

# WESSA at Work

July  
2010

Richard Lewis (WESSA Chair), Garth Barnes, Dianne Perrett (WESSA Vice Chair), Mike Ward (WESSA COO), Malcolm Powell and Mumsie Gumede (WESSA CEO) at the WESSA Exco Meeting in the Free State in August.



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## WESSA IN ACTION!

Mumsie and Mike reflect the year so far and provide a sneak preview of what lies ahead, including WESSA's upcoming 85th Birthday Celebrations.

How time flies when positive things are happening.

It is with pride that we welcome our Patrons, Kevin Duncan, Jason Hartman, Penny Heyns, Brian Huntley, Michael Judin and Sango Ntsaluba. WESSA is honoured to be associated with such illustrious personalities in our quest to promote public participation in caring for the earth.

For the third quarter, our focus is on energy which is compatible with the activities country-wide, building up to the Peoples' COP in November. The first in a series of Changing the Climate dialogues kicks off in Johannesburg on 30 August 2011. These open opportunities for committed, localised solution oriented engagement in a multi-sectoral environment. WESSA is proud to have forged meaningful partnerships with PricewaterCoopers, ICLEI Africa, Standard Bank Group, and National Business Initiative. We trust that these dialogues will bring other partners on board to create a legacy of a well-managed sustainable South Africa for all.

Be sure to book your seat/table now for the forthcoming Celebration events: a Gala Dinner (with WESSA Awards, Art Auction run by the Dales Bros. and dancing) at the ICC, Durban, 24 September, 6:00 pm; a Concert with Freshly Ground at Casterbridge Lifestyle Centre, White River, Mpumalanga, 24 September, 6:00pm; a Dinner and Art Auction, Johannesburg Country Club, Woodmead, Johannesburg, 15 October, Art Exhibition at 3:00 pm, Gala Dinner at 6 pm. We have received remarkable pieces by renowned artists from southern Africa for the two art auctions.

Celebrate Durban 2011 of eThekweni Municipality has partnered with us in celebrating the natural heritage of our country – very appropriate, as the origins of WESSA can be linked to Durban as far back as 1884.

Midway through WESSA's financial year, our big focus has been on: the regional annual meetings; the preparation of our yearly review meetings; and the audit process. It has been a demanding time especially with Fraser McAllister being currently hospitalised. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Our EXCO team spent three days at Paul Roux in the Free State reviewing the key objectives of the Executive. These yearly objectives enable WESSA's 5 year Strategic plan and focus our yearly budgets. We are mostly on track, thanks to the progress that projects are making, the up-scaled conceptualisation of work done by WESSA and the continued improvement of project management by the Projects Management Unit. Credit should be given to some of our funders: the Canadian International Development Agency; and USAID, who contribute to internal human capacity and institutional development.

Congratulations must go to the WESSA/ Mondi Wetland Programme for scooping the honours in the Sustainable Development category of the Mondi Diamond Awards. "These awards celebrate outstanding achievements and recognise people and teams throughout the group who have made excellent contributions towards us achieving our goals" Mondi Corporate Affairs Manager, Group & South Africa Division.

Regards,  
Mumsie and Mike



Mumsie Gumede (WESSA CEO) and Mike Ward (WESSA COO).

# Newsflash

## • 2011 Mondri-WESSA National Enviro Quiz

What a fabulous and exciting evening Friday, 29th July 2011 was!! Fifteen teams representing 11 schools took part in a nail-biting event which had Penryn College from Nelspruit win by only half a point more than Hermannsburg School! Hot on their heels was St Charles College, from Pietermaritzburg, in third place. Congratulations to the winning teams and well done everyone for being part of and making the 2011 Mondri-WESSA National Enviro Quiz possible.

In 1990, the Umvoti Branch of WESSA held the first interschool enviro quiz amongst local high schools. It proved to be a great success and in 1994 the quiz grew to become a provincial contest, followed by becoming a national interschool quiz a few years later. Over the years, the quiz has enjoyed valuable sponsorship and support from Mondri. During the year, young people of senior school ages compete together on environmental issues, and winning teams meet for the finals. The national finals are held each year at the University of KwaZulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg Campus.

The aim is not simply to win but to inspire young people to learn about the environment in a fun-filled manner. An excursion to our local field-centre, Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve, is organised on the following Saturday morning after the 'quiz'.



