

MINUTES OF THE CAPE BIRD CLUB CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23 March 2026 at Dave's house.

Present: Dave Whitelaw, Gavin Lawson, Christina Hagen, Felicity Ellmore, Dieter Oschadleus.

Apologies: Gerhard Bothma, Jane Doherty, Lee Child.

1. Strandfontein and Jane's PhD

Jane and her assistant, Sivumo, did field work at the Black River today which went well apart from some trouble calibrating the nitrate/ammonia probe. On Thursday she will be at Rondevlei and next week at Strandfontein. Jane is happy with the CSIR lab that is analyzing her samples.

Tomorrow Jane is going to a workshop with the group from Rhodes University that coordinated the latest fresh water quality guidelines.

On Wednesday Jane is going to Strandfontein WWTW to see what Infinity Environmental are doing. They are doing extensive sampling of all the pans and the sediments.

Dave was at Strandfontein – the sediment is not being pumped out of S3.

The Biodiversity Branch is looking at sludge microorganisms in each pan. The samples are being sent to a lab in UK.

2. Other Sewage Works – Mitchell's Plain – Nothing to report.

Athlone – The major construction work will be finished by October, then they are happy for the counts to continue.

3. PAAC feedback – Zandvlei – there was a meeting on Wed 18 March 2026. This years students gave a short summary of their projects this year – Lusanda is looking at micro invertebrates above and below sewage spill points and Naledi is looking at Sandprawn densities and how they are affected by human activities like dogs, and human trampling. They are waiting for repairs on one of the weed harvesters (Shoveller).

The draft of the Protected Area Management Plan is due on 1 June and should then be out for comment.

There will be a controlled burn in the Bird Sanctuary next year – planned to be part of the road reserve area.

False Bay N R – Andrea has done bird counts in Rondevlei.

Edith Stephens – They did the Bird Count yesterday morning. Another two staff members are leaving at the end of the month.

The contractors have moved in to do the rehab of the site. The rehabilitation plan was drawn up by Liz Day. They haven't actually started yet, still doing some tests on the soils where they are going to stockpile.

Table Bay N R - Nothing to report.

4. Liesbeek – Dave has been there 3 times and Alex forgot each time.

There has been clearing of the Ludwigia.

5. De Hoop Penguins – A few more penguins have been coming and going from the breeding site. Christina has been doing fence maintenance.

6. Ringing – Dieter has been sampling blood from weaver birds in Zambia. He has also been ringing in Namibia and catching swallows in Strandfontein.

Dieter will be ringing at an event at Rondevlei organized by the Lions Club and CBC on 18 April 2026.

7. Oude Molen – Dave attended a very long virtual meeting, there was lots of discussion about the heritage and KhoiSan.

8. Conservation Corner – Nothing to report.

9 Frank Wygold Award – Dave will send us info about the student that the Technikon recommended.

10. WCNP development – Dave got info about a development from Brian Vanderwalt.

NEXT MEETING – Monday 4 May 2026.