



THE EILAND

ISSUE: 19

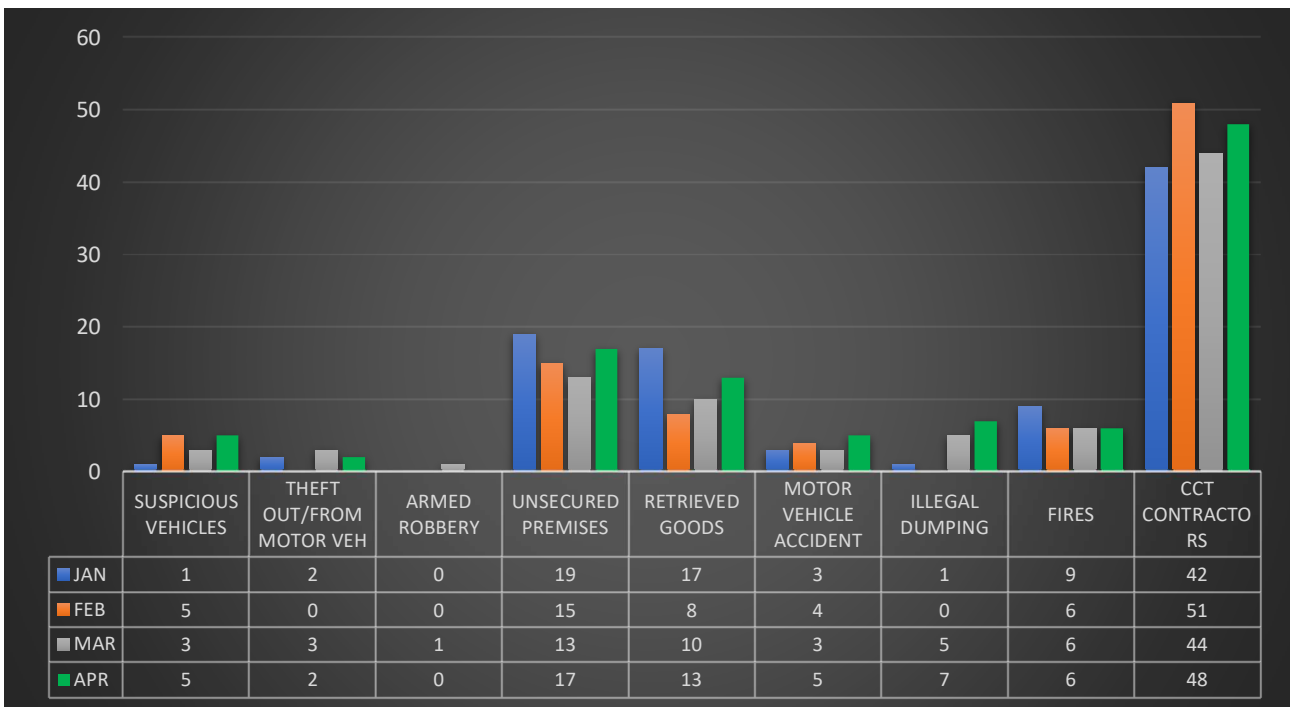
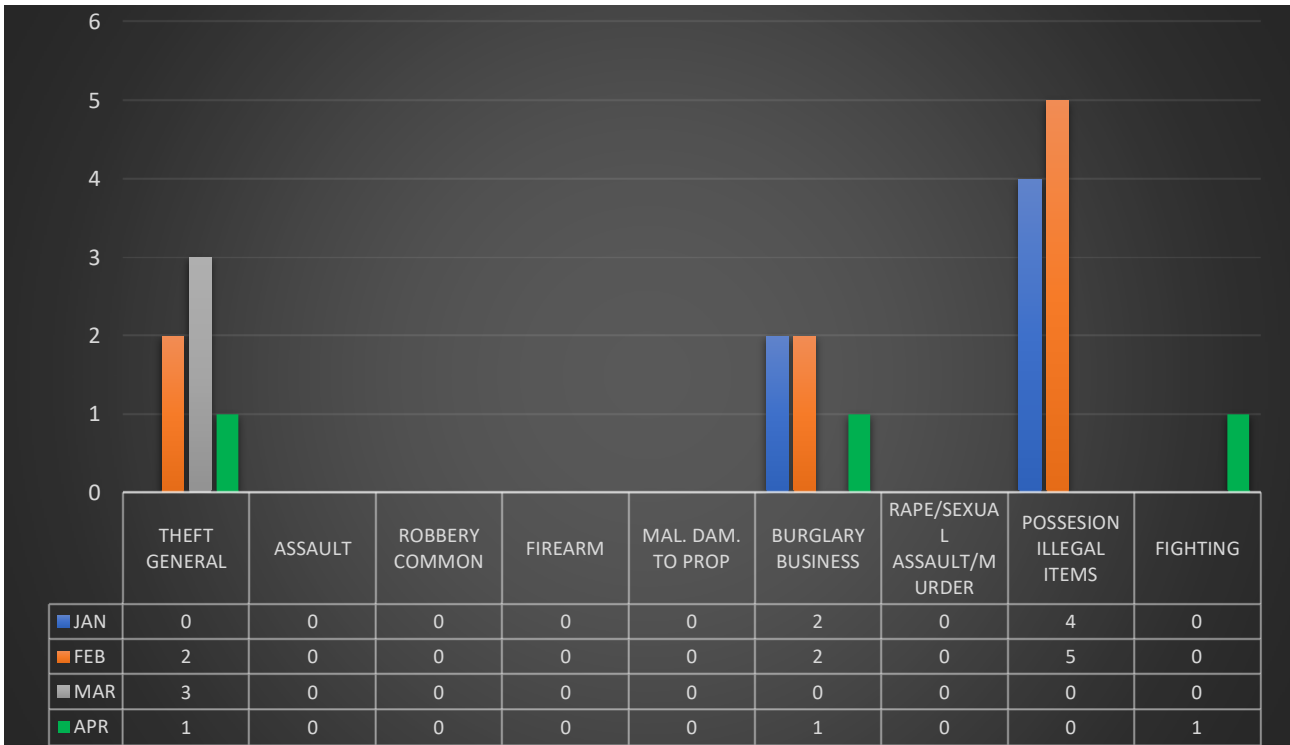
APRIL 2025

