



Newsletter: January 2012

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FILMING OF MODDERFONTEIN MEMORIES UNDERWAY

Members of your Society and a crew of professional film production specialists gathered at historic Franz Hoenig Haus during December to begin filming interview sequences for The Modderfontein Movie.

"It was important to begin getting some of the planned footage into the can before the end of the year," says cinematographer Vincent Cox who is directing the film. "We needed to capture some words and pictures of Jones Segooa – caretaker of Franz Hoenig Haus – before he retired at the end of the year."

Past Modderfontein Factory manager Len Larson interviewed Jones for the cameras which captured a few of their mutual memories of a very different Modderfontein of 40 years ago.

And going back even further, 91 year old Jessie Broady also shared some of her personal childhood memories of the social life of the village.

The production team includes production secretary Debi Cox, cameraman Bryan Deuchar, camera assistants Nic Bosman and Simon Brand a Wits University student who is an up and coming camera man in his own right, sound recordist Bob Hay and boom swinger Daryl Hay.

According to Keith Martin who holds our heritage portfolio, it is necessary to gather as much information as possible from those folk who still remember early times in Modderfontein. "None of us is getting any younger," he says, "so it's time to try and preserve as much of the



Director Vincent Cox operates the clapper board, while cameraman Bryan Deuchar and camera assistant Nic Bosman roll the film. Jones Segooa and Len Larson await the "Action!" call in the grounds of Franz Hoenig Haus.



Jones Segooa, caretaker of Franz Hoenig Haus retired at the end of 2011 after more than 40 years service at Modderfontein.

social history of Modderfontein as we can."

Keith has put out a call to people living in all the areas surrounding Modderfontein who may have relevant memories or memorabilia to contact him and share their reminiscences. If you can help with memories or artifacts or would like to get involved in the production of the movie, Keith can be contacted on 011 608 2864 or 082 450 4003.



Peter Ewen and Len Larson admire the view from the balcony of Franz Hoenig Haus

Diarise the date

World Earth Day celebrations

The Modderfontein Conservation Society will again be hosting a World Earth Day celebration this year.

It will be held in the Reserve on Friday 20 April and is being co-ordinated by Pat van Nierop.

Help is always welcome and if you'd like to get involved give Pat a ring on 011-882-4392 or 083-326-6838.

Sally's spring spectacular



It was almost like a scene from *Sound of Music* – the wildflowers came out in their numbers in a field just to the west of the koppie. It made one feel like doing an imitation of Maria and dancing through the field to the sound of music.

The field was first noticed by Sally Hogan as a group of Tuesday walkers were making their way towards the koppie. Two immediate suggestions for a name for the field were 'Garden of Eden' and 'Sally's Field'.

"The prolific purple and white bush which covers most of the area is, subject to expert correction, *Vernonia oligocephala* (*Bitterbossie*)," says Ken England who captured this photograph showing "a rather fine *Boophane disticha*, commonly known as poison bulb, tumbleweed and various other names".

... Later, the next field played host to a plethora of poppies ...



On a warm and sunny day, after a week of fierce winds and chilly temperatures, Tricia Llewellyn and Jen & John Cruickshank led a walk for 20 members of the Continuity Club in the Modderfontein Reserve.

The group was delighted to see game and a variety of birds during the walk which later split into two with John and Jen taking in the Ladybird Tree and Apiesbos and Tricia returning to Fish Eagle dam with her group.

The former group took another hour or so to return and reckoned on having done approximately 14 km, whereas Tricia's group had completed only an estimated 8 km.

Continuity Club walk in the Reserve



Tricia Llewellyn (left) and John & Jen Cruickshank (right) led the walk.

Once everyone was back we settled down to picnic lunch and a lot of pleasant chatter," Tricia reports. "Everyone said how much they had enjoyed the walk and were quite keen to do another one in the not too distant future."

Edenvale Lions Club treats children to an outing

Members of the Edenvale Lions Club treated 23 children from the Johannesburg Children's Home (JCH) to an outing in the Modderfontein Reserve late last year.

It was the Club's contribution to the Lions International Club's World Service Day and was organised by Marilyn Mc Taggart who is also a member of the Modderfontein Conservation Society.

Members of the JCH staff and Lions Club volunteers took the children to the Reserve where they met up with walk leader John Cruickshank and committee member Norman Doak who took them for a nature walk. Two young students from Holy Rosary Convent in Edenvale also helped supervise the children as part of their Community Service programme.

There was much excitement when one child spied a crab for the first time and the group witnessed thousands of ladybirds gathered on a tree along the route.

The children were encouraged to ask about any aspect of nature or the area during the walk which concluded with hot-dogs and cool drinks at Fish Eagle Dam.

EAGLE OWL SPOTTED AT THORNHILL MANOR



This Spotted Eagle owl intrigued residents of Thornhill Manor as it sat in one position all day watching the comings and goings in the village. The MCS was alerted to its presence and resident photographer Ken England captured the bird on film.



BUSY BUSY BUSY



The last quarter of 2011 was a really busy period and your committee was a bit stretched at times. But, fortunately, a few members stepped in to help and the Society managed to acquit itself very well. Heritage Day 'kicked off' the hectic period. Robbie took some 50 people on two walks round the Modderfontein Heritage Precinct. Pam, Tricia, Ken, Peter and Norman helped out by keeping watch on The Dynamite Company Museum and Franz Hoenig Haus.

