



## Adopt Moreletaspruit/ Neem Moreletaspruit Aan

Newsletter/Nuusbrief 11, May/Mei 2014

Members of the Adopt Moreletaspruit Forum worked steadfastly *to raise awareness of the importance of the river and its catchment* during March and April. During **Water Week** in March the Forum arranged a **tour of the catchment area** in vehicles kindly lent by Nature Conservation of the CoT. The group went to the grassy hillside in Moreletapark where the water first comes above ground, then to the spring at Wingate Park Country Club which is the origin of the Rademeyerspruit. From there we followed the river through Garsfontein, Faerie Glen, Struben Dam on the Waterkloofspruit, Lynnwood, Meyerspark and Derdepoort. The river then is then joined by the



Hartbeesspruit and flows into Roodeplaat Dam.

Left: next to the Rademeyerspruit spring.

Right: the group at Derdepoort Recreation Resort.



In April het drie lede van die Forum deelgeneem aan die verfilming van 'n insetel oor die **Neem-Moreletaspruit-Aan inisiatief** vir **Kyknet se Dagbreekprogram**. Die insetel kan op You Tube gesien word:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDadkOQ10qM>

Links: Dagbreker, Anneli Kuhn, maak gereed vir die verfilming wat in Moreletakloof en Eco Glen plaasgevind het.

**A Catchment Area** is a “basin”, separated from adjacent basins by higher geographical features like ridges or hills which form a barrier, which catches rainwater and allows all the surface water to converge to a low-lying point or river. It is important to realise that all people living and working in, or travelling through a catchment area have an impact on it. When suburbs are developed, the rain can no longer sink into the ground because of the streets, buildings and paved areas. A large network of storm water drains channels the water towards the river. Litter from the streets, pollutants, sediments, artificial fertilisers from gardens and golf courses, seeds from invasive alien plants and nutrients are also washed through the drains to the river. If rain water is allowed to flow into domestic drains then sewer manholes along the river overflow because they are not designed to

take the sudden huge influx of water and this causes further pollution. [A map of our Moreleta/Hartbeesspruit catchment appears at the end of this letter.](#)

**Catchment Management** aims to effectively and efficiently manage naturally occurring water within a catchment area and there is an inter-dependence of responsibilities for caring for the water, which is after all, central to all life. In the Moreletaspruit catchment area, broadly speaking the DWA is responsible for all water nationally and the CoT for the infrastructure (drains, roads, bridges, sewage, etc) and green areas around the river and also the water in it. To achieve **integrated water resource management**, public participation is vitally important. Apart from preventing litter and pollution from reaching the river and helping to eradicate invasive alien vegetation to protect the ecosystem surrounding the river, we must be aware of developments which may impact negatively on the river and its environment.

**Pollution incidents and sewage spills** should be reported to the CoT call centre: 012 358 2111 to obtain a reference number. Then inform Nature Conservation at [AdeleneL@TSHWANE.GOV.ZA](mailto:AdeleneL@TSHWANE.GOV.ZA) and phone the DWA at 080 020 0200.

**The Value of Green Spaces within Cities** has been studied in many countries. Putting a monetary value on the infrastructure which would be required to replace the goods and services supplied by the natural world enables them to be incorporated into urban planning policies and not mistakenly regarded as “worthless” because they are “free”. We have a wonderful green corridor along the Moreleta and its tributaries which is kept in as natural a condition as possible. Ground water is stored so dams do not have to be built; wetlands improve water quality so more water treatment plants do not have to be built; the trees, grasses and other plants moderate the climate, store carbon and reduce noise; they support biodiversity and are a refuge for pollinating insects, birds and small animals; flood damage is reduced by allowing the water to flow out over temporary wetlands saving on huge repair costs; and importantly, they provide an opportunity for the public to experience being in a natural area, walking with their families and dogs, bird watching, getting to know the plants and generally appreciating nature which all contribute to stress reduction and good health thus saving on medical costs. A sense of community is also fostered by taking part in the activities of Friends Groups. The UN Economic Report into the Biodiversity Crisis says: “If the goods and services provided by the natural world are not valued and factored into the global economic system, the environment will become more fragile and less resilient to shocks, risking human lives, livelihoods and the global economy”. It is up to us to ensure that our green spaces are not lost to development or degraded through neglect but cherished and supported.

