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Report for Search and Rescue completed at Bridgetown Dolomite Mine

PROJECT HISTORY

Nick Helme conducted a botanical survey at Bridgetown Dolomite Mine in 1997. The botanical survey identified a diverse Renosterveld plant community at Bridgetown, with three important Red Data species, namely *Ixia dubia*, *Moraea neopavonia*, and *Antimima mucronata*.

Consequently certain recommendations were made by Nick Helme to limit the negative impact of the unavoidable expansion of Bridgetown Dolomite Mine. His recommendations were as follows:

- Conduct a search and rescue operation to remove the species deemed to be conservation worthy. The recommendation stipulated that particular attention should be focused on the Red Data listed plant species.
- Allocate a conservation area on the property to relocate the 'rescued' plant material.

Management from the Bridgetown Dolomite Mine observed these recommendations and contracted Bayflora Indigenous Nursery in 2002.

PROJECT SUMMARY

A phased Search and Rescue proposal was submitted in September 2002. On 15, 16 and 17 October 2002 the primary search and rescue was completed. The search and rescue employed six members from the local Morreesburg community. The primary focus was to remove the three important red data species, however additional geophytes were also collected, cleaned and stored at my nursery.

Replanting the rescued plant material during Phase 2 should have taken place during May, however the planting was delayed due to the late winter rains. All plant material stored and cultivated at the nursery was eventually planted in the conservation area along the cliff edges of the Berg River on 18 June 2003. Phase 2 also included a second sweep of the area to lift and simultaneously transplant additional *A.mucronata*.

On 24 October 2003, a third Phase was conducted to collect additional plants possibly missed during Phase 1+2. The fourth and final phase was completed in July 2004, when we replanted plants from Phase 3. Once again the delayed planting date was caused by the 100-year drought experienced in the area.

PROJECT RESULTS

The excel spreadsheet attached details the quantity of plants lifted from the search and rescue site and planted into the conservation area.

Although it is impossible to remove everything, I feel that the search and rescue of the identified red data species in the areas to the West, North West and South of the mine was completed to my satisfaction.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on this important project.

BRIDGETOWN SEARCH AND RESCUE

	PHASE 1 15 - 18 Oct 2002	PHASE 2 18-Jun-03	PHASE 3 24-Oct-03	PHASE 4 Jul-04
LIFTED				
ANTIMIMA	100	300+	70	100
IXIA	1400 + seed		250	
MORAEA	200		450	
LACHENALIA	200 + seed			
CRASSULA	15			
BULBINELLA	100 + seed			
BULBINE	50			
HAEMANTHUS	40			
FERRARIA	80			
ORNITHOGALUM PILOSUM	80			
PELARGONIUM SP	5	3		
CHLOROPHYTUM RANGEI	70			
ORNITHOGALUM CONICUM	300			
TYLECODON VENTRICOSUS	5			