



K Z N

CRANE FOUNDATION

Newsletter 5/2025

The Bees of the BBCONR

By Sue Moller

The KZN Crane Foundation is committed to sharing our Nature Reserve with our community, through educational walks and nature based experiences. The idea of the "bee display" was brought to the committee by Jon Bates, with unanimous agreement, the installation happened shortly thereafter.

The hive and swarm was installed by the team from Bushveld Bees. It only took a few months before we had to add a 'super' onto the hive for expansion, which proved that the hive was thriving. We have started a bee-friendly garden and a special area at the entrance to the hive that is fenced for the protection of both bees and humans.

The response has been incredible, from the students through to any visitors to the Usher Centre. For those that work at the centre, the hive has become part of the family with the first port of call on arrival being a visit to the bees to check how everyone is doing.



Each bee hive is made up of one queen who lives for two to four years, laying up to 2000 eggs per day in Spring. The worker bees are mainly females and can number between 10 000 to 60 000 with a life span of five to seven weeks. Their job is to clean and rebuild the honeycomb, feed the larvae, protect the hive and forage for food. The drones (males) are bigger than the workers bees, have larger eyes and no stingers. They number around 200 per hive and their job is to mate with the queen. The interesting fact about drones is that during the colder months the less productive males are kicked out of the hive so they do not consume the food for the queen and larvae (the ladies of the KZNCf committee find this quite amusing!). I witnessed this eviction in our hive the other day causing great concern for me, the glass display area was a scene of carnage! It looked as if the hive had been invaded by a larger species of bee and a battle to the death was happening. I was helpless to prevent the potential disaster, with none of our 'bee gurus' on our committee answering my desperate calls. Luckily this invasion turned out to be an eviction, a huge relief to me but quite comical to the committees' 'bee gurus'! There is never a dull moment in our office.



Our education project has found the addition of the hive is a wonderful way of teaching the students with a visual representation of a hive. An example was the Shea O'Connor Combined

School visit on World Bee Day. The fun excursion highlighted the importance of bees and was included in the WESSA newsletter (<https://mailchi.mp/wessa/wessa-impact-snippets-may-2025?e=5f...>). When the hive is revealed to the students it is always met with awe and excitement. The educational benefits of the hive display enhances the requirements within the schools' curriculum. We are grateful to all our donors who have made this project possible.





Stay active this winter!

NOTTINGHAM ROAD

COMMUNITY - CONSERVATION - CONDITIONING



SOCIAL RUNNING CLUB
THURSDAYS
@ 06:30am

Start in front of Miche Bakery, and run ~5km through the Bill Barnes Crane and Oribi Reserve, before heading back to Miche Bakery for an early morning coffee.

How to join:

1. Sign an **Indemnity Form** for the reserve. (NO INDEMNITY = NO RUN)
2. **R20 cash donation** for the reserve - UNLESS you are already a member in which case it is free.
3. Meet at **Miche Bakery at 6:15am** on Thursday mornings.
4. Join for a coffee afterwards if you have the time!

ALL FITNESS LEVELS WELCOME



THE CRANE FOUNDATION

ECO TRAIL

OPEN TO RUNNERS & WALKERS


EVERY SATURDAY
7:30 - 11:00

INDEMNITY FORMS TO BE SIGNED AT EARTH ROUTE MARKET. A STICKER WILL BE GIVEN AND CHECKED WITH THE GUARD AT THE GATE.
 DONATIONS WELCOME VIA THE QR CODE WHEN SIGNING IN.




The KZNCF is looking forward to hosting the third session of the Apitherapy Workshop on the 18 June. This session, with international keynote speaker Dr Stefan Stangaciu, will be a day of discovery and connection for everyone interested in the healing power of bees. For tickets book through <https://beethefuture.co.za/product/kwazulu-natal-workshop-17...>

If you would like to join our membership or find out more about what we do at the KZNCF, follow the link: <https://kzncranefoundation.org.za/get-involved/become-a-memb...> or contact Sue on admin@kzncranefoundation.org.za



Join our Apitherapy Conference Roadtrip

Medicinal
Beekeeping &
Evidence-Based
Apitherapy
Symposium


**#1 Centurion
11-12 June**

**#2 Nelspruit
13-15 June**

**#3 KZN Midlands
17-18 June**

**#4 Somerset West
20-22 June**

join the bee movement >> www.beethefuture.co.za



KZN CRANE FOUNDATION

Kwazulu-Natal Crane Foundation (KZNCF) P.O. Box 35, Nottingham Road 3280 • 065 738 5818 NPO #002-553
 • PBO 18/11/13459 • Vat Number 419 013 9115
Committee: James Berning (Chairman), John Pitout (Deputy), Jon Bates, Chris Brown, Antonia Mkhabela, Janet Show, Rebecca Wakeford, Craig Elstob, Brent Coverdale, John Huson



KZN Crane Foundation
 PO Box 35, Nottingham Road
 South Africa



You received this email because you signed up on our website or made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

