

ECOGLEN NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2005

What an achievement!

In just sixteen months the entire green belt along the Moreleta and Waterkloof Spruits has been secured!

Our thanks go to our Contractors, CTMM especially Adelene Loock who helps wherever she can in terms of labour, material and organising the projects that we would like to get off the ground, Mike Silberman (chair of Ecoglen) and the committee members, St Alban's College and all other contributors.

We can also report that a group of approximately 50 vagrants left the area after we fenced off the Waterkloof Spruit!

Access to the Waterkloof Spruit area.

Only paid-up members who have a valid membership card may enter this area. Remember, your membership card should be carried with you at all times when entering any of our conservation areas. The gates at Waterkloof Spruit can be opened

with the same key that opens all other gates on the Moreleta Spruit side.

Tip: Punch a hole in one corner of your membership card and use a key ring to secure your key to your membership card.

Privacy of St Alban's College

Mr Tom Hamilton (Principal of St Alban's College) has requested members not to enter the school's area when entering the Waterkloof Spruit area. It is a security risk for them and we need to respect the privacy of the College. The official border is where the previous palisade fence has been removed. A picket fence will be erected soon.

Dogs on a leash.

Members entering the Conservation area must keep their dogs on a leash. When walking your dogs in the Waterkloof Spruit area, please refrain from crossing the Waterkloof Spruit on the St Alban's College side.

Membership.

Most of our local residents have become aware of the advantages of our efforts to our neighbourhood. We now have a total of 72 paid-up members (households) who are very enthusiastic. The little criticism that we have received thus far comes from people who are only spectators. Everyone can assist in ensuring that everyone they know in the area subscribes as a Friend of the Ecoglen Area. If we put all our efforts into our project, the Ecoglen area can become our neighbourhood's biggest attraction. Can you imagine what it would do to the value of our properties?

Thank you to St Alban's College for registering as a Corporate Member. Not only have they donated their palisade fences, but they also involve their learners in various conservation projects like identifying bird species in our area and also with cleaning up operations.

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“The Ecoglen Association” has been registered as a PBO (Public Benefit Organisation).

Our application at SARS to become a PBO has been successful (after we had to wait almost a year for the outcome!) Our thanks go to Adv Johann Laubscher (who is also a committee member) without whose input we would not have managed. We are now legally able to receive contributions (donations). All donors will now receive a tax receipt!. SARS will allow you to deduct R1000 per annum from your Income Tax! Thus by donating R1000 per tax payer per year (not household), we will be able to utilize “tax money” for our own community projects! This is what we all need - tax money to spend at a place where one can see the results of what one’s money has achieved! Act now before the end of February 2006 and we can start our projects with a well-needed injection.

Donations.

During the last 16 months donations totalling R29,000 were received from members, various organisations,

and householders in the area, some donating more than R5000. Their generosity contributed significantly to the progress made to date. Our grateful thanks go to all the donors listed below:

**ALFONSO & ELIZE VAN SCHALKWYK
BRUCE & MARGOT BARNETSON
DOUG & CANDY TAYLOR
Dr. C R VORSTER
ETNA & RENAUD BOOYSEN
GAUTON FAMILY
GLENWOOD VILLAGE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
IZAK & THEA VENTER
JACQUI & RICHARD SHAROD
JAFARI HUSCHANG
JAN & LEONORA BECKER
JCA SLEE
JEANNE VAN EEDEN
JOHANN & SANDRA LAUBSCHER
KATHLEEN & ED BAUMGARTNER
N.M. GORDON
PROF WEISZ
SIMON & HELEN REIF
VIOLETTE MOORE**

Donors who made contributions during the last tax year will be receiving Donation Receipts for tax purposes in the next couple of weeks.

Sponsorships.

Chateau Glen’s Body Corporate has pledged R500 towards the tagging of trees (nameplates) in the Ecoglen area.

Letsie Coetzee of Realty Elk (3614151) has kindly pledged a few concrete benches for the area. We will erect them as soon as we have identified suitable spots

Adv Johann Laubscher has sponsored extra security measures to the fence in Alcade Road to the value of R1160.

Willem van der Westhuizen from Glenwood Village II has pledged R1000 towards the planting of grass on the slopes of the flood channel downstream of Louis Botha Avenue.

It is our intention to acknowledge all donors or sponsors in our future Newsletters and other communications.

contact details: ecoglen@global.co.za
0832841844

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It is our intention to acknowledge all donors or sponsors in our future Newsletters and other communications. If you make a donation or sponsor a project and do not want your name to be published please indicate so at time of donation/sponsorship by advising the Treasurer by email to ecoglen@global.co.za or by phone on 0832841844.

Restoration of the banks of the floodwater channel.

We mentioned in our previous newsletter that the new cluster development housing scheme bordering Glenwood Village, has caused a lot of damage to the Moreleta Spruit area. Because Midcity neglected to honour their promises, CTMM has supplied the necessary implements and manpower to slope and clean the banks of the channel. A new, more scenic walkway will soon be opened on the embankment between the floodwater channel and the main flow of the Moreletta Spruit. Also see in this regard the donation made to fund grass that will be planted on the slopes.

Upgrading of the sewerage pipeline.

Although you may not be aware of it, the City Council's main sewerage system runs along the Moreleta Spruit. From time to time the stench originating from this system is almost unbearable. Although we could not identify any leakages into the spruit, the present system is not capable of carrying the pressure of all the new developments. CTMM has already approved the upgrading of the system and this will involve quite a major operation in terms of digging new trenches. We will keep you updated in this regard.

Member participation.

We will communicate a date for an open day (on a Saturday) when we would like to involve all members in the eradication of alien plants and weeds. We are aware of a lot of syringa and other alien trees in the area. We envisage a date early in the new year, as this year is already rushing to an end.

Suggestions for participation;

- Sponsor a few meters of pathways. We have started to do a bit of concrete paving from Lynnwood Road. Although we will continue with the pathway (once the Contractor can resume with this project) we will only be able to do another 50 meters before we run out of funds. If you donate R150, we will be able to continue with a meter of concrete paving. For every 10 meters sponsored, we will allow a donor an acknowledgement on the notice boards at the entrance gate.
- Take a plastic bag with you when you go for a hike and collect some of the debris that has been washed down.
- Get your gardener to help collect debris from a certain spot from time to time. (household).

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- Pay a jobless person an amount to collect debris. You can pay per plastic bag or for cleaning up during an entire day. (Please ensure that such a person is registered at the Lynnwood Road entrance (Glenwood Village Security) and do not give a key to anyone else than a responsible person in your own household).

- Do not make duplicate copies of the entrance key and keep your key in a safe place at all times!

- Remember after each 5mm of rain, a lot of rubbish (that landed up in the storm water system from the roads) is dumped into our conservation area and the clean-up process starts afresh!

- Keep us informed of any sightings (Birds, animals, insect and any interesting aspect) and send details to Willem - our committee member responsible for Conservation. wvanderwesthuizen@rmbprivatebank.com)

- Take a membership form to anyone who has not already joined

as a member.

- Forward this newsletter to as many people as you wish.

- Get businesses to sponsor some of our projects.

- Ensure that the R1000 donations per taxpayer reach us before the end of February 2006 to be eligible to claim from the present tax year!

- Any suggestions from your side? Please contact fanie@iqassociates.co.za

AGM

Our first AGM was held in the Ecoglen area. Although only a few members turned up, the constitution allowed a follow-up meeting during which the decisions of the first meeting could be ratified. The minutes of the AGM as well as the Chairperson's annual report will be sent separately to all members.

Security matters.

We hope that we will soon encounter a decline in crime related incidents in our region. Everyone should participate and be alert. Take care of your neighbours and make sure that you know them and have their telephone numbers close by!

We have opened a crime register and you are welcome to report any incidents to Johann Laubscher. He will send you an electronic form to be completed and then you can e-mail it back for an update on crime related matters.

In closing.

We hope that everyone will enjoy a peaceful holiday and a blessed Festive time!

To our Exco Committee: Thank you for the many hours of dedicated work that everyone has put in.

Fanie van Wyk
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Vice Chairman

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