Sally Hogan put together a display board showing (photographically) how the three Antwerp Avenue houses were moved to the 'Resurrection Ground' in High Street. Along with other items of interest, she used the display at a ConSoc info table at the St Francis in the Wood bumper morning market at the beginning of October. Several members helped out by manning the table during the event.

Then there were those who helped out at the SA Emergency Care Fire Training Centre competition. This was a two day event including a professional firefighter's competition on the Thursday (100 people) and a 'corporate' competition on the Friday (200 people). As in 2010, your Society was asked to help out with the preparation and sale of boerewors rolls and hot dogs. Carol volunteered to organize the effort and managed to get several folk to help out. They did a great job and the Society will receive a portion of the profits for their efforts.

The very next day John & Jen, who helped out at the SAEC competition on the Thursday and Friday, took a Johannesburg Children's Home walk in the Reserve. Lesley also did a similar double duty and of course, Norman is always in evidence and pitching in enthusiastically.

It would be nice to see more members getting involved in our activities. Those who come along and pitch in enjoy themselves and get to know others better. Let Carol have your details if you'd like to get more involved. Her numbers are: 011 443 4114 or 082 906 5794.



Sally Hogan with Douglas Armstrong

REMEMBER! REMEMBER!

Star attractions



JANUARY

Julie Wilcox

"Messages from Clouds"

FEBRUARY

Jill Hogan on

"Sustainable Building"

MARCH

AGM and

"Spectacular Nature"

photo presentation

by Edenvale

Photographic Club.



AFRICAN TWIG MANTIS



Have you ever seen one of these? Its scientific name is ***Popa spurca***, but its common name is the **African twig mantis**, a species of praying mantis native to Africa. It takes its common name from its resemblance to a twig from a woody plant and grows up to eight centimetres long if female or seven if male. Photographed by Lucia Cowan.

VIEW FROM THE SUMMIT



Robbie, Lesley and Tricia pause to take in the view from our koppie during a flower spotting expedition. Photograph by Ken England.

**MODDERFONTEIN CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Programme of events: 2012**

January	Saturday	07	07:00	Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday	19	19:30	Julie Wilcox talks on "Messages from Clouds"
	Sunday	29	07:30	Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays	all	08:00	Walk in the Reserve – John Clark 082 509 9856
	Contact: Norman Doak on 011 608 2537 or 082 447 9293			
February	Saturday	11	07:00	Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday	16	19:30	Jill Hogan discusses "Sustainable Building"
	Sunday	26	07:30	Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays	all	08:00	Walk in the Reserve – John Clark 082 509 9856
	Contact: Carol Sherwood on 011 443 4114 or 082 906 5794			
March	Saturday	10	07:30	Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday	22	19:30	AGM and "Spectacular Nature" exhibition by Edenvale Photographic Club
	Sunday	25	07:30	Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays	all	08:00	Walk in the Reserve – John Clark 082 509 9856
	Contact: Janet Brodrick on 011 4541801 or 072 679 6461			
April	Saturday	07	07:30	Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday	19	19:30	Raptor Lady Lorna Stanton takes a close-up look at owls
	Sunday	29	07:30	Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays	all	08:00	Walk in the Reserve – John Clark 082 509 9856
	Contact: Rajen Reddy on 071 686 0631 or 011 709 8726			

- **Saturday and Sunday walks** leave from the Reserve gates in Ardeer Road at the advertised times
- **Tuesday walkers** meet in the CSIR parking area opposite the gates to the Reserve
- **FOR ALL WALKS, BE THERE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFOREHAND**
- **Charges:** Visitors pay R10 for walks and R20 for evening talks; members pay R10 for evening talks

YOUR COMMITTEE

Name	Portfolio	Home phone	Cell phone	Office phone
Ellen van Dongen	Chairman	011-462-3067	082-813-9611	011-606-0843
Pat van Nierop	Vice Chairman	011-882-4392	083-326-6838	
John Clark	Tuesday walks	011-454-1801	082-509-9856	
Norman Doak	Community liaison	011-608-2537	082-447-9293	
Robbie Vermont	Membership	011-608-2693	082-800-3704	
Patricia Llewellyn	Treasurer	011-882-4114	082-497-9241	
Keith Martin	Heritage	011-608-2864	082-450-4003	
Janet Brodrick	Speaker liaison	011-453-3910	072-679-6461	
Peter Ewen	Reserve development	011-608-4043	076-377-3263	
Daryl Fuchs	Technology		083 395 0778	
Carol Sherwood		011-443-4114	082-906-5794	
Rajen Reddy			071-686-0631	011-709-8726
Sally Hogan		011-608-3089	082-291-8084	

TELL US ABOUT IT

If you've changed your phone number or address please remember to tell Membership Secretary Robbie Vermont about it. If you're receiving a black & white hard copy of this newsletter and have an e-mail address, tell Robbie.
IT'S MUCH NICER IN COLOUR.

Photocopying by courtesy of TOPTURF for landscaping, irrigation, golf courses and maintenance. Dedicated to the 'Art of Green'

Tel: 011 606 2521 E-mail: topturf@topturf.co.za Visit www.topturf.co.za

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Modderfontein Conservation Society.