Organisers and guest speakers at the quiz; Dr Jason Londt (quizmaster), Ms Mumsie Gumede (WESSA CEO), Mrs Cynthia Dibben (quiz organiser), Ms Kirsten Dukes (Miss Earth SA finalist), Mrs Clare Peddie (WESSA Share-Net) and Mrs Sue Swan (quiz organiser).

## • Staff Changes at WESSA National

It gives us great pleasure to announce the promotion of two well-deserving ladies to newly created positions at Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve. Shari Cade has been appointed as Education & Reserve Manager, whilst Heather Ducasse has been awarded the position of Admin & Hospitality Manager. Shari and Heather will form a management team co-managing the various entities of Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve, the home of WESSA National Office in Howick.

Brett Smith also joined the Umgeni Valley team recently as the Senior Education Officer and will serve as the 2IC to Shari on the education and reserve side. We are thrilled to have him on board and he has already quite literally gone through the "fires of initiation" through our burning programme, necessitating a shaven head to disguise singed hair! Welcome again Brett!

Hazel Lake, who has worked with the WESSA Share-Net team for just over a year, bids us farewell in September. She has been an enthusiastic, vibrant and action-orientated member of the team – managing the Share-Net print room, running workshops, developing resources - and shall be sorely missed.

Nadine Komen, who has worked in the Marketing Department of WESSA National alongside Eve Holliday for about a year and a half, will also be leaving WESSA at the end of August. In this short time, Nadine has given WESSA a huge 'shot in the arm' in that she was a big part in the design of WESSA's new collateral. Her diverse skills and creativity will leave a big gap in the marketing department. We wish her well in her new venture.

## Special dates in September:

1-7 September:

National Arbor Week

2 September:

Casual Day

8 September:

International Literacy Day

12-17 September:

National Clean-Up Week

16 September:

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

Recycling Day SA

17 September:

International Coastal Clean-Up

21 September:

International Day of Peace

24 September:

Heritage Day

27 September:

World Tourism Day

- Eco Schools helps in the Fight for our Rhinos

The following letter was recently presented to the WESSA/WWF Eco-Schools team after they lent their support to Rights for Rhinos.

Dear Bridget, Eco-Schools coordinators and teams in all provinces,

On behalf of Paul Jennings, Sboniso Phakathi (Spoon) and the Rights for Rhinos Team, I offer our most sincere appreciation and gratitude, for all your help, in making “The Rights for Rhinos Walk - Musina to Cape Point”, a successful one.

It was a privilege to present to our first ECO school in Polokwane – Mitchell House and to finish most appropriately at Robben Island ECO Primary School on Mandela Day 18th July, what can a person say other than THANK YOU to all the SHINING STARS who helped Rights for Rhinos Walk become a reality.

We are also most grateful to Nissan SA for giving the Robben Island Children an opportunity to join Paul, Spoon and team in the final few kilometres at Cape Point and are proud to have had ECO school children participate in this historic day Rights for Rhinos and air their views on national television.

Through the eyes and ears of Paul and Spoon, they reached well over 16 000 children and thousands of adults on their journey raising the awareness for the plight of our rhino. Phase 1 (Awareness + Research) was completed with the highest merit of achievement. Without your support, Rights for Rhinos would not have been able to reach these goals.

Thank you for your ongoing support, it is greatly appreciated and valued. We look forward to continuing to strive towards Phase2 the development of a long term sustainability program with educational material developed to address various nature conservation issues facing our country today. We look forward to working together with you in the future, for the enhancement of nature conservation education in our beautiful South Africa.

Keep up the great work!!

Your respectfully,

Irene Huysamen

Rights for Rhinos Walk Co-ordinator

- Stepping Up to Sustainability: Hotbox making workshop at Mpophomeni!

On Sunday, 21 August 2011, Hazel Lake from WESSA Share-Net hosted a HotBox making workshop at Mpophomeni township with a group of women who work for a feeding scheme called Lula Isandla. Lula Isandla means “Reaching Out”. The Hotbox workshop is part of the WESSA/USAID Stepping up to Sustainability project. The founder of Lula Isandla invited WESSA Share-Net to visit the township and share their knowledge about HotBoxes. This was after hearing about the first successful practical ‘Hotbox Workshop’ held at Umgeni Valley in June this year.

