



URBAN HYDROLOGY: WATER IN THE CITY OF TSHWANE
High Performance Centre, University of Pretoria
23 – 24 January 2014

**IMPROVING MORELETASPRUIT:
PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE**


NIEL J VAN WYK
FRIENDS OF SKUILKRANS



LAYOUT OF PRESENTATION

- Introduction
- Background philosophy
- Opportunities
- Examples
- Cautions

Talk mostly deals with volunteer action in an urban environment

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WHY IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT?

- Improvement of ecological (natural) infrastructure and ecosystem services
- Improves quality of life
- Safeguards benefits for future generations
- Education
- Recreation
- Health benefits
- Supports an environmental mind shift
- Potential job creation/poverty relief spin offs

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DO WE FOLLOW THROUGH?

- Much energy goes into high level environmental policy discussion
- How do we convert talk into action?
- Do we spend enough physical energy on the state of the natural environment where we live
- Is action necessary
- What are the options

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RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Municipalities are responsible for the upkeep of municipal open space property, but we as general public get the best benefit of our local natural environment by solely relying on authorities for maintenance?

Partnerships:

- Authorities
- Voluntary groups
- Public
- Landowners

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WHAT IS WESSA FRIENDS?

- Friends of Nature Areas are groups of concerned people who have banded together to work for the conservation of the natural environment of specific areas of their choice, and to encourage greater public awareness of the value and wise use of these areas for present and future generations. No special qualifications or experience is necessary. All we ask of Friends is that they care about the environment and that they are prepared to be doers rather than just talkers!

• SOURCE: WESSA WEB SITE

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WESSA FRIENDS GROUPS LINKED TO ADOPT MORELETASPRUIT

- Friends of Colbyn Valley (Hartbeesspruit)
- **Friends of Skuilkrans**
- Friends of Moreletaspruit (N4 to Lynnwood Rd)
- Friends of the Faerie Glen Nature Reserve
- Friends of Moreletakloof Nature Reserve
- Friends of Serene Valley
- Friends of the Wolwe-Waterkloof Spruit

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REFERENCE EXAMPLE

Friends of Skuilkrans consists of 3 components:

- Friends of Skuilkrans Kopje (Well established)
- Meyerspark Bird Sanctuary (Intermediate)
- Moreleta at Skuilkrans (New)

Web site:

<http://friends-of-skuilkrans.wikispaces.com/Skuilkrans+Kopje>

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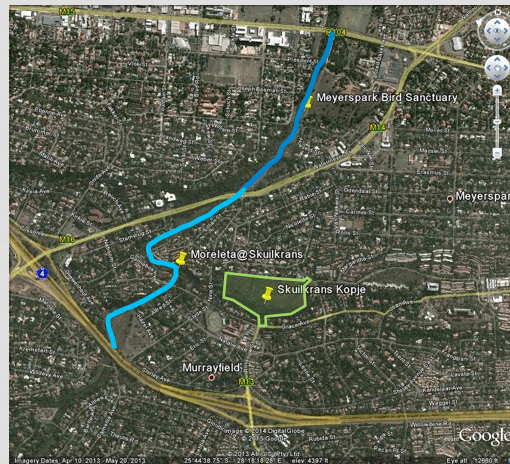
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FRIENDS OF SKUILKRANS LOCATION



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SKUILKRANS KOPJE

Initial problems to address were:

- Threat of development
- Alien plant infestation
- Vagrants/security

The 9ha Skuilkrans Kopje is was restored to near pristine condition by volunteer and CoT labour. It is fenced, equipped with pathways and benches, safe to walk an controlled access is available to the 152 paid up FoS members and the public.

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MISSION OF FRIENDS OF SKUILKRANS

The mission of the Association is to encourage public participation in the pro-active conservation of the Skuilkrans area in general and in particular to promote on behalf of the landowner (City of Tshwane) the sustainable recreational and educational use of the SKUILKRANS area, the Meyerspark Bird Sanctuary area and the MORELETA@SKUILKRANS area by the local community and the broader public.

