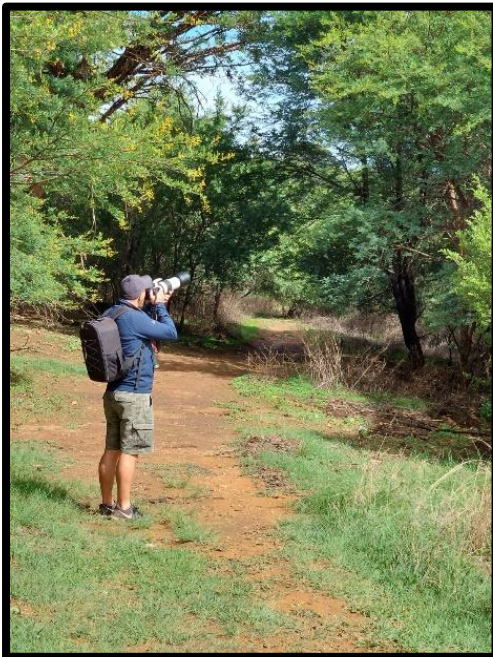




Newsletter 4, March 2023



Leon Badenshorst has been on the Friends' committee since 2018, assisting with the smooth running of the finances. Unfortunately from 1 March he will no longer be available for this role. Leon also often leads the bird walks in the reserve, where he generously shares his extensive knowledge on this subject that he is so passionate about.

Connie Swart has kindly offered to assist the committee with the finances going forward. His company, Reach Out Financial Services, will also be taking on the role as the auditor of the Friends' affairs. We wish to thank CMV Accountants for their generous assistance in the auditing in the past years.

Path Maintenance

Over the past few months we have had wonderful rain. However, with all the water pouring through the reserve, some of our paths have become badly damaged. Volunteers have been hard at work with repairs, but it has been hard going with the limited resources that we have. If you are in any way able to assist the Friends in this regard, please contact us on the contact details below.

Animals in Distress

We wish to thank all those wonderful people that make an effort to report or assist with animals in distress. We greatly appreciate the care you show. If you do see an animal in distress don't hesitate to contact Nature Conservation or one of the people listed below.

World Wetlands Day

2 February 2023 was World Wetlands Day, which was established to “raise awareness about the urgency of reversing the accelerating loss of wetlands, and to promote the conservation and restoration of these important water resources.” We celebrated this day on 4 February with an interesting talk and walk with Adelene Marais from Nature Conservation.

Planned Residential Development Adjacent to Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve

In our previous newsletter we wrote about the proposed residential development, which will border directly onto the nature reserve, where the Rademeyer Spruit enters the reserve. Any development that may affect the Rademeyer Spruit is significant, given that it is the main water source for the nature reserve. Among other things, the Rademeyer Spruit maintains the wetland, plant and animal life, and a wide variety of fungi species, including some of which are extremely rare. Maintaining the water flow and preventing pollution during and after construction is of utmost importance.

Right now, the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) is reviewing the application (Ref.: Gaut 002/22-23/E3181) and Final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the development referred to as Portion 88 of the Farm Garstfontein 374 JR.

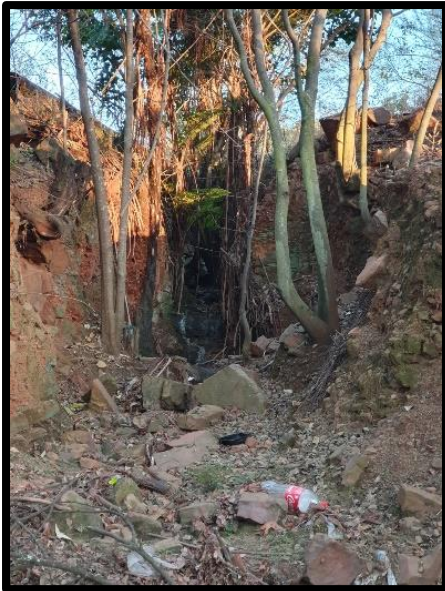
The Final BAR was prepared and submitted by LEAP Environment which can be accessed through this link <https://www.leapenviro.co.za/garstfontein-88-final-basic-assessment-report/>.

The Friends of Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve and several experts have provided comments on the proposed development. Please follow our Facebook site and newsletter for updates. Please also contact us with any comments at info@moreletakloof.co.za.

Alien Hacks

The Saturday Alien Hacks are very well supported, with new volunteers joining us every month. We wish to thank all these hard-working individuals that give so freely of their time to assist us in the removal of the invasive plants. Unfortunately, due to rain, the Hack for February had to be cancelled, but please consider coming to assist at future events on a Saturday morning. We really appreciate all the help that we can get!

The River Starts Here!



We are fortunate that our reserve is relatively litter free. Visitors mostly seem to understand that it's important to bin their rubbish or take it home. With all the rain, a large amount of litter was washed into the reserve through the storm water system, especially from Helios Street. We are collecting bags of rubbish on our weekly clean-ups, because if this litter ends up in the Rademeyer Spruit it just compounds the problem further down the network of rivers.

Biocontrol for Pompom Weed

As we remove pompom weeds in the reserve, we are noticing more areas infected with the biocontrol thrips that have been introduced. We realise that this process is going to be very slow, but it is just one more weapon in the fight against this very invasive weed.



Friends' Membership

So far this year, we have had very good response to the number of people wishing to become Friends of the reserve.

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 Kloof Nature Reserve, please visit our website www.moreletakloof.co.za or contact us at 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 do in the reserve.

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

*Do unto those downstream as you would want those upstream
do unto you. – Wendell Berry*