



K Z N

CRANE FOUNDATION

Newsletter 9/2025

Reflecting on Another Year of Growth and Dedication - The KZNCF AGM

There is something special about our Annual General Meeting each year — it's a reminder of how much passion, time, and teamwork it takes to keep the KwaZulu-Natal Crane Foundation thriving. Our committee members and dedicated supporters are the heartbeat of this organisation, and their ongoing input ensures that our mission to protect cranes and conserve biodiversity continues to grow stronger each year.



This year's AGM, held on Tuesday, 14 October 2025, at the Usher Conservation Centre, brought together a wonderful mix of familiar and new faces. Chairperson James Berning opened the meeting with thanks to everyone who continues to give their energy and expertise to the Foundation. From conservation work on the Bill Barnes Crane and Oripi Nature Reserve to education initiatives, trail maintenance, and member engagement, every effort adds up to something meaningful. James's report highlighted a busy and productive year — from the International Crane Foundation tour, to ongoing partnerships with Ezemvelo, WeAct, and Conservation Outcomes, and a growing collaboration with UKZN students using the BBCONR for research. We also saw positive developments in the Quarry Rehabilitation Project, continued progress on carbon reduction efforts, and exciting updates to our trail network, which now boasts over 21km of routes for members and visitors to enjoy.



Desrae Turner, Rebecca Wakeford, Janet Snow

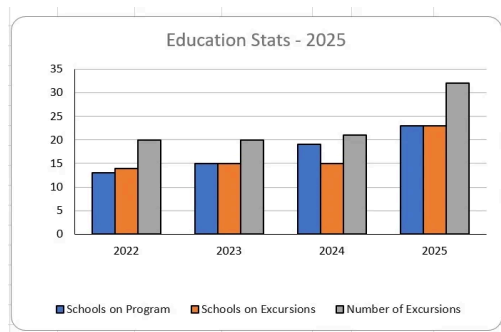
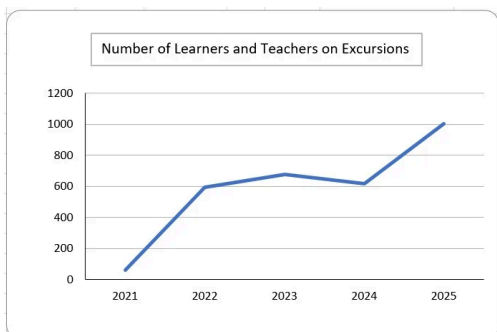


Brent Coverdale and Craig Elstob

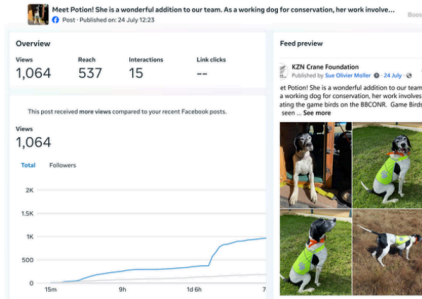
Our education programme, led by Janet Snow, continues to shine. With over 1000 students and teachers reached this year, the expansion into environmental clubs and teacher workshops has had an inspiring ripple effect. The new education garden is also taking shape, promising even more hands-on learning opportunities in the year ahead. Malwande Dlalisa has led our excursions with enthusiasm while learning and upskilling her own potentials.



The students enjoying a beautiful walk during their excursion to the BBCONR.



On the digital front, Bianca Johnson shared great progress with our website and growing online engagement. Our social media presence, managed by Sue Moller, reached over 15,000 views on Facebook, helping us share the story of conservation with a wider audience. We are happy to report that our membership numbers have grown steadily. The enthusiasm around our bike club and the benefits of full trail access has been appreciated by the community. Our trails are looking great with the BBCONR in full spring mode, showing off the different species in the healthy Grassland Biome.



Post with the most views!

Follow our Social Media

Enjoy the stories and images of the KZN Crane Foundation, Potion was our greatest crowd pleaser!

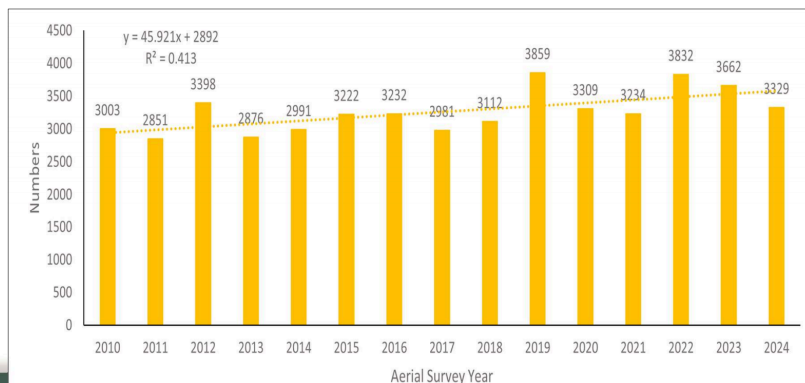
Find us on Facebook

A highlight of the day was the update from Brent Coverdale on Crane Conservation and his work with Bearded Vultures. It's always inspiring to see how local conservation actions contribute to national progress, especially the encouraging news about our Blue Crane and Grey Crowned Crane populations in KZN.

The meeting closed with gratitude and optimism. With new committee members joining and fresh ideas on the horizon. The KZN Crane Foundation continues to move forward with purpose and passion — and it's all thanks to the incredible people who make it possible.

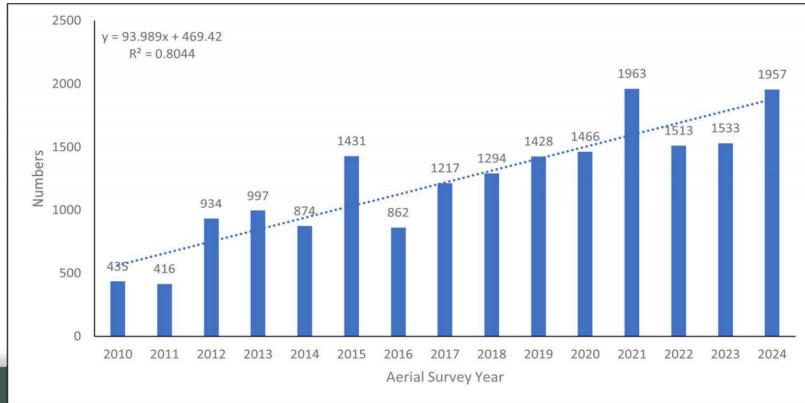
2024 Survey Results

- Grey Crowned Crane



2024 Survey Results

- Blue Crane



Simangaliso Dhlamini and Jon Bates



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. Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/kzncranef/> and Instagram https://www.instagram.com/kzn_cf/ to see what happens during the month.



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