



Friends OF DIE OOG

Newsletter December 2014

Hi Folks.

Just a short note to close off the year. Isn't it amazing how quickly the year has gone by, a moment ago it was deep winter and now spring has already sprung and we are heading rapidly into summer in the deep south!

The first wave of Toad-lets have made an appearance and been helped out of the swimming pool and back onto terra firma by Patrick Williams,



The Terrapins have successfully bred and we have spotted one yellow billed duck with a clutch of 7 ducklings swimming proudly next to her.

A sparrow hawk was seen swooping down on a fledgling cormorant but fortunately dropped it on the upward flight.

The Guinea fowl and Geese continue to be a nuisance but are also enjoyed by visitors to Die Oog.

We have been very generously blessed with some lovely donations to Friends of Die Oog and will shortly put some of this to very good use clearing some of the invasive plants in the wet-lands.

The overflowing of the sewer system from time to time into Die Oog continues to be a serious problem and I am sure contributes to the rapid bloom of some of the aquatic weed in Die Oog.

There have been a few unwelcome visitors targeting the 4 houses lying adjacent to this area and steps are now being implemented to combat these and let them know that they are not welcome.

The wall between no.16 and the water has been replaced with a lot of steel going into the foundations and columns and hopefully this will stop any further problems.

CCC will continue with the repair of the pathway by laying more sub-base and compacting it down.

Work on the firebreaks has been completed and the fence across the top of the wetlands is on the budget for action as soon as funds become available.

We are in the middle of negotiations with CCC Parks to get an allocation of funds for ongoing maintenance of Die Oog and this is looking very promising.

We have a resident Porcupine that has to date, eluded being photographed despite leaving ample evidence of his nocturnal roaming, so if anybody is lucky enough to get a sighting and photograph it, we would love to publish the picture.

With Eskom load shedding it is quite possible to find yourself locked inside Die Oog. Should this happen and you find yourself locked in, please phone BKM Watch, their number is on the notice board and they will arrange for somebody to come and let you out.

We really do value all of you taking an interest in the preservation of this lovely little gem in our backyard and thank you for your support over the year .

We wish you Seasons greetings and a happy and prosperous 2015.

Kind regards,

Mark & Anne