



KORSMAN CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021

THE BURN: July

We conducted our annual burn over several days to try new techniques and take advantage of optimum wind conditions for each section.

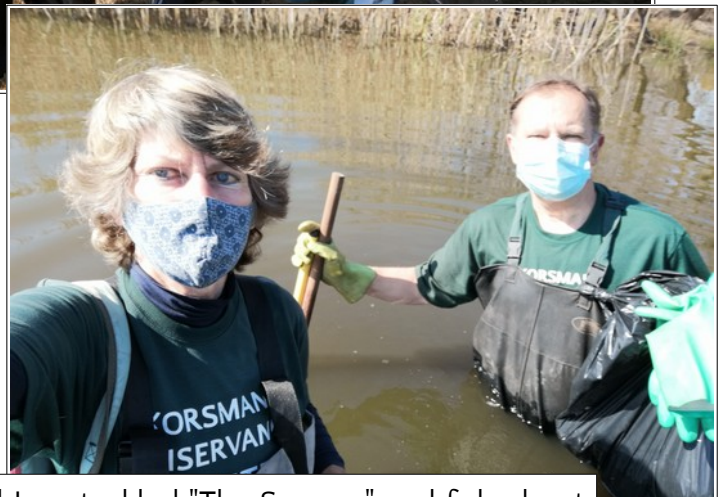




Two reed patches in water were burnt. This is to reduce accumulated biomass that causes sedimentation of the wetland. The reeds are a grass and will regrow. They make a spectacular blaze.

Litter Pickup 19 August

A formidable team cleaned the entire perimeter



Jane and Jose tackled "The Swamp" and fished out bags of plastic rubbish and, um, a 'personal item'



When Waste becomes a Crisis...

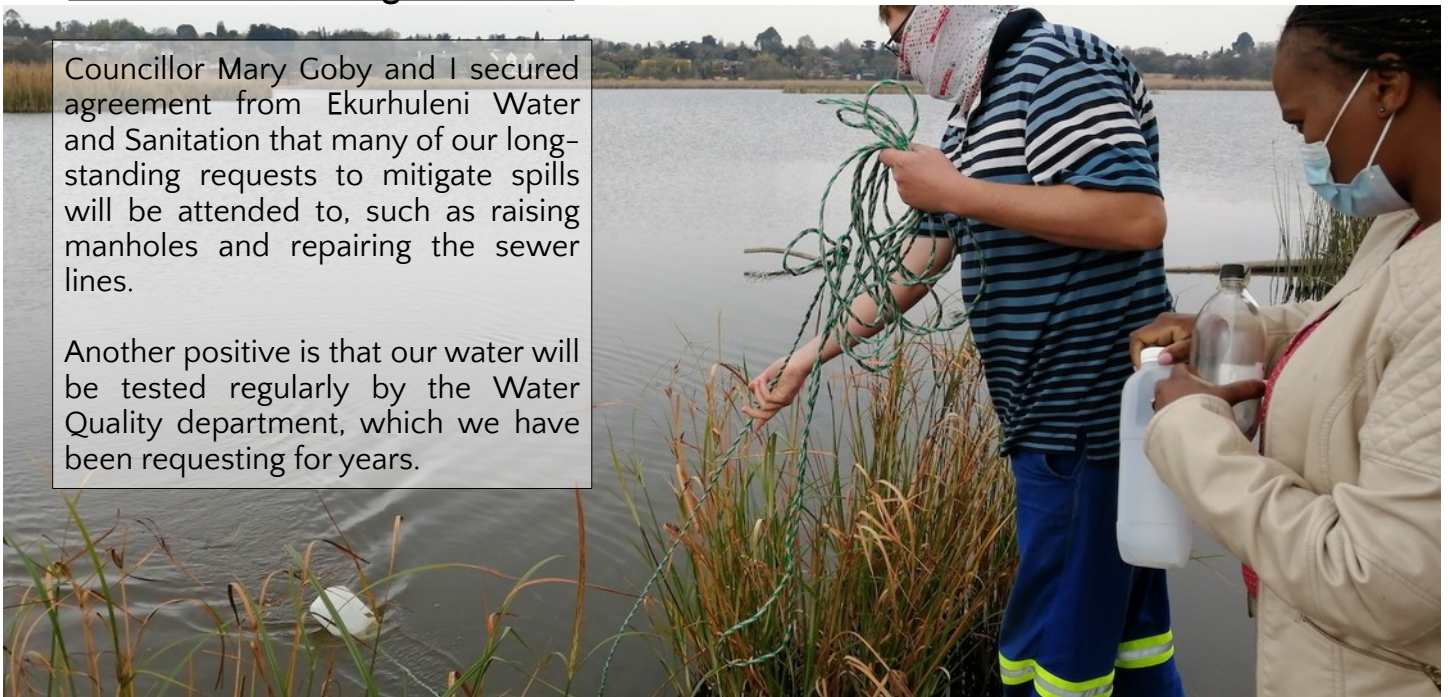
Repeated failures of Westdene North pump station in August and September caused sewerage to spill out of the manhole in The Drive for extended periods. We estimate that at least eight million litres of sewerage poured into the Pan, enough to raise the level by 20mm. The sad part is that the effort required over several days to make it serviceable surely cost more than just providing a second pump which would have prevented these spills.



