



NEWSLETTER

The "Greater Kyalami Conservancy"

November 2013



BULLFROGS ON THE MOVE

The African Bullfrog is a near threatened species and they are vulnerable to local extinction. Now is the time of year where they will be active. They are often seen on the roads at night so please drive carefully and report any sightings at biodiversity@gekco.co.za because we need that data!



WELL DONE GEKCO MEMBERS!

Eskom and Karebo sent a letter thanking all those who participated in the energy saving exercise held last year by swapping out their globes for LED's, using low-flow shower heads and installing timers on their geysers and pool pumps. An 86 MW saving was achieved by Eskom, reducing the load on our power generation plants. That's quite a saving!

Wildlife in Kyalami

Wildlife is an integral part of the character of Kyalami and it is all of our responsibilities to ensure that we do not lose it. With the rapid level of development in the area as well as the presence of domestic animals (our pets), a lot of our indigenous wildlife seems to be disappearing. Several residents have reported that where they used to see Hedgehogs, Jackal, Duiker and other species, they no longer do. We are trying very hard to identify the areas in Kyalami where wildlife still thrives so that we can work towards their protection.

We will be organising outings in the near future to try and identify new species for our database. A posting will be put up on the GEKCO Biodiversity Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GEKCOwildlifecorridorproject> and an email will be sent out prior to an outing. We welcome all those interested to join us.

If your property has a wetland or some indigenous vegetation and wildlife on it and you don't mind allowing a few researchers onto it, then please contact us so we can make arrangements to include the data in our studies.

If you have any sightings or photographs of unusual species in the area please report them at biodiversity@gekco.co.za or alternatively contact Tyrone Mckendry on 083 635-2645. Your contribution could very well make a difference.

Please visit the Biodiversity section on the GEKCO website to view and download our current species lists and members' species photos.



50|50 Episode on Snaring in the GEKCO Conservancy

You can view the episode on YouTube if you didn't manage to see it on the 30th of September. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rr3ePmnmgu8&feature=c4-overview&list=UUHJOuXqy7E91BRCxkSPxR0Q>

Another episode is planned in the coming weeks... details to follow.

UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES AND EVENTS

Your comments are needed! - GEKCO needs your views and input on development issues and suggestions for the area. Please mail your comments and input to info@gekco.co.za. We are working with Andrew Barker, town planner, to identify the desires of the community and the issues to be considered as part of a scoping process. This is an opportunity to have a direct say in the future of this area and we would like to ensure all voices are heard.

Feedback from session with Town Planner - Andrew Barker facilitated a scoping session at the Sunset Boma on October 12th. GEKCO and Residents from Kyalami, Dainfern, Diepsloot, Chartwell, Bridle Park, Sun Valley, Glenferness, Crowthorne and Beaulieu attended. The objective was to identify development issues in the area and to form teams to tackle the issues and give input into a strategy for development planning. This process will feed input into the current review of Joburg's Spatial Development Framework. Teams are being formed to deal with provincial roads issues, concerns about infrastructure, strategic planning and 'hot spot' issues. Please contact chair@gekco.co.za if you would like to get involved.

Input into 25 year Provincial roads plan - GEKCO gave input into the 25 year Integrated Transport Management Plan drafted by Gauteng Department of Transport. 'With the increasing urbanization of the country and projected growth for Gauteng in particular, the next 25 years will be challenging and urgent interventions are required to alleviate poverty, to protect environmentally sensitive areas, to address issues such as water and air pollution, to mitigate climate change, and to ensure fair and equitable distribution of resources including modes of transport to its citizens.' The full document is available at:

<http://gekco.co.za/gekco-input-into-25-year-provincial-transport-plan-271013/>

Events - The Greater Kyalami Conservancy and Residents' Associations have been meeting with various events planners in the area to highlight noise issues and environmental concerns around the frequent events in the area. Residents' Associations in the Conservancy agree that concerts and loud music are not suitable in our quiet residential area. A team of concerned residents and GEKCO committee members has been lobbying to keep this area quiet and only allow events suitable for the area.

A survey is being distributed to gauge the disturbance of the recent Blue Hills Food and Wine Festival. Please complete the survey here <https://apps.facebook.com/my-surveys/oixri>

Wet waste recycling product available at Midfeeds - As part of the Green Neighbourhood project GEKCO is promoting recycling in the Greater Kyalami Conservancy. The Bokashi system can recycle all food waste, even meat and bones. This product is now available at Midfeeds. Should you require more information, please contact Mandy Collins at gogreen@greenpioneers.co.za

RECENT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Riversands / Diepsloot Industrial Project

Thomas Walters, the DA shadow to the MEC of Agriculture and Rural Development asked questions about this development at the Legislature. Thank you to John Mendelsohn and Thomas for doing this. The questions can be viewed on the GEKCO website. We will circulate the answers when received.



Blue Hills X74 - The town planning application is open for comment. Objections or representations are due by the 6th of November. Documents and maps of the development are available on the GEKCO website.

Petrol station application / Glenferness - Concerned residents in Glenferness have lodged objections to a petrol station application on the corner of Main and Lachlan Roads. GEKCO has also lodged an objection and raised concerns over the pollution of wetlands and groundwater.

Diepsloot East Residential Project - A public meeting was held on 16 October to allow for input on the Draft EIA. The client, Department of Human Settlements, and the project team were present to answer any questions raised. Councillors and members of the Diepsloot community were present and raised issues on community participation, existing sewage infrastructure and expressed a desire to improve the state of the wetland through Diepsloot.

Residents in the Kyalami and Bridle Park area raised concerns about noise and crime and pointed out that the Riversands Industrial development will likely cut off the corridor required for the Bullfrog conservation project to be viable. A concern was also raised that the Industrial development will attract more people into an area with a severe housing shortage. More details on GEKCO website <http://gekco.co.za/developments/>

