



NEWSLETTER

The "Greater Kyalami Conservancy"

August 2013



SNARE CLEAN UP

In honour of Warrant Officer Reddy who's untimely passing has left a big space in our community, we will be holding a snare clean up in Glenferness, Kyalami. The date for this event is the 24th of August. Please email vicechair@gekco.co.za for more information.



MANDELA DAY

Green Neighbourhood Project clean up. GEKCO joined Just Environmental Action, SH!FT, The Foundation For World Spiritual Unity and the Noweto Business Chamber as well as companies and individuals to spend 67 minutes of community service cleaning the streets of Diepsloot. We were also joined by pupils from the Kwena Molapo High School and the Bonte Ke Tihago, the Diepsloot recycling cooperative and much fun was had by all.

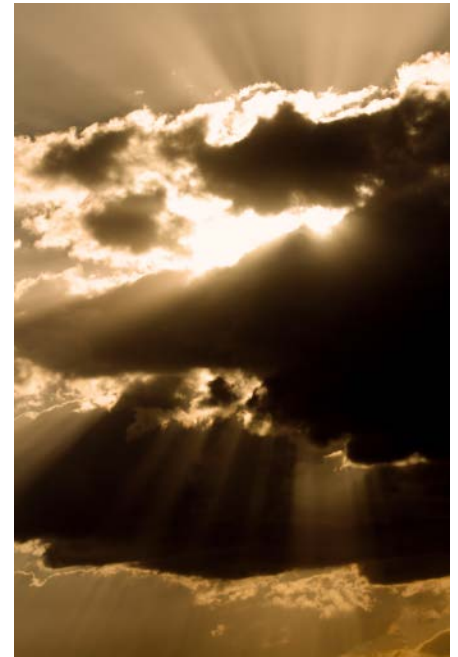
The Pikitup strike has had dire consequences in Diepsloot as piles of rubbish on the street have not been collected for weeks. It is time we join forces with our neighbours to highlight these issues that threaten human health and the environment.

Biodiversity Project

We are currently compiling a list of every species that has been recorded in the area, to gain a greater understanding of the ecology of the conservancy and determine its value as well as to show the importance of conserving it. If you have any pictures of species taken within the area please send them to us and they will go onto our website (you will be credited for your contribution). You can also upload the pictures directly by clicking on the 'GEKCO Projects' section on the GEKCO website. For more information on the project please visit the website www.gekco.co.za or email biodiversity@gekco.co.za.

Wildlife Corridor Project

The goal of this project is to identify the most important areas in the conservancy and to determine which corridors are being used by wildlife to move between these ecologically important areas and this data will ultimately be used to protect the ecosystems and the species which inhabit them. We have selected a few species which are easy to identify correctly and should be relatively easy to see. You can report your sighting by simply filling out the 'Sighting Report Form' under the GEKCO Projects section on the GEKCO website. For more information on the project please visit the website or email biodiversity@gekco.co.za.



Recycling

The Green Neighbourhood project is partnering with the Diepsloot Buyback Centre to encourage recycling in our area. We are currently looking for assistance, if you would like to get involved please email vicechair@gekco.co.za.

We are also working with the event organisers in our area to ensure waste is disposed of and recycled properly in a manner which is not detrimental to the environment. The Standard Bank corporate event at Riversands is to be held on the 22nd of September at Riversands Farm. The waste will be taken to the Diepsloot Buyback centre for recycling; event attendees will also be collecting recycling to take to the event and will also bring fabric for the Diepsloot ladies' sewing cooperative. Thank you to Mandy Collins for initiating this and the organisers for their cooperation.

REPORTING OF ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSGRESSIONS

WETLANDS – GEKCO met with the Green Scorpions to point out damage done to wetlands in Glenferness, on Bridle Pass and on Erling road. Two meetings were held with GDARD, the City of Joburg and the Department of Water Affairs.

If you have a wetland on your property, please be aware that they are protected by the National Water Act and any building or disturbance is illegal. If you would like more information, please contact GEKCO and we will be happy to advise.

HELDERFONTEIN GRASSLANDS – A GEKCO member reported the ploughing of Egoli Granite Grasslands on the Helderfontein property. Meetings have been held with GDARD and the property owner, Century Properties. Century has submitted a rehabilitation plan to the department which is currently being considered. Egoli Granite is an endangered grassland found in our area. As only pockets of this unique grassland remain – they are protected by the National Biodiversity Act.



DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS UPDATE

- 1: Riversands** – Urban Dynamics held the second public meeting for the proposed amendment to the RSDF on the 26th of June. You can view the comments made on their website. www.urbandynamics.co.za. This report will be submitted to council for a decision - <http://www.urbandynamics.co.za/index.php/downloads/117-riversands-public-participation.html>.

GEKCO and the Greater Kyalami Residents' council (GKRC) representing all of the RA's in the GEKCO area submitted an objection with the assistance of a town planner and environmental attorney. You can view the objection on the GEKCO website. <http://gekco.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Riversands-Objection.pdf>.

- 2: Retail Africa** - A tribunal hearing was held for the proposed Retail Africa shopping centre on the 16th of May. GEKCO, the GKRC and councillor John Mendelsohn attended the hearing and raised objections on behalf of the residents. The hearing decided in favour of Retail Africa and included a condition of limited retail space. The GKRC, Kyalami Ridge and Beaulieu have lodged an appeal to ask for further conditions to be included.



- 3: Crowthorne / Kyalami Sewerage Line** - The approval of the Retail Africa development is dependent on the sewerage line which is currently undergoing an EIA process. The Basic Assessment report will be released next week.
- 4: Proposed K56 Road** – The scoping report for the proposed K56 has been made available for comment until 23 August at the Grace Point Church in Glenferness or on Bokamoso's website: www.bokamoso.biz.
- 5: R55 road upgrade** – A public meeting was held for the Environmental Impact Assessment for the upgrade of the R55 on the 28th of May. If you would like to find out more, please register as an Interested and Affected party with Kgomotso Molefi, admin@kopanoenvironmental.co.za.

