January 2017
Issue 2017/1

KLIPRIVIERSBERG NATURE RESERVE ASSOCIATION
JOHANNESBURG'S JEWEL OF THE SOUTH

K.N.R.A. Break

Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve—"Jewel of the South"

Ed's Line.....

"Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more."

(The life of King Henry V, Act 3, scene 1 by William Shakespeare).

Sometimes I feel this line can fill me with enough enthusiasm to tackle all the future holds with, well enthusiasm obviously, but also positive "I can do anything" energy. Other times it's more of "Oh no not more..." Of course it depends upon which side of the bed you fall out and I am going to make a concerted effort to fall out of the positive side this year. (No it is not a resolution; it's a state of mind.)

That there are many and varied bumps in the road ahead of all of us is not in question. Inevitably there usually are and I am the last person to try to give advise on how to deal with them. What I would like to see, however, is more tolerance for differing opinions, more empathy for those battling with their own personal demons and more hands being held out to assist. At the end of the day we are all one under the "people" label.

I doubt there are many of you who have not read or heard of the land claim affecting large areas covering Johannesburg South, Sedibeng and Ekurhuleni. I follow a couple of WhattsApp sites and Facebook pages dealing with the issue and it is clear there is a lot of confusion and some panic amongst residents. There is a misconception that you cannot sell or rent property without the permission of the Land Claims Commissioner; in fact you only need to inform his office, with 30 days notice, of your intentions to do so. A valuable and level-headed facebook page can be found named LLC 98/2010 Land Claim Information Group. You can also address your concerns to your local councilor. By the time this newsletter has been sent out all letters of objection and support should have been submitted and the whole issue will be investigated and the legitimacy of the claim will be decided in due course. The chances of anyone losing their house is apparently little to none and if the claim is found to be legitimate a financial settlement is likely. (CN)

The Month Ahead.....

January is always going to be a short month in respect of events and activities due to the holidays. As such there are only two walks scheduled. The Bird Walk on Saturday 21 January. Meet Kevin Lavery at the Entrance Precinct at 06h00. Bring along binoculars, water, snacks and please wear suitable walking shoes and a hat. Kevin's number appears alongside the schedule (Pg 2) should you require further information. On Sunday 22 January a Guided Walk can be arranged but please book at least a week in advance so that the necessary arrangements can be made. See the Notice Board (PG 7) for details.

Photo Courtesy By Bernard DUPONT from FRANCE - CC BY-SA 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/

Inside this issue:

Ed's Line & The Month Ahead	1
Acknowledgments	2
Events Calendar	2
Celebrity Birthday and Cultural Calendars	3
Sunbird Trail Rehabilitation	4
Spotlight On—Rock Agama	4
Alien Invasion—Donkey	5

Inside this issue:

Geocaching by Leon Claassen	5
Reserve Map / Directions	6
Main Notice Board	7
Banking Details / Notice Board 2	8
ArtScape	9

Grateful Thanks to the Following

Donations:

Individuals:

Due to the December holidays donations made from the beginning of December to end January will be individually acknowledged in the February Edition. In the meantime we would like to thank everyone who has donated money, time and/or ideas; it is greatly appreciated!

Donations:

Corporate / Business / Institutions

Banking Details:

Kilpriviersberg Nature Reserve

Standard Bank Southdale

006405

Account Number:

201047284

"Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn."

Benjamin Franklin—Author, Politician, Scientist, Diplomat..... (b. 17 Jan 1706 : d. 17 Apr 1790)

Schedule of Events

Bird Walks

Kevin Lavery

083 267 3494

Guided Walks:

See Notice Board

General:

084 804 4073

Please note that these dates are subject to change.

Please confirm dates with the relevant persons listed above.

January 2017

(information subject to change)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 06h00 Bird Walk Entrance Precinct
22 08h00 Guided Walk See Notice Board	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

GPS Co-Ordinates:

Silent Pool 26º 16' 59.57 "S / 28 º 00' 34.34"E ***Entrance Precinct*** 26º 18' 13.50"S / 28º 00'39.34"E

Walk Tips:

We recommend that you wear a hat, good walking shoes and sun block. Bring snacks and water ***(water is a must!)*** Binoculars are recommended for the bird walks.

