



## Conservation Through Collaboration!



Newsletter No 6: March 2010

## Welcome to 2010 – A Year for Delivery

It is amazing how far into the year we are already and how time has passed since the last newsletter – “Time flies when you are having fun”.

Fun we have been having in many ways, but also we have been getting on with some work and putting in place a number of projects.

Last year was a time of planning and finding out what we should be doing as a Conservancy. With your help and participation in the many presentations, workshops and meetings through

last year we have identified a large number of possible activities, projects and interventions. Details of these are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

One of the key issues the Interim Executive Committee has been focussing on is the review of the Constitution and its finalisation in preparation for the Inaugural AGM which is scheduled for Tuesday 13 April 2010.

You are encouraged to attend not only to

formally launch the Conservancy but to also hear a very interesting talk on an emerging discipline of biomimicry and how we can learn from nature to design a better sustainable world.

The Conservancy has also gone electronic with a web site and also sites established on a selection of the social networks. Please visit these sites, browse around and become members and participate in the online community.

*Editor*

### Find us on:

Web:  
<http://www.klipcon.org.za>



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Please visit and join

Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Please forward them to the [Editor](#)

### Special Notice:

**Inaugural AGM**  
**Tuesday 13 April 2010**  
**18:30 for 19:00 start**  
**Mondeor High School**  
**Auditorium, Beauval**  
**Avenue, Mondeor.**

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## Joburg's Clean City Campaign – End of Year Function

Roelf de Beer, the General Manager Marketing, from Joburg's Pikitup provided a very interesting insight into the Clean City Campaign at the Conservancy's End of Year function in November 2009.

The focus of the campaign is to reduce littering and illegal dumping, streamline collection and disposal and also reduce the volume of waste to the city's landfill sites. This will be done by encouraging the citizens to "reduce, reuse, and recycle" and will include extensive education programs, marketing and awareness programmes and stronger law enforcement.

The City has a major problem with illegal dumping and has identified over 1000 sites throughout the city which is costing approximately R200m per year to clean up.

Within the Conservancy there are many areas where illegal dumping takes place. It is of great importance in residents remain observant and report any incidents of illegal dumping they happen to see.

Details of perpetrators, including photographs, of illegal dumping and littering can be sent to Joburg's call centre on 011 375 5555 or to Pikitup at 011 712 5200. In addition the Ward Councillors should be informed Ward 54 Cllr Anne Boxall (AnneBoxall@joburg.org.za or 072 393 5233) or Ward 23 Cllr Paul Smit (paul.a.smit@mweb.co.za or 082 330 9732).

Further contact details are provided on the website at [Municipal Links](#).

*In the meetings and discussions to prepare the Management Framework waste management was identified as being important by residents and business owners. The Conservancy will be initiating a project to encourage people to "reduce, reuse, and recycle". Anyone interested in becoming involved in this project as members of the project team, providing resources or sponsorship please contact the [Chairman](#).*



**Many projects have been identified.**  
**If you are interested in assisting in the realisation and delivery of any particular project please contact the [Chairman](#)**



### **EARTH HOUR 2010**

**At 8.30pm (local time) on Saturday 27 March, the greatest show on Earth for action on climate change will take place in homes, office buildings, town halls and public places around the globe as lights go out for Earth Hour 2010.**

**Earth Hour 2010 is set to show the world that a resolution to the threat of global warming is possible through collective action.**

**As an individual, a business, a school or a city you can show your support.**

**Visit the [website](#) for more information and how to get involved. Make 2010 the biggest Earth Hour ever.**

Source:

<http://www.earthhour.org.za/>



## **Management Framework – Key Elements**

Through last year there were a number of meetings, presentations and workshops at which the people who were attending were asked to give their views as to what the Conservancy needs to address. There were many ideas and suggestions which were carefully looked at and prioritised. Project teams are being established to focus on the work that has to be done.

The activities, interventions and projects that were identified included the following:

- Establish Constitution
  - Finalise review of Constitution
- Catalyse Projects
  - Promote sustainable urban living in residential & industrial areas
  - Involve schools
  - Support cleanup campaigns
  - Encourage greening
  - Support Bylaws
- Share Information
  - Build distribution channels
  - Establish website
  - Erect billboards & signs
  - Give presentations
  - Distribute Newsletters
  - Schedule specialist talks
  - Use media
- Grow Membership
  - Run events programme
  - Establish relationships with similar organisations
  - Build business loyalty programmes
- Establish International twinning partners
  - Coordinate, Protect & Rehabilitate Biodiversity
  - Initiate Biodiversity Stewardship Program
  - Prepare landowner programmes
  - Develop Environmental Management Framework
  - Areas: Wetlands, Hills & Kopjes, Historical sites, Grasslands, Rivers and streams, Agricultural areas
- Integrate Urban Development
  - Manage and guide development
  - Build authority relationships
  - Engage developers
  - Address illegal uses
  - Influence future roads
  - Inform policy
  - Support Bylaws
- Establish Enviro Centre
  - Build collection of historical anecdotes
  - Establish Library
- Secure Resources
  - Finance
  - Resources
  - Events
  - Carbon credits opportunities
  - Recycling
- Establish Brand
  - Website, stationery, signage
- Integrate Business development
  - Promote economic growth
- Support special stakeholders
  - Land owners adjacent to KNR

