



Adopt Moreletaspruit Forum

Newsletter 31, October 2025



The Adopt Moreletaspruit Forum Annual Guided Hike along the Moreletaspruit

We are so fortunate to have the river and green corridor running through our suburbs! We organise an annual hike along the river so people can get to see the beautiful parts and also the challenges – mostly invasive alien vegetation and litter – and hopefully be inspired to join the Friends Groups working along the river and the CoT Dept of Nature Conservation, to conserve the biodiversity along the Moreletaspruit and its tributaries.

Forty two hikers, guided by Erica Bergman, Ruth Schmidt, Ralph Enslin and Vincent van der Wiel walked about 12 km along the Moreletaspruit from Serene Valley in Garsfontein to the Pioneers' House in Silverton on 20 September. There were a few challenging river crossings along the way (above: under Lynnwood Bridge – photo by Erica).

Below are some photos of the day by Erica Bergmann, Ruth Schmidt and Carol Martin.



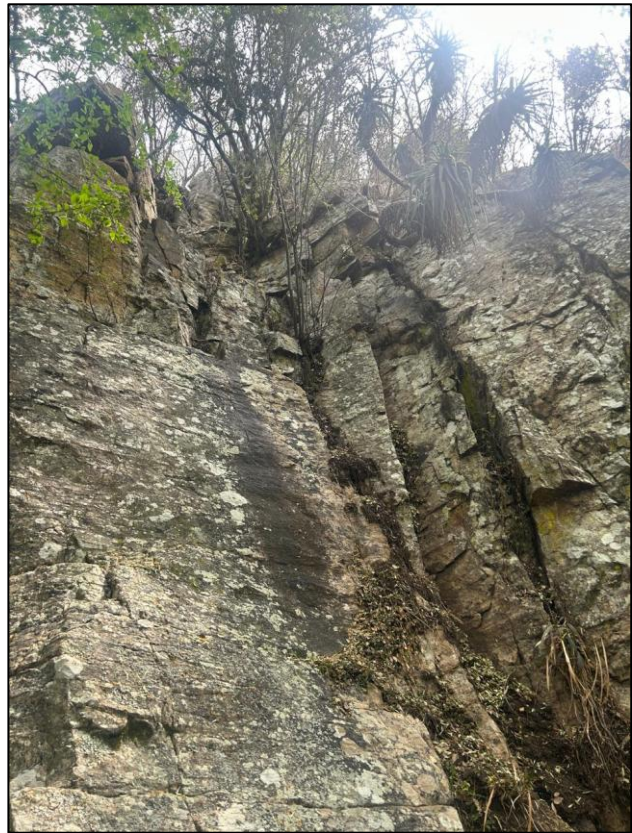
Left: crossing the Constantiaspruit in Serene Valley Right: Another crossing with Vince helping



In Faerie Glen Nature Reserve.



Group photo during a break at the Faerie Glen picnic site



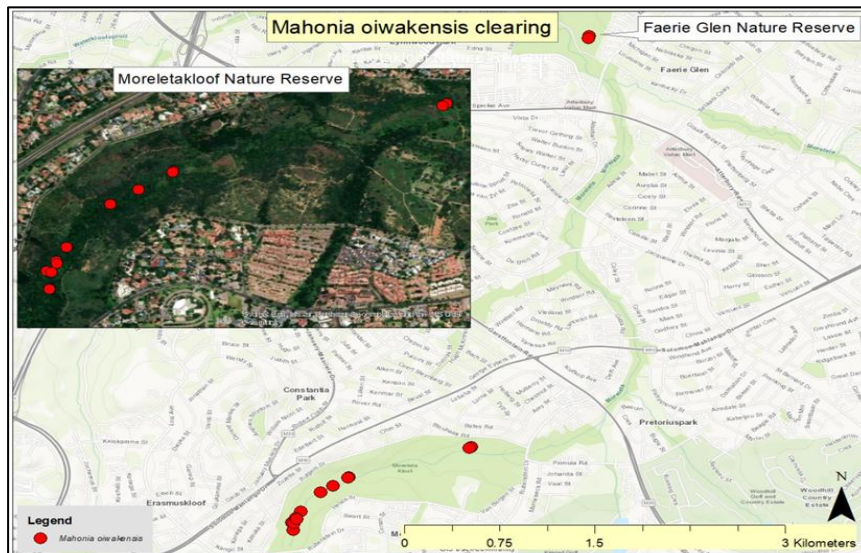
Short break for refreshments in Murrayfield, a spectacular krantz and great camaraderie.



