



BOAZ GIVES AN UPDATE

With photographs taken in the Modderfontein Reserve
By Reserve Manager, Boaz Tsebe and the EWT's Shumani Makwarela

Boaz Tsebe's annual review in August touched on so many different aspects of the Modderfontein Reserve, it could have made a grown lion cry. His presentation was highly professional and well structured to ensure a comprehensive overview.



Chairman Ellen van Dongen wields the spade while Carol Sherwood and Pat van Nierop lend a helping hand.

Areas of the Reserve activities he reported on included: alien plant invasions, grounds upkeep, fire prevention and control, tree planting, flood damage and repair, juggling the interests of the various users of the Reserve, managing the wildlife, including snakes and rats and mice, soil erosion, (Continued on page 2)




**The Modderfontein
Conservation
Society Committee
wishes all members
a wonderful,
blessed Christmas
and a safe and
healthy 2019**

REMEMBER, REMEMBER

Friday 30 November: End of year walk and braai at the Education Centre lapa. The walk will start at 16:00 and the braais will be lit at 18:00. Come when you can and bring your own food, drinks, cutlery, crockery, lamp and something to sit on.

Boaz's update

(Continued from page 1)

educational activities, Honorary Ranger activities and a host of additional duties and responsibilities which have been described as an awesome task that requires a wide range of skills, from game ranch management to public relations and inter-personal interaction with all the stakeholders, not only in the Reserve, but in the

communities surrounding it. On the night it was remarked: "If Boaz had to tell you all he does in the course of his day-to-day activities, we'd be here a week so let's be thankful he agreed to limit his talk to fit in with our regular schedule".



MEMORIAL QUIZ WINNERS



Winners of the Pam Vermont Memorial quiz are: Trish Llewellyn, Carol Sherwood, Pat van Nierop, Peter Olive and Doe & Gus Coward. Photo: Shumani



A remarkable photo, taken by one of Boaz's camera traps of a Bush pig in the Reserve.

Furnishing required

Boaz has a new baby girl – Naledi – and is acquiring a new house. He needs to furnish his new home and is seeking good pre-loved items. If you have any furnishings you are not using – or maybe you're downsizing and need to divest some items – perhaps you could contact Boaz and discuss terms with him. His contact number is: 076-528-6502 and his email is: boazt@ewt.org.za

SCOUTING AROUND

Honorary Life Member Norman Doak continues to devote a great deal of time to advancing scouting in our district and making use of the facilities in the Reserve to educate and motivate so many young people. In a resumé of second quarter activities, Norman reports:

April

- 05 to 08 - Girl Ranger Group camp at Lapa
- 06 to 08 - Scout District camp at Lapa
- 06 to 08 - Scout camp and work party at Scout Shed
- 13 to 15 - Scout camp at Scout Shed

May

- 12 to 13 - Scout camp and work party at Scout shed
- 12 – Brownie Hike

JUNE

- 09 to 10 - Scout camp and work party at Scout Shed

"The Brownie Hike on 12 May comprised about 30 girls which I split into three groups of about 10 each, with their parents," reports Norman. "Grateful thanks to Sean Byrne and Carol Sherwood who took a group each and walked different routes in the Reserve. I walked my group up into the Game Area where we sat under a tree and had snacks and the animals were so curious they came quite close. I had the kids sit quietly and they were entranced by the wild animals coming to look at them."

RANGER DUTY REPORT FOR SATURDAY 2ND JUNE

CYCLIST AIRLIFTED TO HOSPITAL AFTER RESERVE SPILL

Report and photographs by Jenny Gough

During her Hon Ranger duty, Jenny Gough records having seen a car across Fish Eagle Dam and wondering what the driver was getting up to. Norman Doak was also present and set off in his vehicle to investigate. Jenny takes up the story: Norman found it was a security vehicle that had been sent to find a cyclist who had crashed. He came back to tell us that the man was badly injured and an ambulance had been called. He was going to meet the ambulance and guide it to the cyclist near the scout hut.

Shortly after, another ambulance from Netcare arrived at the dam with a paramedics' response vehicle. I called Norm and he asked me to show the paramedics the way to the scout hut as there was already an ER 24 ambulance there treating the injured man. I went in the vehicle leaving new Hon Ranger Jen Dalrymple to take charge at the picnic area.



The cyclist had hit a rock, fallen over the handlebars and hit his head on another rock. His helmet was badly dented. ER 24 ambulance crew were treating his head injury and he complained of neck pain. His neck had been immobilised and a drip set up. Concerned about further damage to his neck the paramedics decided he could not be transported on the rough road to Crab crossing to exit the Reserve. A helicopter was called. A suitable landing site was chosen between the scout hut and the "Froggie Ponds". The security official who had driven the rescue vehicle was concerned about the area being a no-flying zone.



I had called Shumani to ask him for Jen Dalrymple's number so that I could tell her what was going on. Shumani said that the ambulance could use the Reserve gate at Fish Eagle View to reach Busamed hospital, but that too was not possible due to the uneven surface of the road over Crab Crossing.

Once the helicopter had taken off with the patient

Norman took the two cyclists who had been with the injured man back to Isidleke with the cycles. He then took me back to Fish Eagle dam. I was so grateful to Jen for staying to watch my things that had been left when I took off. She soon left as it had not been her intention to stay "on duty". Norman went to check on his cubs.

What started off as a very slow quiet day ended up being hectic. I would just like to add that we got feed-back on the Monday that the injured cyclist had no broken bones and had been sent from Milpark hospital to Union hospital as he lives in or near Alberton. His family was very grateful for the help he had received.