The ladies of the scheme were already very skilled at sewing, so were easily able to make up the Hotboxes. They are thinking of making HotBoxes to generate income for themselves.



# News from the Regions

## WESSA Northern Areas exhibit at the Sustainable Water Resource Conference: 16 – 17 August 2011



WESSA NAR was once again this year granted an opportunity to exhibit at the Sustainable Water and Resource Conference run by Alive2Green on the 16 – 17 August 2011.

This was a great opportunity for WESSA NAR to exhibit WESSA's water projects and promote the WESSA brand. WESSA NAR also took this platform to advertise its upcoming Art Exhibition and Auction. This was attended by various delegates from the water sector including the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Ms. Rejoice Mabudhaphasi. This was held at the Emperors Palace and Lemson Betha manned the WESSA stall. WESSA NAR would like to thank Alive2Green for affording us with an opportunity to exhibit as an affiliate to this conference and for a free exhibition stand and free delegates tickets

## WESSA Northern Areas EIA Course: 21 – 22 July 2011

A total of 19 delegates attended an EIA course on the 21st – 22nd of July which was held at WESSA NAR offices. This course was facilitated by Chris Galliers and Lemson Betha. The delegates were made up of a mixed group of people from different sectors and representatives from all the 3 tiers of government. Emfuleni Local Municipality representatives constituted a larger percentage of the group and people from Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, DWA, DEA, Agricultural Research Council, NGOs and Environmental Consultants also formed part of this group. Protea Dal, a site on R28 in Mogale City, was used for the site visit due to the environmental sensitivities and the level of WESSA's involvement in an EIA process

which was done for the residential and business development. Garth Barnes gave a presentation on the process which was followed in that EIA process and the stage where the process was at that moment. A great thank you to everyone who made this course a success, especially our guest speaker Marie Parramon from Imbewu who covered the legal aspects of the environment and Jennifer Kitto from SAHRA for the Heritage Impact Assessment.



## Eco-Schools

Phikisile Zondani's work at Londolozani Eco-School in Mdantsane took a step forward when they received hands-on support from three British Youth visitors in constructing a small pond that was long overdue.

The pond was developed as a resource to support outdoor learning and to promote the love of nature for the school children. The pond will be further developed, putting in place a rockery for cold-blooded creatures and water-loving plants.

The WESSA Border-Kei team would like to thank Dave, Margie and the British Youth for their unwavering support for WESSA's ideal of "People Caring for the Earth". Without their support, this work could not have been realised.

We look forward to hearing what the learners have to say about this!



## The Wild Coast Project Environmental Awareness and Teacher Training Programme

Ntosh Tsheyi and Lucie Chuchmakova, WESSA BK's programme implementers, are currently in Mkambati running the education and training programme.

The programme: 1. Engages communities on aspects related to enhancing environmental awareness; and 2. Develops the capacity of teachers to implement effective environmental education within the school environment.

They have been working with the Dwesa, Hluleka, Silaka and Mkambati Nature Reserve's surrounding communities and schools as part of the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency's Wild Coast Project funded initiative.

## Stepping Up to Sustainability – Wild Coast Villages

The Rain Water Harvesting/Food Production project has been selected by DEDEA as one of the projects that fall under their Climate Change Programme for the Eastern Cape. The department has requested a five-year business plan for the expansion of this project, and several meetings have already taken place to discuss the way forward. DEDEA is also the driver of the new Integrated Wild Coast Development Programme under which the Sustainable Villages will fall. This initiative will be in partnership with the Wild Coast Forest and Farmers Organisation. Furthermore, the project has already been linked to the Water Research Commission Women, Land and Water research project.

The Wild Coast Villages final concept and plan will be presented to DEDEA in August for submission to their Local Economic Development and Green Fund. A lot of work is required to conceptualise what potential could be a sustainability, rural development and climate change programme for the Wild Coast!

## Chintsa Community Food Plants Nursery

**A joint initiative between the Eskom Energy and Sustainability Programme, Eco-Schools, the Friends of Chintsa and local businesses to establish a food plants nursery and community gardens has been officially launched.**

Work began this month with the goat proof fencing being completed and the area cleared for construction of the nursery.