**Birding in the Conservancy**

Pied Starling (759)	Common Myna (758)
	
<p>A commonly seen bird throughout Southern South Africa. It likes grasslands. It is a large brown bird with a white vent and undertail coverts. It has a yellow base to the lower mandible and bright yellow eyes and black legs. It is endemic to South Africa as opposed to the Common Myna (Opposite).</p> <p>The Common Myna is a scavenger and will eat almost anything. It is quite destructive and will often attack and eat the chicks of other birds and certainly eats the natural food of endemic birds.</p>	<p>One of the most invasive species in the world. It was once called the Asian Myna, then the Indian Myna and now the Common Myna. It has become a major problem in countries such as Australia and Israel. Brought to Natal as pets between 1902 and 1906, they easily adapted to freedom and spread very quickly. They are now very common in Natal and Gauteng and there have been some recent sightings in the Free State and Limpopo. It is largely brown with distinctive white wing patches, white tail tips and bare yellow skin around its eyes and beak and yellow legs. It also has a variety of calls and can mimic other birds.</p> <p><i>Kevin Lavery</i></p>

For a list of birds identified in the Conservancy visit the web site by clicking [here](#)

**Joburg Spatial Development Framework - let your voice be heard!**

In terms of the Municipal Systems Act, municipalities are required to prepare and review an Integrated Development Plan (IDP). This is essentially the business plan for the municipality and contains various components including a Spatial Development Framework (SDF).

Joburg has initiated the review of the SDF and the Regional Special Development Frameworks (RSDF) for the seven regions of the metropolitan area. This will take the form of public

meetings which will be held during the week of 8-11 March 2010.

The Conservancy is located within Region F of the city.

**The public meeting for this region will be held on Thursday 11 March 2010 at Eureka House, Wemmer Pan at 17:30 – 20:00.**

The Conservancy has been in discussions with Joburg City environmental, planning and development officials and made submissions last year to the City regarding the establishment of the

Conservancy.

We will again be participating in the public meeting and making a written submission regarding the Conservancy and issues affecting the planning and development of the area.

An issue of particular concern is the growing pressure for residential development within the area of the Conservancy.

If you have any other topics or issues which concern you please attend a public meeting to have your say.

**As a citizen of Johannesburg you have an opportunity to participate in the setting of planning and development policy for the city. For more details as to how you can participate or issues you wish to raise please contact the [Chairman](#)**



## Inaugural Annual General Meeting

The Inaugural Annual General Meeting for the Klipriviersberg Conservancy will be held on Tuesday, 13 April 2010 at the Mondeor School Auditorium, Beauval Avenue, Mondeor. The time for meeting is 18:30 for a prompt start at 19:00.

Important decisions will be taken including the adoption of the final **Constitution**. A copy of the draft is available from [Clem Kourie](#) and can also be downloaded from the [website](#). Please have a look at the document and let us have any comments.

In addition, the **Executive Committee** members for the year ahead will be elected.

**Anyone who wishes to be a member of the Executive Committee or any of the sub-committees and project teams should be at the meeting.**

## At the Inaugural AGM: "Biomimicry - how we can learn from nature to design a better world".

*"Life has been performing design experiments in Earth's R&D lab for 3.8 billion years and what is flourishing on the planet today are the best ideas"*

**Learn about a rapidly growing discipline which bases solutions on nature to provide us with innovative and progressive solutions to the design, engineering and other challenges that we now face: energy, food production, climate**

**This is a talk that you do not want to miss.**

Claire Janisch kindly has agreed to provide us with an insight into a rapidly growing discipline and approach to designing a sustainable environment through the study of nature. Claire is a graduate of The Biomimicry Institute's inaugural 2-Year Certificate Program (Master's equivalent) and currently heads up the biomimicry activities and projects in South Africa.

### WHY BIOMIMICRY?

Because organisms and ecosystems face the same challenges that we humans do, but they meet

those challenges sustainably. The premise of biomimicry is that Life has been performing design experiments in Earth's R&D lab for 3.8 billion years and what is flourishing on the planet today are the best ideas - those that perform well in context, while economizing on energy and materials. Whatever the design challenge, the odds are high that one or more of the world's 30 million creatures has not only faced the same challenge, but has evolved effective strategies to solve it. Nature works for maximum achievement at minimum effort. The selective pressure placed

on all natural life forms minimizes and removes failures. Organisms are the consummate physicists, chemists, and engineers, and ecosystems are economies beyond compare. They can provide us with innovative and progressive solutions to the design, engineering and other challenges that we now face: energy, food production, climate control, benign chemistry, transportation, packaging, and more. The vision is to create products, processes, organizations, and policies—new ways of living—that are well-adapted to life on earth over the long haul.

