

# **ZWARTKOPS CONSERVANCY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018**

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## **OVERVIEW**

### **Vision**

A healthy Swartkops River ecosystem that supports the needs of the fauna that inhabit it, the flora that surround it, and which provides in a totally sustainable manner, a holistic platform for recreation and enterprise.

### **Mission**

To promote public awareness and participation in caring for the greater Swartkops River ecosystem for the benefit of all.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

EXCO meets once a quarter to review and approve the actions of the Management Committee and its various sub-committees.

### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

MANCO meets monthly and oversees the day to day operations of the sub-committees responsible for specific portfolios as listed below.

Special thanks to Gail Badenhuizen and Jenny Collier, who produced the minutes for both committees this year.

### **Sub Committees**

#### **Administration**

Many thanks to our treasurer, Ken Flugel, for keeping us in the financial picture and to our auditor, Andrew Smith for the annual financial statements.

We all need to be aware of the huge amount of work Arthur Rump puts into dealing with the ever-increasing burden of administration required of an NGO / PBO. Without his expertise we would rapidly grind to a halt.

We express our profound gratitude to Arthur for his tireless service over many years.

#### **Legal**

During the past year the legal case was put on hold to give the Metro time to comply with our demand that they effectively spend the budget for infrastructure maintenance.

Our sincere thanks to Attorney Francois Swanepoel and Advocate Richard Buchanan for their support and advice.

#### **Fund Raising**

Many thanks to the Lotto team of Jenny Miller and Arthur Rump, who worked hard to ensure that our application was submitted on time.

Donations for the 2018 financial year total R297 511.

The list of our major contributors follows. We are also most grateful to many members and non-members who made smaller donations:

Donor	Amount	Utilization
Metro Grant-in-Aid	R150 000	Environmental Education, Workshops, litter clean-up & Masazi
Orion Engineered Carbons	R48 750	Environmental education
Ford Global Foundation	R44 785	Motherwell Buy-Back Centre
ICLEI	R18 570	Environmental education
Zipski	R12 000	Conservation Management

## Public Relations

Our new website was launched this year and will continue to be enhanced as we progress towards our goals.

New features will include a payment portal to make it easier for donors to interact with us.

We need to drive internet traffic to the website and we will make use of social media to achieve this end.

## Education and Awareness

### Masifundisani

Jenny Rump and her team continued with their exhausting schedule during the past year. There is no better way of illustrating the huge effort they put in than by showing the schedule of activities – and this list has been edited to show just the educational aspects, leaving out the many administrative tasks required:

7/3 Pond 6 lesson and craft workshop with Inkqubela Primary, Kwazakhele including ward 21 community members. Shirley assisted as Wandisile could not come.

8/3 Masifundisane lesson on mudbanks and canal with Elundini Primary.

15/3 Masifundisane lesson with Enkwenkwezini Primary.

16/3 Pond 6 lesson and craft workshop with Thamsanqa High, Kwazakhele.

28 and 29/3 Dias Primary 120 Gr 5 pupils in Aloe Reserve and mudbank and canal lesson.

28/3 35 WESSA Blue Flag Stewards and teachers taught about estuaries and valley thicket. Thanks to Hank for telling them about the law enforcement side and the bait and subsistent fishers.

3/4 Pond 6 Community Craft Workshop and teaching on Pond 6 at Mzontsundu High in Kwazakhele. Shirley is our caterer and serves refreshments at the workshops.

5/4 Craft Workshop to Masazi Buddies during their camp at Jabavu.

10/4 Pond 6 Community Craft Workshop and teaching on Pond 6 at Lilian Ngoyi Hall Kwazakhele attended by 45 members. Faith from our sponsor ICLEI came from CT to see what we do.

25/4 I gave a power point presentation to the 4<sup>th</sup> year Architecture students @ NMMU on the Swartkops and what ZC do so that they can design a building for the area.

26/4 Cotswold Primary lesson on the mudbanks and canal with about 60 Gr 7 pupils. Anita Hons NMMU student of Prof Janine Adams attended.

28/4 Pond 6 Community Craft Workshop at Daku Hall attended by only 21 people because of all the holidays. Attended by others who want to learn what we do – my friend Faith, Pam from DAFF, Portia from J-Bay who wants us to come and give a workshop there.

3/5 Masifundisane lesson on mudbanks and canal with 90 pupils from Empumalanga Primary.

10/5 Masifundisane lesson in Aloe Reserve and canal with Vukani Bantu.

15/5 Pond 6 Community Workshop at Kayser Nkxwane Primary School attended by Sandra, Faith, Anita and 21 community members. I got special Wetland posters made for each school we taught for Pond 6.

17/5 Masifundisane lesson in Aloe Reserve and canal to Dumani Primary.

