



Springerbaai



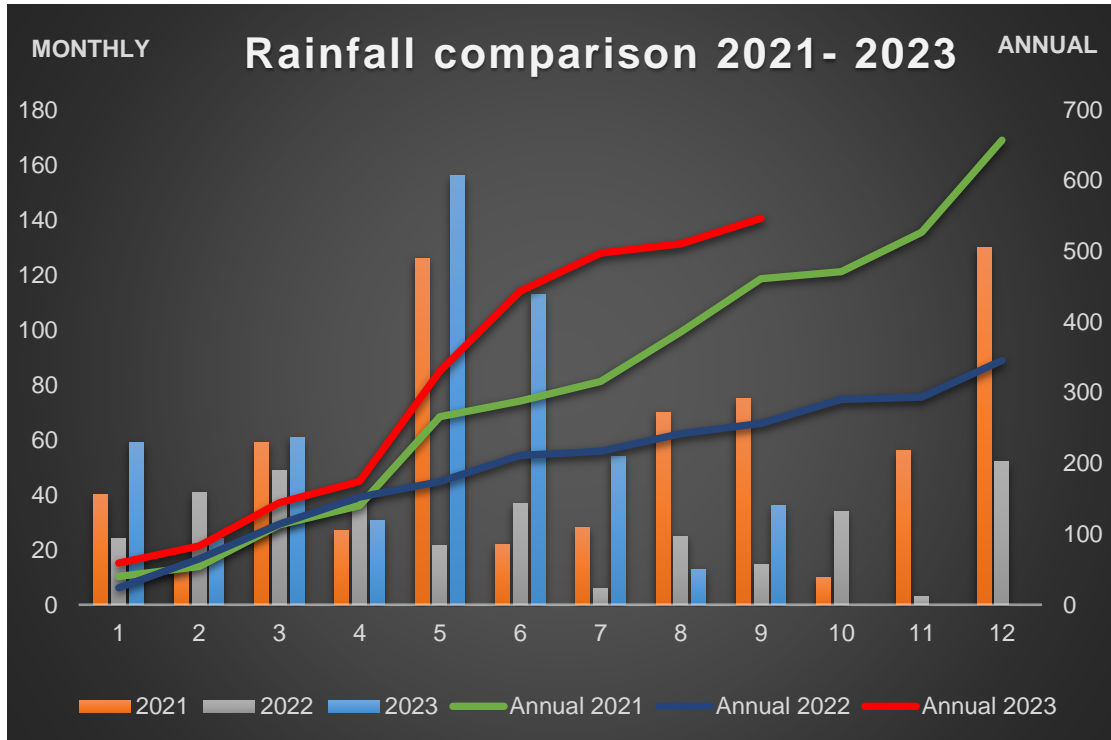
It's spring time

As you sit and read this newsletter, massive mop up operations is underway across the Western Cape following the vicious storm that wreaked havoc over the long weekend. The gale force winds were the strongest we have ever experienced.

The weekend's widespread destruction has disrupted the weekend plans of many. We can however, report and express our gratitude that none of this destruction extended to our Springerbaai properties or infrastructure.

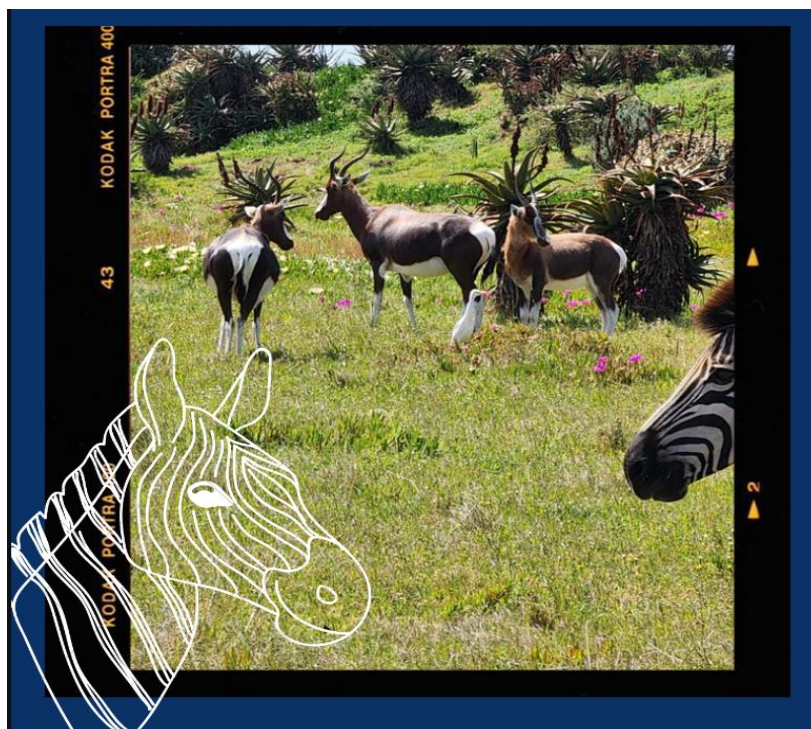
To mark the arrival of Spring, we'd like to share a mini newsletter with you.

