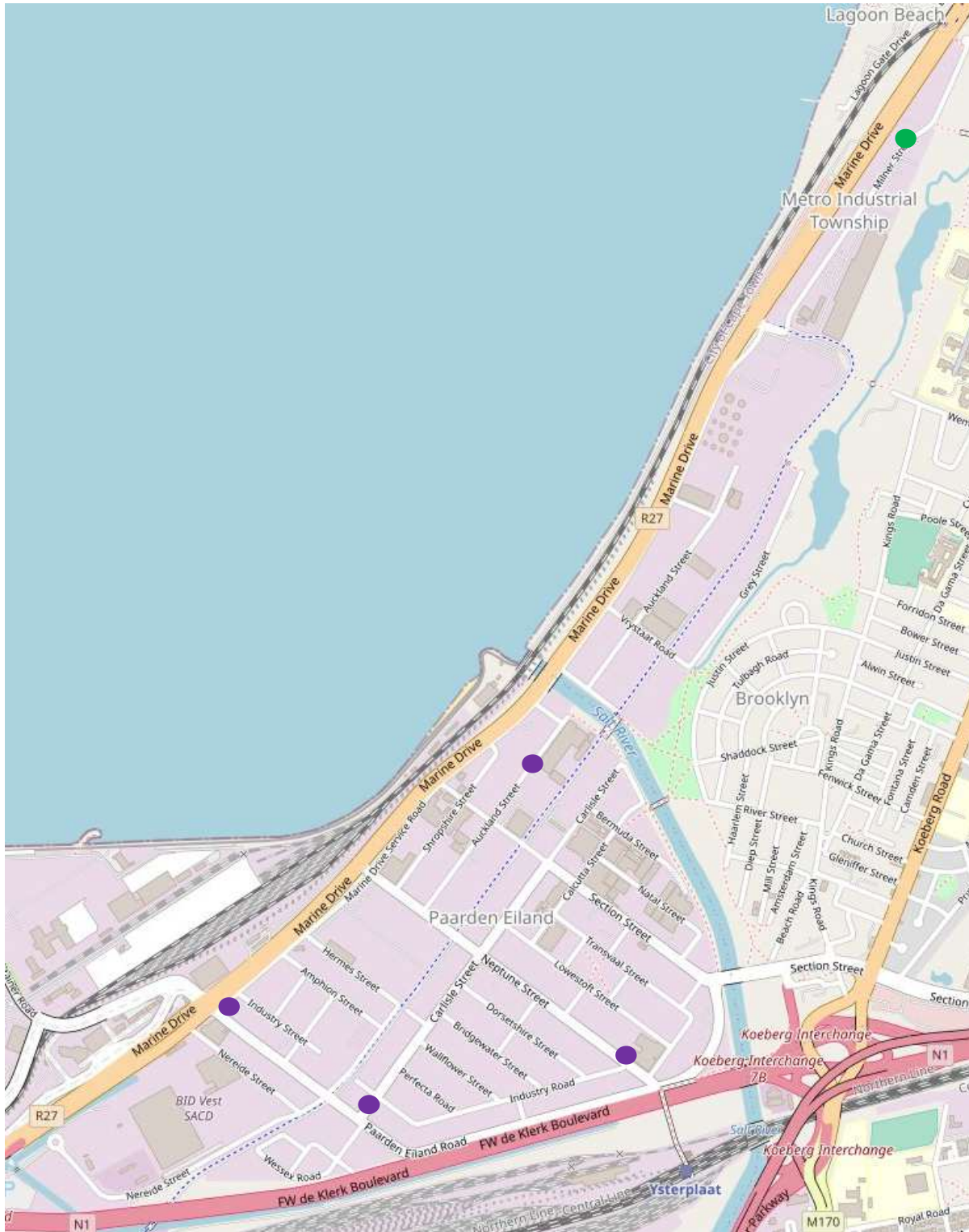
AUGUST SEPTEMBER COMPARISON



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SAPS CRIME STATISTICS – CASES OPENED FOR SEPTEMBER 2024



- BURGLARY BUSINESS
- THEFT FROM/OUT OF MOTOR VEHICLE



CITY OF CAPE TOWN BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT TEAM

VOLUNTEERS & RESTORATION

Zoarvlei welcomed four second-year volunteers from the Newbridge Graduate Institute, formerly known as Centurion Academy, to assist in conservation efforts during September. The dedicated volunteers contributed to essential tasks, including the clearing of invasive alien vegetation and wetland restoration activities. The volunteers played a key role in the planting of 55 *Serruria aemula*, commonly known as the strawberry spider head, at Zoarvlei. This plant, endemic to the fynbos biome, is of significant conservation importance due to its status as critically endangered, with populations declining primarily due to habitat loss, urban expansion, and invasive species. It is estimated that fewer than 1,000 mature individuals of this species remain in the wild, with some assessments suggesting the population may be as low as 250 individuals, the reintroduction of these plants is a significant achievement for the reserve. We will be closely monitoring the growth and success of the species. In addition, 21 *Thamnochortus punctatus* (Cape thatching reed), were planted in Zoarvlei. Like the strawberry spider head, *Thamnochortus punctatus* is facing population decreases, with threats including overharvesting and habitat degradation.