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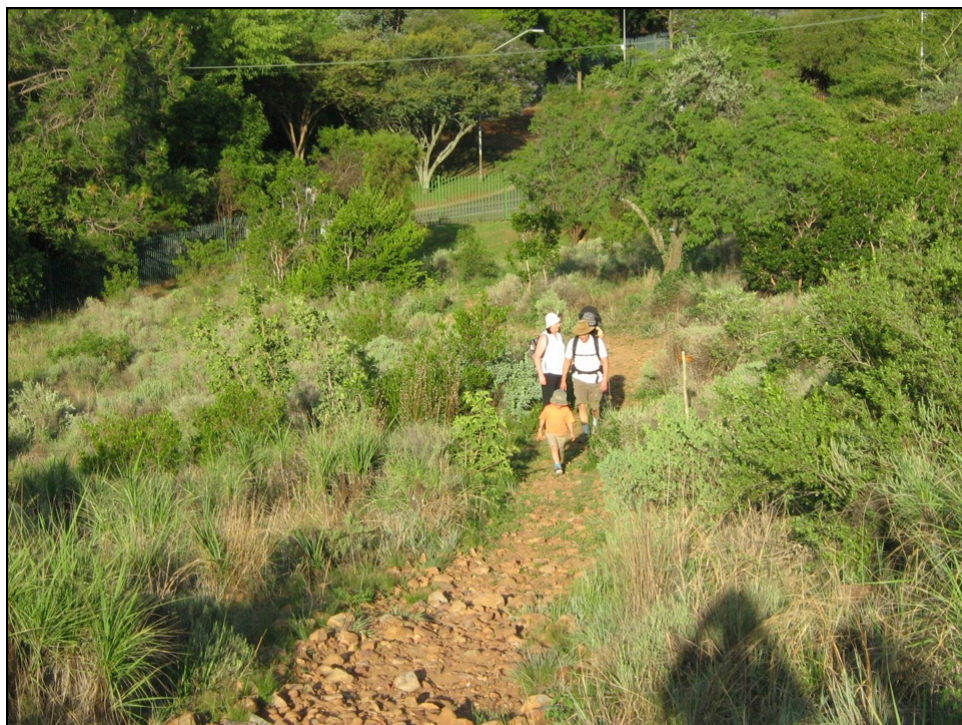
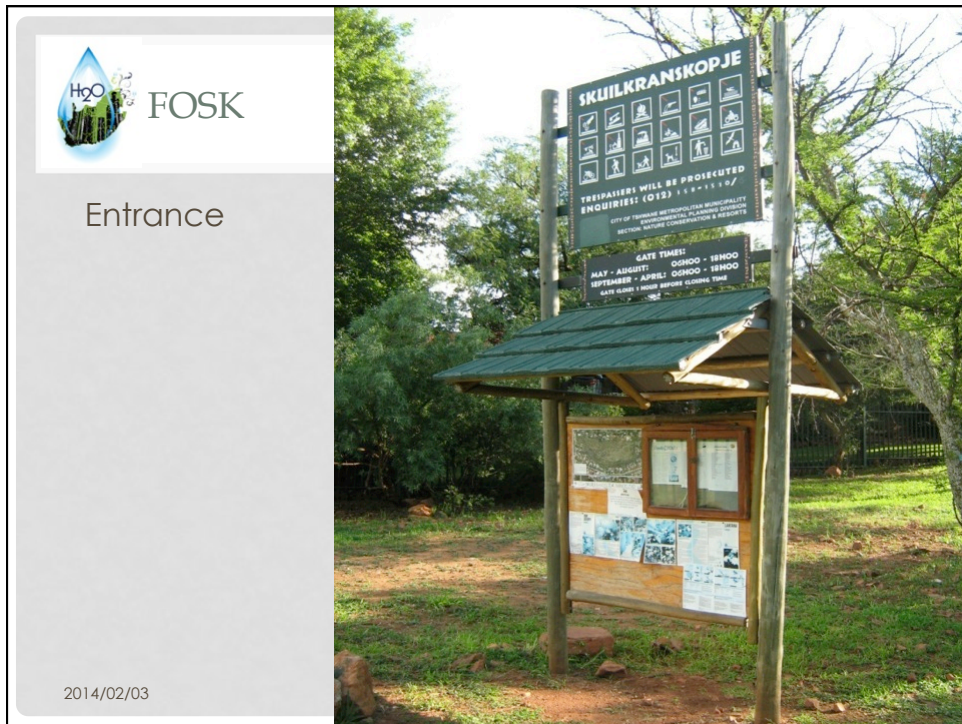


GENERAL INFORMATION
 The Skuilkrans Kopje area is situated on the edge of the city. The ridge is a part of the Skuilkrans Kopje which is a natural landmark in the area. It is made up of sandstone and is a natural landmark in the area. The ridge is a part of the Skuilkrans Kopje which is a natural landmark in the area. It is made up of sandstone and is a natural landmark in the area.

