



FRIENDS OF PILANESBERG

Non-Profit Organization Fund Raising Number: 006-421 NPS

SEDIBA

February – July 2017

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Letter from the Editor

February – July 2017

Kerry-Anne Hare



Photo by Debbi Adcock

Dear friends

It seems like eons since I started writing this. Well, it is really.

My year has been full of ups and downs. My mother sadly needed a leg amputation, which meant that for 3 months, our lives were all about hospitals- the Sediba was simply on a back burner. We nearly lost her, but she will be ok and in time will hopefully be up and about on a prosthetic. It's funny how an adjustment like this can change one's perspective. I look at places with a more critical eye and am now very aware of which areas of our park are and aren't wheelchair friendly. There is work to be done. I'm also cogniscent of the fact that life can change in a heartbeat- make time for the ones you love. Life is precious.



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And so, as always, the year is flying by. On some fronts, though challenging, it has been a productive few months.

Since I started writing this, Lenong Hide has burnt down. What a blow. It seemed an insurmountable task for the Pilanesberg Wildlife Trust to have it rebuilt, but thankfully the contractors who were working on site to repair the roof at the time said that they would rebuild it at their own expense. Many loyal Park supporters had rallied to raise funds, which could then be put to use for an Eco-Loo and extra fencing. When I was last up at Lenong, the hide rebuild was progressing well. It should be complete by now. The Eco-Loo has been installed.

At last we have a new website! I put in a few long hours on the text, but Craig Wells has done a fabulous job with the design. Not only is it modern and attractive, but it will allow us to communicate with our members more effectively. Hopefully many of you are receiving this by means of email subscription. 😊

You'll notice that some of the usual long-winded newsletter sections have been removed- Tent Hire information and details on How to Attend Work Parties etc. can be found on the website, so they will no longer be included in the newsletter.

Grant and the rest of the committee have been working hard to update the database. By the time membership renewals are due, we should be up to date. Remember that yearly membership fees are due at the end of July, please. I think a large proportion of you have caught up with that now.

Tent 1 has been upgraded, which means that all 3 tents are now more spacious and comfortable. Further income from the tents can be spent replacing the beds and mattresses. Donations of brooms, mops, chairs and other small items are all very welcome, as these items are frequently in need of replacement.

We are in the process of replacing the signage at the geographical sites. The new white sign boards are eye-catching and easy to read- a definite improvement on the broken ones.

We managed to complete the exterior painting and reinforcement of the supports under Mankwe Hide JUST in time. Within a few weeks, the rain had brought the water level right up under the hide, so any further work would have required a snorkel. Mankwe Hide is getting new benches too. Contact Roland White (fopsfundraising@gmail.com) if you'd like to sponsor one. We had planned to execute some serious repairs at Ruighoek and Bathlako Hides too, but these have had to be put on hold until access is easier.

The rain has as usual created more work for us. The grass around the cairns and the fire breaks has needed to be cleared. I believe that controlled burning has been done, so we can look forward to some healthy looking veld in the new season.



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I am trying to source some older photographs for the website gallery, so please send any priceless antiques you may have to sedibafops@gmail.com. It will be fun to dig up and share some memories.

Hope to see you all at work parties in the coming months.

Regards

Kerry-Anne



Photo by Debbi Adcock



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Special Project Weekend Reports- Pilanesberg

February 2017

Paddy Coombe-Heath

Hi Folks,

Again, we had a fantastic turnout, with 34 people attending. There was one new family membership-welcome Brian and Barbara Williams. We hope to see you again soon.

The projects were a little boring, but at least we had the people to do them.

Six teams went out with the main focus on direction cairns. As you can imagine, with all the rain everything went ballistic. The grass, trees and bushes grew so fast that you could actually see them growing. Well, maybe not quite that fast but it seemed like it. So a lot of the cairns were almost invisible. The guys in the various different teams did an amazing job. We probably managed to do about 60% of the cairns in and around the central basin.

For some it was a long hot morning, which turned into an afternoon. This was because there were so many extra little jobs that needed to be done that weekend. The one lot of guys did road clearing on the dam wall at Tilodi. They also cleared the view point and a couple of cairns where they replaced a number of tiles. The baboons pull them off to find scorpions and spiders.

By and large we got a lot of work done. Well done to one and all.

We had another great weekend. Until next time, go well. See you next month.