FACEBOOK - <https://web.facebook.com/people/Paarden-Eiland-CID/100095721544327/?rdc=1&rdr#>

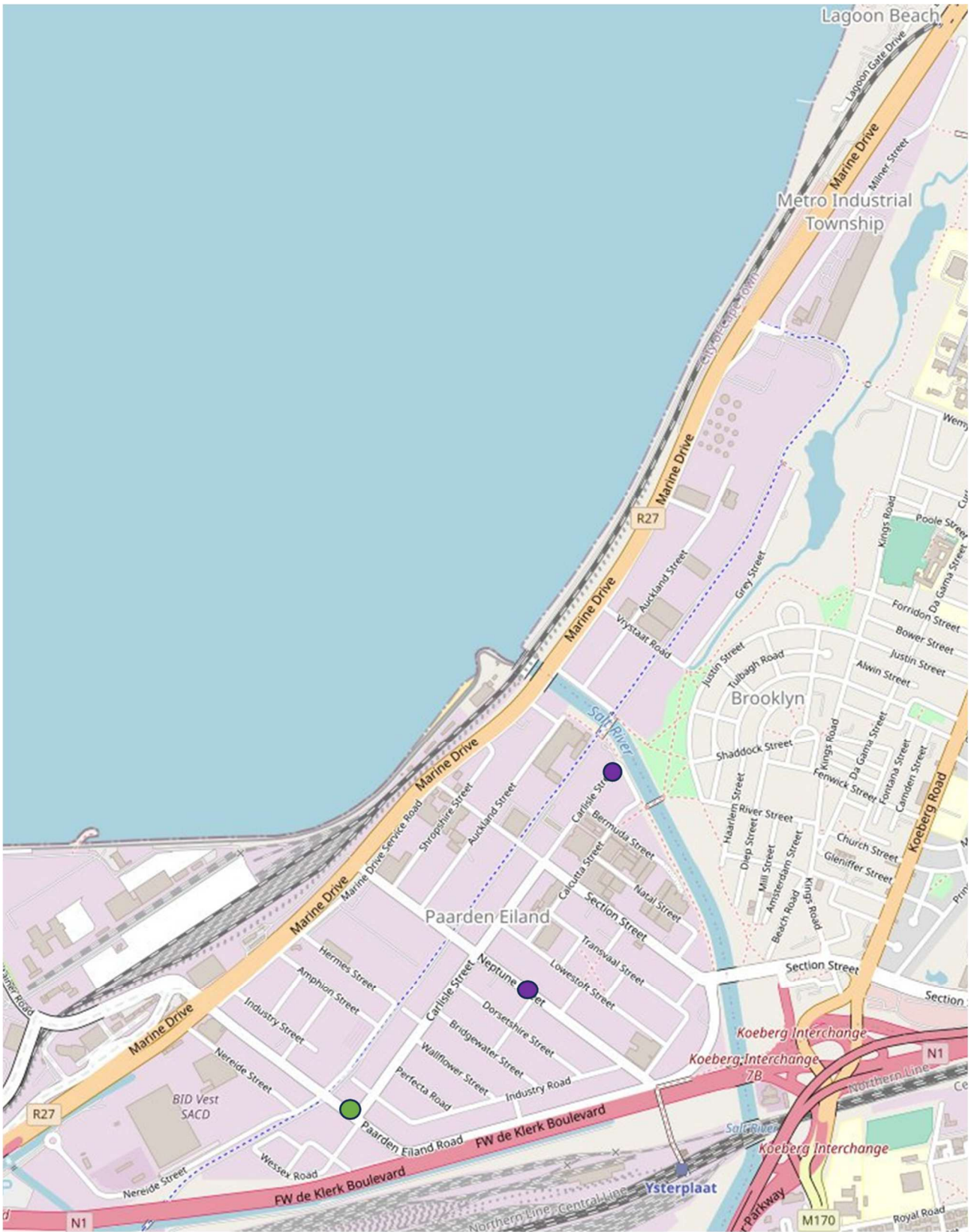
Assistance	Mobile	Landline
PECID Control Centre 24/7	076 5013 205	0215100040
PECID Manager – Chris Matthee	082 4740 762	
P.E.T. Manager – Brynie Victor	076 7226 500	
Netcare 911	082 911	
ER24	084 124	
Milnerton Fire Department		021 400 6949
Brooklyn Fire Department		021 510 5180
Western Cape Metro EMS		021 937 0318
SAPS Maitland	082 3029 574	
SAPS Call Centre		10111
Disaster risk management centre Goodwood	080 911 4357	
Public Emergency Communication Centre Goodwood	021 480 7700	107
CCT Helpdesk / general inquiries		021 400 1111
CCT Electricity issues	0860 220 440	
CCT WhatsApp Customer relations number	060 018 1505	
Child Line	0800 055 555	
Child Welfare	0216383127	
Lifeline	0800 322 322	
Alcohol and Drugs Help	0800 435 748	
Rape Crisis		021 447 9762
Gender violence help line	0800 150 150	
Squatter Control Law Enforcement	0800 225 669	



INCIDENTS RECORDED – JAN/FEB/MAR/APR 2025.



CRIMINAL CASES RECORDED BY SAPS



	Theft out/from motor vehicle
	Burglary Business



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



ILLEGAL DUMPING

Joint clean-up

April brought with it a mix of challenges and progress at the Zoarvlei Section, particularly around the ongoing issue of illegal dumping and litter accumulation. While a number of clean-up efforts were postponed due to much-needed rain, we were still managed regular smaller clean-ups.

On 17 April 2025 however, we carried out a large joint clean-up operation with staff from Table Bay Nature Reserve (TBNR), Nature Connect, and Paarden Eiland City Improvement District (PECID). The focus area was the southern section of the reserve, where wind had contributed to a noticeable build-up of litter. Thanks to the teamwork on the day, we were able to clear over 98 bags of debris and litter.

Earlier in the month, we flagged a major dumping hotspot and reached out to CCT Solid Waste for assistance. Teams responded and removed the bulk of the waste, after which we followed up to finish clearing the area. These kinds of partnerships are vital in staying on top of ongoing pressures in and around the reserve.



Illegal structure removal

In addition to clean-up efforts, vigilant PECID staff reported an illegally erected structure just beyond the formal boundary of the Zoarvlei Section but still within the bounds of the greater wetland area. PECID promptly mobilised their compliance unit to address the matter. Once the displaced individuals were relocated, Zoarvlei staff joined PECID's environmental team in safely dismantling and removing the structure.

