



## **Adopt Moreletaspruit/ Neem Moreletaspruit Aan**

### **Newsletter/Nuusbrief 6, Feb 2013**

#### **International Year of Water Co-operation**

2013 was declared the International Year of Water Co-operation which is right up the street (or up the river?) of the Adopt Moreletaspruit Facilitation Team. In the first year of existence, we have invited experts in water-related fields on to our team and co-operated with CoT Nature Conservation and the DWA. We have given input on existing developments such as Menlyn Maine and on proposed developments which could impact on the rivers and wetlands, as well as on maintenance work to the pipelines which cross the river and on the Moreleta Outfall Sewer project. The wetland areas are in the process of being mapped.

#### **Biomonitoring of the Moreletaspruit**

A strategy meeting was held at the end of January to draw up a credible monitoring plan using accredited practitioners to assess and monitor the current status of the river. Six points were identified as monitoring sites from the source to just before the Roodeplaat Dam. These cover the different geozones and eco regions and will give us the opportunity to characterize the ecological health of the Moreleta catchment and protect the head waters. It is envisaged that the scientifically sound data thus obtained will be stored at the River Health Programme of the DWA and interpreted data can be made available. It will add to the picture we already have based on the regular chemical monitoring by the CoT and DWA. A detailed proposal has been drawn up.

**Friends Groups and Volunteers** are doing splendid work along the Moreletaspruit to encourage residents to learn more about the river and the environment: Friends of the Moreletaspruit – Brookside Meander (formerly Lynnwood to N4) hold regular Eco Days to remove alien vegetation and clean up litter (see left), Friends of Skuilkrans Kopje which last year took in Meyerspark Bird Sanctuary have taken a further section of the river under their wing and cleaned up and removed alien vegetation near the N4 and Val de Grace cliffs, Friends of Waterkloof and Wolwespruit (FOWWS) planted trees along the river in Maroelana and Friends of Serene Valley in Garsfontein



held a Bird Walk in February and will hold an Insect Walk on 9 March.

Weed scientist, Lesley Henderson of ARC, was invited to do a survey of all the alien species along the river in Lynnwood Manor, Val de Grace and Meyerspark and this list will be added to the data already collected by Nature Conservation and other Friends Groups. She also suggested trees to plant along the river and some of these together with our existing list appear at the end of this letter. Note that Nature Conservation should always be consulted before planting trees in the green area. These trees will also beautify and attract birds to your gardens.

### Interesting Rocks in Meyerspark Bird Sanctuary

These rocks are being used by vagrants who smash articles salvaged from dustbins against them to get at the metals inside cell phones, computers etc. The completion of the fencing and restriction of access should prevent this vagrancy but residents should also recycle all electronic goods responsibly. The quartzite rock (right) is a particularly nice example of ripple marks which were formed by the slow movement of water on deposited sand at the edge of a sea 2.3 or 2.4 billion years ago when the Earth looked very different from the way it looks today.



### Uilbokse



Twee Uilbokse is onlangs deur Danie van Eeden geskenk. Een is in 'n inheemse wilgerboom in Meyerspark voëlreservaat geïnstalleer en die ander een sal verder opstroom deur Vriende van Skuilkrans geïnstalleer word. Ons hoop dat uile binnekort deur hierdie bokse gelok sal word!

### Know your Invasive Alien Vegetation



#### **Campuloclinium macrocephalum**

Pom pom weed (South America) Perennial plant, up to 1.5m high with showy pink flowers, rough, hairy stems and leaves and thick, tuber-like roots. Each flower releases hundreds of wind-dispersed seeds and it spreads easily, taking over large areas of grassland. Currently CoT Nature Conservation is carrying out trials, including biological means, to control it. Small infestations can be controlled by carefully removing flower heads and burning or boiling them to destroy the seeds. Dig out roots when wet without disturbing the soil or apply herbicide to the cut-off stem to kill the roots.

### State of the River Report

We would like to ask everyone who has knowledge of the history of the Moreletaspruit, records of the flora and fauna, geology, rainfall figures or any information which could add to the Report which is being compiled to please contact us.

#### **Contact Details/ Kontak-besonderhede**

DWA: Gauteng Region – Tel 012 392 1362. Email: RakgothoT@dwa.gov.za  
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Facebook Group – **Adopt-a-River Moreleta**

The Facilitation Team/Die Fasiliteringspan

**Indigenous Trees for the Moreletaspruit / Inheemse bome vir die Moreletaspruit**

<b>S.A. No/Nr</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>English Name</b>	<b>Afrikaanse naam</b>
39	<i>Celtis africana</i>	White stinkwood	Witstinkhout
162	<i>Acacia caffra</i>	Common hook-thorn	Gewone haakdoring
166	<i>Acacia galpinii</i>	Monkey thorn	Apiesdoring
172	<i>Acacia karroo</i>	Sweet thorn	Soetdoring
187	<i>Acacia sieberiana</i>	Paperbark thorn	Papierbasdoring
253	<i>Zanthoxylum capense</i>	Small knobwood	Kleinperdepram
386	<i>Searsia lancea</i> *	Karee	Karee
392	<i>Searsia pyroides</i> *	Common currant	Gewone taaibos
399	<i>Gymnosporia buxifolia</i>	Common spike-thorn	Gewone pendoring
447	<i>Ziziphus mucronata</i> *	Buffalo-thorn	Blinkblaar-wag-'n-bietjie
452	<i>Rhamnus prinoides</i> *	Dogwood	Blinkblaar
463	<i>Grewia occidentalis</i> *	Cross berry	Kruisbessie
471	<i>Dombeya rotundifolia</i> *	Wild pear	Gewone drolpeer
494	<i>Kiggelaria africana</i> *	Wild peach	Wildeperske
536	<i>Combretum erythrophyllum</i>	River bushwillow	Vaderlandswilg
537	<i>Combretum molle</i>	Velvet bushwillow	Basterrooibos
594	<i>Euclea crispa</i>	Blue guarri	Bloughwarrie
605	<i>Diospyros lycioides</i> *	Bluebush	Bloubos
617	<i>Olea europea</i>	African olive	Olienhout
636	<i>Buddleja saligna</i>	White olive wood	Witolienhout
637	<i>Buddleja salviifolia</i>	Sage wood	Wildesalie
640	<i>Carissa bispinosa</i> *	Num-num	Noemnoembessie
657	<i>Ehretia rigida</i>	Puzzle-bush	Deurmekaarbos
670	<i>Halleria lucida</i> *	Tree fuchsia	Notsung

\* Berries for birds / Bessies vir voëls

Searsia were formerly known as Rhus / Searsia was voorheen as Rhus bekend.