



Adopt Moreletaspruit/ Neem Moreletaspruit Aan **Newsletter/Nuusbrief 24, November 2018**

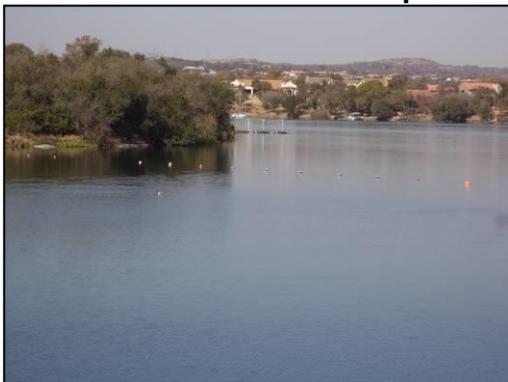
Tribute to Dr Anneli Kühn

Our Chairman, Anneli Kühn, passed away unexpectedly on 19 July. Anneli brought a wealth of scientific knowledge and research experience to our Forum as well as a passion for water health and for bringing the wider community of residents, local and national government, research institutions and interest groups together with the common goal of improving the quality of the Moreletaspruit and its surrounding green areas. She emphasised that one should understand the concept of catchment areas and how one's actions within a catchment would impact on the river running through it.

Anneli worked for the Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) from 1989 where she served as Assistant-Director in the Directorate Water Quality Management and later as Deputy-Director: Institute for Water Quality Studies. From 2003 to 2008 she was contracted by DWAF as a water quality specialist during which time she worked on making technical and scientific information accessible to non-technical audiences. She also participated in drafting the Strategic Framework for the Development of the Adopt-a-River Programme initiated by DWAF in 2007. In December 2010, and following much concern by local residents over the environmental damage caused during the installation of the Moreleta Outfall Sewer along the river in Lynnwood, she called local government officials, residents, existing WESSA Friends Groups along the river, DWAF representatives and other interested persons together and introduced the Adopt-a-River concept which was accepted. DWAF then commissioned a Situational and GAP Analysis in 2011 and in January 2012 Adopt Moreletaspruit was launched, at first with a small group of members and later growing to be a larger Forum with Anneli as Chairman. We shall miss her – always well-groomed, gracious, ladylike, genuinely interested in everybody and a good friend to many.



Good News about the Roodeplaat Dam Rehabilitation Project



Roodeplaat Dam is a natural asset to the city whose value is largely unrecognised. Talmar Sustainable Developments, with funding from Rand Merchant Bank, has started the second phase of the project; an eighteen month process to implement action plans to address the pollution and co-ordinate sustainable rehabilitation projects.

More good news is that CoT has allocated a sizeable amount of money for this year and the next two years to increase the capacity of the Baviaanspoort Waste Water Treatment Works

by 16 megalitres a day which should resolve the problem of sewage flowing into the Pienaars River from this facility.

As a large percentage of the water in the dam first flows from Rand Water through our taps as domestic water, then into our drains and sewers, through the sewage treatment plant and thence into the dam; and as the Moreletaspruit, Pienaars River and Edendalespruit flow into the dam as well, all of us living in the catchments of the three rivers can play a role in improving the quality of the dam water. This we can do by using environmentally-friendly household and personal cleaning products to limit the chemicals going down our drains, by not pouring fat down drains and by not throwing any objects into toilets other than toilet paper. As for the rivers, we can pick up all litter in streets and in the rivers, separate our waste and take recyclables to recycling depots, or at the very least leave a bag of actual recyclables – e.g. plastic bottles with tops and labels removed – for waste pickers to collect. Otherwise these waste pickers will sort what they take from dustbins and throw a great deal of unwanted litter where it can find its way into rivers. Electronic waste must be taken to e-waste depots.

Plastic: Plastic production has increased to such an extent that half the plastic ever



made was produced in the last 15 years. More than 40% is used once and thrown away and much of this single-use plastic cannot be recycled. In fact, no plastic can be recycled infinitely. Eventually it will go to a landfill. It will never break down into harmless components. Rivers, oceans and tap water in major cities around the world, including our own, are contaminated by plastic.

We cannot recycle our way out of this mess.

The tide of public opinion everywhere is growing against plastic pollution. More than 40 countries have

banned single-use plastic packaging. We must aim to do the same and in the meantime, avoid plastic packaging as far as possible. *Left:* 80 bags of litter, mostly plastic, cleaned out of the Moreletaspruit in Serene Valley, Garsfontein, on Mandela Day this year.

Climate Change: On 8 October the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that to limit global warming to 1.5°C would require “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society”. We already see the consequences of warming of 1°C above pre-industrial levels with extreme weather, rising sea levels and melting Arctic sea ice. If human-caused emissions of CO₂ are to fall to zero by 2050, which is not far off, then our coal-fired power stations must be phased out. Greenpeace recently identified Mpumalanga as the world’s biggest NO₂ air pollution hotspot for the period 1 June to 31 August because of the 12 coal-fired power stations. We need to use less electricity and lobby for renewable energy which is rapidly becoming more affordable. We should also eat less meat as cattle emit the greenhouse gas, methane. While the prospect of extreme droughts, floods and heat waves is worrying, a time of change is also an opportunity for great innovation, lateral thinking and new ideas!



