

Newsletter: December 2012

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RESERVE TRAILS BEING MARKED & REFINED

Working closely with Luke Strugnell and Graham Millard of the EWT and Samkelo Mncube of Dhlamini Tree Fellers, committee members John Cruickshank and Sally Hogan are making significant inroads into the massive task of laying out a number of walking trails which will be properly marked and made accessible to members of the public who pay their entrance fee at the Modderfontein Reserve gates.

The plan is to include a number of side loops to take walkers past places of interest where information boards will be placed to tell folk about the area.

As many as 45 points of interest have been identified in the Reserve. This list will be refined to include only the more interesting aspects of the trails but do provide an insight into the remarkable amount of interest contained in the Reserve.

Join the growing bank of Honorary Reserve Rangers

MCS members can volunteer a little of their time to act as Honorary Rangers in the Modderfontein Reserve and receive free entry to the Reserve for their work.

This involves patrolling the Reserve for a day or two in a month, depending on the number of people who volunteer. An early start is needed to collect a two-way radio from the security office at the Pineland Office Park and ensure that the gate is being manned.

Rangers will also be required to patrol the area and make sure that visitors are abiding by the rules which are posted at the entry gate and parking areas. They should also alert the EWT of any untoward activity taking place or incidences of accident, illness or emergencies of any type.

To help you carry out these duties, rangers are equipped with a two-way radio and a magnetic sign for the door of your vehicle indicating Honorary Ranger status and authority.

Anyone living close to the Reserve need not stay there all day, but should return from time to time to ensure all is OK, and to lock down the Reserve at the end of the day.

For your services you will be given a Modderfontein Reserve shirt and free access to the Reserve at all times. Luke Strugnell is coordinating this effort and allocation of duty days depends on how much help we can rely on. If this interests you, please contact: Ellen van Dongen on 082 813 9611 or drop her an e-mail on Ellen.vandongen@aelms.com

**The Modderfontein
Conservation Society
Committee wishes all
members a wonderful,
blessed Christmas and a
safe and healthy 2013**



Christmas party change of venue

**NOTE
WELL**

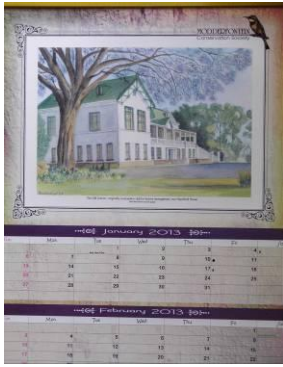
As we are unable to use the facilities at Isidleke, and the SAEC venue is unavailable, we have made a plan to have our end-of-year braai at the Modderfontein Town Hall, until we can return to a suitable venue in the Reserve

The facilities at the Town Hall are good. There's a protected space in the quadrangle, there's electricity, there's water and there are toilets, so everything we need is available.

Keith Martin will host a **Heritage Walk** starting at the Town Hall at 16:00.

Fires will be lit at 18:00. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please remember to bring all you will need – chairs, tables, food drink, crockery and cutlery.



CALENDARS SELLING WELL

Anyone who has not yet bought 2013 Conservation Society calendars could be disappointed. They are selling well and have received compliments from all sectors of the Modderfontein community.

This is the third Heritage Buildings calendar illustrated by Ken England's watercolour paintings. Both previous editions were sold out.

Your committee expresses its thanks to our calendar sponsors for their continued support: AEL Mining Services (AELMS) and Heartland.

Copies of the calendar are available from the Modderfontein Post Office where Carol provides this service free of charge as a contribution to the Society, or at Society activities at just R20.00 each.

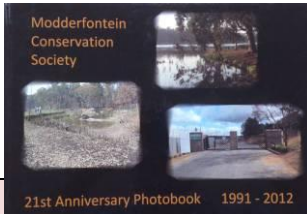


Ken England – the artist

Great Christmas gift idea



Copies of the MCS 21st Birthday photo book are still available. They look good on your coffee table and make a very nice conversation piece.



