



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

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www.fgnr.co.za



admin@fgnr.co.za



faerie.glen.nature.reserve



Jaco 071 140 4412



PO Box 915-1496



Louise 072 275 0614

Faerie Glen, 0043



Fax 086 657 8440

Autumn Newsletter 2015

Winter is underway in the Faerie Glen Nature Reserve (FGNR) as early morning visitors would know. Frost is starting to become a common occurrence as the sun appears on the horizon just a little bit later each morning. The foliage of trees has started to turn into warm autumn colours before the branches become bare. This is the time of year when nature gears down its pace. Those that cannot afford to slow down, mostly bird species, will migrate to warmer parts of the world.



Looking towards the east, Martinus Cronjé took this sunrise photograph one autumn morning at 06:00 AM.

On Saturday 28 February, field guide Justin Lofthouse led a small group of Friends of the Faerie Glen Nature Reserve (FFGNR) members on an intermediate level bird-watching hike. The 45 species identified on this early morning excursion was logged with myBirdPatch. Visit our website to view the list of bird species recently sighted in the reserve. This list will be updated regularly.

The next birding event will take place on Saturday 9 May at 07:00 and will be hosted by BirdLife Northern Gauteng. No booking is required and everyone is welcome.

Herfs Nuusbrief 2015

Soos die plantegroei oor die jare in die Faerie Glen Natuurreservaat (FGNR) verander het, het die voëlspesies en -gemeenskappe ook verander en so by die omgewing aangepas. Minder grasvoëls is in die afgelope jare gesien, omdat die reservaat gebuk gaan onder bosverdigting. Die grootste bydraende faktor wat direk verantwoordelik is vir bosverdigting, is die afwesigheid van gereelde vuur – 'n andersins natuurlik verskynsel in die grasveldbloom. Met die hoë behuisingsdigtheid om die reservaat, sal die korrekte ekologiese bestuur van die reservaat en die behoeftes van mense altyd in konflik met mekaar wees.



A group of impala with an example of bush encroachment in the background. Most herbivore species are grass eaters/grazers. As grasslands disappear, so does their source of food.

Behalwe vir die verdigting van inheemse bome en struik, bly die vermeerdering van uitheemse plantegroei steeds die grootste probleem in FGNR. Die reservaat se twee grootste vyande is ongetwyfeld *Lantana camara* en die pompom (*Campuloclinium macrocephalum*). Beide is afkomstig van Sentraal- en Suid-Amerika. Die meeste indringerplante in Suider- Afrika is afkomstig van hierdie streek van die wêreld. Indringerplante



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het 'n voorsprong wanneer hul met inheemse plantegroei kompeteer. Die spesies is geneig om aggressief te groei en het nie enige natuurlike vyande in 'n omgewing waar dit nie natuurlik voorkom nie. Dit is om hierdie rede dat wetenskaplikes die insekte en fungusse bestudeer wat die plante aanval in sy land van herkoms.

Insects, pathogens as well as other biological agents are known as bio-control when dealing with invasive alien plants. As mentioned in the Summer Newsletter, leaf-feeding thrips (*Liothrips tractabilis* from Argentina) is the bio-control agent for the pompom weed. These insects have been released in the floodplain of FGNR by researchers from the Agricultural Research Council (ARC). Although this is very good news for the reserve, it may take up to five seasons before a marked difference will be seen.

Because pompoms produce a large number of seeds that become wind-borne once they are brown and dry, they are spreading to uninfected areas at an alarming rate. It is therefore up to each of us to remove this weed from our gardens, streets, parks and reserves.



An example of a pompom plant affected by the thrip. The tiny thrip causes the plant's cells to become deformed, which leads to retarded growth and less copious seed production. Photographed by ARC researcher Liame van der Westhuizen.

The FFGNR have been hard at work throughout this summer to combat both pompom and *Lantana* manually and chemically. Four invasive alien plant hacks have been organised over weekends by the FFGNR, whereby the Friends and members of the public came to help. This is the second year since the FFGNR started to combat the pompom weed in FGNR and visible progress has been made. We would like to thank everyone involved with this task.



Magdaleen (hoofswep van die pompom dames) wys 'n jong vrywilliger hoe om pompoms te bestry tydens die indringeraksie van 7 Februarie.



Diegene wat nog te jonk was om indringer-plant te bestry het uitgehelp deur plastiek langs die voëlskuiling op te tel tydens die indringeraksie van 7 Februarie.

Ons wil graag vir Magdaleen en Engela (ook bekend as die pompom dames) weereens bedank vir hulle toegewydheid hierdie somer om die pompoms 'n knou toe te dien.

Ons bedank ook vir David wat dit sy taak gemaak het om in die noord-oostelike hoek van die reservaat pompom en *Lantana* te verwyder.



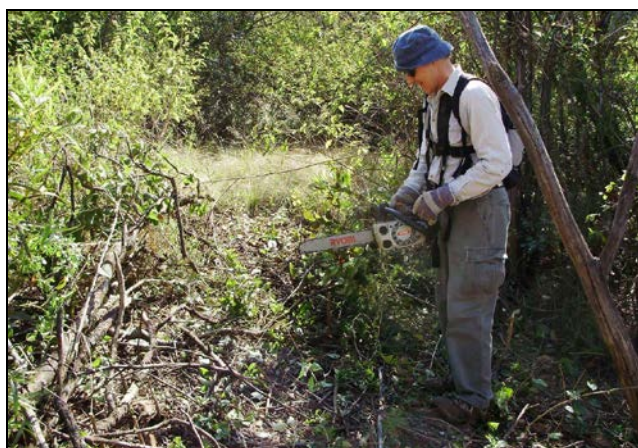
One of David's employees, cutting and bagging the pompom heads. This is followed by herbicide application to the foliage of the plant.

We would also like to thank Edwin and Vincent for the eradication work they did on both pompom and *Lantana*.



Edwin and Vincent, clearing *Lantana* with the two tree-poppers, owned by the FFGNR.

Getting rid of invasive plants is always easier when power tools can be implemented. We would like to express our gratitude towards Ds. Peet and Barend for bringing along their chain saws and even a brush cutter to the hacks.



Barend managed to clear more *Lantana* with his petrol chain saw than he was able to clear manually on 26 April.

Dit sou nie moontlik gewees het om hierdie somer soveel indringers te beheer as dit nie was vir al die vrywillige hulp nie. 'n Enkeling kan nooit vermag wat 'n groep geesdriftige mense kan doen nie. Dus vra ons almal om ons asseblief by te staan in die taak van indringerbeheer. Geen hoeveelheid tyd is ooit te min of bydrae te klein nie.



A Working for Water team from the Wildlands Conservation Trust, working alongside the FFGNR and other volunteers, helped out during the invasive plant hack on 12 April.

The next invasive plant hack has been scheduled:

When: Sunday 24 May at 08:30

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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