...Don't Let a Crisis go to Waste

Councillor Mary Goby and I secured agreement from Ekurhuleni Water and Sanitation that many of our long-standing requests to mitigate spills will be attended to, such as raising manholes and repairing the sewer lines.

Another positive is that our water will be tested regularly by the Water Quality department, which we have been requesting for years.



DIY water remediation

Sewerage adds massive amounts of nutrients.

Bioremediation products are available but are very expensive and not all are suitable for natural water bodies.

We are experimenting with manual algae removal and spraying minute amounts of hydrogen peroxide under water, which kills coliform bacteria and cyanobacteria.



New Wheelchair Ramp – No. 24 berm

Sponsored in memory of the late Dino Singh, one of our members who loved walking around Korsman. It will connect with the next section of the pathway which will be laid soon. This is the third berm accessibility ramp around the perimeter.



Winter CWAC 26 June

We assisted the East Rand Bird Club with the six-monthly Co-ordinated Waterbird Count and were thrilled to record some special birds, such as this elusive Little Bittern, photographed from the bird hide by Awie Coetzee.



Goliath Herons: The Next Generation

After our two adult resident Goliath heron males were tragically killed by a predator in May, our fears that we wouldn't have Goli babies this year were dispelled. The female of the second Goliath pair came to look for her mate at the start of breeding season in May. Not finding him, she stalked and pursued a young male.

Their two chicks hatched around the beginning of August and will be in the nest until mid October.

Here Mommy Goliath brings top-up nesting material while her mate and one youngster (bottom of nest) gapes at her.

'Goli's Landing' Progress

The construction of the bird hide is complete, with some minor additions and finishing touches to go. However, you may already use the hide and enjoy the peace and beauty of this special place.

We will invite you to an Open Hour launch event when lockdown conditions lift.



Inspiration corner

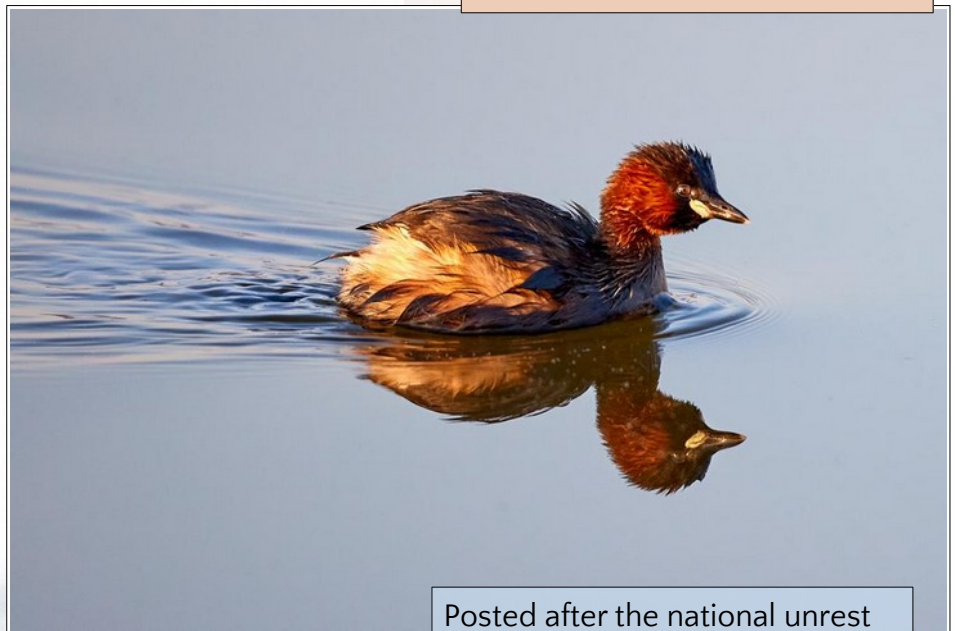
Pictures, research and words by
David Dooley

Originally posted on our Korsman
Sightings whatsapp group



"Gulls are social creatures. Kind of like us, in fact. Most of the time, they act like they can't stand each other. They squabble, they posture, they fight, they eat each other's eggs... but deep down, they know they need each other."

<https://www.donenright.com/7-habits-highly-effective-seagulls/>



Posted after the national unrest

"Let not the events of the day overpower the peace within your soul. In stark contrast to a week of violence and looting, fear and despair, loss of life and livelihoods on top of a devastating pandemic, I was still able to find peace and tranquility in the beauty of nature at Korsmans in the early morning light. I share this with you as a reminder that there still is beauty all around us if we just take the time to see."

