



what's new?

porcupine released

City of Tshwane [CoT] Nature Conservation together with the S.P.C.A. have released a porcupine in the Ecoglen conservancy. This is the first, and hopefully not the last, release of fauna into the conservancy.

Unfortunately the Exco. was not directly involved in the release and so we can't provide any details about the animal released such as age, sex and location of release.

Porcupines have been known to inhabit the conservancy with the last known sighting late in 2005. Porcupine quills have been found on the embankment between the Moreleta and the flood channel just below Gnl. Louis Botha but unfortunately no sighting of the animal. If you do see the porcupine on your travels through Ecoglen please let us know where and when by emailing us at ecoglen@global.co.za.



↪ Porcupine
Hystrix africaeaustralis

ecoglen gets a warden

CoT Nature Conservation has stationed a warden in the Ecoglen conservancy who will be operating in the area Monday to Friday from 08:30 to 15:00.

The warden, Solomon Rakgabale, will be occupied with general maintenance, such as painting the fence, as well as litter removal and alien plant control.

A big thanks to CoT Nature Conservation for providing this service.



↪ Porcupine
Hystrix africaeaustralis

↪ Ecoglen's new warden,
Solomon Rakgabale.

money matters

membership

Membership subscriptions have improved over the last quarter. Renewals have picked up but are still disappointing. Only 70% of members registered last year have renewed to date. However we have been able to recruit new members this year and our total membership now stands at 64, slightly less than last year's total, and we are confident of finishing the year with a net increase in membership.

Once again we encourage members who have not yet subscribed for this year to renew their membership as soon as possible.

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:

- Conrad Dent
- Robert & Lynette Noonan
- Proactive Legal
- Willem Otto
- Johan & Margaret Hosten

Together they have donated over R1600 which will be put to good use on our many projects.



be a brick!!



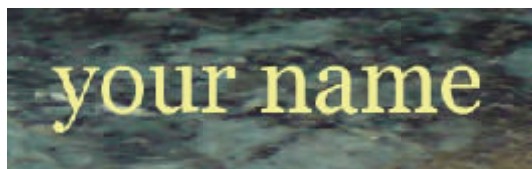
be(en) there! do(ne) that! get the t-shirt!!

Yes!! We are offering a free Ecoglen t-shirt to anyone who becomes a brick in our wall!



[Print work generously donated and completed by the Department of Visual Arts, University of Pretoria].

How do you become a brick in our wall? Easy, donate money to Ecoglen! For every R1000 donated we will place a commemorative brick [example below] on one of our new info-walls.



The bricks have a marble finish and are embossed with gold lettering and provide an stylish way of showing that you care about your environment.

Ecoglen, being a registered Public Benefit Organisation, can issue donors with a receipt that SARS will accept as a deduction against tax [SARS allows claims of up to the greater of 5% of taxable income or R1000 per taxpayer per tax year].

So this offer provides a golden opportunity to get the tax man to give you a shirt instead of taking the one off your back!!

The info-walls will be constructed at the entrances to the Conservancy and so the commemorative bricks will occupy a prominent position. [You will be able to decide which info-wall your brick will be displayed upon].

The t-shirts are manufactured from 100% cotton and are printed with the Ecoglen logo on the front. [See illustration opposite]. They will be available in S,M,L,XL and XXL sizes.

But wait! That's not all!

These fine quality Ecoglen t-shirts are also available for sale at a cost of just R100 [should you just wish to purchase a t-shirt].

If you are interested in being a brick in our wall or just buying a t-shirt please contact us at ecoglen@global.co.za or call us at 0832841844.

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

We have not yet finalized our new approach to the ecoglen walkabouts so its not to late to make a suggestion. Our thinking is to make them quarterly and seasonally themed. If you do have any suggestions in this regard drop us an e-mail to ecoglen@global.co.za or give us a call on 0832841844.

ecoglen plays host

On the 8th of September, Ecoglen along with the other Friends of the Moreleta groups played host to 'SOAPKidz'.



SOAPKidz is a non-profit organisation whose aim is "to create environmental awareness, promote nature conservation, teach life skills, while doing fun activities amongst the underprivileged, abused and neglected children."



150 kids, 94 volunteers and 10 organizations as well as other 'Friends of the Moreleta' groups were involved in the day.

The purpose of the event was to expose the children to nature conservation in a fun way whilst raising environmental awareness.

The children hiked 10 kilometres from the Pick n' Pay Faerie Glen to the Pioneer Museum in Silverton.

During the hike they picked up litter, removed alien, invasive plant species as well as planting new trees. On top of this they had various tasks to complete, such as spotting particular plant species, with winning teams getting prizes for their efforts. The day was a great success with 279 bags of litter being removed from the spruit along the 10 kilometres of the hike, or roughly 2 bags per child.