For decades, Zoarvlei faced significant challenges related to illegal occupation, with large numbers of displaced individuals residing within the wetland. Over time, and through the persisted committed efforts of several key partners — including CCT, PECID, Nature Connect, and particularly Quemic Integrity Africa — sustained action has led to the successful removal and long-term prevention of informal settlement within the reserve. Resulting in fringe cases of illegal occupancy on the outskirts of the reserve boundary, serving as quiet reminders of the consequences when natural areas are left without consistent oversight



CAUGHT IN THE ACT

In the early hours of 10 April 2025, a concerning incident of illegal dumping occurred near the Italian Sports Club within the Zoarvlei Section of the Table Bay Nature Reserve. At approximately 00:20 AM, Quemic Integrity Africa rangers on patrol observed two individuals offloading building rubble inside the nature conservation area. Upon noticing the rangers, the individuals fled the scene, leaving behind a substantial heap of rubble and a spade. A vehicle registration number was recorded, and the matter was promptly reported.

Following the event, the matter was escalated by the site manager via a formal complaint submitted to our CCT compliance unit. The complaint referenced not only this event but also two prior incidents:

- 1 February 2025: Dumping of motor oil.
- 9 March 2025: Another episode involving unauthorised waste disposal.

Despite the installation of a security gate in November 2024 to deter illegal access, these events indicate a pattern of ongoing non-compliance in the area surrounding the Italian and Portuguese Clubs (situated next to each other).

The incident is currently under investigation. Supporting documentation, including ranger statements, photographic evidence, and the formal complaint—has been submitted for review. Calls for enforcement action and accountability have been made to address repeat offences and improve deterrence going forward.



REGROWTH AFTER THE FIRE

The restoration area at Zoarvlei suffered a significant blow when a severe fire swept through the site on 20 January 2025. The blaze affected an estimated 60–70% of the restoration site, which housed several reintroduced, critically endangered species alongside populations of native flora. Some species were entirely lost; others, however, have shown remarkable resilience, already beginning to resprout from the burnt veld.

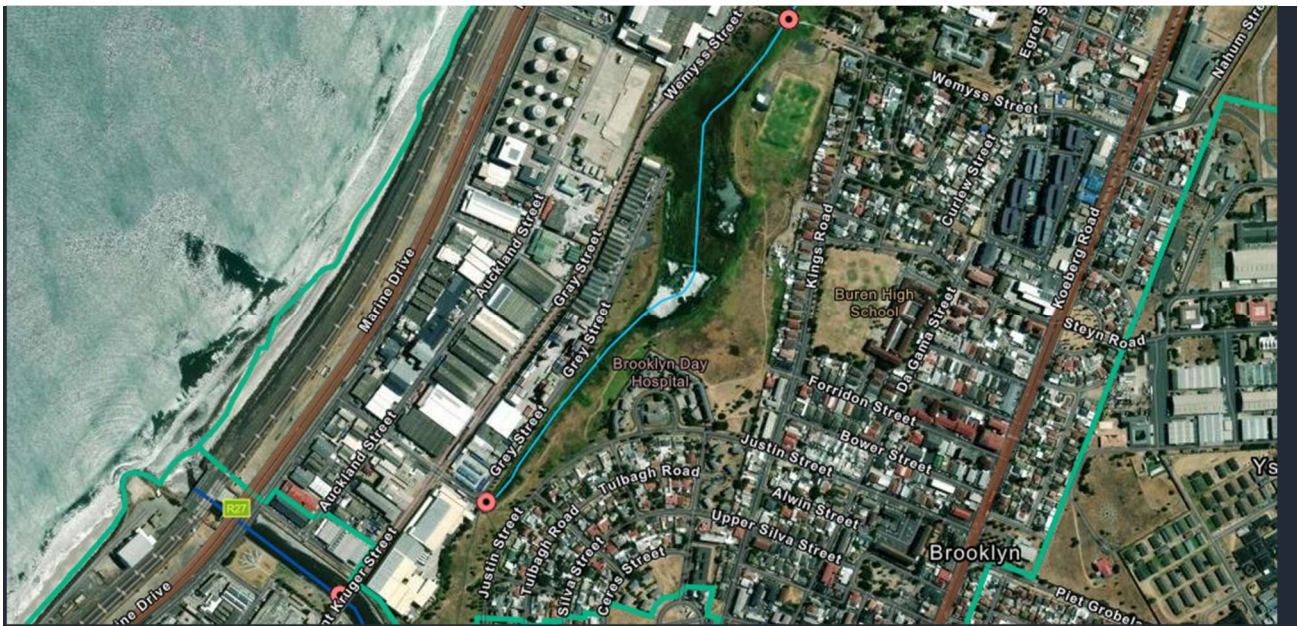
One such example is the sunshine conebush (*Leucadendron salignum*). Of the ten individuals reintroduced and planted in 2022, three had survived up until the fire. Believing them to be lost, we were impressed to see signs of life emerge. Owing to their ability to resprout after fire, these survivors are now producing new growth—even after being completely engulfed to the base.