WESSA has a long standing history with a number of older women who are part of the food production programme overseen by Phikisile and Laura Conde together with community gardener Daniel Pherani. "Availability of seedlings is vital to get the gardens producing enough for the home as well as having extra food for sale in the market day project," said Daniel. Daniel has worked to get the businesses and restaurants in Chintsa to commit to purchasing locally grown vegetables at the Friends of Chintsa Market Day.



## Wild Walk 2012 Preparations Begin

**Laura Conde has begun engaging ECPTA, the Wild Coast Project and other potential role players and supporters in planning the Wild Walk 2012.**

This will be the second year the month-long 380km hike down the Wild Coast takes place. It is set for the month of March and Laura suggests that all keen walkers start to diarise their time out. The Wild Walk is a joint initiative between WESSA and Volunteer Africa 32°South, an organisation investing in computer literacy development in rural and peri-urban schools on the southern sector of the Wild Coast.

## WESSA 85th Anniversary Celebration honours Environmental Champions in the Western Cape

**Thirteen outstanding individuals and groups were formally acknowledged by WESSA for their contribution to the South African environmental conservation and environmental education sector at a special ceremony, which took place on Thursday 18 August 2011 in the Silver Tree restaurant at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.**

The annually presented Regional WESSA Awards attracted many nominations this year, all of which spoke of excellent work being done. "Though not all nominations were selected for an award, WESSA will reconsider them for future recognition, especially those linked with environmental initiatives that are likely to gain further evidence of sustainable positive impact over time", said the organisation's Patrick Dowling, Head of Environmental Education for the region. "We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of all the nominees and honoured each one of them at the event", he added.

The 2011 Regional WESSA Awards were presented in a variety of categories to Suzanne du Plessis (Friends of Die Swart Tobie), Niel van Wyk (Friends of Rietvlei and Blaauberg Conservation Area), Jean Fillis (Friends of Kirstenhof Wetland), Kelvin Cochrane (Dressing of the Princess Project at Princess Vlei), Jonathan Deal (Treasure the Karoo Action Group), Friends of Rondebosch Common, Marilyn van der Velden (Recycle Swop Shop in Hermanus), Martin Thompson (City of Cape Town, Catchment Management), Pierre de Villiers (Programme Manager: Marine Protected Areas, Islands and Estuaries; and Co-ordinator: CAPE Estuaries Programme), Vernon Gibbs-Halls (Eden District Municipality Planning and Environmental Unit), Janette Maree du Toit (Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve), the Green Renaissance Filmmaking Team and Elma Pollard (the Green Times).

The Awards had particular significance this year as the presentation ceremony formed part of a special programme of celebrations to mark the occasion of WESSA's 85th anniversary – that is, 85 years of caring for the Earth through pro-active engagement with the challenges and opportunities presented by South Africa's unique natural heritage and with the social and economic systems that depend on it.

WESSA CEO Mumsie Gumedede gave the evening's opening address, in which she outlined the organisation's national strategic direction, and this was followed by number of regional conservation and education reports, which highlighted more local achievements over the past year.



The guest speaker at the event was Braam Malherbe - extreme adventurer, conservationist and 50/50 presenter – who presented an inspirational talk entitled "Re-connect with the wilderness, both without and within". Braam's affiliation with WESSA goes back to the 1970s when he ran 532km in 11 days from Plettenberg Bay to Cape Town to raise funds for WESSA's conservation work with the protection of the Langebaan Lagoon. For this remarkable effort, Braam was Awarded Life Membership of the organization.

Also included in the programme for the evening was the exhibition of an exquisite series of wildlife pencil drawings by local artist Bowen Boshier who generously donated the bulk of the profits from the sale of his works to WESSA's Rhino Fund. Bowen is no stranger to WESSA, having received in 2008 a WESSA Volunteer Award in recognition of the time and energy he had put into tackling various environmental

issues, from inappropriate developments to alien invasive plants.

The convivial event drew a strong attendance of WESSA members, Friends groups, partners, funders and sponsors, and wine for the evening was generously sponsored by Vondeling Wines, a Biodiversity and Wine Initiative-certified estate in the Paardeberg wine region near Wellington.



Mumsie Gumedede (WESSA CEO) with Braam Malherbe.

