

## REPORT-BACK ON ZANDVLEI TRUST ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EARTH AND RIVER DAYS

Members of the public (Coastal Chatter, Oct 1989), CT City Council (C. Times 4/1/90) and the Zandvlei Trust (Coastal Chatter, Apr 1990; C. Times 12, 19/4/90) have recently expressed concern at the proliferation of waterweed and litter along the tributaries and shoreline of Zandvlei. As one of its stated goals, the Trust aims to draw the attention of the relative authorities to these problems and to co-ordinate their efforts. We were unsuccessful in our efforts to arrange for the Regional Services Council to complete their dragline-clearance of waterweed before the City Council cleared the lower reaches of the rivers but are grateful to both organisations that they were able to commence activities prior to River Day. In order to get the public involved, the Trust ran a series of articles in the Cape Times. False Bay Review aimed at encouraging public participation. We were disappointed at the response from locals living around Zandvlei, which all goes to show how much harder the dedicated few need to work, but were pleasantly encouraged by contacts made with individuals in other areas including Conistan Park, Mitchell's Plain, Wittebome and Wynberg.

Despite the torrential rain on Earth Day (22/4/90) locals from around the vlei did manage to collect enough litter to fill a 1-ton bakkie hired by the Trust. Teams operated near Marina da Gama (co-ordinated by Richard Borden); Marine Estate (Ellen Grove); Promenade Road (Linda Gorman) and Watersedge (Lucy Brooker). All litter was sorted into recyclable categories of glass, plastic, paper and tin, which in line with the spirit of Earth Day was taken on the following Monday to Bergvliet Primary School where it was enthusiastically unloaded by participants in their highly successful recycling programme. Lessons from this exercise were

- 1) There are no local points for receipt of recyclable material,
- 2) Council and the Fairst Cape are unable to assist in the collection of material for recycling. It was essential that the Trust went to the expense of hiring a bakkie to return recycled material.
- 3) The limited return on recycled material ranging from 10c/kg of tin and paper to 3c/kg of glass, made it a non-viable proposition to return the material to the processing plants in Epping. Instead, it was essential to link up with a fully operational programme such as Bergvliet Primary's Recycling Project.

The torrent of water passing down the Sand River canal made it impossible for Conistan Park residents to clean out the canal as planned. However, a useful contact was established in Mr Derek Muller who together with Geoff Bailey and a member of the Cape Bird Club collected plastic debris which had passed through the litter trap and was entering the vlei at the Bird Sanctuary.

Such was the enthusiasm of the 1st Wynberg Scout Troop from Wittebome that they arranged to meet in Lakeside on the Sunday following Earth Day. The area between the Main Road and the Lakeside wetlands was swept on what turned out to be another rainy day. The emphasis was on conservation - Boy Scouts has changed since my day when we spent most of our time trying to boil eggs in brown paper bags and tying knots! The enthusiastic group took part in litter collection, emphasizing the importance of recycling; removal of alien vegetation; identification of indigenous flora and birding. A similar exercise is to be repeated with 100 scouts at the end of June.

All in all a successful exercise with the enthusiasm of youth more than making up for a certain amount of adult apathy.

Geoff Bailey

## MAYNARDVILLE MUSIC CONCERT

On the 31st of March the Zandvlei Trust in conjunction with the Barleycorn Music Club put on a concert at the Maynardville open air theatre, with all proceeds in aid of the Trust.

Despite the very dicey weather we managed to attract a reasonable crowd to watch and listen to some of South Africa's best musicians. Included in the bill were Edi Niederlander, Tony Cox, Dave Nissen and his band (who unfortunately caught some of the rain), Terrence Scarr & Caroline Blundell, Dave Knight and also the best of the Barleycorn regulars. This show was presented (at times hilariously) by Ian Bell and Martin Petersen.

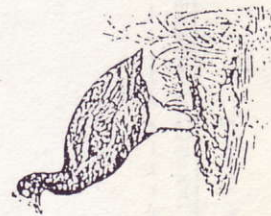
Our sincere thanks go to all the performers who really made the evening the success that it was, and also to the Barleycorn Music Club committee for all their help with the organization of the show.

The sea scout parents supplied the refreshments in the form of boerewors rolls and cool drinks. Many thanks to them.

As a part of the fund raising a painting of the Zandvlei donated by Neil Thomson was raffled. The Trust would also like to thank Neil for his support.

As a final thought, the concert had a two fold purpose, firstly to raise much needed funds for the Trust and secondly to increase awareness of the Trust's activities and it's battle against some of the severe environmental problems which affect the vlei. I think we were successful on both counts.

Geoff Brooker



## BI-ANNUAL MEETING

The Bi-Annual General Meeting of all Zandvlei Trust members will be held on July 25 at 8 pm at the Imperial Yacht Club, Lakeside.

Agenda: Chairman's report  
Introduction to guest speaker  
Guest speaker: Etienne Van Blerck  
Sub-committee reports  
Any other business

Etienne Van Blerck is a qualified ornithologist who works at the Rondevlei Bird Sanctuary. He will give a short slide lecture on Rondevlei, after which he will answer any questions on the work being done there.

Wine, fruit juice and snacks will be served. This is your opportunity to find out what Excom have been up to, and to renew your support.