In Meyerspark Bird Sanctuary



SANBI-DBE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED AROUND MORELETASPRUIT



By Nkhangweleni Sikhauli

Clearing of *Mahonia oiwakensis*:

Mahonia oiwakensis, commonly known as the Chinese hollygrape, from the family Berberidaceae, is native to China and Taiwan.

M. oiwakensis is a SUSPECT species recorded in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, with populations found in Faerie Glen Nature



Reserve and the Moreletakloof Nature Reserve in the Moreletaspruit catchment. This discovery was made possible through a collaborative effort between SANBI and Friends of Faerie Glen and Friends of Moreleta Kloof. Clearing efforts began in 2019 using the cut-stump method, where 44 plants have been cleared to date. Map shows *Mahonia oiwakensis* cleared along the Rademeyerspruit and Moreletaspruit.

Survey of Mhangele Nature Area





Verbena bonariensis, *Zinnia peruviana*, and *Iris pseudacorus*.

The SANBI-DBE team surveyed and evaluated the presence of invasive alien plant species within the Mhangele Nature Area. *Melilotus albus*, commonly known as white sweet clover, was detected and identified as a priority species. *M. albus* belongs to the Fabaceae family. It is a Eurasian-origin species that has become naturalised globally. In South Africa, the species is not yet listed under NEM:BA; however, it has the potential to become invasive. It has pinnately trifoliate leaves, finely toothed leaflet margins, and elongated racemes and is up to 2.5m tall. Other dominant species observed were

South Africa's first Multilingual Frog Posters – one for each province



Why frogs? They're ecological indicators – when frogs are in trouble, it often means our water and ecosystems are too. By giving frogs a voice in every language, more people are invited into the conversation about care, stewardship and pride in our natural heritage.

The posters are the result of a collaboration:
Concept and leadership: Dr Fortunate Mafeta Phaka (North West University)

Species data: Dr Louis du Preez.

Translations: SAIAB and community language representatives.

Partners: WildVernac, Anura Africa and Bionerds

for design and production. It truly took a community to reach a country! A1 print-ready posters can be downloaded at: <https://www.anuraafrica.org/resources-downloads>

Posters include species names, calls, habitat notes and QR codes for quick learning. They are free for non-commercial use; please keep the credits intact.

Thanks to Peter Smythe of Friends of Skuikrans for the information.

Great Southern Bioblitz (GSB) 24 to 27 October 2025

The GSB is an international period of intense biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species across the Southern Hemisphere in spring. The purpose of this event is to highlight the immense biodiversity in springtime, as well as to engage the greater public in science and nature learning. This event is held at the end of September, October or November as full springtime comes at different times to different areas. This year it is in October which is the very best time for us in our city. So let us all go out on those four days, with the iNaturalist app loaded on our smartphones and take as many observations as possible of plants, insects, fungi, animals and birds. If your phone's location is on, these will be automatically uploaded to Tshwane's challenge. Tutorials on how to use iNaturalist are available online. Below are links to websites where you can track the progress of the bioblitz.

City of Tshwane:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/great-southern-bioblitz-2025-tshwane>

Southern Africa:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/great-southern-bioblitz-2025-southern-africa-umbrella>

Whole Southern Hemisphere – Africa, Oceania and South America

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/great-southern-bioblitz-2025-umbrella>

News from WESSA Friends Groups.

Ecoglen Association celebrated its 21st anniversary with a picnic and good old-fashioned fun in the sun on 13 September, attended by 120 people. The fun included a treasure hunt for children, a snake demonstration by Access Professional Development and the ceremonial planting of a tree. Prizes were sponsored by Chamberlain Waterkloof Glen Branch, B-One Hire, Karoo Café Nursery, Lots of Pots, and Plantland.



Left: treasure hunters.



Right: Jeanne van Eeden, who has been on the committee for 21 years.

Friends of Skuilkrans held an Open Day on 24 September, Heritage Day. There were Guided Walks on the hour from 08:00 to 16:00 at three venues: Skuilkrans Kopje, Moreleta@Skuilkrans and the Meyerspark Bird Sanctuary. Many families came to enjoy these hidden gems and a little boy on the hike up Skuilkrans Kopje, past sweet-smelling wild apricots, *Aloe pretoriensis*, spectacular views and challenging rocky parts, said “This is the best hike ever - I wish I could do it all day!”



Left: Guide, Les Wiggill, pointing out a flowering Cork Bush and right, discussing other special plants.



Contact Details

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Facebook Group: Adopt-a-River Moreleta