**HERITAGE
DAY A HUGE
SUCCESS**

Over 50 people participated in Keith & Robbie's Heritage Walks on Heritage Day. Many folks also visited the Dynamite Museum and Franz Höenig Haus which were open to the public on the day



Robbie Vermont (green shirt) chats with his group of walkers at the Modderfontein memorial outside the Town Hall. Photograph: Jeanette Simpson



(Left) Chairman Ellen van Dongen and Pat van Nierop discuss where to relocate plants threatened by development taking place on the boundaries of the Reserve. (Right): Peter Grube carves the hot chicken he brought to a Tuesday walk to celebrate his birthday. (Below): Tuesday walkers ready for the off as Peter Olive looks on. Photos: Shumani Makwarela



YOUR COMMITTEE

Name	Portfolio	Home phone	Cell phone	E-mail
Ellen van Dongen	Chairman Education	011-462-3067	082-813-9611	ellen@vandokem.co.za
Sally Hogan	Vice Chairman EWT Liaison & Education	011-608-3089	082-291-8084	shogan@global.co.za
Janet Brodrick	Minutes & Tuesday walks	011-686-1930	072-679-6461	janet7@vodamail.co.za
Peter Ewen	Reserve Development	011-608-4043	076-377-3263	petemar@gam.co.za
Daryl Fuchs	Technology		083 395 0778	cyclotron@freestateprojects.org
Jenny Gough	Speaker Liaison	011-452-2201	082-685-0959	jagough@mailone.co.za
Patricia Llewellyn	Treasury	011-882-4114	082-497-9241	llewelluntricia@gmail.com
Keith Martin	Heritage	011-608-2864	082-450-4003	keith2864@gmail.com
Peter Olive	Education & Special Projects	011-609-4708	083-461-6221	polive@mweb.co.za
Carol Sherwood	Special Projects & Treasury	011-524-0296	082-906-5794	csherwood@telkomsa.net
Pat van Nierop	Birding & CAER Committee	011-882-4392	083-326-6838	pat.nierop@mweb.co.za
Robbie Vermont	Membership & Publicity	011-608-2693	082-800-3704	robbiev@netactive.co.za

MODDERFONTEIN IN THE 1890's – REEF MAN TURNS BACK THE CLOCK

Reproduced from AE&CI Reporter Vol 11 No 12 December 1967

There are not too many people left who remember Modderfontein as it looked many years ago, but recently 'Reporter' met Louis Leftin who started a shop in Modder in 1896. Today he has only his memories of the old factory as it has changed to such an extent that it is completely unrecognisable to him.



Mr Leftin came to Modderfontein from Latvia when he was 21 and he and a Mr Gordon started a general dealer's shop at the area known as 'Italy' as so many Italians lived there. "The Manager of Modderfontein at that time was Dr F Höenig. Today, there is probably nobody left that I still know," said 93-year-old Mr Leftin.

TRUCK

During the Anglo-Boer War Mr Leftin was sent to Natal in a cattle railway truck, for lack of any other means of transport. He returned in 1901 and opened a new shop in 1902. His son, Jules Leftin, was born in Modderfontein and also went to

school there. Mr Leftin still remembers how he had to call out the doctor from Modderfontein Factory to attend at his wife's confinement.

Mr Leftin was very interested to know if the old Modderfontein Club still existed. "We used to have many a good dance there when the club was first opened," he said. "Unfortunately, I don't dance any more, and I won't be able to accept any invitation even if I was asked to go today."

In 1917 he bought the Newclare Smelting Works and soon moved the business to its present premises at 204 Eloff Street Extension. His business is known as 'the smelting works that doesn't smelt' as smelting hasn't taken place since 1935.

MODDERFONTEIN IN THE 1890's – REEF MAN TURNS BACK THE CLOCK (Conclusion)

Mr Leftin runs the business with the aid of his son, son-in-law and three grandsons and they supply the mining industry, structural engineering concerns and, in fact, industry as a whole with steel, tools and fastenings for all trades.

MODDERFONTEIN CONSERVATION SOCIETY Programme of events: 2018	
October	Sunday 14 08:30 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 18 19:30 Talk: Conservation of the Waterberg Plateau by Richard Wadley from Mokabi Lodge on the Moletadikgwa Wildlife Sanctuary.
	Sunday 28 08:30 Walk in the Reserve
	Tuesdays: all 08:00 Walk in the Reserve with Janet Brodrick - 072 679 6461
	Contact: Patricia Llewellyn (h) 011 882 4114 (c) 082 497 9241
November	Sunday 11 08:30 Walk in the Reserve
	Thursday 15 19:30 Talk: The Plight of the East Coast Humpbacked Dolphins by Shanan Atkins from Wits University
	Sunday 25 08:30 Walk in the Reserve
	Friday 30 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, something to sit on and lights for the night.
	Tuesdays: all 08:00 Walk in the Reserve with Janet Brodrick on 072 679 6461
	Contact: Sally Hogan (h) 011 608 3089 (c) 082 291 8084
December	Tuesdays: all 08:00 Walk in the Reserve with Janet Brodrick - 072 679 6461
	Contact: Any committee member

SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE (web page: www.modderconserve.org)

Notes:

- **Sunday and Tuesday walks** leave from Fish Eagle Dam in the Reserve promptly at the advertised times.
- **Bird Walks** are usually held on the first Friday or 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 (082 800 3704) or Keith (082 450 4003). Cost R50.00 per person
- **FOR ALL WALKS: BE THERE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFOREHAND**
- **Evening meetings** take place behind the Church on the Way in the old Modderfontein Town Hall at 1 Casino Road.
- **Charges:** Visitors pay R10 for walks and R30 for evening talks; members pay R10 for evening talks. Conservation fee to enter Reserve – R30/adult and R15/child or pensioner.

TELL US ABOUT IT

If you've changed your phone number, address or status 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.