Rainfall (mm)



Between January and the present, our records show a total rainfall of 547 millimetres.

Fortunately, despite the storms we've encountered, Springerbaai remains in excellent condition.



Arbour Day

September 1st, albeit a windy day, was greeted with great enthusiasm by the residents on-site, eager to participate in the annual Tree Planting Day. With more than 200 plants set aside for planting, it initially seemed like a full day's task. However, thanks to the thorough preparations made by the Springerbaai team, it turned out to be a delightful and enjoyable morning.

The atmosphere was filled with camaraderie and a sense of purpose as residents and team members worked together to contribute to a greener environment, making the event not only a success but also a memorable and enjoyable experience for everyone present.



Suurvy



We recently questioned if there's an alternative to our current gropping and manual method of removing suurvy for which we allocated an extra R100,000 for the current year, which was not budgeted for, on top of the R40 000 that was already budgeted for suurvy control. The idea behind adding the additional funds was to try and get ahead of our ever-growing suurvy challenge. Unfortunately, gropper removal leaves behind small suurvy remnants that regrow swiftly, necessitating additional budgeting for the future or seeking alternative solutions.

Herbicides are commonly used to manage unwanted vegetation. When deciding whether to use them, one must consider the product's effectiveness and potential side effects on the surrounding vegetation. In Springerbaai, we have successfully used herbicides to combat weed damage on roads, which proves cost-effective compared to manual removal.

After conducting research, we discovered a product called Triclon, which is safe for animals and other vegetation. Triclon is a systemic emulsifiable concentrate herbicide designed to control woody plants and weeds. We tested it on a small suurvy patch, achieving impressive results: the suurvy died and dried out completely within three months, without harming the surrounding grass. It is worth noting that we will continuously monitor the test area to make sure that no long-term side effects occur to err on the side of caution, although this is highly unlikely based on research conducted about the product & how it is broken down after fixating (absorbed by soil on contact) in the soil – within 45 days according to research. Unlike manual removal, which inadvertently damages the grass we aim to protect, Triclon does not have this issue.

We acknowledge that any intervention in nature can lead to potential side effects. Therefore, we must carefully weigh the herbicide's benefits, such as cost-effectiveness and efficiency, against its possible adverse impacts on the environment and other plants. In light of all the facts, I believe we have identified the best possible solution to get on top of the suurvy problem, once it is largely in check the use of herbicides can be reduced as from this point manual removal should allow us to keep it in check.



Environmental Health Day

Annually, on the 26th of September, the global community comes together to commemorate World Environmental Health Day. This day serves as a platform for various organizations to collaborate and shed light on the paramount importance of environmental health. In this newsletter, we intend to concentrate on two specific areas of interest, each vital in its own right: one directed *at enhancing our natural surroundings* and the other *emphasizing responsible care*.

The first focus area centers around a plant often referred to as a "miracle plant" due to its remarkable array of benefits, the **Spekboom**.

The second focal point of our newsletter revolves around the imperative task of safeguarding and tending to our **Dunes**.



The **Spekboom** (*Portulacaria Afra*) is an indigenous South African plant making waves in eco-conservation.

This hardy plant has been proven to absorb the highest percentage of carbon dioxide in comparison to any other plant on the planet. Said to be up to 10 times more effective at carbon fixing than a tropical rainforest, Spekboom is undoubtedly a wonder plant and much needed in a world of increasing climate change.

Spekboom health benefits are numerous, especially to the environment. When the environment is healed, nature becomes forgiving and generally promotes better health for its inhabitants.

Here are some of the benefits of planting a Spekboom:

- Spekboom stores solar energy to perform photosynthesis during the night. This means that not only can the plant absorb carbon dioxide during the day, but at night as well. Overall, these plants may absorb between 4 and 10 tons of carbon dioxide per hectare per year.
- Spekboom is seriously water-wise, needing only 250 – 350ml of water per year to survive. It is hardy and can survive drought conditions. Mature plants are also able to withstand frost, making them the perfect addition to any garden susceptible to unpredictable weather changes.
- Spekboom is edible! Beyond its traditional use to cure ailments of dehydration in harsh environments or to sooth sore throats, the leaves offer great culinary potential with a high nutritional value, often favoured by black rhinos, elephants, and kudu in the wild. Not only savoured by animals, spekboom's slightly tart, lemon-like flavour profile and high content of vitamin c makes it fit for human consumption too. This nutritious plant can be added to a salad with cucumber, roasted chickpeas and tomatoes (among other ingredients)
- Spekboom can live for up to 200 years and is skilled at adapting to harsh climate conditions. It also grows pink flowers to brighten up the landscape. Due to its unique photosynthetic procedures, it can thrive in deserts just as well as it would in rain forests. This means that it can be planted anywhere in the world to help clean the environment and restore lands that are considered destroyed.

We could all do with this exceptional plant to make a difference to our environment!



Dune restoration

Our dunes play a crucial role in preserving our coastal ecosystems and form a key defence against erosion, protecting properties and infrastructure.