Regards,

Paddy



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March 2017

Paddy Coombe-Heath

Hi Folks,

Considering the weather and the potential rain, the turnout was great. We had 24 people in all. There were 2 cancellations, which was not surprising at all. We had 1 visitor-Pieter Swanepoel. He said he is going to sign on as a member. Welcome in advance, Pieter. As was the case last month, we only really had two projects. One team went out to do, you got it, direction cairns. As I said last month, you could see the grass growing.

The rest of the work party jumped in to clean up at Potokwane. The camp was badly overgrown, and the fire breaks were non-existent. So weed eaters, slashers and hoes were the order of the day. Then, the cable for the electric fence needed to be replaced. The energizer also needed to be rewired, (don't ask why) so Steve van Graan came out for the weekend to do the job for us. Thanks Steve. Anyway the camp looks respectable again.





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*Thanks Kobus for sending us
the clean-up pictures*

Then, on Sunday a couple of us went out to look for Lantana and do some tiles again. We did a bit more than we expected. It went from three Lantana bushes to Syringas and a Jacaranda. Then we found a motherlode of Lantana, which we started on, but decided it would require a whole team of people, so you guys can look forward to more Lantana next month. A special thank you goes to Jorg, for his time and help.

OK guys, until next month,

Regards,
Paddy

April 2017

Paddy Coombe-Heath

Hi Folks,

A pretty small work party considering the weather which was great- only 18 people. April is full of holidays, so I can imagine that people have to count their pennies, so to speak. Can't say that I blame them. But a good crowd arrived and we got a lot of work done.

First, we as FOPS were invited to 93.8 Mix FM radio, basically to tell everyone what we do as an organisation. So Kerry-Anne and Roland went for the interview. All went well I believe.



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A few photographs taken at the radio interview.



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A lot of the gates at the hides needed attention, so a small team went out to repair them.

The FOPS tents at Manyane were next. Tent 1 is being replaced, but we had to put in the concrete stands to hold the tent down. This we did.



Photo by Ken Loveland

Lastly, our old favourite, the dreaded lurgi, Lantana. We found a new motherlode along Tlou drive, so the rest of us went out to do battle once again with our old enemy. It turned out that there was a lot more than I thought, but we got on top of it all.

That was it- a good turnout, nice people, nice weather in the bush, what more could we ask for?

Well until next time, go well.

Regards,

Paddy



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May 2017

Paddy Coombe-Heath

Hi Folks,

Well done. We had 28 people this time. One new visitor, Margy Harris joined us. We hope we will see you again. With all these people we managed 6 work party details, which was great. We are getting to that time of year when the bush gets very dry. That means there is a risk of fires, so a lot of work was directed in this area.

The Iron Age Site was on the list, which it has not been for a couple of months. This was mainly due to the fact that we wanted to see how the new herbicide would pan out. I was amazed at how well it is working. The other reason was that very little could be done with all the rains, so the guys just had to do a bit of clearing. They then moved back to Potokwane, to cut fire breaks.

Then, the FOPS Tents needed more attention. Tent 1 had to be taken down to make room for the new one that was coming in that Monday.

A small team went out to finish replacing the new Geological Site signs. We did a couple last weekend but there are 16 sites, so it takes a bit of time to get round to all of them. All the signs that needed replacing are now done.

Then, there was some road clearing to be done. We decided to start close to home ie. Potokwane Link. This was badly overgrown and it took a long time, but it is clear now.

Then, Makorwane and Rathlogo hides were both very overgrown. Two teams of 6 people each went to work. It was hard work but the job is done. Hopefully we won't have any bad fires this year, but the fire breaks should be enough to hold back any runaway fires.

The guys all came back to Potokwane to help clean up and help with the fire breaks. All in all, we had a full schedule for Saturday. The fire and the braai did not last until late on Saturday night because everybody was a little tired, putting it nicely...

Well done to you all for the hard work. Next time, please make the same effort to arrive in numbers!

Go well.

Regards,

Paddy



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June 2017

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Paddy Coombe-Heath

Hi Folks,

You guys never fail to amaze me. We had a fantastic turn-out. There were 34 people in all, but wait for it.... 9 new members. Unbelievable! This is a record for new people at any given work party. There were 2 people who only came for the morning, but said that they would be back. They were Ninnette Jonker and Pieter Goosen.

Then, the Adcock family Nigel, Debbi and Kerry joined us. Mark and Penny Hoskens were there too, and Brian and Vanessa Behrens. Welcome to all of you and hope to see you again soon. Brian and Barbara Williams did not make it as they were ill. Hope you get well soon.

Again, with all these able bodies, we managed 5 projects.

The Iron Age Site: Trevor was in his element, he had all the “newies”. It’s my pleasure, Trevor ;-). There was the usual cutting and clearing to be done.





