



Moreletakloof Nature Reserve News Letter

Moreletakloof Natuur Reservaat Nuusbrief

Moreletakloof Nature Reserve is beautiful with all the new green-green leaves and flowers that cover so many trees. Our animals look good and are enjoying the new grass season.

Our **Zebra** had a filly that drinks from her mother, but the stallions are fighting, and the mare was kicked we had to call the vet to stitch her up (sponsored by Friends of Moreletakloof)

Our **Ostriches** that sat on 11 eggs have decided that the chicks would not hatch and left. Remember that the Ostriches is our best security as they patrol the palisades every day.

Most of the **Wild Apricot** is covered with small flowers that attracts so many bees ...it makes a loud droning sound.

We are getting our first **fungi and mushrooms** all over the reserve. Most are small but beautiful. The veld flowers are also blooming ... but you must walk slowly to see them among the grass. The baboon tails should be flowering soon as well as the proteas along the ridges.



People are scarring our very old trees, by using knives to cut their names on the bark, why, why? The trees that is mostly damaged is River Willows that are more than 100 years old.

We are working very hard to rid the reserve of the many **invader plants**. Please join the teams that work with chainsaws and brush cutters to remove Black Wattle, Australian Blackwood, Lantana, Cigarette bush, Yellow bells and many more. Please contact PG and Ansie Laurens LaurensHome@mweb.co.za or 082 872 7027 they work on Thursdays but are willing to give specific other days that would suit you. We need more hands please there is a lot to do and the longer we wait the bigger the problem becomes. We do have poison if anybody should need some.

Please feel free to bring black bags to help us clean all the streams of the storm water drains coming into the reserve with all the street rubbish.

As most of you are aware the council (COT) cancelled the contract for the **guards** at the gate due to lack of funds, therefore, the Nature Conservation Guards are managing the entrance. They are the staff that used to work in the reserve and at the Pretorius Park offices. Please respect them, they are working shifts to keep the reserve safe. We are trying to get sponsors to help us pay for the 9 uniforms that are needed. The guards will receive more respect from visitors if official uniforms are worn We also need more guards, so that we can once again have fixed opening and closing times, we are trying our best please be patient. **We need SECURITY and somebody to assist us in the successful running of our guards**



We did have some lovely outings for our kids with **Eco days** during the school holidays, other walks like a lovely tree Walk with Izak van der Merwe and Brett Owen. Please remember that we will again have **Bird ringing** very early on the 4th of November, remember your camera, and snacks and drinks. Kids love this and remember to tell your friends that the blind and persons with wheelchairs are welcome and can join us with the ringing as well as go into our lovely Bird hide. Please watch this space for invitations to some very interesting walks in the near future like Birdwatching, Wetland Talks and more Eco days for our young ones.

We would like our visitors to join the **Friends of Moreletakloof**. Forms are available at the gate and hide, but also from our website: www.moreletakloof.co.za. We have many people that help us by donating money for the reserve via Internet, many post, others make use of the SnapScan. Thank you! unfortunately we cannot thank you all personally, but donations are very welcome to help us run this reserve, as we have no income from an entrance fee. However, we were thinking of building an Entrance office and toilet so the we can charge an entrance fee. The funds will be paid to conservation and will be shared for the upkeep of all the green open spaces and other reserves in Tshwane.



Thank you to the Ford Motor Company who came to the **bird hide** to help us varnish and repair it for two days with 25 staff members per day as well as supplying all the varnish, paint brushes and other materials required. Thanks to all that assisted and Ernst Retief from BirdlifeSA who referred them to us. There are many other people like Andre Spammer, Legends Power Tools, Coastal Hire Centurion, PG and Ansie Laurence, Elke Gugges, Businesspoint Moreletapark and Novo and many more that often help us.

Thanks to Nature Conservation and all the trouble they go to for the protection of this reserve. We realize that their budget was cut over many years now, and they had to make use of the little money that becomes available.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will now be held on the **7th November 2017**, at 18:00 at La Shades Restaurant, on the Kimiad land next to Wekker Street, Moreletapark (Between Kimiad and Die Bos). We will send out the notices for this very important meeting. Please join us to choose the best people to make the Friends of Moreletakloof a team that can be part of the management team by working and planning, the right way forward.

It is so important that we find ways to get in a steady income so that we can look after the **palisade** of nearly 6 km. This is a very important part of our safety as the palisades are regularly cut by criminals that use it to get away quickly. We need serious funding as good Rust Converter is expensive as is the time-consuming work to first remove the rust.

Please take note of the open and closing times, and that **dogs are not allowed** (even on a leach). We need to look after and protect our beautiful reserve, respect the rules.

Please contact us for any more information at info@moreletakloof.co.za 082 9274673