### How would Nature make a non-toxic, waterproof adhesive?

Blue mussels attach firmly under water using flexible, thread-like tentacles. Learning from the blue mussel, researchers developed a formaldehyde-free wood glue used in hardwood plywood and particleboard products.



## Klipcon goes electronic

A critical issue for the Conservancy is being able to communicate freely with members. This was identified as an important priority in the development of the Management Framework.

Arising from this need, a website has been established which will be used to provide information to members and the general public regarding the Conservancy.

Please visit the [website](#) which is considered to be an ongoing project of development and improvement.

Have a look around and visit the

sites to see what has been developed so far.

We would welcome your comments and ideas regarding what we need to put onto the website in terms of information.

In addition, we have also established a presence in the social network by setting up sites on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Please join and contribute your thoughts and ideas, discuss issues and topics which concern you and submit suggestions and contributions which you feel are of value to the Conservancy and its aims and objectives.



Click on a logo to join us on:



## Green' buildings firmly entrenched

'Green building' is no longer a fashionable option for property development. It has become an absolute necessity with many architects, engineers and property owners stating that all their future projects will be "green". This was the overwhelming feedback *Urban Green File* received at the recent Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) convention and exhibition in Cape Town.

The trend towards environmentally responsible building development is best illustrated by the immense growth of the GBCSA. Within two years of its establishment, the GBCSA has grown to include over 500 corporate members. In addition, so far, more than 1 000 built-environment professionals (architects, engineers, planners) have attended the council's Green Star training courses while 111 people have achieved Green Star SA professional accreditation.

Source: *Urban Green File* bulletin : [bulletins@brookepatrick.co.za](mailto:bulletins@brookepatrick.co.za) – 26 October 2009

## The Pink Peril is here – help to remove it!

The Pompom weed is an invasive plant from South America which flowers from December to March. The weed is degrading and replacing grasslands, invading wetlands and is threatening indigenous plants and small animals. Its scientific name *Campoloclinium macrocephalum*. It is a Category 1 invader.

The Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development have an extensive awareness campaign to control the spread of the weed.

Extra special care is required to control and remove the weed to avoid intentional spreading. Further information about the control of the Pompom Weed can be found clicking [here](#).



## HELP NEEDED!

***The Conservancy is looking for someone who can undertake the role of Secretary. This is a vital role in any organisation and anyone who is prepared to offer their time and assistance in fulfilling this role should contact the Chairman.***

## Klipriviersberg Conservancy

(Interim GDARD  
No: GCA062)

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For further information:

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#### Hon Secretary/Treasurer:

**Sue Edwards** –  
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To become a member of the  
Conservancy e-mail:  
[vicechairman@klipcon.org.za](mailto:vicechairman@klipcon.org.za)

*Apologies for any cross-posting.*

*Please forward to your family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and networks.*

*If you wish to be deleted from our distribution list, please contact us.*

## Technical and Professional Assistance Please

In preparing and implementing the Management Framework for the Conservancy we obviously have to compile background data and information regarding the area relating to its history, cultural aspects, biodiversity - that is the people, birds, bugs, beasties and anything else that lives, crawls, walks and flies in the hills, grassy areas and rivers in the area. After all this is what we need to understand in fulfilling our purpose of protecting, promoting and enhancing what we have that makes our areas so special.

Set out below are some of the issues and information that we would be looking for from existing and known reports, research documents, studies and any other sources or resources that can be used.

We would be grateful if you or anyone that you know is able to assist us in preparing and contributing reports, information, maps or plans which can be compiled into the Management Plan. Set out below are some of the topics and issues which we are looking for information on:

- Current Legislation & Policies – National, Provincial, Local
- Physical - Geology & Geomorphology, Hydrology, Soils
- Ecological - Veld types and Vegetation, Wildlife (Vertebrates, Invertebrates, Bird lists),
- Indigenous and Alien vegetation lists, Wetlands, Red Data Species, Biodiversity habitats
- Social – Communities, Activities
- Cultural - Cultural features, History
- Economic - Land Uses, Infrastructure, Economic activities

**If you are able to assist and provide some of the information please contact Andrew Barker.**

## Funding & Sponsorship...

**The Klipriviersberg Conservancy does not raise funds through membership fees and requests sponsors and donors to make contributions. Any contributions are most gratefully received.**

The bank account details are as follows:

**Klipriviersberg Conservancy (Account: 086608584)**

**Standard Bank The Glen (Code: 00 60 05)**

**Please advise the Treasurer if you make a donation so we can recognize and acknowledge your contribution.**

*Please note that the Conservancy is to be registered as a Public Benefit Organisation and Non-Profit Organisation as soon as possible to enable sponsors and donors to receive tax advantages. As this will take some time to achieve it is suggested that any donors and sponsors who wish to assist should do so by means of a loan to the Conservancy which would later be converted*