



## Adopt Moreletaspruit/ Neem Moreletaspruit Aan

Newsletter/Nuusbrief 18, July/Julie 2016

### The “Value your Local River” Poster Competition Prize-giving

Excited children, proud parents and teachers were among the invited guests who attended the prize-giving ceremony held in the foyer of the Atterbury Theatre on 4 June. The competition was organised by the Adopt Moreletaspruit Forum in partnership with the JNF Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre (WSEC) in Mamelodi. Learners from schools in the catchment areas of the Moreleta, Pienaars and Edendale Rivers which drain into the Roodeplaat Dam were invited to submit posters which showed an

understanding of factors in a catchment that affect water quality and ecology and proposed solutions for keeping our rivers healthy. The four judges: Louise Kritzinger from the Adopt Moreletaspruit Forum, Grant Pearson from Rand Water, Patrick Makhado from the DWS and Fanie Nel from the Gauteng Dept of Education, based their selections from the 170 entries on ingenuity of ideas, artistic composition, creativity and presentation.



*Left: Jennifer Mouton and Meghan Mouton of Laerskool Lynnwood with their*

*posters which won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize respectively in the category grades 5 – 7.*



*Left: Isobel Govender-Bateman of Glenstantia Primary School, and right: Lehlogonolo Hlongwane of Mahube Valley Primary School, who came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively, in the category grades 1 – 4, with their families.*

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners, in each of the 4 categories, won CNA vouchers for themselves and science kits valued from R2250 to R750 for their schools sponsored by Atterbury Trust, five indigenous trees to be planted at their schools in Arbour Month sponsored by Wild Route Environmental Consultants, subscriptions to Supernova “the magazine for curious kids” from BK Publishing for the schools of the 1<sup>st</sup> prize winners

plus sets of back copies. Rand Water sponsored book and CD prizes, WSEC gave the schools “Healthy River” posters for the classrooms and the teachers won prizes as well. The 11 finalists whose posters were commended won books from Atterbury Trust, Water Wise glasses and fridge magnets. All the prizes were presented in the most attractive and eco-friendly cotton shopping bags.



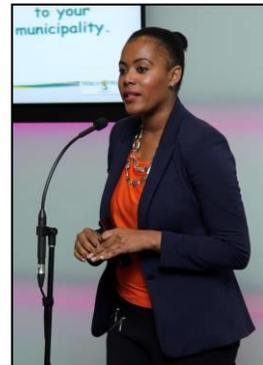
The morning’s programme, with Fanie Nel as MC, was opened by Judy Scott-Goldman (left), followed by a lively Water Wise Quiz conducted by Grant Pearson of Rand Water (right). While the audience knew the answers to questions related to water-saving,



not many knew where our water comes from, how it gets to our houses, how little fresh water there is on Earth, or even that some of the water we drink today may be the same water that was drunk by dinosaurs millions of years ago, although it has gone through the constant water cycle processes of evaporation, condensation and precipitation.



(Left) The audience enjoying the quiz and (right) Jean Willard of Don’t Waste, who gave a presentation on recycling. Don’t Waste handles recycling at large shopping centres and schools.



The prizes were announced by Christa van Schalkwyk of WSEC and presented by Zahn Hulme of Atterbury Trust.



*Christa and Zahn hand certificates and prizes to Chioma Okoye and Sinovuyo Filizwe of Willowridge (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in category grades 8 – 9) and to Thabiso Setlau and Kamogelo Seloga of Lehlabile Secondary School and Amohelang Maseko of Phateng High School (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in category grades 10 – 12)*

The schools whose learners did particularly well were Laerskool Lynnwood which received a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize and had 4 commended posters, Mahube Valley Primary School which received a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize and 3 commended posters, Willowridge High School which had a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, and Lehlabile Secondary School which had a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and 2 commended posters



*The programme ended with Manzi's Water Wise Roadshow by WSEC staff, which had the audience enthusiastically singing and dancing along with Manzi.*

A big thank you to all our sponsors: Atterbury Trust for the main prizes, the venue and catering; WSEC which liaised with schools in Mamelodi, hosted the launch of the competition in February, gave water workshops and art materials, sponsored some prizes and presented Manzi's Water Wise Roadshow; Rand Water for support, prizes and the Water Wise Quiz; Wild Route Environmental Consultants for tree prizes; the DWS for publicity materials; the CCBC for the printing and display materials; and BK Publishing for Supernova subscriptions.