Coastal dunes also provide valuable habitat for native wildlife such as birds, reptiles, and invertebrates. The dunes also form a critical corridor for movement of wildlife in our urban landscape.



The coastal storms experienced in September had a profound impact on our dunes. The immense, high-energy waves relentlessly battered the dunes' bases, causing significant erosion of sand and a considerable retreat of the dune face, with some sections of the dune itself affected.



In the aftermath of a storm, waves gradually transport sand from nearby bars back to the shore to initiate the beach's reconstruction. Over time, an adequate amount of sand returns to the beach, and the dune embarks on its path to recovery as the wind redistributes sand into the dune area. These natural processes for dune rebuilding operate at a relatively slow pace. When relying solely on these natural mechanisms, it may take years, or even decades, for the dunes to fully recover following the impact of a severe storm.

What are we doing?

Thank you to all who has volunteered and participated in the beach clean-up following the storm event. Huge amounts of rubbish and large debris such as logs was collected and cleared.

Our dune health is however a continuous focus, and we work to protect our dunes and improve vegetation by:

- controlling weeds
- allowing beach grass and dune vegetation to grow naturally
- maintaining public access ways

- running beach clean activities
- ▶▶ planning dune vegetation planting initiative(s)

There are many ways you can assist

- use only designated beach access ways
- keep off the dune vegetation
- dispose of rubbish and green organics
- join in our beach activities (cleaning and planting)
- report vegetation vandalism as soon as possible



Spring Chores



It's that time of year once more when we must eliminate the dry vegetation and branches in the areas surrounding our houses and driveways. This action not only serves as a proactive measure for fire safety but also allows us to tidy up, creating space for new growth in the upcoming season. To assist with these tasks, Springerbaai will provide a dedicated and trained worker to clear the dry bushes, grass, and branches on your property, especially if you are unable to do so yourself or require assistance.

We are extending this offer at a rate of R250 per day, which includes the removal of all the dead materials.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this offer, kindly contact the office so that we can schedule your preferred day in our calendar and make appropriate plans for the upcoming month. Payment and access arrangements will be coordinated directly with interested property owners.

Short Snippets

Environmental Calendar ▶



TRUSTEE MEETINGS

18 November

AGM 20 December

BAC MEETINGS

Last Friday of Every month

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>1 World Vegetarian Day</p> <p>1 International Music Day</p> <p>2 World Farm Animals Day</p> <p>2 World Habitat Day</p> <p>4 World Animal Day</p> <p>5 World Teachers Day</p> <p>7-11 NATIONAL MARINE WEEK</p> <p>National Marine Week is a campaign that aims to educate all South Africans about the role oceans play in their daily lives.</p> <p>7-11 WEEDBUSTER WEEK</p> <p>9 World Post Day</p> <p>10 World Mental Health Day</p> <p>13 World Sight Day</p> <p>14 African Penguin Day</p> <p>15 Global Handwashing Day</p> <p>Someone who washes their hands often is less likely to get sick, and won't easily pass germs on to the next person.</p> <p>16 World Food Day</p> <p>Give attention to the global misery of hunger and poverty.</p> <p>17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</p> <p>23 World Edible Insect Day</p> <p>23 International Day of Climate Action</p> <p>24 United Nations Day</p> <p>29 International Internet Day</p> <p>31 World Cities Day</p>	<p>1 World Vegan Day</p> <p>4-8 SADC MALARIA WEEK</p> <p>5 World Tsunami Awareness Day</p> <p>6 SADC Malaria Day</p> <p>10 World Science Day for Peace and Development Day</p> <p>11 Origami Day</p> <p>13 World Kindness Day</p> <p>14 World Diabetes Day</p> <p>16 International Day for Tolerance</p> <p>16 World Philosophy Day</p> <p>19 International Men's Day</p> <p>19 World Toilet Day</p> <p>20 Universal Children's Day</p> <p>21 World Television Day</p> <p>21 World Fisheries Day</p> <p>WHAT IS MALARIA?</p> <p>Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. It is preventable and curable. In 2020, there were an estimated 241 million cases of malaria worldwide!</p>	<p>1 World AIDS Day</p> <p>4 World Wildlife Conservation Day</p> <p>5 World Soil Day</p> <p>Soil is without a doubt, one of the most significant parts of the ecosystem, contributing to our food, water and energy and playing an important part in reducing the impact of climate change.</p> <p>5 International Volunteers Day</p> <p>7 International Civil Aviation Day</p> <p>10 Human Rights Day (UN)</p> <p>11 International Mountain Day</p> <p>Mountain Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the importance and value of mountains from an ecological and economical perspective.</p> <p>16 Day of Reconciliation</p> <p>18 Arabic Language Day</p> <p>20 International Human Solidarity Day</p> <p>24 Christmas Eve</p> <p>25 Christmas Day</p> <p>26 Day of Goodwill</p> <p>31 New Year's Eve</p> <p>Plastics[SA has a hugely successful fishing line bin project which is called the "The Fishing Line Recovery and Recycling Programme".</p>