

FRIENDS OF DIE OOG

Good Bye 2015

Hello Everyone,

Can you believe it, suddenly we are at the end of another year, there must be some sort of universal law that the older you get the more time shrinks!

The tadpoles are growing nicely and hopefully will produce a good hatch of Toadlets, we had about 10 days of activity during the breeding time in August.



A beautiful painted reed frog



Plover chicks

The Plovers in the Bio-Diversity area have bred successfully and we have two juveniles progressing well.

Does anybody have any recall of this happening before or am I correct in assuming that this is a first for Die Oog?

The Yellow bills started with a good clutch of 9 ducklings and sadly once again we witnessed the numbers declining almost daily until there were none left.

There still are a number of cats that are hunting in Die Oog but I am not sure if they are the only culprits as there has been quite a lot of activity by some quite large Terrapins.



The pretty Mandarin that was here for a while has been removed by City Parks.

You will have noticed that the benches have been re-painted / varnished but we have really had a tough time getting rid of graffiti that has been carved into the wood with the worst being Lubbe's Lookout, we have had to sand down really deeply and put on many coats of varnish to bring it back up to pristine condition. Could we ask all interested parties to keep an eye open for any signs of vandalism in Die Oog and if noticed while happening, to encourage those responsible to rather preserve than desecrate our lovely facility.

Eradication of Poplar tree shoots continues to be an ongoing battle and we have been told that the alien clearing teams will once again do aquatic clearing of the weed in the dam as well as working in the wetlands around January into February next year.

The pathway and signposting of the bio-diversity and Fynbos area is still on the cards but as we were not successful in getting a grant from the Rowland Letta Hill Trust this year it will have to wait until we have sufficient funds.

We have applied to CCC for a ward allocation grant to replace and upgrade perimeter fencing and will have to wait until early next year to see if this will be granted

At some stage in the future we would like to see the reintroduction of indigenous fish into Die Oog but wonder how they will fare with the Cormorants breeding here.

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a happy and a prosperous New Year.

Mark & Anne