The award winners are as follows:

In the Individual Category:

Suzanne du Plessis - Friends of Die Swart Tobie  
 Niel van Wyk - Friends of Rietvlei and Blaauberg Conservation Area (BCA)  
 Jean Fillis - Friends of Kirstenhof Wetland  
 Kelvin Cochrane - Dressing of the Princess Project at Princess Vlei

In the Group Category:

Jonathan Deal - Treasure the Karoo Action Group  
 Friends of Rondebosch Common

In the Project Category:

Marilyn van der Velden – Recycle Swop Shop in Hermanus

In the Institution Category:

Martin Thompson – City of Cape Town, Catchment Management  
 Pierre de Villiers – Programme Manager: Marine Protected Areas, Islands and Estuaries; and Co-ordinator: CAPE Estuaries Programme  
 Vernon Gibbs-Halls - Eden District Municipality, Planning and Environmental Unit  
 Janette Maree du Toit - Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve

In the Media and Journalism Category:

The Green Renaissance Filmmaking Team  
 Elma Pollard - The Green Times



All the WESSA Western Cape Award winners.

## WESSA Friends Groups

WESSA has over 50 active Friends Groups throughout South Africa. These are groups of volunteers that band together to conserve, rehabilitate and protect a natural area or space of special interest, and are guided by the mission statement, policies and position statements of WESSA. In this section WESSA would like to pay tribute to these groups of committed individuals who embody and encourage WESSA's mission of building public participation in caring for the Earth.

For more information on getting involved in or establishing a Friends Group, please contact Nina on 033 330 3931.

### Friends of Van Staden

The usual merry band of diehards plus a few visitors arrived for the FOVS work party in July and did sterling work getting rid of Podylarias, Bryophillums and unwanted Virgilia. Even though it was quite a blustery day it was gratifying to see a good number of visitors to the Reserve while we were busy there.

Our next event will be a walk on Lady Slipper on Sunday, August 7. We have brought this event forward to enjoy the luxuriant fynbos after the recent rains. No need to climb, we will drive up the service road at the back of the slipper and start our walk from there. Meet at 9:00 am at the Reserve.

Please please please, we need your old icecream containers or similar. We cut them in strips to label our seedlings and we use lots. Also still wanted are your old coke, fruit juice etc. bottles which we use for seedlings.

### Friends of Rietvlei: New Lions for Rietvlei Nature Reserve

After obtaining permission and the necessary permits we collected three new lions for Rietvlei Nature Reserve on the 21st of June 2011. They were donated from the MacRae family at Horseback Africa near De Tweedespruit, Cullinan. They were born on the 5th of June 2010 and their names are Tau (the male) and his 2 sisters Serabi and River.

All three have excellent personalities and River is the dominant and bigger female. Serabi is the quiet one that is normally on her own mission. Tau is still a little too young for a vasectomy but the procedure will be done in the near future as we are not allowed to breed with them.

We now have 6 Lions at Rietvlei and the 2 groups will be rotated between the big and small camp so that we always have 3 lions to view from the hide at the night rooms. Guided drives to the lions are done from the Coffee Shop in Rietvlei on a daily basis.





### Friends of Moreletaspruit (aka Friends of Serene Valley)

The Friends of Serene Valley sent out an invitation to the local residents to join us on 16 July to give 67 minutes for Mandela Day and to clean up in and around the Moreleta Spruit in Garsfontein, Pretoria. We had a lovely crowd of about 20 volunteers who made a big effort and filled two dustbins plus about 20 black bags with rubbish. Some boys even managed to salvage a roll of razor wire out of the river. It created a lot of awareness of what can be done when a group gets together with a purpose!

### Friends of Nylsvlei

On Monday 15 August a huge hailstorm went through Nylsvley - the 'snow' lasted overnight and for days in some places; the floodplain was like a 'winter wonderland' for several mornings afterwards.

Even in the extra cold conditions bird guide Lucas observed Marabou Stork, African Rail, Barred Wren-Warbler, Cape Penduline Tit, Burnt-necked Eremomela, Lizard Buzzard and Red-billed Teals going about their daily business. The worst affected area was on the high ground around the gate complex, there was no hail at Vogelfontein or in the main reserve. Some 30mm rain was recorded with 97mm in the worst affected area. Some of the car ports were damaged from the sheer weight of the hail!

