



FRIENDS OF FAERIE GLEN NATURE RESERVE (FFGNR) VRIENDE VAN FAERIE GLEN NATUURRESERVAAT (VFGNR)

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Spring Newsletter 2014

The winter months at Faerie Glen Nature Reserve (FGNR) was marked as being very eventful. In July, Tshwane Nature Conservation released impalas, red hartebeest and zebras in the reserve for the first time in the reserve's history. Due to the reaction of the public to this, the Friends of Faerie Glen Nature Reserve (FFGNR) decided to write an informative newsletter regarding the introduction of game in the reserve. Members received this letter electronically. Non-members are welcome to contact us should they wish to receive this informative document.



The impalas released in the reserve by Tshwane Nature Conservation in July blend in well with their new environment. Photograph taken by Martinus Cronjé.

Unfortunately the animals wanted to return home (to Moreletakloof Nature Reserve) after their release and started to move upstream, passing underneath the Manitoba bridge. Tshwane Nature Conservation had to chase them back to FGNR and erected a fence underneath the bridge. Regrettably one hartebeest stayed behind and was not able to return to the reserve due to the fence. On the morning of 4 August a vehicle travelling in Atterbury Road, next to

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the Faerie Glen Hospital, hit a red hartebeest cow that had attempted to cross the road. It was later discovered that the animal had escaped from a section along the river in Garsfontein and had made her way to Atterbury Road through residential streets in the Garsfontein area. We hope that such tragedy will not happen again.

We call on everybody to be vigilant and help us to monitor the fences around the reserve and keep an eye open for snares. We would also appreciate if the public could assist in keeping count of the game numbers. Please e-mail us the number of animals spotted, where they were seen and the date.

Op 'n meer positiewe noot wil ons graag 'n storie met julle deel wat bewys dat bewaring, deur samewerking, tog moontlik is in 'n dig-bevolkte area soos Faerie Glen.



Henke Marais (left) from Tshwane Nature Conservation standing next to the wildlife box that was used to safely transport the grey duiker. Standing next to him is Alf Joubert and Markus and Mieke-Marie van Rooyen who assisted in the duiker's release. To the right is the female grey duiker before she disappeared into the undergrowth after her release.



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Op Sondag 5 Oktober is 'n verskrikte grys duikertjie in Selikatsweg gewaar deur lede van die My Faerie Glen buurtwag. Dit is nie bekend waar die bokkie uitgekome het nie, maar daar kom steeds duikertjies in die Bronberg voor. Die bokkie is gevang en na die Valley Farm Dierehospitaal geneem waar sy veilig gehou is totdat Hencke Marais van Tswane Natuurbewaring haar kon gaan haal. Daarvandaan is sy na Onderstepoort geneem waar sy Maandag 6 Oktober deur Dr. Johan Steyl geopereer en behandel was vir 'n geskeurde spier en ligament aan haar been. Daar was ook vasgestel dat die bokkie dragtig is en daarom is besluit om haar so gou as moontlik na haar natuurlike habitat terug te neem om sodoende verdere stres te voorkom.

Op Dinsdag 7 Oktober is die duikertjie suksesvol vrygelaat in die Faerie Glen Natuurreserve deur Hencke Marais, Alf Joubert en Jacques van Rooyen (beide lede van VFGNR en die My Faerie Glen buurtwag). Ons bedank graag almal wat betrokke was met die duikertjie se redding, versorging en vrylating. Die veeartsrekening is betaal deur VFGNR en met behulp van donasies wat deur die gemeenskap geskenk is. Donasies is steeds welkom.

Since the release of game in the reserve it has become apparent that there are many potential dangers to the animals. One of them is the large amount of plastic lining the Moreletaspruit and its associated floodplain area. Most of this plastic enters the reserve during heavy rains, bringing down plastic from upstream as well as the rubbish coming down the storm water system. Simon has been hard at work collecting plastic and glass and has collected more than 40 bags of hazardous rubbish to date.



Simon picking pieces of plastic off the branches along the Moreletaspruit running through the reserve.

We ask everyone to please make use of the dustbins provided to dispose of rubbish. It would also be appreciated if visitors can assist with plastic removal.

Op boomplantdag vanjaar is die lente gevier met die aanplanting van 'n nuwe boom in die arboretum deur die VFGNR en die Dendrologiese Vereniging. Ons bedank Izak van der Merwe wat die *Buddleja saligna* (witonlienhout / false olive) verskaf het vir die geleentheid. Die witolienhout is 'n pragtige rypbestande stuk of klein boom wat nie 'n aggresiewe wortelstelsel het nie en trosse welriekende wit blommies voortbring in die lente. Dus is dit 'n ideale kandidaat vir 'n klein tuin.

Na die boom geplant is het die Dendrologiese Vereniging 'n kort stappie teen die rif uit meegemaak om bome te identifiseer. 'n Paar boomplaatjies is ook opesit gedurende die stappie.



Izak van der Merwe (links) saam met al die entoesiastiese helpers wat die *Buddleja saligna* in die arboretum geplant het.

Earlier in October the FFGNR decided to invest in two owl boxes for the reserve. Owls are not common in urban spaces any-more and we hope that the owl houses will encourage them to make the FFGNR their home.

The Owl Rescue Centre, assisted by Simon, installed the owl boxes that are made from recycled hard wood. The best spots for owl houses are in large trees, at least 5 m or higher from the ground. Interestingly, owls do not make their own nests; rather they nest in old nests of other birds. By putting up an owl box it could attract owls to your neighbourhood.

The Owl Rescue Centre is committed to protecting owls in South Africa by rescuing owls in danger and rehabilitating injured owls to release them back into the environment. They also aim to increase the owl

population in suburbs to restore the natural balance of nature and rodent control. One should therefore think twice before making use of rat poison. Poisoned rats are an easy catch for owls and many owls die through eating poisoned rats and mice.

Visit the Owl Rescue Centre's website: www.owlrescue911.webs.com for more information. Their 24/7 emergency call line is open if you want to report an injured owl: 082 719 5463



Simon holds the ladder as preparations are made to install the owl box.



Mr Murray from Owl Rescue took on the daunting task of ascending the large Eucalyptus tree on the western side of the reserve. This particular box is designed to attract eagle-owls.

With the rainy season commencing we request everyone to be on the lookout for any sewage spills (whether in the street or in the reserve). Most sewage spills make their way into storm water systems, which is in turn channelled to the rivers and streams of the city's green belts. Therefore, a sewage leak in your street will find its way into the Moreletaspruit.

Pollution incidents and sewage spills should be reported to the City of Tshwane call centre: **012 358 2111** to **obtain a reference number**. Remember to give concise information, such as the street or nearest corner of the spill.

If the spill is close to a green belt, please also inform Tshwane Nature Conservation with the obtained reference number to the following e-mail address: AdeleneL@TSHWANE.GOV.ZA

The Department of Water Affairs can also be contacted in a serious case: 080 020 0200.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Geology walk with Prof Adam Bumby:

When: Saturday 8 November at 07:30

Where: Meet on the lawn in front of the entrance building

Bring along: Hat, comfortable shoes, water.

Fee: FFGNR Members free

R40.00 for non-members

Lantana hack:

When: Saturday 22 November at 08:00

Where: Meet on the lawn in front of the entrance building

Bring along: Lopper/pruning shears, hand-saw, gloves, hat, working shoes, water.

- Please e-mail or sms if you plan on helping.

We would like to thank **Jetline Printers**, located in Glenwood Avenue, Faerie Glen, for sponsoring the printing of this newsletter and our posters.

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