



KORSMAN CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2019

Dear Members,

A summary of our activities and sightings this busy season.

St Dunstons Weed Pull 2 March

Pupils from St Dunstons removed dense patches of Acalypha.



Being up close to nature proved a little alarming to some who are not used to it (The caterpillar stayed calm)

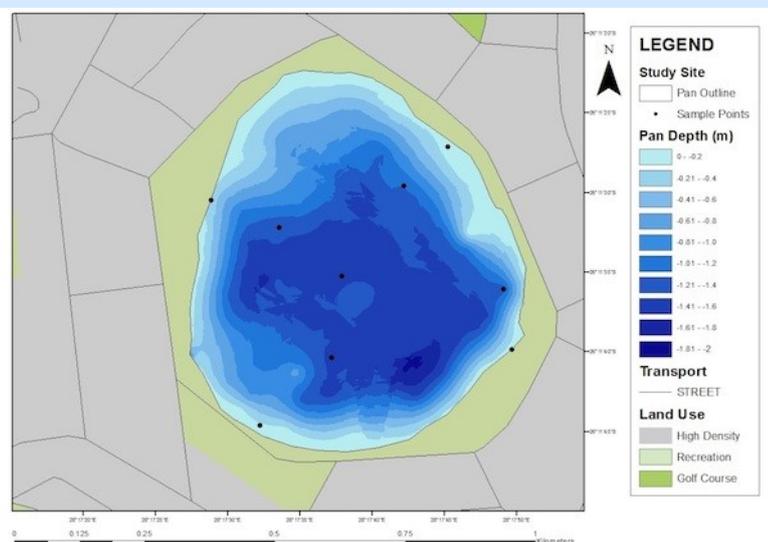


Plumbing the Depths

A couple of years ago, I reported that Devon du Plessis came to sample Korsman for his Masters research into trace metals in pans around Benoni. Devon's report concludes that Korsman is relatively unpolluted.

Devon took depth readings around the pan, which was fairly full at the time, and produced this detailed bathymetric map.

It means that a 1.7m adult could walk across the Pan without needing a snorkel. However, with the 12°C water temperature Devon measured in July, you probably wouldn't want to.



Weed pull 31 March

The dreaded *Acalypha* germinated so much after the rains that we held a well-attended third weed pull. This time, we were joined by the SANBI Biocontrol Unit, which aims to stop small invasions before they become uncontrollable. They also took specimens of the weed, which will be sent overseas for final identification.



Jane and the SANBI team examining other invasive plants





Ecological Bee Removal

A swarm of bees established a hive in a tree trunk on The Drive, posing a danger to passers-by. We feared that if we asked Ekurhuleni to remove it, the swarm would be exterminated.

Volunteer beekeeper David Snow set up a transfer system where the bees exit the hive via a funnel, but can't find how to re-enter, so they start building a new hive in the box. When the bees in the tree realise that workers aren't returning with food, they evacuate the queen into the box. The process takes a few weeks, then the hive can be moved to a safe location.

GALLERY: MISTY MORNING

There are great rewards for getting up early to work in the Sanctuary, especially after mist or heavy dew.

Plants and little creatures are bedecked with diamonds and jewels for some magical minutes after sunrise.

See more photos on our [Facebook page, here](#)





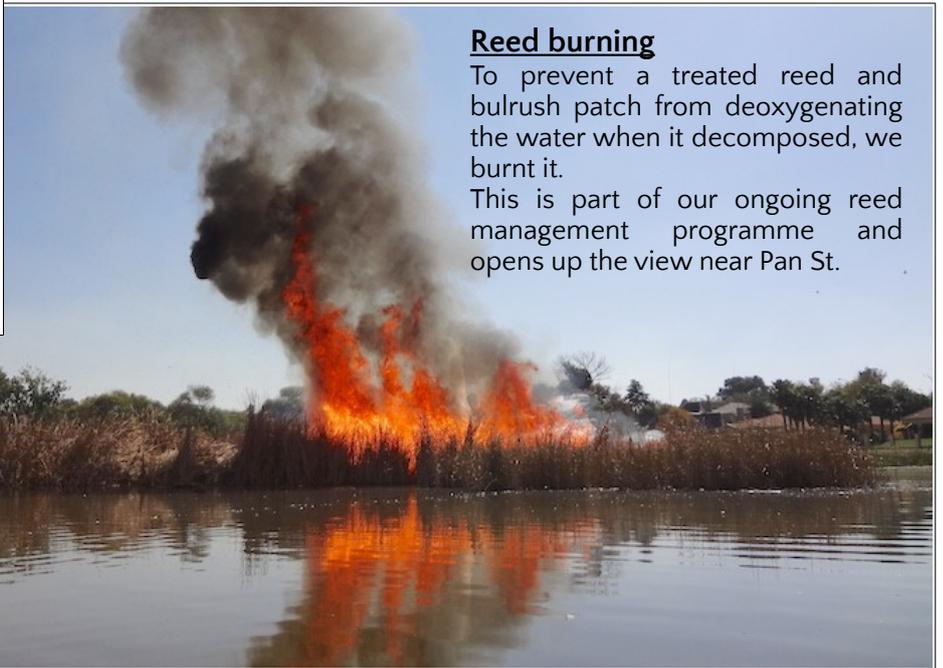
Wednesday Weedpull 17 April

At the suggestion of our Supervolunteers, we held a weekday work party. This time we tackled an invasive succulent at the Victoria St rockery.