We thank John and Jean Barrow for hosting us on a five star work party weekend 12-14 August at Barrowdale in the catchment. We are so lucky to have caring owners who are looking after a tributary to the Nyl. We have sincere hopes that the Ostrich farm, their neighbour, is cutting down the volume of birds being produced which will eventually make a great deal of difference to the quality of water reaching our floodplain. We did the back breaking work of follow up of Black wattle; apparently they have been trying to clear up this area for 10 years. We hope our efforts will not need any more attention, still plenty more to do! Jan Smuts always used to say he wanted the grass to grow right up to his front door well there was a leopard kill within walking distance of our accommodation! At Nylsvley Hedley and Lainey Herring observed signs of our resident leopard whilst measuring the roads for the new trail notices we are working on.



I have tracked down a supplier of humane traps that we would like to purchase to collect the last of the feral cats that are still hanging around. Please report sightings to the staff so that we can monitor where they are resident. Thank you.

The meeting at Mokopane about the proposed platinum mine on the Nyl floodplain was well supported and facilitated. We thank Ron Mengell and Clive Poole for their attendance and now have to get the last of the submissions in.

We welcome new members Leonore van der Merwe and Des and Magda Blignaut, and hope you will enjoy helping us to do good things for Nylsvley.

Natasha reports that there are 7 Roan calves (hope they survived the cold) on Nylsvley and another 9 on the near by ammunition depot. About 1 km fencing has been replaced and work is proceeding to get the watering points refitted. They are still waiting for PWD to measure the depth for the solar water pump; apparently they have a shortage of transport?

As a result of the Important Bird Area Assessment supervised by Ernst Retief of BirdLife South Africa in July we are instituting a continuous monitoring of the birds programme. We would appreciate it if you would report any unusual sightings to reception who will list it for you on our weekly report. Edwin Muneri (071 091 3511) our resident Bird guide, is our chief spotter but help from visitors will be welcome.

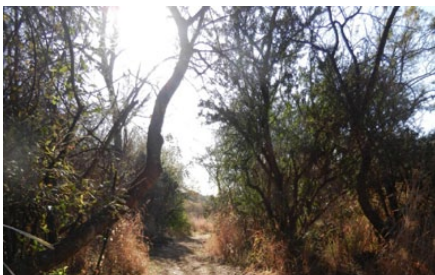
The next Woodland Bird Consensus will be taking place over the weekend 27-19 January 2012, where we will also be looking, once again, for some sponsorship.

### Friends of Moreleta Kloof

The Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve is situated in the middle of Moreleta Park and consists of grasslands, thick bush and the Rademeyerspruit which flows through wetlands with its different species of birds. We also have a Sugar bush ridge with the most beautiful view over the Reserve.

Zebra, Blesbuck, Impala, Springbuck and Duiker are seen near the various trails. The trails vary in length and ensure walks that zigzag through thick bush with lovely lookout points and the sound of water flowing among the trees. Nature Conservation is very involved with the 100 hectare Reserve, as you will find when you walk on the clean cut grassy pathways.

The first signs of spring are already visible in the Willows near the dam and in the birdsong among the trees. The best time to take a walk is early in the morning when everything is cool and serene. At this time all you hear is the song of the birds and the sound of water. All other sounds disappear and you can imagine yourself in a world far away from the concrete jungle. We are also in the fortunate position to have Rademeyers Restaurant Chapel and Venue Centre located in the Reserve. All buildings are museum declared buildings dating back to 1880 with the original owners being the Rademeyer Family.



The Friends of Moreleta Kloof are planning to build a wheelchair-friendly trail with two rest decks, a big bird hide and a toilet. The trail will have kerbing along the sides, enabling blind people to use the trail. We are currently raising funds for this trail which will be used for exercise, rehabilitation and outings with your family and friends. This trail will be built on existing trails that has been in use for many years. Please visit our website ([www.moreletakloof.co.za](http://www.moreletakloof.co.za)) for more information on how to get involved in our wheelchair project, or how to become a friend of Moreleta Kloof, or even just to find out what we are up

to as we arrange regular walks to identify and ring birds, learn more about scorpions or do an educational walk for schoolchildren and scouts.

## Friends of Montagu Nature Garden

The Changing Face of Montagu Nature Garden under the supervision of Sander Hahndiek, the voluntary garden curator, and backed by a fleet of dumper trucks, swept away a bed of invasive reeds and added another environment to this part of our haven of peace. A mirror of reflective water is now being frequented by a variety of insects and a new range of birds. The native blue water lily has been introduced and a small island created to house a dead tree to add temporary character, while a live tree grows to take its place. This has only been achieved after many hours of muddy work by our two gardeners lifting any reed regrowth before the water level was allowed to rise to its present height.