Ecoglen would like to thank the SOAPKidz for helping to keep our conservancy clean. For us it was a pleasure and a privilege to have been part of such a wonderful exercise.

More photos are viewable at: http://www.ecoglen.za.org/html/member_s_area.html

seen around

The arrival of spring brought with it an increase in reported fauna sightings. A Vervet Monkey [*Cercopithecus aethiops*] was spotted crossing Marian Road during September. Unfortunately, we haven't had further reported sightings so it appears as if it may have been just passing through.

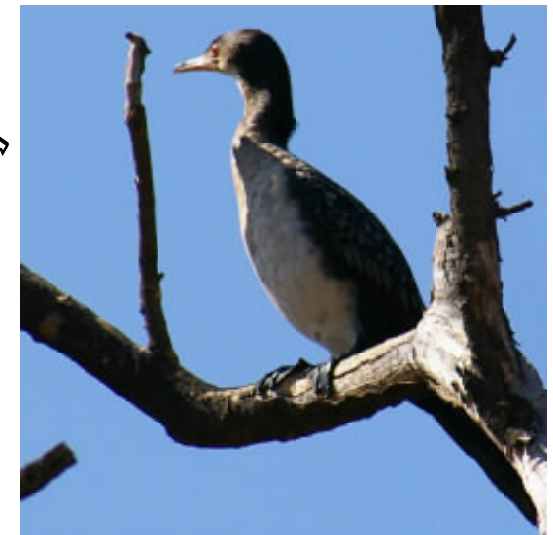


↩ A team of SOAPKidz take a breather at the Maldon Road entrance to Ecoglen. Accompanying them are volunteer team leaders. Tshwane Metro Police were also on hand to ensure the children's safety.



↩ A volunteer team leader helping with the tree-spotting task.

↪ Reed Cormorant; *Phalacrocorax africanus*



↩ Giant Kingfisher; *Megaceryle maxima*.



seen around (cont.)

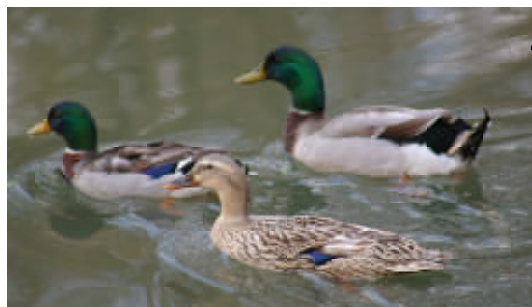
During late September / early October some interesting bird life also took up residency in the conservancy. A male Giant Kingfisher has been spotted fishing in the stretch of river in front of the reflection point closest to the Maldon Road gate. Another angler has also been spotted, a Reed Cormorant is also fishing in the same stretch of water.

On the more exotic side, a Lizard Buzzard has been spotted in the conservancy using the trees in the vicinity of the ford as a look out point [photo on next page].

Also, watch out for the Malachite Kingfisher, spotted fishing by the small dam [unfortunately no photo yet] and the Mallard ducks in the stretch of water upstream of the ford [photo on next page].



↖ Lizard Buzzard;
Kaupifalco monogrammicus.



↖ Mallard;
Anas platyrhynchos.

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].

conservation corner

The first of the Ecoglen fauna to feature in our conservation corner is the Common Large-spotted Genet [*Genetta maculata*].

The Common Large-spotted Genet is often mistaken for its cousin the Small-spotted Genet which shares the same range and looks very similar. We in fact mistakenly identified the specimen in the photo as the Small-spotted until closer examination of this and other photos revealed it to be the Large-spotted.

The two species overlap in range and habitat primarily due a shared diet of small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, birds and fruit, and the greater adaptability of the Small-spotted Genet's to different habitats. The normal habitat for the Common Large-spotted Genet is riverine forest or other dense vegetation within close proximity of water.

Growing to an overall length of 110cm, the Common Large-spotted Genet of lean build with an overall grey/rusty brown colouration with dark brown to black spots. It is distinguished from its cousin through its tail colouration which is banded ending in a black tip whilst the Small-spotted Genet's ends with a white tip.

The Common Large-Spotted Genet is one of Ecoglen's night creatures and are normally solitary. Hunting both on the ground and in the treetops.



Genets exhibit very cat-like behaviour and are curious and playful, due to this their European cousins are becoming increasingly popular as pets.



More information is available on the Common Large-spotted Genet and other members of Ecoglen's fauna and flora on our website at <http://www.ecoglen.za.org/html/library.html>