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Well done to this hard-working team! Thanks Debbi Adcock for all the lovely photographs.



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Then, Tent 1 needed a bit more done on it, so a small team went there to sort the problem out- almost there.

Lengau lookout points were very overgrown so we cleaned them up. We then went down Kubu drive and did some bush cutting along there. We also went around to the hides to replace some of the bird and animal posters that have been vandalised.

Makorwane also needed a bit more work to make it safe, so that is what one team did. They then went up to Tlou dams and cleared up the view point there. Both sites are looking great.

Another team did road clearing along Nkakane, up that horrible hill. This was really badly overgrown, and there was Sickle Bush for Africa on both sides of the road, all the way up. The guys came back battered, bruised, and bleeding. Lastly, on Sunday we cut down a fair sized grove of Syringa trees along Kubu drive, near Bakubung. Oh, and a Queen of the Night on Tswene drive.

Another great weekend was had by all.
See you guys next month.

Regards,
Paddy





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More great photographs by Debbi Adcock



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July 2017

Paddy Coombe-Heath

Hi Folks,

Again, we had an amazing turnout for July. There were 35 people this time and another 3 new families. They were Steve and Chris Legge, Dave and Loraine Wright, Lauren Gunn and Andre Snyder. Welcome to you all and hope to have you join us again soon. All of these guys are very keen to come back, and the best part is the fact that they all want to go back to the Iron Age Site!!! Trevor will be thrilled! Fantastic!



Picture by Debbi Adcock



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The weather, for July, was a bit odd. We had rain during Friday night and then again on Saturday morning, but not enough to stop work. The mist was a fantastic sight, with all of the valleys hidden from view. The guys who went to Lenong said that visibility was zero. Saturday night was freezing, as was Sunday. Needless to say, all had a good weekend anyway.

The projects were as follows:

The Iron Age Site: As I said, all of the new guys from last month and this month went to the site. There were 10 of them. They managed to get a lot of work done and were satisfied with their efforts, which is what counts.



Thanks Debbi Adcock for all the photographs.



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Malatse Hide: This needed a good cleaning, inside and out, as well as some general running repairs. The job was completed, so the place looks presentable again.

Lenong Lookout: This needed a good grooming in front, where the trees are growing too tall and obscuring the view. It also needed a clean-up of cigarette butts etc.

Poplar Trees: These trees were growing along the Elands River, just below the Fish Eagle Picnic Site. Removal was not an easy job, because the river still contains a fair amount of water. But we cut the trees and put herbicide on the stumps, so hopefully that will sort out the regrowth for good. If not, we will go back again for a follow-up.

Manyane Tents: The new tent needed some finishing touches to be completed, and all three tent doors needed an extra coat of Woodoc. This has been a bit of a saga, but is now sorted out. Thank goodness for that.

Well, that's it from me until next time. Hope to see you all in camp soon.

Regards,

Paddy





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Photographs by Debbi Adcock. Thanks again, Debbi.



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NOTICE OF AGM 21 OCTOBER 2017

*Herewith notice of the Annual General Meeting of Friends of Pilanesberg Society to be held at the Robin Hills Scout Hall, Oorbietjie Street (closest corner – Cherry Drive), Robin Hills, Randburg
Saturday 21 October 2017 at 09h30 for 10h00*

AGENDA

1. NOTICE OF MEETING
2. APOLOGIES
3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 15 October, 2016
4. CHAIRMANS REPORT – to be tabled at the meeting
5. TREASURERS REPORT – to be tabled at the meeting
6. SPECIAL PROJECT REPORTS – Pilanesberg
7. MOTIONS – to be tabled at the meeting if any are received

NOTE:

In accordance with the constitution, members are entitled to propose motions to be raised at the AGM. Written notice of any motion signed by a proposer and seconded, both being voting members, must reach the Secretary not later than twenty one [21] working days before the day appointed for the meeting via fax or email.

Members unable to attend the AGM are to forward their proxies to secretaryfops1@gmail.com and proxies may be given to any other voting member to use on their behalf during the election process.

Members in receipt of proxies are required to bring the printed signed proxies to the meeting, and shall be required to submit these to secretary prior to start of the meeting in order that the vote is confirmed as correct once elections and voting have taken place. If once the vote has taken place by a show of hands, the proxies are not submitted, the vote shall be retaken, excluding those proxies.

Confirmation/Apologies of attendance of AGM to be submitted attending to be submitted no later than 7 working days prior for catering purposes.



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