



Friends of Bracken NATURE RESERVE

Newsletter / Nuusbriëf

Meet the Reserve Staff



Tshupo Mamabolo, Reserve Manager



Nokuzola Tyala & Eric Bunu,
Reserve Assistants



Nadia Jordaan, Conservation student
(Nadia left us in May for a back op,
and we wish her well.)

GROEI!

Winter in die Kaap is mos groeityd; die blomme in die reservaat is al pragtig, met nuwe soorte wat elke paar dae hul verskyning maak. Kom stap gerus rond om te kom kyk na hulle. Ongelukkig is dit ook groeityd vir die onkruid in ons tuine en veral in Bracken. Daar is altyd baie werk vir Vriende om te doen. Ons plant gekweekte inheemse plante en roei die ander uit, maar het u hulp nodig daarmee. Navrae enige tyd by die kantoor.

Thea Weyers, Voorsitter, FoB

A letter from Tshupo Mamabolo, Reserve Manager

Where do I begin? Since the last newsletter a lot has happened and some exciting projects have been completed. But firstly I would like to send my deepest gratitude to our dedicated Friends - guys you are the best! Thea and Jo, thank you both for all your hard work, especially for organising the art festival. You have done a fantastic job. Not to forget Lindie, our very own outgoing conservator, thanks for all your assistance in the potting of our seedlings and for being our "weed buster hero". You always put a smile on everyone's face. Keep pulling those weeds out and go indigenous!!!

Rehabilitation:

10 000 seedlings/plants that were propagated as part of the rehabilitation of disturbed areas in the reserve, have all been planted back!!! It was exciting to finally see all that hard work being put into the restoration of our beautiful, precious jewel. I hope that Mother Nature will look after our plants and let them flourish into healthy bushes that will provide shelter, food and support for the ecosystem at the reserve.

Community development:

Six local residents from Everite hostel and one conservator were contracted to assist with the removal of invasive exotic plants and weeds, namely: Port Jackson and Rooikrantz (*Acacia saligna*, *A. cyclops*), gum trees (*Eucalyptus spp.*) and *Pinus spp.* among others. The nature conservator provided training for the team in exotic weed and plant identification, herbicide application and the identification of local indigenous plants. The team also assisted with the planting of our seedlings.

Environmental Education Centre:

Unfortunately due to the ongoing teachers' strike we were unable to host the YES programme this year, which was rather sad for us we were expecting 55 learners for this event. Hopefully next year we will participate in this important EE programme. On the brighter side of things, we finally installed electricity in the EE centre.

Thank you all for your support, and I look forward to seeing you all in the reserve!

Tshupo Mamabolo

FoB Contact numbers

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Website: <http://purl.org/net/fob/>