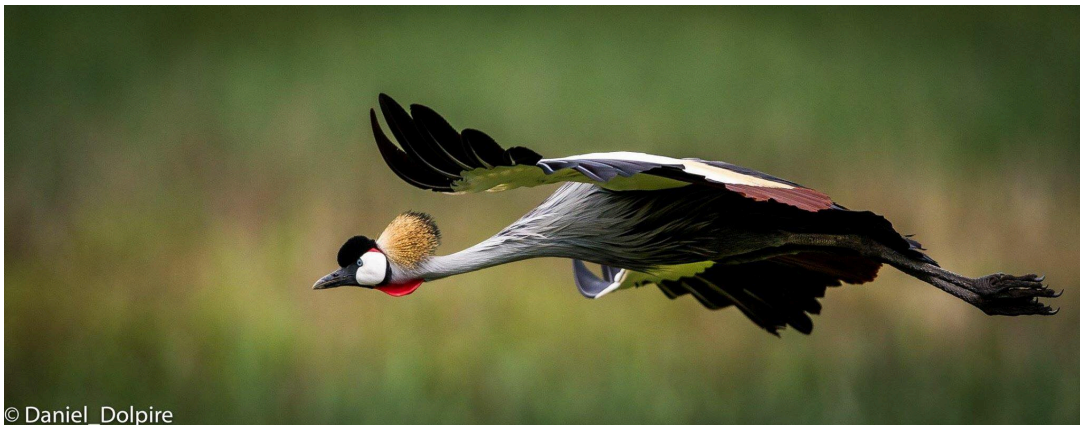




## CRANE FOUNDATION

# End of Year Newsletter



## Quarry Rehabilitation

In early 2024 we began the first tentative steps in the rehabilitation of the old quarry. We would like to extend our grateful thanks to N3TC for their support of the rehabilitation process. The project began with the planting of 25 young Ouhout trees (we have found they have responded well to our grazing management practices). In May we attended the annual Flora Symons indigenous tree auction put on by Barry Symons and through this we were able to buy a decent variety of trees that we expect will survive and eventually thrive. The incredible variety available included Cabbage trees, Yellowwoods, Sneezewoods, Tree Fuschias, Wild Olives, Buddlejias, Freylinia and Leonotis. There are 2 sites A & B, about an acre each. Site A is split by a the massive heap of pipeline rock - into a cool, damp southern slope and a hot,dry and rocky North West facing outcrop. We're extremely grateful to Glen Arum Farms for their kind donation of compost which will in no doubt add to the success of the project.

Our protected, young trees from the auction were planted out onto the cool slope in "favourable" September weather, only to be covered in heavy snow a week later and a black frost two weeks thereafter. Fortunately all seem to have survived, bar a few Sneezewoods. On site B we have introduced a variety of Aloe species.

To the various aspects of the rocky outcrop we've introduced various succulent type species like aloes, Crassulas, Scilla, Eucomis which have become an instant hit for the Malachite Sunbirds and our resident bees. We also intend on moving more plants from the new electric fence line to site A, these include Scilla, Eucomis, Knipophia and Delosperma.



Some of the aloes that have been planted on the North West facing rocky outcrop.



A solar powered two strand electric fence keeps cattle out, but not the Oribi. They have taken to "fighting" the young Hilleria saplings hereby ring barking some of them with their horns. Interestingly, this is typical behaviour from the Oribi. This species of buck has a pre-orbital gland below their eyes which is used by the males to mark scent on vegetation. The continual scent marking has therefore caused this issue for the Hilleria saplings!



Fire control will be a tough one going forward but various measures will be put in place in autumn to prevent the young trees from being set back. We would like to extend our grateful thanks to our Conservation Projects donors Farmers Agri-Care, Fairfield, Finplanning and N3TC for their support of the rehabilitation process. We look forward to the quarry becoming a special place for our members and visitors to be able to view while on the Bill Barnes Crane & Oribi Reserve.



The delivery of soil from Glen Arum Farms being received by John Pitout, Tessa and Jasper.

**We wish all our members and supporters a peaceful festive season and look forward to connecting again in 2025.**



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