January 2017 : Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 JD Salinger Novelist (1919)	2	3	4	5	6	7 Caster Semenya Athlete (1991)
8	9 Dave Matthews Singer (1967)	10	11	12	13	14
15 Martin Luther King Civil Rights Activist (1929)	16	17	18	19	20 Buzz Aldrin Astronaut (1930)	21
22	23 Mariska Hargitay Actress (1964)	24	25	26	27 Nkosazans Dlamini-Zuma Politician (1949)	28
29 *Jody Scheckter* *Race Car Driver (1950)*	30 Henry Cele Actor (1949)	31 Jean Simmons Actress (1929)				

January 2017 : Religious and Cultural

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	2 Public Holiday	3	4	5 Guru Gobind Singh (Birthday)	6 Epiphany	7
8 Baptism of Christ	9	10	11	12 Mahayana New Year	13 Maghi-Lohri	14 Makarsankranti / Pongal
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Chinese New Year
29	30	31				

Colour Key: Birthdays Non South African South African

Colour Key: Holidays Public Holidays Buddhist Hindu Sikh Christian Jewish Islamic

Sunbird (Red) Trail Rehabilitation Initiative

The Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve boasts 10 trails catering for those who wish to enjoy a gentle stroll or for the brave souls who like a challenge. Unfortunately, the trails have degraded to such an extent that they have become dangerous in parts and there have been incidents of injuries sustained.

With this in mind, the KNRA entered into negotiations with the Hiking Organisation of Southern Africa eventually securing the services of Mr Albert Bossert. Mr Bossert assessed the state of the trails and structured a rehabilitation plan, which included the training of volunteers, Mellow Manthosi and EPWP workers in trail maintenance and management.

Following the initial 4 day training Mellow and his EPWP team worked on the Sunbird (Red) Trail for 6 days and was then bolstered by the arrival, on 5th December, of Mr Bossert and his team. They were on site to guide and assist in further rehabilitation for a period of 10 days.

The commissioning of the report, the training and the actual rehabilitation was by no means an inexpensive exercise. The generosity of the public who donate to the KNRA or support the functions and events held throughout the year enabled the committee to release the necessary funds to commence the rehabilitation before the start of the December holidays.

The total rehabilitation of all the trails will be a lengthy exercise. We urge all visitors to exercise caution when using the trails. Be sure to wear suitable walking shoes, flip flops and fashion sandals are NOT suitable. *Even the best maintained trail cannot compensate for unsuitable footwear.*

The KNRA would like to thank all involved and especially the generosity of the public, without which none of this would be possible. As the KNRA, we look forward to working with JCPZ, under whose management the KNR falls, to ensure that our trails reach the level of Green Flag status. (CN)

The maintenance team hard at work:

Photo:

Mellow Manthosi

Spotlight On..... Southern Rock Agama (Agama *altra*)

The above photo was taken back in April 2014 and if memory serves me correctly it was atop the Sunbird (Red) Trail .

The Southern Rock Agama is sociable and normally found in small groups or colonies. The females and juveniles are smaller and drabber than the adult males. The male displays a blue head during breeding season. Should a predator approach whilst the blue colouration is on display the agama will press flat against the rock and lose the intense breeding colour and adopt a more cryptic colouration. To warn off intruders he will embark on a "push-up" display. Whilst the females tend to be shy the males will often sit and bask in the sun.

They are diurnal and feed on small insects such as ants and termites. Although they are not adverse to living in rocky gardens the prevalence of domesticated cats threatens their numbers within suburbia. Their natural predators include the Fiscal Shrike and various reptile -eating snakes.

There is an old wives tale that this agama is venomous. This is entirely fictitious but it can inflict a painful bite as it has two fang-like teeth in it's upper jaw.

During breeding season two clutches of 7 -18 soft-shelled oval eggs are laid in a shallow hole dug into damp soil. The first in October—November and the second in January—February. Incubation takes 2-3 months.

