



Newsletter 9, 2024

Invasive Plant Species Hacks

Our monthly Saturday Alien Hacks are being very well supported. On 13 April we had a record 40 volunteers assisting us. Thank you to the Gauteng Junior Honorary Rangers for your help that morning.

Please consider joining us for these hacks that are usually on the second Saturday and last Sunday of every month. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Faan at 083 325 1704 or Jeannie at 082 927 4673.



Toilet Deck

This month we will start the much-needed repair of the deck at the toilet. André Jooste of AJC Advisory Services has kindly sponsored this repair.

B-One Holdings will be sponsoring a Deluxe portable toilet for the two weeks that the toilet will be inaccessible due to this construction. Thanks for your support, Tillie Adlam.

Canie Cullen from Coastal Hire, Centurion will be supplying some of the equipment needed during construction.

Biocontrol



The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) have supplied a batch of Flower Galling Midges, a biocontrol for black wattle. These were released on 8 August and we hope to see some positive results.

We are seeing the prickly pear cochineal establishing very well all over the reserve.

The queen of the night mealy bug has started spreading at one of the release sites.

There are also definite signs of damage on the cat's claw creepers. It remains to be seen if the tortoise beetle and lace bug will survive the winter to continue their work on this plant.

While these biocontrol agents won't eradicate the invasive plants, they will certainly help slow down the spread of the plants.

We are very grateful to the various biocontrol experts that continue to support us in the release of the correct biocontrol agents correctly and effectively.



Please Report

We have noticed that some people are sadly engraving their names on our beautiful trees and that some indigenous plants are being removed from the reserve.

Some residents in the surrounding area are also dumping their garden waste into the reserve.

If you do see any suspicious activity while you are visiting the reserve, please report it to Nature Conservation on adelenem@tshwane.gov.za, info@moreletakloof.co.za or Jeannie on 082 927 4673.



The River Starts Here!



We urge you to please report any blocked drains or sewer leaks to SewerBlockages@tshanwe.gov.za. We have some major sewer spills on the streets around the reserve. This often leads to sewage and litter being washed into the reserve and the Rademeyerspruit.

Also, if you do notice the reservoir is overflowing, please report to us as soon as possible at info@moreletakloof.co.za or Jeannie on 082 927 4673.

We continue to test the water quality on a monthly basis using the sponsored WaterCAN tests.

Elané Joubert, who has been assisting us with the SASS5 river health assessment, has arranged for the Aquatico Scientific Labs to assist us in testing the water in their labs. We are very grateful to Aquatico Labs for this kind gesture.



The Friends of Moreleta Kloof Nature reserve, Johan Laubscher (Friends of Eco Glen) and Elané, are also trialling the use of FreshWater Watch citizen science water quality monitoring kits (<https://www.freshwaterwatch.org/>) in South Africa. This initiative is part of a partnership project involving GroundTruth, FreshWater Watch, and the World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA).

The results indicate that the water quality is in a relatively good state but unsafe for human consumption.

Friends' Membership

We've had a very positive response to people signing up to become Friends of Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve. If you have not yet done so, please consider supporting us by joining.

A new voucher system was introduced for members of Friends' groups in January 2024. The vouchers will replace the credit card-sized laminated membership cards issued previously. Each member will receive six vouchers, which the member must print and hand in as payment when visiting one of the following nature reserves:

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

The staff at the pay point will mark the voucher off and the voucher will be recorded as having been used. Members can choose which reserves they wish to visit and are no longer restricted to two free visits to each reserve.

The member can bring any 3 other people with, not restricted to family members, nor a specific number of adults and children. Depending on which reserves are visited, the value of these vouchers can add up to over R1 700.

Another new feature is that the vouchers are valid for 12 months from date of issue.

Thank You!

We are very dependent on the community to support us in the work that we do in the reserve. We wish to thank the following people that are assisting us in various ways;

- André Jooste from of AJC Advisory Services for the toilet deck repair costs.
- Tillie Adlam from B-One Holdings for the portable toilet.
- Canie Cullen from Coastal Hire for supply of equipment.
- Chamberlains for discount on materials.
- Aquatico Scientific Labs for the water testing.
- Various sponsors of feed for the animals.
- Volunteers that work throughout the week, Saturdays and Sundays.
- Judy van Eeghen for maintaining the toilet and bird hide.

Please remember that if you are in any way able to assist the Friends with the running of the reserve, consider supporting us via SnapScan or contact us on the contact details below. Tax certificates can be arranged for any donations over R1 000 and paid through the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA). Thank you to those wonderful people that keep supporting us.



Snap here to pay



SnapScan

Upcoming Events

Please keep a look out on our Facebook page and notice boards for upcoming events:

- Wednesday, 11 September, 4pm – AGM. Anthony King from the ARC, our guest speaker, will be talking about the Cat's Claw Creeper.
- Saturday, 14 September – Invasive Plant Species Hack
- 20 – 23 September – Great Southern Bioblitz

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

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead