



what's new?

the ford upgraded

Anyone visiting Ecoglen recently will have noticed that the ford across the Moreleta has been upgraded. A bridge has been constructed over the old stepping stones and east-west access has been greatly improved (even after a hefty thundershower).

Thanks to our sponsors
Infrasat;
Holcim;
DSM Consulting Engineers.

This development supports our aims of providing an accessible environment for the less-abled and to improve wet-weather access to the conservancy.

[Picture of bridge on page 2].

tree tagging

As reported in our last newsletter, an exercise carried out by the CTMM identified 10 indigenous shrubs/trees within the Ecoglen conservancy and the Chateau Glen Body Corporate had sponsored a tree tagging exercise. This exercise has now been scheduled and will take place on 21st January 2007 as part of our usual monthly walkabout, see forum for details. Our ward councillor Prof. Duncan Baker has been invited to come and 'tag a tree'. So come along and join us on this the first Ecoglen educational initiative.

ecoglen goes 3W

The launch of our web-site was later than reported in our last issue but eventually went live on the 11th of October 2006. We have big plans for the site next year so come and visit us at <http://www.ecoglen.za.org>

money matters

membership

We were pleased with our growth during the first half of 2006 but unfortunately have ended the year on a disappointing note. During the latter half of the year 17 households failed to renew membership and so overall membership has fallen to 67 households. This has a significant impact on our funds and so we would encourage both lapsed and current members to renew their membership during January 2007 when it becomes due. Reminders will be sent out during January and fees remain the same at R120.00 per annum per household.

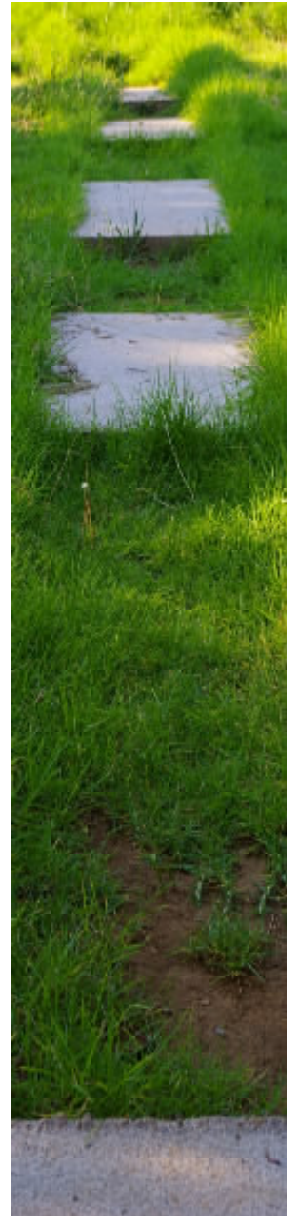
donors

Once again the generosity of our members and the residents has been evident since our last newsletter and we take the opportunity to thank the following donors for their additional contribution to Ecoglen's finances:

L. DeVilliers
J H Becker
Fanie & Annelie Van Wyk

Together they have donated over R1500 which has been put to good use on our many projects.

mind the gap!



our annual appeal

Mind the gap! A familiar call to those who have travelled on the London Underground and unfortunately a warning we have to issue to our members!

Despite the sterling efforts of our committee and the generous contribution of our members, donors and sponsors, without whom we would not have been able to achieve what we did this year, funding has been hard to come by this year.

This unfortunately brought our pathway project to an abrupt halt due to lack of funds. The aim of the current project is to complete a concrete path between the Maldon and Lynnwood Road access gates and to link this into various reflection points along the Moreleta.

This pathway would provide safe, wet weather access to the Moreleta reserve for our members. At the same time it would make it possible for the less-abled in the community to experience the recreational benefits the conservancy provides.

The Ecoglen Association is a registered Public Benefit Organisation and as such is able to issue donors with a receipt that SARS will accept as a deduction against tax [SARS will allow claims up to R1000 per taxpayer per tax year].

We believe that this provides members and residents with an opportunity of guaranteeing they receive a tangible benefit from their hard earned tax rands directly in their own community.



mind the gap!



annual appeal cont^d.

We are therefore appealing to members, especially at this time of year, to consider making a donation to help us 'fill the gaps!' in our pathway and improve our environment.

Donations can be paid directly into our account using your surname and initial as the reference.

ECOGLEN ASSOCIATION
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
ACC. No. 62068840795
BRANCH 252045

Donations should be made before 28th February in order to qualify for deductions in the current tax year. Tax receipts for the current tax year will be issued to donors before the end of March 2007.

forum

Got something to say about Ecoglen? Ideas on how to improve the area? Something you'd like to share with other members? Drop us a line at ecoglen@global.co.za, we'd like to hear from you.

walkabouts

Our next walkabout will be combined with our tree tagging exercise on the

21st January 2007

Meet at the Maldon Road Gate at 16:30.

Changes to dates will be communicated before the time. (Non-members welcome).

ecoglen street braai/picnic

We are planning to hold an Ecoglen Street Braai/Picnic on the 18th February 2007.

The idea is to get the local community together so they can get to know Ecoglen, each other and discuss their mutual interests in a relaxed atmosphere.

This event will be for members and non-members alike and the committee will be showcasing completed projects, presenting our management plan and discussing the benefits of the Ecoglen conservancy to the community.

Watch out for final details early in the new year.

season's greetings

The Ecoglen Exco would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members, their families and our sponsors for their contribution during the past year.

We would also like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.



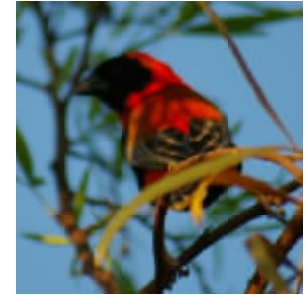
The completed bridge across the Moreleta at the old ford. More photos of the project are available on the website.

seen around

A black-headed heron photographed at dusk by the Maldon Road bridge in the Waterkloof reserve.



A cardinal weaver photographed downstream of the upgraded ford in the Moreleta reserve.



These photos will be available for enhanced viewing in the gallery on our website in January.

Some of the other birds that have been spotted in the vicinity of the upgraded ford:

- Fiery-necked Nightjar,
- Black-collared Barbet,
- Cardinal Woodpecker,
- Groundscraper Thrush,
- Paradise Flycatcher,
- Fiscal Schrike.

seen something interesting?

Share it with us, send us details of what you saw and where you saw it and we'll let the members know. If you have a photo, so much the better, we'll either include it in our next newsletter or display it on our website gallery. [e-mail to ecoglen@global.co.za].