> "The male displays a blue head during breeding season. "

They are closely related to the chameleon as is evident by the ability to change colour; though to a far lesser extent. Like the chameleon it uses it's tongue in feeding although the tongue is much shorter

This agama is widespread throughout South Africa with the exception of the sandy areas of the Northern Cape and some areas of the Northern Province, Mpumalanga and Kwa-Zulu Natal. (CN)

Information: Wikipedia and academic.sun. ac.za

Please feel free to submit any suggestions, comments or articles to editixcn@gmail.com

Alien Invasion: Donkey (Equus *africanus asinus*)

Donkeys are, I think, a subjective subject. Like them, dislike them or indifferent. However there comes a time when an objective view has to be taken.

Donkeys within the confines of a nature reserve are not a good idea on any level. Quite simply they are grazers and any donkeys on reserve land will be in direct competition with grazing wild residents.

In one day a donkey weighing 150kg will require: 5kg roughage (grass) and will need to graze for approximately 5 hours. They will consume 15-20 litres of water. In poor grazing they will require supplementary feeds of 3-4kg roughage, approx. ¼ bale of lucerne or teff or 1 1.5kg horse pellets.

Donkeys can, will and have interbred with zebras resulting in a hybrid referred to as a zebroid or zedonk, zebra mule, zonkey, zebmule. Usually a male zebra will mate with a female donkey although there are rare reports of the opposite resulting in a zebra hinny or donkra. The offspring are generally genetically unable to breed due to an odd number of chromosomes disrupting meiosis (a specialised type of cell division that produces reproductive cells).

A domesticated donkey also lacks any instinctive fear of humans and may "beg" for food….cute but not suitable in a reserve environment! (CN)

"Donkeys can, will and have interbred with Zebras."

Information: Wikipedia and Morgane James– NSPCA Booklet—nda.agric.za

Photo: Zedonk– Colchester Zoo 2 June 2004

Geocaching ..... { Text and Photos By Leon Claassen }

Before May 2000, it was impossible to accurately pinpoint your location using a GPS as Selective Availability was in place which reduced the accuracy of coordinates - they were around 100m out. On 2 May 2000, the US government switched off Selective Availability and this allowed for better accuracy for placing and locating small objects – down to an accuracy of 2-3m. In celebration of this, the first documented placing of a geocache took place on 3 May 2000 in Oregon, USA and by 6 May 2000 it had been found twice and logged once.

This paved the way for geocaching as a fun outdoor recreational activity, and over the years development in various technologies has changed the way in which the game is played.

The game is generally played using a GPS enabled device, such as a handheld GPS, or mobile phone. With the aid of your GPS enabled device, you will navigate to a set of co-ordinates where you will either find the geocache, or be given a set of instructions to your next location. With as many as 11 different cache types, the possibilities are so to speak endless. Each cache type has a different way in which you are required to go about in solving the cache. Some of the cache types you will encounter on your adventures include, but are not limited to, Traditional Cache, Multi-Cache, Mystery Cache, Earth Cache and Events, etc.

Earlier I mentioned finding and logging, so what does this mean? Well simply put, almost all geocaches, except for Earth Caches, Virtual Caches, and Webcam Caches, will have a physical container hidden at the final co-ordinates. These containers vary in size from as small as +/- 1cm (a very small canister) to virtually limitless in size. The container will always contain some form of log sheet, and at times a pen / pencil. But as an avid Geocacher I know that it is always wise to carry a pen with you, just in case J. Once you have found the final container, you are required to write your name / alias in the log sheet and to return the cache exactly as you had found it. This allows for the next geocacher to have the same experience you had when finding the geocache in question. You will then log your visit to this geocache on the Geocaching.com website, which is where you will be able to easy track your milestones.

I have been geocaching for just short of 3 years now, and the addiction just keeps growing. My adventures have seen me meeting new people, and making many new friends. I have also been on a number of adventures and seen places I would have probably never ever discovered had it not been for geocaching.

Geocaching truly is an adventure for the entire family to enjoy, and it is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Many geocachers even plan their holidays around geocaching as they know that some of the sites they will be visiting will be well worth any trip.

Currently there are almost three million geocaches worldwide with around 13 000 in South Africa alone. (LC)

If you would like to do some more research of your own, you can visit http://www.geocachingsa.com/

Directions

Directions to "Silent Pool" Entrance (North):

Coming South from N1 or N3:

1. From N12, either via Western Bypass (N1) or Eastern Bypass (N3) get onto the Southern Bypass (N12)
2. Take Kliprivier Drive off ramp (R556) and travel South until you get to the traffic lights cnr Vorster/Columbine Ave
3. Turn right into Columbine, go under bridge and follow Columbine until the Ormonde Drive lights (Engen to the left and Dischem to the right)
4. Turn left into Ormonde Drive
5. Pass Devereux Ave on your left and just before the bridge turn left into Frandolph
6. Proceed to the end of Frandolph to the "Silent Pool" gate. Parking is outside the Reserve.

