

## BLACK EAGLE PROJECT ROODEKRANS

Company Registration No: 1999/026574/08

(Section 21)

WALTER SISULU BOTANICAL GARDENS

End of Malcolm Road

Poortview

Roodepoort

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WEB SITE: [www.black eagles.co.za](http://www.black eagles.co.za)



KEEPING THE EAGLES SAFE FOR OUR CHILDREN

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### **Chairperson Report 2015**

The Black Eagle Project has had a good 2015 to date through maintaining a healthy relationship with the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens, stabilisation and growth of its membership base, and hosting numerous events directly in line with its objectives.

#### **Project Members**

Although there has been turnover within the monitoring team, there has also been a steady stream of new Monitors joining, with the total team numbers currently standing at 34. Training has still been conducted "on the job" with more experienced Members coaching the new Joiners.

The 7 member Committee structure remained in place and each person was allocated a portfolio to manage and report back at monthly Committee meetings. Monitor meetings also continued during the year, and we would like to see these increased to at least one per quarter in 2016.

#### **Marketing, Awareness and Fundraising**

In addition to the weekly monitoring at the base of the waterfall, the following activities also took place:

- Clearwater Mall Awareness weekend
- Sasol Birdfair weekend
- The second annual Young Eagles Obstacle Challenge
- 8 Talks and Presentations at various Clubs and Institutions
- Hosting of 70 children in Grade 1 from The Kings School
- Erection of a notice board dedicated to eagle news at the restaurant
- Life size impression of a Black Eagle shape cast in granite at the weekend monitoring position
- Monthly Black Eagle newsletters and photographs for the Featherbrooke magazine
- Aquavision filming of the Gardens and Black Eagles for a TV documentary still to be released

#### **Technology**

The Web\_camera upgrade took place earlier in the year which unfortunately led to a loss of battery life. The solar panel positioning will be rechecked again early in 2016.

The Project website was also upgraded this year and increased in size.

Total Facebook 'Likes' increased to over 371,000, and an eagle 'You Tube' channel is currently being managed.

### Operations

Many of the internal workings and processes of the project have now been sorted out, and the new suitcase with all monitoring equipment is housed at the Eagles Fare restaurant. An additional weekly monitoring shift has also been introduced on Tuesdays to cater for the number of Pensioners visiting the Gardens

### Legal matters

In 2007 Black Eagle Project launched a Review Application against a decision by the GDARD MEC to allow housing development along a nearby ridge forming part of the eagle's hunting ground. Since then, a number of Interlocutory Applications have been heard, but the main Review still has to be brought before a Judge.

In 2015 the Project became aware of development commencing in part of the contested area, and we have consequently launched an Interdict which is due to be heard on the 25<sup>th</sup> November. The main objective of this Interdict is to prevent further habitat destruction until the main Review application is heard.

### Finances

Project finances are discussed in a separate report

### Sponsors and Supporters

I thank every Sponsor and Supporter for the terrific support in 2015 and trust that our relationship will be a long and happy one. In particular I would like to mention Silverstar Casino for their generous donations and Zeiss for the fantastic equipment donation. Featherbrooke Estate, Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens and Eagles Fare restaurant also continue to support the Project on an ongoing basis. Fasken Martineau provided outstanding ongoing legal support while Middel and Partners continue to assist with the auditing requirements. A full list of all Sponsors and Supporters can be found on the website

### Thank You

Finally I want to thank each and every Project member for their enthusiasm, commitment to this project, and their support of this worthy cause. In addition, all Committee members over 2015 are also thanked for their support, additional time spent, and work ethic displayed during the year.