Legend:
 [Symbol] ENTRANCE GATE
 [Symbol] INFORMATION BOARD
 [Symbol] BENCH
 [Symbol] MAIL BOX
 [Symbol] CAVE
 [Symbol] WATER

Legend:
 [Symbol] OLD STONE PACKED WALL
 [Symbol] PRIMARY FOREST (1000m or more)
 [Symbol] SECONDARY FOREST (100-1000m)
 [Symbol] CONIFERS (100m or more)

August 2011
 50 m
SKUILKRANS KOPJE WANDELPAD
 Friends of Skuilkrans koppie
 Vriende van die Skuilkrans koppie







SKUILKRANS KOPJE TASK LIST

MANAGERIAL

- Constitution
- Management plan
- Financial

PHYSICAL

- Fencing
- Access control
- Alien plant removal
- Rubbish removal
- Walking paths
- Signage
- Tree name tags
- Benches
- Fauna and flora information

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REMAINING PROBLEM

The Skuilkrans Kopje is suffering from tree densification because of lack of burning. Burning in a residential area is problematic.

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PROJECT UNDER DEVELOPMENT – IMPROVING SECTIONS OF MORELETASPRUIT

The Moreleta Hiking Trail passed through the area, but fell into disuse and the terrestrial area became overgrown and neglected.

GENERAL PROBLEMS:

- Alien invasive plant infestation
- Rubbish
- Security
- Flooding

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COMMON INVASIVE ALIENS


- Balloon vine
- Mulberry
- Giant reed
- Bottle brush
- Syringa
- Inkberry
- Weeping willow
- Lantana
- Bug weed

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LANTANA



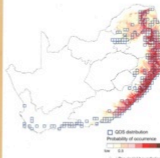
The fruits are small berries that change from glossy green to shiny purple-black as they ripen.

Taxonomy and status
Family: Verbenaceae (the verbena family)
Common names: Lantana, Lantana Tree, The Queen Lantana, Gantianga
Range: South and Central America
Worldwide Status: Category 1


Lantana is an aggressive invader that occurs in all but the frost and coldest parts of the country. It is a perennial shrub or small tree that grows in a wide range of habitats, from open grassy areas to dense forests. It is highly adaptable and can tolerate a wide range of soil types and conditions. The berries are eaten by many birds and are also used as a food source for some insects. Lantana is a highly invasive species and is considered one of the most damaging of all introduced plants in South Africa. It is a major pest of agriculture and forestry, and is also a significant threat to biodiversity. Lantana is a highly adaptable and resilient species, and is able to tolerate a wide range of soil types and conditions. It is a highly invasive species and is considered one of the most damaging of all introduced plants in South Africa. It is a major pest of agriculture and forestry, and is also a significant threat to biodiversity.

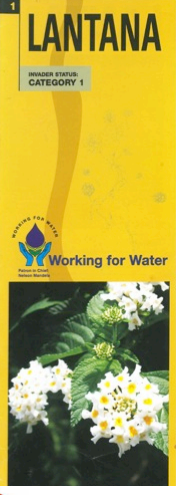
Distribution: Lantana



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www.wfw.co.za


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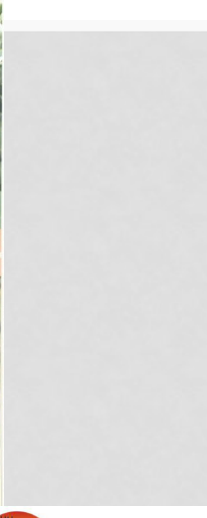
BUG WEED

All parts of the plant except older stems are covered in whitish fuzzy hairs. The leaves, which are large and small strongly when crushed, have a dull green and velvety upper surface, while the underside is whitish and fuzzy. At the base of each leaf is a 1-2 cm long, dark leaf sheath.


Big-headed flowers and fruit throughout the year. The fruits are green and poisonous before they ripen, but change to yellow and soft as they ripen. Fruit-eating birds eat the berries that fruit, which disperses the seeds in their faeces.





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MOBILIZING LABOUR

- Organization members
- Volunteers
- Labour teams
- Organized events
- Competitions
- Rewards
- Involving business
- Job creation

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FLYER EXAMPLE

MORELETA@SKUILKRANS



Clean-up Action

Friends of Skuilkrans Koppie and of Moreletaspruit are invited to assist on

Saturday 1 June 2013

Starting from 08:00

Your help is needed with removing of:

- alien plants and
- rubbish in and around the Spruit.

The starting point will be at the **GRACE STREET BRIDGE** over the Moreletaspruit. We will work towards the **N4 HIGHWAY**.

Please bring own gumboots/garden shoes, hat, gloves, sunscreen, drinking water and pruning tools.