Coming from M1 South:

1. Pass Gold Reef City and Nasrec off-ramp. Look for Vereeniging—R82 (don't continue to N12 –Bloemfontein!!!) You need the correct lane here unless you want the scenic route.
2. Take Columbine off-ramp and turn left into Columbine
3. Travel down until the lights at a small shopping centre. (Dischem on your left, Steers and Engen on your right)
4. Turn right into Ormonde Drive
5. Pass Devereux Ave on your left and just before the bridge turn left into Frandolph
6. Proceed to the end of Frandolph to the "Silent Pool" gate. Parking is outside the Reserve.

Directions to Peggy Vera Entrance (South):

Coming from South N1 or N3:

1. Take the (N12) and travel to the Kliprivier Drive off-ramp (R556)
2. Travelling South turn right into Impala Rd
3. Travel 4km and turn right into Springbok Rd
4. Turn first right just before Engen into Silver Lane
5. At the T-junction turn right into Peggy Vera
6. Pass the Klipriviersberg Recreation Centre which will be on your right, the Reserve entrance is the next turn right (Parking in grounds)
7. ***Coming from M1 South:***
8. Pass Gold Reef City and Nasrec off-ramp. Look for Vereeniging—R82 (don't continue to N12 –Bloemfontein!!!) You need the correct lane here unless you want the scenic route.
9. Continue on the on the R82 passing Columbine Rd off-ramp with Southgate Shopping Centre on your right
10. Travel 3km and turn left at the first traffic light into Pierpont Drive
11. Travel about 1km to the fork in the road
12. Continue to the left (Pierpont) and take an almost immediate right fork to the end of the road (T-junction—Peggy Vera)
13. Pass the recreation centre on your right, the next entrance is to the Reserve (Parking in grounds)

NOTICE BOARD

Sunday Walks

Do you want to walk in the reserve but are unsure where to go? Would you prefer to be accompanied by a knowledgeable guide? Experience the beauty of the local flora and fauna right here on your own doorstep.

When: Every 4th Sunday of the month

Where: Entrance Precinct, Peggy Vera Rd

Time: 08h00

Contact: Lea Brash on leabrash@kolisa.co.za

Cost: R20-00pp (Booking and advance payment essential)

Payment: Deposit into bank account and email proof of payment to lea-brash@kolisa.co.za (Ref = Name and number of attendees)

Catering: Bring your own snacks and don't forget sufficient water, walking shoes, hat and sun-block

Bird Walks with Kevin Lavery

Discover the abundance of bird life in the KNR with Kevin every third Saturday of the month. Check the Events Calendar for times as they vary throughout the year.

Remember to bring along your binoculars, hat, sunscreen and water.

Happy Twitching.....

Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve

"Jewel of the South"

Contact and Banking Details

Postal Address:

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Mondeor
2110

Telephone and Email:

General Queries: 084 804 4073
Email Queries: info@knra.co.za
Booking Queries: leabrash@kolisa.co.za

Banking Details:

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201047284

Find Us on Face Book; Jewel of the South

Website: www.klipriviersberg.org.za

KNRA Break Invites You, The Reader, To Contribute

KNRA invites all interested parties to submit articles, letters and / or photographs for publication. Any suggestions for regular features are welcome.

Newsletters will be published monthly and contributions need to be submitted no later than the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next publication. Late submissions will be considered for the next publication if they are not time sensitive.

All contributions to be sent via email please.

Editor: Cathy Naude

editrixcn@gmail.com

Disclaimer:

All contributions are the opinion of the contributor and not that of the KNRA Committee or Editor

No racism, foul language or personal insults will be permitted. Please be respectful of others opinions .

Spill-Over Notice Board

This page is for the artistic, creative, poetic and reflective readers of all ages.....please feel free to send contributions to editrixcn@gmail.com