60 Pages • Over 300 photographs • Limited edition • R450

Enquiries to Robbie Vermont at 082 800 3704 or 011 608 2693 or any committee member.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Name	Portfolio	Home phone	Cell phone	Office phone	E-mail
Ellen van Dongen	Chairman	011-462-3067	082-813-9611	011-606-0843	Ellen.VanDongen@aelms.com
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John Clark	Tuesday walks	011-454-1801	082-509-9856		
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Robbie Vermont	Membership	011-608-2693	082-800-3704		robbiev@netactive.co.za
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Sally Hogan	Special Projects	011-608-3089	082-291-8084		shogan@global.co.za

TELL US ABOUT IT

If you've changed your phone number or address please remember to tell Membership Secretary Robbie Vermont about it. We'd like to stay in touch but cannot unless we know where you are. Also, if your membership status changes, please let us know

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"CONSERVATION IN ACTION"

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

MODDERFONTEIN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Programme of events: 2013

(Issued 30.11.2012)

January	Saturday 5 07:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 17 19:30 "Beautiful Butterflies" – talk by Steve Woodhall
	Sunday 27 07:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays: all 08:00 Walk in the Reserve with John Clark 082-509-9856
	Contact: Norman Doak (h) 011 608 2537 (c) 082 447 9293
February	Saturday 2 07:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 21 19:30 "Lowtech and Simple Food" – talk by Tony Lopez
	Sunday 24 07:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays: all 08:00 Walk in the Reserve with John Clark 082-509-9856
	Contact: Carol Sherwood (h) 011 443 4114 (c) 082 906 5794
March	Saturday 2 07:30 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 14 19:30 AGM and "Clicking on Nature" photos by Dave Gordon*
	Sunday 24 07:30 Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays: all 08:00 Walk in the Reserve with John Clark 082 509 9856
	Contact: Janet Brodrick (h)011 453 3910 (c) 072 679 6461
April	Saturday 6 07:30 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 18 19:30 To be advised
	Sunday 28 07:30 Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays: all 08:00 Walk in the Reserve with John Clark 082 509 9856
	Contact: Rajen Reddy (c) 071 686 0631 (o) 011 709 8726
May	Saturday 4 08:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 23 19:30 To be advised
	Sunday 26 08:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays: all 08:30 Walk in the Reserve with John Clark 082-509-9856
	Contact: John Clark (h) 011 454 1801 (c) 082 509 9856
June	Saturday 8 08:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 20 19:30 To be advised
	Sunday 23 08:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays: all 08:30 Walk in the Reserve with John Clark 082-509-9856
	Contact: Ellen van Dongen (h) 011 462 3067 (c) 082 813 9611
July	Saturday 13 08:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 18 19:30 Pam's Annual Quiz
	Sunday 28 08:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays: all 08:30 Walk in the Reserve with John Clark 082 509 9856
	Contact: Pam & Robbie Vermont (h) 011 608 2693 (c) 082 800 3704

August	Saturday 10 08:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 22 19:30 Luke Strugnell update on Reserve rehabilitation
	Sunday 25 08:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays: all 08:30 Walk in the Reserve with John Clark 082-509-9856
	Contact: Keith Martin (h) 011 608 2864 (c) 082 450 4003
September	Saturday 7 07:30 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 19 19:30 Heritage Month/Heritage talk Sally Hogan & Keith Martin*
	Tuesday 24 08:00 & 10:30 Heritage Walks – Robbie on 082 800 3704
	Sunday 29 07:30 Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays: all 08:00 Walk in the Reserve with John Clark 082-509-9856
	Contact: Daryl Fuchs (c) 083 395 0778
October	Saturday 5 07:30 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 17 19:30 To be advised
	Sunday 27 07:30 Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays: all 08:00 Walk in the Reserve with John Clark 082 509 9856
	Contact: Patricia Llewellyn (h) 011 882 4114 (c) 082 497 9241
November	Saturday 9 07:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 21 19:30 To be advised
	Sunday 24 07:00 Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays: all 08:00 Walk in the Reserve with John Clark 082 509 9856
	Contact: Sally Hogan (h) 011 608 3089 (c) 082 291 8084
December	Friday 6 16:00 End of year walk and braai. The walk will start at 16:00 and the braais lit at 18:00. Come when you can and bring your own food, drinks, cutlery, crockery and something to sit on.
	Tuesdays: all 08:00 Walk in the Reserve with John Clark 082-509-9856
	Contact: Any committee member

Notes:

- **Saturday and Sunday walks** leave from the Nature Reserve gates in Ardeer Road promptly at the advertised times.
- **Tuesday walkers** meet in the Pinelands Office Park parking area opposite the gates to the Reserve.
- **Bird Walks** are held on the first Saturday of every month.
For times and info: Pat Ayling on 082 465 3683 or Pat van Nierop on 083 326 6838.
- **Heritage Day walks – bookings essential.** Call Robbie or Keith. Cost R30.00 per person
- **FOR ALL WALKS, BE THERE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFOREHAND**
- **Evening meetings** take place in the Modderfontein Town Hall at 1 Casino Road.
- **Charges:** Visitors pay R10 for walks and R20 for evening talks; members pay R10 for evening talks. Conservation fee to enter Reserve – R30/adult and R15/child or pensioner.

* Subject to be confirmed