Contact persons:

Niel van Wyk 082 808 5651 vanwykni@des.gov.za
Louise Lotter 083 463 2621 louiselotter@gmail.com

LETS ACT TOGETHER TO CREATE A ECO-FRIENDLY AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

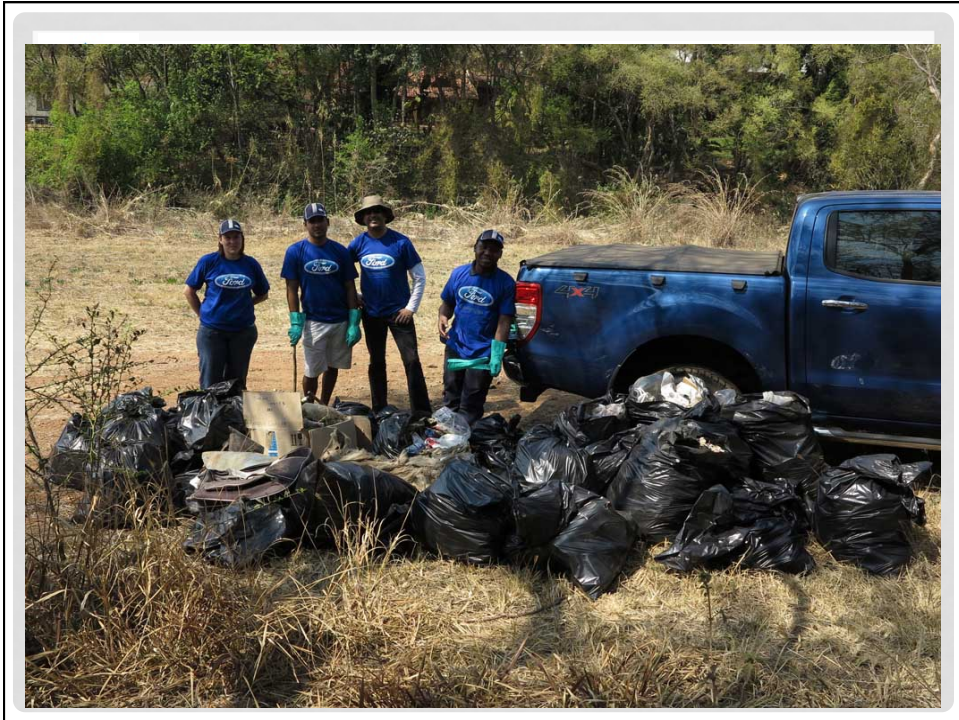
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ADVICE FROM ADOPT A RIVER

An experienced individual should be tasked to mobilise institutional and community stakeholders, as well as potential sponsors and patrons before launching a pilot along a specific river reach.

Leadership, champions and funding

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MORE ADVICE

Waterwatch Australia suggests that programme leaders:

- Start small
- Keep the goals realistic
- Plan because it pays off
- Make connections
- Train leadership/including volunteers

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PLANNING ACTIONS

- Decide on guiding principles
- Development of protocols (Management Plan)
- Develop a work plan (business plan, budget, responsibilities, skills, timelines etc.)
- Internal agreement
- Permissions
- Publicity
- Communication and collaboration with affected parties and other stakeholders
- Labour mobilization
- Execution
- Follow up

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COMMUNICATION

- Newsletters
- Pamphlets
- Leaflets
- Flyers
- Community organizations (CPF)
- Newspaper articles
- Notices
- Talks

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CAUTIONS

- Poor protocols
- Being too ambitious
- Do not be an environmental vigilante
- Acceptance of common objectives
- Underestimating individual preferences
- Being too purist
- Sustainability
- Too little publicity and communication
- Paternalism
- Perimeter owner consideration
- Volunteers are rarely experts
- Little verbal interest ends up in the workforce
- Occupational safety

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END

Thank you for listening

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<http://friends-of-skuilkrans.wikispaces.com/Skuilkrans+Kopje>

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JOINING FRIENDS OF SKUILKRANS

- PBO Exemption No. 930 035 546
- For renewal/joining of the Kopje, your annual membership fee is R100 and in order to qualify for your special access card and key for the gate, please pay the amount into the following bank account
- **Bank: Nedbank Branch Code: 115734 Account No: 2006207679**
- **Type: Savings Deposit Account**
- **Name: Friends of the Skuilkrans Kopje**
- **Reference: Surname plus Initials**
- Please email the **form** below and **proof of payment** to wendwelich@mweb.co.za and arrange with Dennis Velich 082 8939380 at 8 8 Trevor Street to collect your keys and CoI **access card**
-
- **Name**
-
- **Address**
-
-
- **Telephone & Cell No**
-
- **Email**
-
- **Expertise / Interest**
-
- **Amount & Date Paid**