We received many compliments on the excellent organisation of the competition and prize-giving and the biggest thanks must go to Judy Scott-Goldman who paid meticulous attention to every detail and kept everyone informed all the way and Louise Kritzinger



*(left: with Benoit Knox of BK Publishing)* who, as well as organising, was a judge, took endless trouble with mounting and displaying the posters professionally and designed the invitations, gift cards and certificates. Thank you also to Anneli Kuhn of our Forum, Zahn Hulme and Adelene van der Westhuizen of Atterbury Trust for support and practical help, Christa van Schalkwyk of WSEC, Fanie Nel of the Gauteng Dept of Education who liaised with schools and Grant Pearson of Rand Water, Marie van Zyl of the CCBC and Carol Martin of our Forum who helped practically and with advice at various stages, and the four judges mentioned earlier. With good partnerships much can be achieved!

*(Photos of the prize giving by Vivian Raubenheimer and Carol Martin)*

Scans of the winning posters will be on our website shortly.

### **The Water Research Commission relocates to the Moreletaspruit Catchment**

Another good partnership is on the horizon. The Water Research Commission (WRC) will move their offices in the course of this year to the Aurecon Building at Lynnwood Bridge. As they will be in our catchment area, they will join our Adopt Moreletaspruit Forum and will work closely with Ecoglen, one of the nearest Friends Groups, but also with the whole catchment. The WRC is planning a major event for Mandela Day,

together with the DWS, CoT and our Forum, to mark this partnership as well as to encourage caring for our rivers.

### **Friends Groups/Vriendegroepe**

**Vriende van Moreletakloof NR** het in Mei met die hulp van UNISA studente indringerplante verwyder met toerusting geleen deur Coastal Hire in Centurion. Op 30 Junie het hulle 'n gesellige laatmiddag uitstappie gereël gevolg deur sop en sjerrie by Rademeyers Restaurant wat onder nuwe bestuur is, en op 5 Julie het hulle 'n rotswandeling met Prof Adam Bumby, gehad.



**Vriende van Faerie Glen NR** is deur lede van die Amerikaanse Ambassade gehelp om indringers te verwyder vir Aarde Dag in April. Hulle het ook gereelde aksies geloods om lantanas (*links*) wat 'n groot probleem in die reservaat veroorsaak te verwyder.

'n Geologie-uitstappie is gereël vir 23 Julie wat gelei word deur Prof Adam Bumby wat altyd bereid is om sy breë kennis van die geologie van Suid-Afrika met lede te deel.

**Vriende van Brookside Meander** se voorsitter het bedank. Hulle beplan nou om op die verwydering van uitheemse indringerplante te konsentreer.

**Vriende van Skuilkranskoppie** het op 21 Mei hulle jaarvergadering gehou, gevolg deur 'n braai en 'n uitstappie op die koppie.

**Friends of Serene Valley** helped residents along the upper part of the Constantiaspruit with a clean up on 7 May.



On 21 May they organised an Alien Plant Identification Walk so that residents would be more aware of which plants are now listed invasive species and must be removed from gardens and from along the river.

On 11 June they did a miniSASS and found the score to be rather low, possibly due to the drought and low flow.

On 18 June an Alien Plant Removal morning was held, concentrating on the Balloon Vine/*Cardiospermum grandiflorum* (*left*) which has become a problem along parts of the river. It strangles trees and produces masses of balloon-like seed pods which open and allow the seeds to fly off on their own little

“magic carpets” to reproduce elsewhere.

On 16 July the Friends will have a clean up of the Moreletaspruit to celebrate Mandela Day. At the same time, residents of the upper Constantiaspruit will also have a clean up.

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

DWS: 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. Secretary of the Forum: [moreletaforum@gmail.com](mailto:moreletaforum@gmail.com)

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

Facebook Group – Adopt-a-River Moreleta

**The Facilitation Team/Die Fasiliteringspan**