Encouragingly, the fire has also prompted the emergence of early successional or pioneer species. Species including the rose-scented geranium (*Pelargonium capitatum*) and the spike-thorn (*Gymnosporia heterophylla*), both showing fresh regrowth. Native grasses have also begun reclaiming sections of the burnt landscape.

Sadly, not all species fared as well. A critically endangered *Serruria* population did not survive the fire. Its loss is a huge blow, highlighting the delicate balance we work to preserve. Even so, the early signs of regeneration bring a measure of hope as we prepare for a focused and intensive restoration phase in the coming months.



WATER QUALITY



Location	Latest sampling date	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l) Target > 7	E-coli (cfu/100ml) Target <4000
Salt River Canal at Marine Drive Bridge - Paarden Eiland	Apr 10, 2025	11.6	682 000
Zoarvlei (south end) at corner of Vrystraat and Gray Street	Apr 8, 2025	5.4	130 000
Zoarvlei (centre) at Wemyss Road footbridge	Apr 8, 2025	2.7	128 300

SPOTTED IN PAARDEN EILAND / ZOARVLEI

The Malachite Kingfisher

This river kingfisher is widely distributed in Africa south of the Sahara. These birds are adorned with beautiful metallic blue feathers on the upper part of the body, a red/orange beak and bright red legs. However, the younger birds have black bills which later changes into red/orange.

They live in areas where there is slow moving water, wetlands or ponds and plenty of aquatic vegetation. While fishing, they fly low over the water, tail pointed downwards and will suddenly drop with a splash and return to the surface with the struggling captive such as small fish and insects in their mount. The larger prey is beaten on a bough or rail before digesting while the smaller fish are lifted and carried by its middle and is tossed into the air so that the bird swallows the fish headfirst. They build their nests by digging tunnels in the banks of rivers and streams. These tunnels, usually around 30 to 90 cm long, end in a small, unlined nest chamber. They might also excavate nests in earth mounds or even around the roots of fallen trees, or other holes in the ground.

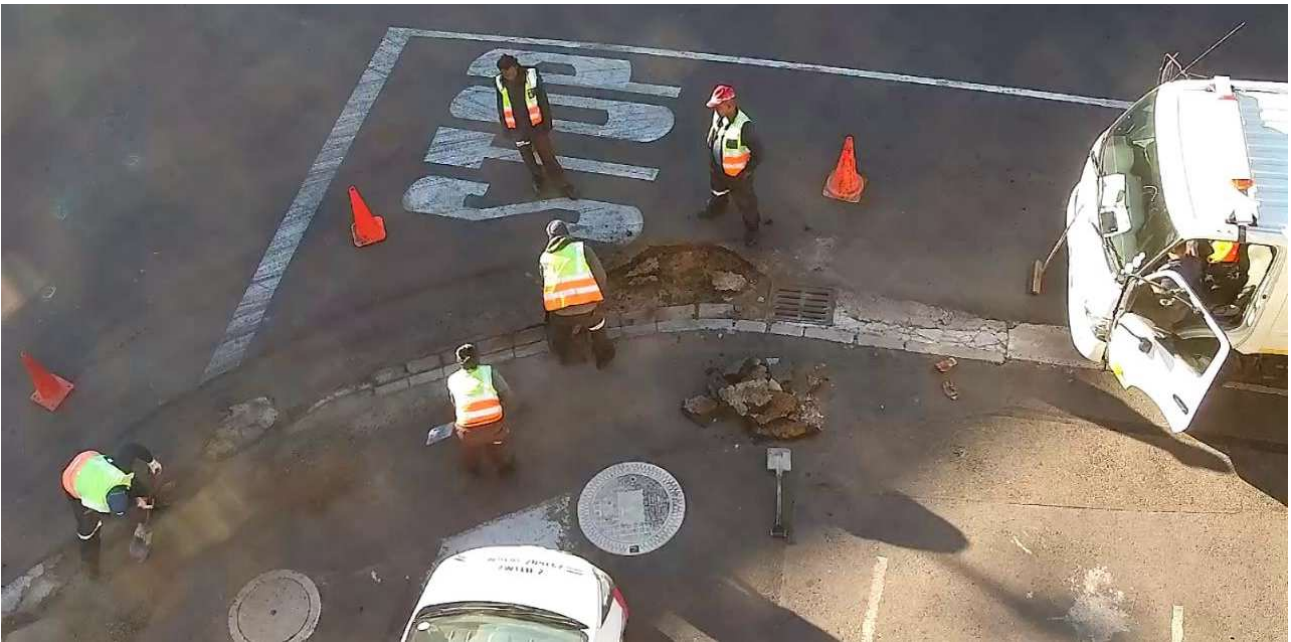
The female produces 3 – 6 white round eggs. The incubation is done by both male and female and takes up to 16 days before the eggs hatches. 25 days later, the small birds will start leaving the nest and about 41 days later they will be kicked out by their parents to start their own life cycle.

