



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

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### Winter Newsletter 2018



The Moreletaspruit does not allow the bridges bordering the FGNR to be fenced underneath, as the mighty flood water sweeps away everything in its path.

A year ago we reported that the dark cloud of crime that had plagued the FGNR in the past was starting to build up once again. Residents along the border of the FGNR came forward with complaints of increased burglaries, with many stolen household items found in the reserve left behind by the criminals. Although these incidents occurred mainly at night, the situation escalated when a female runner was targeted one afternoon in July 2017 by a knife wielding mugger. Fortunately the lady was not injured after being attacked and robbed.

The safety of the FGNR is regarded as a priority for the FFGNR and a great deal of progress has been made in the past year to improve the safety of the FGNR to border residents and reserve visitors alike. Naturally the best way to achieve success is to follow a collaborative approach. The FFGNR arranged a safety and security stakeholder meeting on 16 August 2017 between residents, interested and affected parties, and the relevant authorities to

### Winter Nuusbrieff 2018



The technicians from Macado Technologies getting ready on 13 July to install the videofied motion sensors.

discuss the problem and plan a way forward. With assistance of Ward Councillor Ernst Botha, the Tshwane Metropolitan Police Department's (TMPD) Equestrian Unit was deployed to patrol the FGNR and local private security firms also committed their assistance and support. The City of Tshwane's (CoT) Department of Environment and Agriculture Management allocated funds for security improvements to the palisade fence, with the installation of flat wrap wire on the south eastern border of the reserve, and clearance of problematic vegetation along Manitoba Road.

The FFGNR established a WhatsApp communication forum, whereby residents, the CPF and the local private security firms are connected. This forum has vastly improved the communication between key parties and has contributed to the reduction in crime due to early warnings and call-outs from private security firms. We would like to thank everyone on this forum for their contribution to everyone's safety



Proudly affiliated to the Wildlife  
and Environment Society of  
South Africa and Adopt  
Moreletaspruit Forum



and to those border residents also initiating random patrols via the WhatsApp forum.

The FFGNR also started a fund raising campaign at the end of 2017 to improve the security of the FGNR by means of videofied motion sensors to monitor security hot-spots along the border of the reserve, including the two bridges (at January Masilela and Manitoba), which are the main unmanned and unprotected gateways into the reserve. Macado Security Technologies monitors these sensors from their control room in Garsfontein and **CSI SA, Bull and Brinant** have committed to responding free of charge when Macado alerts them that unusual human activity has triggered the motion sensors. The fund raising target was achieved thanks to the Gift Acres Estate donating R50 000 worth of motion sensors and related equipment, with members Tony Moore and Gregory Maassen also contributing large sums. We thank everybody who contributed towards this project, no matter how small the donation. Lastly, we also thank the Grain Building situated in Lynnwood Road that has agreed to pay the monthly monitoring fee for the first two years.

The installation was completed in July and the sensors under both bridges have been working very hard since. The sensors confirm that the main entry point into the reserve is from underneath the bridges, with the Manitoba Bridge being more problematic. We thank CSI SA, Bull and Brinant for responding to the sensors, which have kept them fairly busy at times. As a result, their presence has made a significant difference in the number of people entering the reserve from the Manitoba Bridge and it seems the vagrants behind the Pick 'n Pay are keeping to 'their side' of the bridge. The January Masilela Bridge is known for its collection of graffiti artworks and often attracts visitors to the FGNR. We kindly request visitors to keep in mind that they will trigger the sensors if they go too close to the bridge, which in turn not only alerts the security firm to dispatch a patrol officer, but also affects the battery life of the equipment.

Terwyl die VFGNR en ander partye spook om ongewenste menslike elemente uit die reservaat te hou, is daar ongelukkig 'n baie groot gemeenskap ongewenste plante in die reservaat wat al diep wortel geskied het. Hierdie ongewenste het ontsnap uit tuine om nuwe kolonies te begin in die FGNR en ander natuurgebiede. Die kleurvolle *Lantana camara* is een van hulle. Dit het deur die jare 'n digte ondeurdringbare stand gevorm teen die

berg, wat baie moeisaam is om uit te roei. *Lantana* is 'n klassieke voorbeeld van 'n ornamentele plant wat ingevoer is en later 'n ernstige indringerplant geword het. Dit is verklaar as 'n kategorie 1b indringerplant onder die Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur: Biodiversiteitswet (NEMBA) (Wet no. 10 van 2004). Dit beteken dat die plant nie voortgeplant mag word nie en dat grondeienaars wetlik verplig word om die plant onder beheer te bring en uit te roei.

Die VFGNR hou maandeliks indringeruitroeisessies ('hacks') juis om *lantana* te teiken. Ons bedank almal wat die uitroeisessies die afgelope kwartaal bygewoon het. Op Mandeladag (gehou op Saterdag 21 Julie) was daar 'n goeie opkoms mense, waarvan een groep *lantana* uitgeroei het en 'n ander groep plastiek en ander rommel langs die river opgetel het.



Die bloeiwyses van *Lantana camara* is baie kleurvol en was eens op 'n tyd populêr vir trouerikers. Tuinboukundiges het verskeie kleurvariasies gekweek deur die plant geneties te manipuleer, soos die pienk-geel variasie in die foto wat volop is in die FGNR.



Sonal Valla (links) en haar twee seuns het ingespring om te help met die uitroei van *lantana* op Sondag 19 Augustus.