Our volunteers are now so experienced, they come equipped with cushions for weed-pulling comfort.



Rescued: A common rat which had been living on the island



Reed burning

To prevent a treated reed and bulrush patch from deoxygenating the water when it decomposed, we burnt it.

This is part of our ongoing reed management programme and opens up the view near Pan St.

Mount Linden Litter Pickup 2 May
 An enthusiastic group of learners from nearby Mount Linden school cleaned inside the Sanctuary, on the verge and in Aubrey Ritz Park to make a difference in the community.

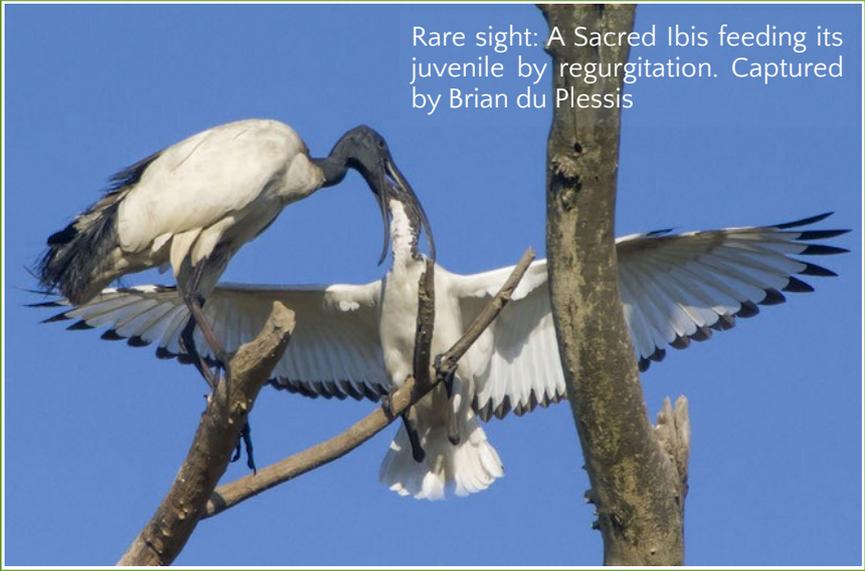


Photographer's day 28 April

Our photographer members captured some beautiful and unusual images on a perfect Sunday morning.

Background: Jim Rankin's pollen-laden bee visits another flower

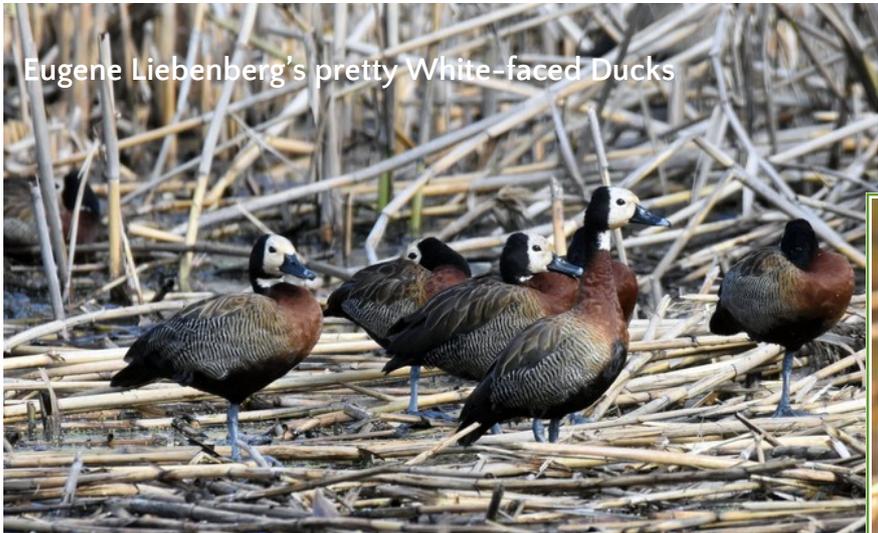
Below: A charming portrait of a juvenile Levaillant's Cisticola, deep in the sedges. By Werner van Goethem



Rare sight: A Sacred Ibis feeding its juvenile by regurgitation. Captured by Brian du Plessis



Autumn visitors: Spur-winged Geese by Jim Rankin



Eugene Liebenberg's pretty White-faced Ducks



Dew-dropped Green Stink bug, by Jane Trembath