



## Newsletter 1, 09 June 2022

### Introduction of the committee.

At the AGM on 11 November 2021, Faan Grundlingh (Chairman), Jeannie du Plessis, Leon Badenhorst (Treasurer) and Rosemarie Hannweg were elected as committee members. Adèle Hosken was welcomed as the new secretary in May 2022.

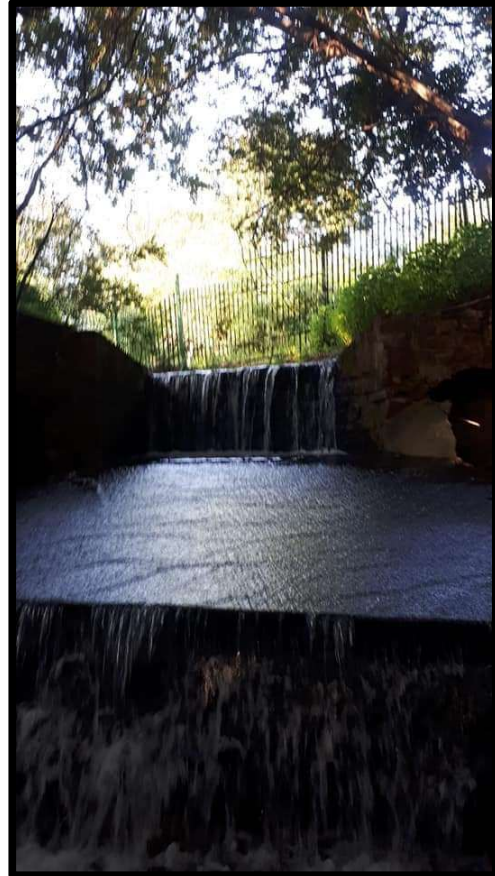
Our first committee member we will introduce is Jeannie du Plessis. When it comes to the Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve and Jeannie, the two are almost inseparable. At the sprightly age of 74, you will find her hauling around recently felled invasive trees to repair a walking path, knee deep in water cleaning the Rademeyer Spruit, or crouched beneath a 4m high lantana bush with clippers in hand to send it into oblivion. Jeannie is never one to let an opportunity go by to share a warm greeting or start a conversation with visitors. Her day in the reserve starts at the break of dawn almost every morning of the week. Her work in the reserve is not just about back breaking hard work. She is also involved in all manner of things including fundraising, organising volunteers, educational walks, accompanying disabled visitors in the reserve, liaising with the City of Tshwane's Nature Conservation department, and connecting with other Friends Groups. Her work in the reserve has been endless, and often, a thankless monumental contribution which she has been making for the last 18 years with resounding success. Jeannie has been personally involved in every activity which has seen the reserve grow into what it is today: a beautiful protected green space.



## **Planned residential development adjacent to Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve**

Of urgent concern is a planned residential development adjacent to Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve. This is significant as it will impact the reserve's main water source, namely the Rademeyer Spruit. The Rademeyer spruit provides water for all the animals, the wetland and plant species in the kloof area. The development plans to apply for a Water Use Licence for activities that could impede or divert the flow of water in a watercourse and alter the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse. We call upon all nature enthusiasts and concerned citizens to be part of the public participation process to ensure a development that protects the nature reserve and its water source.

We, The Friends of Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve have registered as *Moreleta Kloof: Hikers, Runners and Visitors of Moreleta Kloof* for you to make comments.



*Rademeyer Spruit*

**Please urgently contact Mr Franco McKillar at [admin@leapenviro.co.za](mailto:admin@leapenviro.co.za), Tel: 012 344 3582 to make your comments with LEAP ([www.leapenviro.co.za](http://www.leapenviro.co.za)) by 21 June 2022.**

Please also note that the Wingate Park Golf Course is for sale for redevelopment. We will be providing more information regarding this, as the source of the Rademeyer Spruit is in the grounds of the golf course.

## Alien Hacks

We hosted our first Alien Hack on 9 April 2022. The Hack got off to a good start with 14 volunteers helping with the removal of alien invader plants such as Lantana, Bugweed, Lindenleaf Sage, Inkberry and Cat's Claw Creeper.



For the second Alien Hack, on 14 May we had 21 people helping. We will continue hosting Alien Hacks on the second Saturday of every month. Please consider coming to help at our next Alien Hack on 11 June 2022. We need as many hands as possible.

### Did you know?

**Bugweed**  
*Solanum mauritanum*


**Where does this species come from?**  
South America

**What is its invasive status in South Africa?**  
NEMBA 2020 - Category 1b

**Where in South Africa is it a problem?**  
Across South Africa

**Why is it a problem?**  
Transforms land by invading water courses, forests, parklands, gardens, grassland and savanna. Seeds are easily dispersed through birds and monkeys.

[www.dffe.gov.za](http://www.dffe.gov.za) | [www.invasives.org.za](http://www.invasives.org.za)



## Friends' Membership

The annual Friends of Moreleta Kloof membership runs from 1 March to 28 February every year. If you want to join the Friends of Moreleta Nature Reserve, please visit our website [www.moreletakloof.co.za](http://www.moreletakloof.co.za) or contact us at [info@moreletakloof.co.za](mailto:info@moreletakloof.co.za).

The membership fee of R250 gives you, plus one other adult and two children under 18, two days free entry into the following reserves in Tshwane;

Rietvlei Nature Reserve  
Groenkloof Nature Reserve  
Wonderboom Nature Reserve  
Rooihuiskraal  
Faerie Glen Nature Reserve

Your membership fee and any donation you make, goes directly to the work that the Friends of Moreleta Kloof does in the reserve.

For more information please feel free to contact Faan at 083 325 1704 or Jeannie at 082 927 4673

*Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.* – **Maya Angelou**