## Friends of Doringkloof Spruit

Before the establishment of the Friends Group in 2008, the Doringkloof Spruit was managed by the Parks Department of the Town Council. There was no money budgeted for this and all they did was cut the grass and trees short with weed eaters periodically or when there were complaints. This allowed the kukuyu to take over.

Then, when the Friends group was formed, in partnership with Nature Conservation, they started the rehabilitation of the spruit. Indigenous trees were planted, and the group was allowed to put fences up. Prior to the establishment of Friends of Doringkloof Spruit, the group was not allowed to erect fences merely as a Neighbourhood Watch, which was at the same time something DNW wanted to do to control the escape route of the criminals targeting our suburb. The spruit was then encouraged to return to its natural state for which it was intended - to purify the water on its way to the Hennops River, and ultimately the Hartebeestpoort Dam.

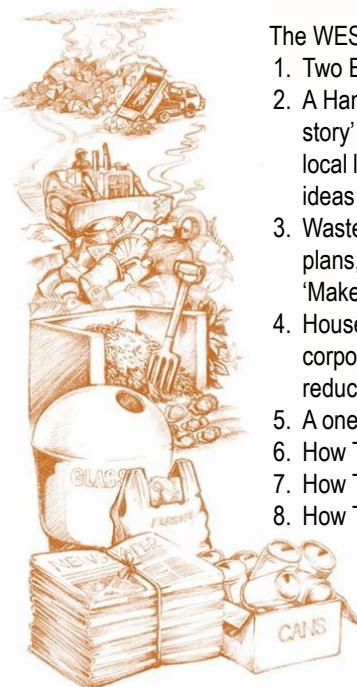


When Nature Conservation saw that FODS was serious and did not give up in the first year, their interest in the spruit also became serious. They started budgeting for the Nature Area! Because of this, reports have to be written for every action done in the spruit. This is then forwarded to the Head of Tshwane(South) Nature Conservation, who then in turn forwards it to her boss. All meetings have to be minuted and these are also sent on.

Consequently, the more the Friends group does, the more NC will do from their side, so every bit that we all do together, actually counts a lot!

**Did you know that if all household paper and cardboard was recycled, ¾ million m3 of landfill space would be saved each year!** Waste management is an area where everyone can make a contribution to living lightly on the planet. Less waste means less pollution! Waste can be minimized by reducing what we consume, re-using items several times, recycling those things that cannot be re-used, and recovering energy from waste that is burnt, or that rots.

**WESSA Share-Net has put together a pack of 'waste' resource materials to support you with home, school or community waste related activities – especially with National Clean-Up Week (12-17 September) and Recycling Day South Africa (16 September) coming up next month.**



The WESSA Share-Net Waste Pack includes:

1. Two Enviro Facts - Waste Management and Hazardous Waste.
2. A Handprint Resource Book - Recycling, Waste Reduction and Creative Re-Use. This booklet includes a 'start-up school story' (Waste reduction and creative re-use beats recycling at a Grahamstown school); comprehension questions to guide local learning; discussion points to start local enquiry and action; finding out activities, trying out activities; and deliberation ideas to think carefully about and debate.
3. Waste Education in Schools - A resource pack containing units of work for active learning. The pack includes five lesson plans, 10 fact sheets (including 'Composting', 'Sources of Waste', 'Green Shopping', 'Paper Recycling', 'Can Recycling', 'Make Articles from Waste') and more.
4. Household Environmental Management. The Household Environmental Management Plan provides a framework for incorporating sustainable living practices into our daily routines. It also offers a range of specific suggestions of how we can reduce our impact on the planet and act with environmental responsibility.
5. A one-page personal audit on waste from the booklet, "My Carbon Footprint".
6. How To: Make Compost and Liquid Manure
7. How To: Make Recycled Paper
8. How To: Turn Useless Plastic into a Useful Bag

The cost of the 2011 WESSA Share-Net Waste Pack is R75 – this price includes postage and packaging. To place your order, please contact Hazel on [hazel@wessa.co.za](mailto:hazel@wessa.co.za) or phone WESSA Share-Net on (033) 330 3931 ext 124.