### **Floods in February and March**



With the heavy rains, the river came down most spectacularly in flood. There was some damage done to gabions, paths and small bridges and in places to the river banks. Some trees were uprooted and others fell down because of the very wet ground. Nature Conservation staff and Friends Groups have been busy cleaning up the litter deposited along the banks. The rain did, however clean the water and our ground water was replenished.

## **News from the Friends Groups/Vriendegroepe**



**Vriende van Faerie Glen Natuurreservaat** word geluk gewens met die goeie werk wat hulle doen met gereelde aksies om uitheemse indringerplante te bestry. Drie lede bekend as die “pompom dames” het grootliks bygedra tot die bekamping van pompom plante. Werk vorder ook fluks met die nuwe inheemse tuin by die ingang onder bestuur van Tessa Joubert. Die Vriende het ook met die hulp van argeoloog Chris van Vuuren en die inheemse kennis van sy werkers ‘n tradisionele klipmuur laat bou wat deel is van die

kultuurerfenis. Links bo is Prof van Vuuren met sy span en Tessa Joubert by die klipmuur. Louise Kritzinger van FFGNR het in Maart deelgeneem aan RSG se program Eko-Forum. Die TV program 50/50 het ook ‘n insettel verfilm oor besware van die Vriende oor ‘n onooglike huis wat tans in aanbou is aan grens van die reservaat en wat bokant die horison van die Bronberg uitsteek. Die Bronberg is ‘n belangrike ekosisteem vir bedreigde dier- en plantsoorte en word gereeld deur stappers en natuurliefhebbers besoek. ‘n **Voëluitstappie** word gereel vir **7 Junie om 07:30**. Kontak [admin@fgnr.co.za](mailto:admin@fgnr.co.za) vir verdere inligting.

**Friends of Moreletakloof Nature Reserve** held a Walk/Roll Challenge for persons with disabilities and the blind on 7 May and will hold another one on 16 June.

The Walk with Prof Adam Brumby to look at Rock Formations on 15 March – see photo on right - was so successful that it will be repeated on 24 May from 07:00 to 11:00. For more information contact [info@moreletakloof.co.za](mailto:info@moreletakloof.co.za)



**Friends of Serene Valley** held an Insect and Spider Walk in March and fortunately it was a sunny day after all the rain so many insects were to be seen. They will hold a Wetland Walk on 17 May at 09:00. For information contact [carolma@telkomsa.net](mailto:carolma@telkomsa.net)

### **Contact Details/ Kontak-besonderhede**

DWA: Gauteng Region – Tel 012 392 1362. Email: [RakgothoT@dwa.gov.za](mailto:RakgothoT@dwa.gov.za)

CoT: Nature Conservation – Tel: 012 358 1510. Email: [AdeleneL@TSHWANE.GOV.ZA](mailto:AdeleneL@TSHWANE.GOV.ZA)

Adopt Moreletaspruit Forum – Email: [anneli.kuhn@gmail.com](mailto:anneli.kuhn@gmail.com) - Tel 012 472 0069 or 083 750 2873

**Website:** [www.riv.co.za/ms](http://www.riv.co.za/ms)

**Facebook Group – Adopt-a-River Moreleta**

**PLEASE NOTE: The Adopt Moreletaspruit Forum** aims to strengthen partnerships with the government, the CoT, business and academic institutions and the public. **In order for us to have the strongest possible voice we invite all concerned members of the public to join the Forum.** The membership form is attached. Please fill in and send to [moreletaforum@gmail.com](mailto:moreletaforum@gmail.com) .

**The Facilitation Team/Die Fasiliteringspan**