Dhesigen Naidoo en sy kinders saam met die seekatagtige lantanawortel wat hulle uitgetrek het met Mandeladag se indringeruitroeisessie op Saterdag 21 Julie.



The Loreto Catholic School learners together with the litter they collected along the Moreletaspruit in the FGNR, assisted by Vincent van de Wiel.



Catherine Magno-Dejacto, Amor Bayog and Rudy Cardona from the Philippines Embassy did their 67 minutes for Mandela Day by collecting litter adjacent to the river.

The FFGNR is also supporting our younger generation with their nature-orientated education. The Loreto Catholic School in Queenswood is following WESSA's (Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa) Eco-School programme which promotes environmental education and equipping children to live sustainably in the future. The FFGNR is of course also affiliated with WESSA. By exposing these city kids to our local nature areas their young minds are developed to be in tune with their natural environment by experiencing nature first-hand instead of through the computer or tablet screen. Their first visit to the reserve was a guided walk to acquaint them with the reserve, followed by bi-weekly clean-ups next to the river. We thank FFGNR members Edwin and Vincent van de Wiel for their guidance and assistance.

Behalwe vir indringerpante en rivierbesoedeling, is erosie op die FGNR se wandelpaaie 'n jare-lange probleem wat nie langer uitgestel kan word nie. Op 10 Julie het 'n klein spannetjie lede, naamlik Chris Norden saam met Edwin en Vincent van de Wiel sowel as 'n paar handlangers, skouer aan die wiel gesit om 'n paar slegte plekke te herstel op een van die vernaamste wandelpaaie. Die paadjie is steil en vorm deel van die Hadedaroete. 'n Totaal van 9 trappies is gebou met pale en klippe. Spesiale aandag is gegee aan die uitleg, vir optimale dreinerings van water tydens 'n reënbuie.



Chris (links), Victor, Dominique, Edwin en Thomas.

It is not all work and no play for the FFGNR. On Saturday 16 June, we had a guided bird walk with BirdLife Northern Gauteng to celebrate Youth Day. The walk was guided by the youthful Keanu Canto, a high school pupil with an impressive knowledge of South African birds and their behaviour. With a sharp eye he pointed out the inconspicuous feathered ones on this bitterly cold winter morning. A total of 52 species were recorded.



The flock of birders armed with their binoculars must have been a peculiar sight to other FGNR visitors.

Op 4 Augustus het die VFGNR weer 'n geologiestappie aangebied onder leiding van Prof. Adam Bumby van die Universiteit van Pretoria. Min mense beseef hoe uniek die geologie van die Suid-Afrikaanse landskap is. Suid-Afrika is binne geologiese kringe bekend vir van die oudste gesteentes in die wêreld wat op die oppervlak waargeneem kan word, waarvan dié wat gevind kan word in die FGNR 'n goeie voorbeeld is. Dit is ook merkwaardig dat die heel eerste aardkors wat ontstaan het, Gauteng rofweg as middelpunt gehad het. Dit staan bekend as die Kaapvaal-kraton, wat later verder uitgebrei het om as Gondwana bekend te staan. Die aardkors in hierdie area is gevolglik ook baie dikker as in ander dele van die wêreld.

In die FGNR is die gesteentes aan die suidekant ouer terwyl die gesteentes aan die noordekant jonger is. Die rede hiervoor is as gevolg van die 10-20° kanteling van die Bronberg na die noorde in die rigting van die swaar intrusie van die Bosveldkompleks wat bekend is vir sy platinum-groep metale. Bergreekse het gevorm om die Bosveldkompleks van ongeveer 400 by 400 kilometer in 'n ringvormige wyse soos die gewig van die magma intrusie gesteentes op die oppervlak afgedwing het. Gevolglik is ouer onderliggende geologiese lae ontbloot tydens die kanteling. Die jongste gesteentes wat dus heel bo-op die rif van die Bronberg gevind word, is die kwartsiet wat deel vorm van die Daspoort Formasie van ongeveer 2.1 biljoen jaar gelede, terwyl die oudste gesteentes van 2.3 biljoen jaar ontbloot lê langs die Moreletaspruit naby die voëlshuiling. Hierdie donkergrys rotse is stollingsgesteentes wat gevorm het tydens 'n vulkaniese periode, lank voor toestand gunstig genoeg was vir lewe op aarde soos ons dit vandag ken.



Mense wat die geologiestappie bygewoon het, het gehang aan Prof. Bumby se lippe.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

##### **Birding morning with Philip Calinikos BirdLife Northern Gauteng:**

**When:** Saturday 6 October at 06:00

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

**Bring along:** Hat, water and binoculars

**Cost:** FFGNR members –FREE

Non-members – R50.00

##### **Snake talk and demo with Mike Perry from African Reptiles & Venom and the Highveld Herpetological Association:**

**When:** Saturday 20 October at 09:30

**Where:** Meet in picnic area.

**Bring along:** Hat, water, fold-up/camping chair.

**Cost:** FFGNR members –FREE

Non-members – R50.00

##### **Grassland walk with botanists Antoinette Eysell-Knox and Alan Short:**

**When:** Saturday 24 November at 07:00.

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

**Bring along:** Hat, comfortable shoes, water.

**Cost:** FFGNR members FREE

R50.00 for non-members

#### **INVASIVE PLANT HACKS:**

**When:** • Saturday 13 October at 07:30

• Sunday 11 November at 07:30

• Saturday 8 December at 07:00

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

**Bring along:** Pruning loppers, hand-saw, gloves, hat, working shoes, water.

**\*Please e-mail or SMS if you plan on helping.**

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