



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

**Newsletter/Nuusbrief 4, Oct/Okt 2012**

### **National Water Resource Strategy**

South Africa is the 30<sup>th</sup> most “water scarce” country in the world. The Department of Water Affairs (DWA) says “Water status needs to be elevated as THE critical resource and primary element of decision making”. Challenges regarding management of resources, pollution and water quality have major social, economic, environmental, legal and political impacts on our lives. Water is everybody’s business from politician to end user in agriculture, industry or homes; specialist to concerned citizen. Water management is a complex business requiring smarter, more advanced methods, and continuous strategic and tactical planning in order to manage wisely into the future.

As part of the planning, the DWA proposed that the existing 19 Water Management Areas (WMAs) should be amalgamated into **nine WMA’S and Catchment Management Agencies (CMA’S)**, namely Limpopo, Olifants, Inkomati-Usuthu, Pongola-Mzimkulu, Vaal, Orange, Mzimvubu-Tsitsikamma, Breede-Gouritz and Berg-Olifants.

Members of the Adopt Moreletaspruit Facilitation Team attended the inaugural meeting of the **Limpopo CMA** in September. As our Team has grown to include representatives of the DWA, Nature Conservation of CoT, Friends Groups and experts on water quality, wetlands, aquatic ecology and environmental matters, we are well placed to give useful input on the protection, conservation and management of the catchment area of the Moreletaspruit and its tributaries in the east of the city.

*‘n Afvaardiging van die Fasiliteringspan het onlangs ‘n konstruktiewe gesprek met Mnr Henk Boogertman, die projekbestuurder, van die groot nuwe **Menlyn Maine** ontwikkeling gehad, in verband met die impak wat die ontwikkeling op die gehalte van die Moreletaspruit in die toekoms mag hê. Mnr Boogertman het die versekering gegee dat alles moontlik gedoen word om die impak op die omgewing te beperk. Hy het daarop gewys dit ‘n “groen ontwikkeling” is en dat dit aan al die vereistes van die Clinton Stigting voldoen. ‘n Aansoek is reeds by die Departement Waterwese ingedien om die nodige waterlisensies te verkry. Daar is ooreengekom dat die Fasiliteringspan met die siviele ingenieurs en landskapsargitekte sal kontak maak sodat die Moreletaspruit-fasiliteringspan op ‘n pro-aktiewe basis met hulle kan saamwerk om die Moreletaspruit in die beste moontlike toestand te bewaar.*

**In addition, what every single person can do right now to improve the quality of our water is to make our streets, cities and country a Litter-Free Zone.**

The early spring rains were wonderful but the huge amount of plastic, cans, bottles, cigarette butts, packaging and other objects which washed off the streets, through the storm water drains and into the rivers is utterly dreadful. Let us all resolve never to drop another piece of rubbish!

### Some recent volunteer and student activities along the river:

- **In Serene Valley** during Arbour Week, 42 second year students from Centurion Academy spent two days removing alien vegetation, mostly privets, mulberries, mothcatcher vines, ink berries and bug trees supervised by staff of Nature Conservation, the Friends and their lecturer.
- The next day they assisted Nature Conservation to carry out a controlled burn along part of the Constantiaspruit.
- During National Clean Up Week a large group organised by the Environmental Co-ordinator of the Anglican Church's Diocese of Pretoria cleaned up 27 bags of litter in the morning in Serene Valley and then went on to do more cleaning at Moretele Park.



**Students removing a mulberry tree.**



**Clean up by Anglican Church group.**

- In **Moreletaspruit Lynnwood Road – N4** during Arbour Week, 52 first year students from Centurion Academy planted 102 indigenous trees supplied by Danie van Eeden of Wildroute Environmental Consultants.
- Twenty IT Dept employees from Ford cleaned up litter at the N4.
- **Meyspark Bird Sanctuary** along the Moreletaspruit was officially opened on 15 September. Much hard work has gone into re-establishing this sanctuary. Nature Conservation has almost completed the fencing and everyone attending the opening helped clean up the litter. Once the fencing is complete, the vagrants have left and the pan has filled with water it should be even more attractive to birdlife and visitors.

### Know your Invasive Alien Vegetation



#### **Cestrum laevigatum**

Ink berry/Inkbessie (South America)  
Much branched shrub, poisonous.  
Leaves and stems emit unpleasant pungent odour when cut or bruised.  
Greenish-yellow tubular flowers in bunches and small berries which ripen to purplish black – Category 1 invader.

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

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Facebook Group – **Adopt-a-River Moreleta**

The Facilitation Team/Die Fasiliteringspan