



## Adopt Moreletaspruit/ Neem Moreletaspruit Aan

### Newsletter/Nuusbrief 20, May/Mei 2017

Water was very much on our minds during the drought which was broken by the welcome late summer rains here in Gauteng though other parts of the country are still very dry. **Water restrictions in the City of Tshwane** have been lifted with the condition that hoses and sprinklers may not be used between 11:00 and 16:00. The water saving and re-using habits we (should) have developed during the drought should remain a way of life forever as there are no guarantees of wet summers in future.

#### Water Month – March 2017

Our Forum, represented by Anneli Kühn, Judy Scott-Goldman and Carol Martin, partnered with the JNF Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre (WSEC) in Mamelodi and representatives from the DWS, WRC and Mamelodi Community groups: Umkariso Women in Water Co-operative, Community Colours, Clean City of Tshwane and Tshanduko as well as councillors and others for Water Month. Many activities were planned and the month's programme culminated in a Walk for Water on 24 March. Water-wise pledges were drawn up which were printed for us by Rand Water.

**Media:** Judy wrote three articles titled “Does it matter ...” which were sent to the media, distributed via Friends Groups and published on our Facebook Group and website. She was invited by the media club of Glenstantia Primary School to give a workshop to help them prepare to make a video about water. *Right:* Judy and the media club with their pledges. Jeannie du Plessis had a radio interview on Groot FM on the subjects of the articles.



**Workshop:** Nico Sithole of Community Colours organised a workshop to encourage taxi and car-wash owners to be water-wise. He was assisted by Kealeboga Letlhaku of the WRC, Anneli Kühn and WSEC staff. Anneli spoke on the concept of water catchments, Dr Kalebaila of the WRC spoke on Responsible Water Use and *(left)* a representative from the DWS showed how to fix leaking pipes. Afterwards there was a practical session led by WSEC staff.



**Involvement of Schools:** WSEC staff conducted workshops for the local schools and learners wrote about their concerns regarding water. These concerns were put into a memorandum to the Mayor to be read out at the event on 24 March. Eight children plus one teacher from each of fourteen schools took part in the “Walk for Water”.

## Water Month with Friends Groups along the Moreletaspruit:



In **Moreletakloof** students from UNISA learnt about bird-ringing (*left*) and did practical work on combatting soil erosion and removing bug-weed. Girls from Hoërskool Waterkloof removed plants choking the dam (*right*). Jeannie also taught a group of Voortrekkers from Laerskool Constantiampark about rivers and litter pollution.



In **Serene Valley** there was a bird walk led by Phil Paige-Green where 40 species were seen (*left*) and a miniSASS (*right*) - the score was 5. Red sunflowers were also removed.



In **Faerie Glen Nature Reserve** the Friends hacked invasive alien vegetation (*left*), and had an insect walk led by Michael Stiller (*right*). This attracted many fascinated children. They also had a bird walk led by Philip Calinikos and identified 50 species.



In **Ecoglen** the Friends removed Red sunflowers and did a miniSASS. Their score was 5.6 and the assessment was done on the same morning as that in Serene Valley.



The community got together in Ashlea Gardens to do much-needed work along the **Wolwespruit** south of Garsfontein Rd. Cllr Bernard Hanekom, residents, CSI Security and CoT workers cleaned up litter and also removed Red sunflowers. (Report and photo sent by Eugenie Novellie).

**“Walk for Water” in Mamelodi on 24 March**

Carol Martin and Jeannie du Plessis represented the AMF at the walk.



The walk, led by Jabu Mthombeni and Solomon Kutumela of WSEC was very colourful and fun with much chanting of water-wise slogans and brandishing of posters.

Afterwards the participants gathered in the hall for the memorandum to be read to the



Mayor's representative, MMC for Services and Infrastructure, Darryl Moss.

He listened attentively to the three learners (*left*) and then addressed their concerns. He explained how and why pipes crack and gave the good news that a very much larger budget will be available for repairing and replacing infrastructure in the next year. He also said that as we cannot make water and as the amount of water on earth stays constant while the population increases, we must use water wisely. He encouraged the learners to consider

careers as water engineers, water scientists or plumbers.

Carol Martin then gave a presentation on all the activities of community groups during Water Month. Perumal Padayachee, subject advisor for Natural Sciences of the GED, echoed the wish that the learners would consider careers in water sciences and said he would like to see all learners doing field work at WSEC and along our rivers. Nolusindiso Jafta of the DWS inspired the learners with the story of her path to her current position. Congratulations to the convener, Christa van Schalkwyk of WSEC, co-convener Tebogo Marokana and the planning committee on a very successful event!

### **National Orders 2017**

Pfarelo Rebecca Ramugondo was awarded the **Order of the Baobab in Bronze** by the President for her outstanding contribution to community service. In 2010 she formed a group of young people at her village, Ha-Makhuvha near Thohoyandou in Limpopo, to clean the river, their sole supply of water. The initiative is called "Tshikofokofo" Adopt-a-River project. We congratulate her and it is good to see such important work recognised!

### **More news from Friends Groups/Verdere nuus van Vriendegroepe**

**Friends of Faerie Glen NR** took uncontested legal action to have the ban on dogs reversed. Although dogs are not normally allowed in nature reserves, it has been agreed that a permit system will come into effect. Dog owners can apply for a permit from CoT Nature Conservation which they must carry with them and must keep dogs on a leash, carry bags to pick up excreta, and keep the dogs away from the game animals. Application forms and regulations are available at the cashier's desk at the reserve.

**Vriende van Moreletakloof** het in April 'n Eko-dag vir kinders aangebied met behulp van Karen Cooney van WESSA. Hulle het in Mei 'n spesiale dag gereël vir gestremde kinders van Pathways sodat hulle meer van die natuur kon leer ken en om dit te geniet.

**Ecoglen** het 'n uitstappie gereël om die inheemse bome te identifiseer.

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

**The Committee/Die Komitee**