It is good to know that this species is not threatened by mankind and flourishes along the Zoarvlei wetland.

When you spot a kingfisher, it is symbolic of transformation , resilience, prophetic knowledge and brings profound wisdom.



PHOTOS



CCT staff busy repairing infrastructure



During April month, several visits was done by the CCT drain cleaning teams to try and ensure that we are not as much affected by flooding as is usually the case in winter.



Flooding during the rain we experienced indicating the problem with the low-lying areas





A male was found under the canal bridge where he made himself a home. Nobody was aware until he started making fire under the bridge resulting in the patrol officers removing him out of the area.



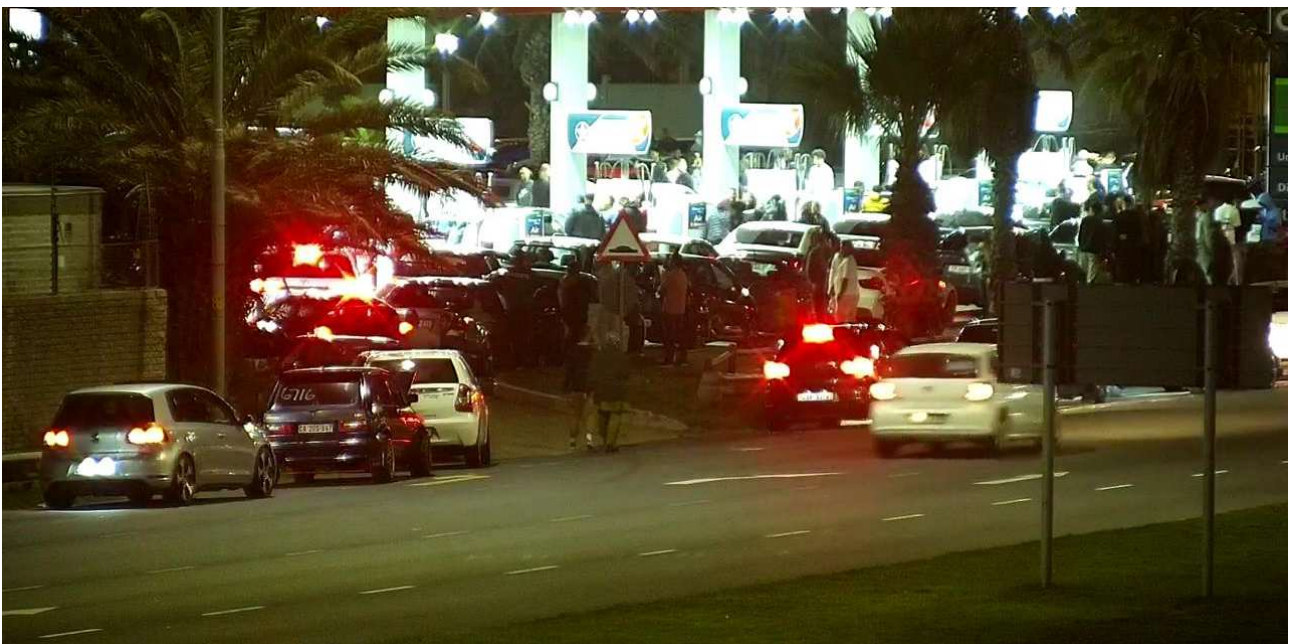


A group off males was spotted just across the canal bridge in Section Street busy cutting up meat. Because of health reasons the patrol officers removed the males out of the area.





Patrol officer assisting a very intoxicated female who was found falling down while trying to walk.



Illegal street racing in the area.



Sleeper of the month award!



All these guys were warned and chased out of the area.