Heritage along the Moreletaspruit – the Old Bridge at Priory. This bridge has the date 1928 on it and was presumably built by Frank Struben. He and his wife owned the farms, Lynnwood and Manor House. The initials on the bridge, “FR” and “RP” with a big “S” for Struben are probably those of their children, Francis Roderick and Rosemary Patricia, who would have been 11 and 8 in 1928.

AMF Annual Guided Hike along the Moreletaspruit on Saturday 15 September

A big thank you to all the AMF members from Friends of Moreleta Kloof, Serene Valley, Faerie Glen NR and Skuilkrans who worked to make this hike a success. Ten of us did a pre-hike in July to check the route and see where it needed to be made more accessible. A very special thank you to the CoT Nature Conservation staff, particularly Johan Pietersen and Hannes Oelofse and their teams, and Gunther Trumpelmann from Skuilkrans, who cleared paths through vegetation, made river crossings and cleaned up. We received many emails of thanks from the hikers including these: "Thank you so much for such a well-organised walk", "Thank you to everyone who made this day possible" and "An exceptional experience. Lots of care, enthusiasm, laughter and friends picked up. Photographs to keep. Thank you so much."



Top: Setting off from Moreleta Kloof at 07:00; stopping for a short picnic at Faerie Glen. *Centre:* At Murrayfield for a short stop with watermelon, fresh dates and naartjies; some rock climbing. *Bottom:* along the river in Skuilkrans section; rocky look-out point. The hikers reached the Pioneers House at 12:00. Photos: Ian Crisp and Carol Martin.

WESSA Friends Groups/WESSA Vriendegroepe



MOU between CoT and WESSA signed

All the Friends Groups active in nature areas belonging to the City are members of WESSA. A Memorandum of Understanding which formalises the relationship between the Friends Groups and the City of Tshwane was signed by the City Manager, Dr Moeketsi Mosola, in September and then on 30 October Dr Thommie Burger, CEO of WESSA, signed on behalf of WESSA at a signing ceremony at Smuts House. *Left:* Ernst Wohltz, Director: Nature Conservation Operations, CoT, shows

Carol Martin, Chairman WESSA Tshwane Branch and Friends of Serene Valley, where to sign as witness. Looking on are John Wesson, Chairman, WESSA NAR (standing), Dr Thommie Burger, CEO of WESSA, and Tilana de Meillon, Ecoglen Association and Ria van Rensburg, Friends of Colbyn Valley. Photo: Jeannie du Plessis.

Vriende van Faerie Glen NR het die sekuriteit om die reservaat verbeter. Hulle hou maandeliks indringeruitroeisessies, veral om lantana te teiken en het rommel verwyder vir Mandeladag. Hulle het twee voëlkykuitstappies aangebied, in Junie met Keanu Canto en in Oktober met Philip Calinikos. In Augustus was daar 'n geologieuitstappie onder leiding van Prof Adam Bumby. Hulle het vir boomplantdag in September 'n uitstappie met die Dendrologiese Vereeniging gebied en in Oktober 'n slang demonstrasie en praatjie gelewer deur Mike Perry. Op 24 November om 07:00 sal daar 'n grasvelduitstappie plaasvind met plantkundiges Antoinette Eyssell-Knox en Alan Short.

Vriende van Skuilkrans het 'n plakkaat deur Charl Naude laat maak met al die inheemse en indringer plante wat op Skuilkrans Koppie gesien kan word.

Vriende van Moreleta Kloof NR het indringerplante verwyder, rommel opgetel en die omheining geverf. Personeel van I H S Markit het die voëlskerm geskuur en vernis aangewend. In Oktober is 'n Ekodag vir kinders aangebied waar Ludwig Eksteen insekte vir hulle gewys het voor hulle aan 'n natuurskattejag deelgeneem het.

Friends of Colbyn Valley NR had a talk on the use of drones to ensure better environmental decisions after their AGM in May and a clean up for Mandela Day.

Ecoglen Association is working on the walking paths along the river at St Albans College which join the paths in Ecoglen

Friends of Serene Valley had several clean ups along the Moreleta and Constantia Spruits and removed alien vegetation including Balloon vines.

They had an Arbour Day Walk and tree tagging in September and tagged more trees along the Constantiaspruit in October with the Junior Honorary Rangers (*right*). They will have an Insect Walk on 10 November at 09:30 led by Janine Kelly and Ian Millar.



Contact Details/ Kontak-besonderhede

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Website: www.riv.co.za/ms

Facebook Group – Adopt-a-River Moreleta