



MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

Any comments and / or suggestions and / or recommendations would be most welcome

CURRENT PROJECTS:

EDUCATIONAL GARDENS AT IMPITHI BEACH KIOSK: Planting of grass was continued until the Easter Weekend.

Replanting of the dune forest margin next to the entrance handrail has started but some of the endemic plants required are not readily, available hence the gaps. Replanting of the dune next to the ramp has also been started. A rustic screen in front of the Kiosk kitchen has been erected by Marc Ryder and the area paved under the supervision of Patrick Clarke.

MAKAMATI TRAIL: The heavy rain of 7 May caused a flood which washed away the edge of the road by the steps in Marion Road. The water also washed away the top soil exposing the roots of the trees so making the Marion Road - Botha Place section of the trail impassable.

There was also a blockage in the sewer line in the Umdoni Road to Minerva Avenue section. This resulted in raw sewage flowing down the path. UGU finally sorted out the problem on 17 May. Using this section of the trail is not advised until there has been some rain.

NKOMBA BIRD SANCTUARY: Maintenance and management continue, but with input from Umdoni Municipality having slowed significantly, we wonder whether the stone wall at the Dolphin Drive gate will be repaired. However, all hope is not yet lost and in anticipation we are looking at making improvements to the 'water feature' along the wall which is now full of water and needs to be opened up and appreciated. Some colourful wetland plants, such as Wild Tibouchina (*Dissotis species*) will be planted soon. Hopefully, UGU will complete the new water connection, enabling the damaged swamp forest on the southern side to be tidied up and restored.

A negative issue, with comments leveled at all relevant roleplayers including the authorities who have failed to enforce compliance by the "Hibiscus Retirement Village" to undertake a 5 year alien clearing programme along the stream from Dolphin Drive to the beach, is the unacceptable growth of numerous Category 1 listed alien invader plants in the floodplain, many of which are about to flower and reseed. This is a legal requirement in terms of an offset required for the wetland area in the Umdoni Retirement Village where new houses have recently been constructed. Although the programme began at end 2009 it has come to a stop with no work having been done in the last 12 months or so. This is inexcusable and efforts to seek action from the authorities are continuing. To end on a positive note - several Impithi seem to be resident at Nkomba and are regularly seen in the early morning. The most recent animal sighting - identified by Temba Chiliza, a part time worker - is a Large Grey Mongoose (*Herpestes ichneumon*)

RECYCLING: Team Recycling has had another busy month. Phase 2 was rolled out to Pennington householders, as planned, on 27 April, as part of Positive Pennington's Eco Easter programme. Many thanks to them for including this project of ours. Coloured bags for recycling the various types of refuse can now be collected from Jacolette Crous' shop: Local Talent, Shop I, Ironwood Walk, Ironwood Road, between 09h00 - 16h00 weekdays or 09h00 - 12h00 on Saturdays, plus a flyer explaining the do's and don't's. Bags that have been filled to the point that is appropriate can be dropped off there and placed in the wheelie bins marked accordingly. Many thanks to Jacolette Crous for bearing with the teething troubles expected in any new venture and for her great support. The bags are supplied by Umdoni Municipality. Please note that participation in this is voluntary and the Umdoni Municipality will still collect black bags as usual.

UMDONI FOREST: Good rains during mid April forestalled what could have developed into a very dry winter. The team involved in weed eradication, currently 3, and has been for some months now, will shortly benefit from the addition of another worker. Although welcome, this number of workers still falls far short of a satisfactory figure which in times past used to be around 8. Otherwise the trails are in fair condition, always highlighted by the appearance of the resident pair of Crowned Eagles in tow with their juvenile bred last season. Almost all white in appearance, this young bird has consistently been seen by Mary Mckenzie and Lorraine Wilson during regular walks along the forest trails.

WEBSITE NEWS: Support the Conservancy by promoting your business from our website - advertise for as little as R150 per month. Contact Felicity on 039 978 3340 or send an e-mail to penningtonconservancy@gmail.com

CREATING AWARENESS: Our *Invasive Alien Plant* series is progressing very well. We have to date covered the following IAPs: Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia diversifolia*) [currently in bloom and looking deceptively beautiful!], Brazilian Pepper Tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), Morning Glories (*Ipomoea indica*), Yellow Bells (*Tecoma stans*), Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) and Montanoa (*Montanoa hibiscofolia*). There are 12 in the series and when complete, we will start an **indigenous** series suitable for Pennington gardens.

Clive Quicquelberge will be hosting a talk on 'Dragonflies and Damselies' at the Impithi Beach Kiosk on **19 June (Sunday)**. Watch our notice boards at the Kiosk and Pennington Superette for details.

IMPITHI BEACH KIOSK: What a crazy month April has been! At the Kiosk we never thought that we would almost be busier than during the long December holidays. The Easter break, which was basically split into shorter breaks, started out slowly but eventually ended up better than all our expectations. There was a real buzz and festive atmosphere in Pennington with all the Eco Festival activities going on for many days. Thank you to everybody who made it the great success it was. For the Conservancy it culminated in the next phase of the recycling project and it's heartwarming to see how many residents are excited about and committed to it. We continued to have a steady number of group bookings in April, and even though we did not have Sunday roast during the break, the Friday curry evenings remained well attended. It is always good to see people coming back again and again.

IMPITHI RANGERS (KIDS' CLUB): This Club was started specifically for the youth of Pennington and concentrates on creating awareness about the local environment and all the creatures that live in it. Gail, Liz and Tanya spend many hours coming up with ideas to keep the youngsters enthusiastic and interested. To date the Impithi Rangers (members of the Club) have had a treasure hunt along Makamati Trail, learnt about butterflies in the Umdoni Forest, been exposed to first aid and what to do in an emergency, collected items for recycling and so much more. The three ladies are very committed to the Impithi Rangers who meet every fortnight on a Friday to get-together with old friends, meet new friends and become involved in what is happening around them. Anyone interested in helping Gail, Liz and Tanya with this very worthy endeavour, or would simply like more information, are asked to contact Gail on 039 975 2027.

AREA OPPOSITE THE PENNINGTON SUPERETTE: There has been very little regrowth of bamboo, and apart from a few Guavas and Bugweed, the wetland area is looking good with a lot of indigenous plant regrowth. Even the Morning Glory growing on the big Blue Gum is indigenous (*Ipomea Mauritiana*)

Join the Pennington Conservancy. Get your application form from the Impithi Beach Kiosk or on www.penningtonconservancy.org.za

Conservancy members...

- Do NOT need to be involved in committee meetings;
- Do NOT need to become involved in organising and / or planning any of our projects

Conservancy members...

- CAN show their support by simply attending our activities
 - CAN tell us what they would like to see happening in Pennington, specifically in terms of the environment
 - CAN be supportive and encouraging by letting us know how we are doing and what we could do better
 - CAN become involved by planting a tree, removing invasive aliens, planting indigenous - think about it.....
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