ALIEN CLEARING

In September, Zoarvlei Nature Reserve focused its alien clearing efforts on two problematic invasive species: wild yellow mustard (*Sinapis arvensis*) and purple vetch (*Vicia benghalensis*). These seasonal invaders threaten the wetland's native plant life, particularly during the spring months when they proliferate across the area. Purple vetch, native to the Mediterranean, was originally introduced to South Africa for use as a fodder crop and soil improver. However, in Cape Town, it has become a troublesome invader. It thrives in disturbed soils and wetland areas, quickly outcompeting local flora by smothering native plants and altering the nutrient balance. Its nitrogen-fixing properties increase soil fertility, which can favour more aggressive species over the delicate, low-nutrient fynbos vegetation.

WORLD CLEAN UP MONTH

Each year, purple vetch spreads rapidly during the spring, making it a persistent challenge for conservation teams across the region. Without proper management, it can drastically reduce biodiversity, undermining efforts to conserve Cape Town's unique ecosystems. To combat this, Zoarvlei management team dedicated multiple days in September to manually removing purple vetch from the wetland. The team hand-pulled the plants to ensure their roots were fully removed, minimizing regrowth. Alongside purple vetch, wild yellow mustard—a fast-growing annual weed that competes with native species—was also removed. In celebration





of Clean-Up Month this September, Zoarvlei Nature Reserve teamed up with the Paarden Eiland City Improvement District's (PECID) Environmental Team and the zero-waste-to-landfill organization, Zero Waste, to tackle litter in and around the wetland.

Zero-waste-to-landfill initiatives aim to divert all waste from landfills by finding alternative uses for materials. This approach promotes sustainability and resource conservation, encouraging businesses and communities to rethink

waste disposal. Organizations like Zero Waste play a critical role in this process by working with various industries to repurpose different types of waste. For example, organic waste such as food scraps collected from clean-ups can be sent to compost manufacturers or used by local pig farmers, contributing to sustainable agriculture. Textile waste, like old clothes, can be sent to upcyclers who create new products, reducing the demand for raw materials. Similarly, plastics, metals, and paper can be sorted and recycled, re-entering the production cycle as raw materials for new products. This year's clean-up was a significant initiative for the Zoarvlei wetland, where litter, particularly plastic and packaging waste, is an ongoing threat to wildlife and ecosystems. On September 19th, the teams from PECID and Zero Waste, alongside Zoarvlei management, collected over 20 bags of litter from the wetland. The waste was transported by Zero Waste for sorting and recycling, ensuring that none of it would end up in a landfill.



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SPOTTED IN PAARDEN EILAND / ZOARVLEI

The Red Bishop

The Red Bishop is a small passerine (they have feet that are adapted for perching) bird belonging to the bunting and widowbird “Genus Euplectes”, the weaver family. It is common in the wetlands and grasslands in South Africa. They are social birds, nesting in colonies and foraging in flocks. Bishops are not migrants, but they do move away during the nonbreeding season. They roost in reedbeds with other related species. They feed in flocks, both on the ground and perched along the reeds. Their diet consists mainly of grass and crop seeds and other plant material. Invertebrates make up a very small part of their diet.

The mating season for the red bishop is known as eclipse plumage, it changes colour during the breeding season, brightly coloured with upperparts being red to orange with brown wings and tail. The male is polygynous and mate with several females. The nests are commonly built among the reeds and made of grass and other plant materials woven together. The nest is oval in shape and normally built over water, the female will lay 2-4 eggs, which is blue in colour, rarely with fine black spots. The incubation period is 12/13 days and the fledging period is about 14 days. The lifespan of the red bishop is 15 years. The only threat to these beautiful birds is the decline of their natural habitat that has been destroyed by the greed of mankind.

When you see a red bishop, you can know that it symbolises the coming of spring and renewal of life.



This little bird creates a beautiful contrast against the green backdrop

PHOTOS



The CCT has been very busy this month working in Paarden Eiland to repair roads and other infrastructure.





Clever place to hide your empties until the PECID Public Safety Officers catch you.



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Continuous damage of the infrastructure in Paarden Eiland can be prevented.



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