



## Adopt Moreletaspruit/ Neem Moreletaspruit Aan

### Newsletter/Nuusbrief 5, Nov 2012

#### Origin of the name 'Moreleta'

It is thought that the name is a corruption of "Moretele" from the Tswana name *moreeko*, *morethlwa*, *moretlwa* or the Pedi name *moretlwa*, *meretlua* for the shrub or small tree, **Grewia flava** (*brandy bush*, *raisin tree*, *brandewynbos*, *rosyntjebos*), which has yellow flowers and abundant fruits which were eaten raw or made into a porridge. The stamped fruit mixed with locusts was a Tswana delicacy but best of all, a potent alcoholic brew was made from the berries, which made it important enough to name a river after it. There is also a story that a young man of the Erasmus family, owners of the farm 'Garstfontein', admired a beautiful girl named Letta de Beer and would ride past her house each morning as she sat combing her hair at the window and raise his hat and say "Môre Letta". Though this story is romantic, the former theory is probably correct.

#### Putting our Rivers on the MAP

It was decided to join the **Moreleta**, **Apies** and **Pienaars** Rivers together to form **MAP**, a sub-catchment of the greater Limpopo – Crocodile (West)/Marico Catchment Management Agency. Role players from the Apies and Pienaars Rivers will be invited to work together with our facilitation team to form a strong sub-catchment management committee. Some of our members attended the early meetings of the Limpopo and the Crocodile (West)/Marico CMA's and this plan has been put forward.

This will not change Adopt Moreletaspruit's aim to have volunteer groups working all along the river. We would like many more residents and businesses to get involved!

#### The Importance of Wetlands



Wetlands purify water, store water to ensure a regular supply through dry years and prevent floods because of this storage. They recharge underground water and control erosion. The main guidelines for delineation and identification of wetlands are vegetation and soil related, soil being the most reliable indicator. The best chemical cleansing takes place in anaerobic (without oxygen) soil which sequesters heavy metals and carbon. Did you know that there is more carbon stored in peatland than in all the rain forests in the

world? Anthracite and coal fires, industrial activity and vehicle traffic cause acid rain which is washed from roads and paving to the lowest point which is usually a stream or river. The sides of a stream are massive wetland plains which can be wet from 3 to 10 months of a year and are known as fluctuating zones. Paul Fairall, seen here with his associate Thabo Motluneng, was recently awarded the Mondi National Wetland Award for Wetland Stewardship and was also elected to the permanent Board of

Trustees of the Wetland Society of South Africa. Paul is on our Facilitation Team and has started mapping the wetlands along the Moreletaspruit. Fifty five percent of our country's wetlands have already been lost through ignorance, mismanagement and greed. It is vital that we now protect and manage the ecological reserve of our water otherwise continued destruction will lead to less pure water, less reliable water supplies, increased flooding, lower agricultural productivity and loss of more endangered species.

### Die Ielik ....

So lyk dit langs die Moreletaspruit na reën. Plastiese bottels en sakke, glas bottels, koeldrankblikke, sigaretstompies (wat 500 jaar kan neem om te ontbind!) en ander rommel sit vasgevang langs die kante van die rivier. Vrywilliges maak skoon maar die publiek gooi weer vullis in die strate neer. Alle plastiek, glas en blikke moet op verantwoordelike wyse vir herwinning gestuur word. As Rwanda dit kan regkry om rommelstrooiery te verbied, hoekom kan ons dit nie in Suid-Afrika doen nie?



### En die mooi .... veldblomme langs die Moreleta- en Rademeyerspruite



**Pelargonium luridum**



**Hypoxis hemerocallidea**



**Scadoxys puniceus**



**Berkheya radula**



**Haplocarpa scaposa**



**Pachycarpus shinzianus**

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

With Best Wishes for the Festive Season,

The Facilitation Team/Die Fasiliteringspan