24/5 Masifundisane lesson in Aloe Reserve and canal to Vezubuhile Primary and celebration of Biodiversity Day.

31/5 Masifundisane lesson in Aloe Reserve and canal to Enqileni Primary.

7/6 Masifundisane lesson on mudbanks and canal to Fumisikoma Primary to celebrate Enviro and Oceans Days.

14/6 Masifundisane to Khulile Primary at Aloe Reserve and canal.

21/6 Masifundisane to Mdengentonga Primary at Aloe reserve and canal.

21/6 Shirley and I delivered the remainder of the Pond 6 Wetland posters to the schools we taught.

11/7 Estuary lesson at the Masazi Greening our Environment holiday camp at Jabavu.

27/7 field trip of 3<sup>rd</sup> year Botany NMU students to Swartkops Estuary with Prof Janine Adams where I presented on Motherwell canal and the artificial wetland.

27/7 Talk to Munro Kirk residents on “How to make craft from rubbish”.

2/8 Masifundisane lesson on Flamingo Trail and canal with Nxanelwimfundo Primary. Emile Hallaby took photos and used his drone.

16/8 Masifundisane lesson to Imbasa Primary on mudbanks with 4 NMU Education students and lecturer. Emile took photos.

23/8 Masifundisane lesson to Canzibe in Aloe Reserve.

30/8 Masifundisane lesson to Mfesane High in Aloe Reserve.

13/9 Masifundisane lesson to Coega Primary.

25/8 I gave a talk on the ZC at the Masazi Buddies Awards Function.

26/8 I gave a talk on the Swartkops Estuary and how litter affects our lives to a group of kids at a fishing development day function at the Rod Club.

29/8 “How to make money from rubbish” workshop given to a group of 25 community members from KwaDwesi for metro.

20/9 Masifundisane lesson to Vulumzi High in Aloe Reserve and canal.

11/10 Masifundisane lesson to Zanaxolo Primary in Aloe Reserve and canal.

22/9 Wandisile gave an Arbor Day talk.

25/10 Masifundisane to Ncedo High in Aloe Reserve and canal.

1/11 20 Masifundisane Learner Development kids from Walmer taken to mudbanks and Motherwell Canal.

8/11 Masifundisane to Swartkops Primary at mudbanks and canal.

10/11 Wandisile gave a presentation to learners for Dept of Agriculture at Dumani.

17-20 Oct Marine Week 528 learners and 15 teachers came over the 4 days and were taught in Xhosa (a must) by Patricia or Wandisile and at the next stand by the Noziqhamo ladies. The new venue at Bayworld worked very well.

2/2 Wandisile gave a mudbank and canal lesson to mark Wetlands Day to 15 unemployed N areas youth who metro is helping with their learnership. A great bunch of youngsters and so interested.

14/2 I took Franco Eleuteri and wife Claire from Dallas Texas on a tour of the area – Motherwell canal, Buy Back Centre, Wandisile and Jabavu, Motherwellwell view point above Redhouse, Pond 6.

14/2 Masifundisane lesson to Fumisumoma Primary – mudbanks and canal.

21/2 Masifundisane lesson to Elundini Primary – mudbanks and canal.

28/2 Masifundisane lesson to Mdengentonga Primary – mudbanks and canal.

7/3 Masifundisane lesson to Enqileni Primary – mudbanks and canal.

14/3 Masifundisane lesson to Ncedo High – mudbanks and canal.

15/3 NMU Botany Dept outing with Profs Janine Adams and Sue Jobling from London University and several post grad students. Thanks to Dale and Wandisile for accompanying us. We first saw the estuary from my study, then we went to the reed bed at Motherwell canal, the canal in Motherwell to see the litter collection taking place, the view point above Redhouse, the Motherwell BBC, the top litter trap and water coming into the canal. Janine has booked to bring the Botany 3<sup>rd</sup> years for the same tour at the end of July.

Many thanks to Mr. Pasiwe from Khuboni Bus who supplied us with free transport for most of the year.

### Masazi

Wandedesile Lukwe ran a successful “Greening my Environment” camp during the July school holidays despite being badly let down by the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, which promised assistance in the form of food for the children but failed to deliver.

Plans for 2018 envisage a total of 275 Grade 6, Grade 7 and Grade 8 learners attending the 10-day Winter Environmental Training Camp from the 25 June to the 4 July.

Finding funds for the Masazi camps is an ongoing task. A meeting was held with the Department of Rural Development at which enquired as to how they could get involved with the Masazi Project. They were willing to partner and assist financially from the beginning of April 2018.

Many other activities are carried out under the Masiza banner. Some of these include:

- During the Wetlands Day celebrations 83 Masiza Buddies cleaned up the pond in Motherwell and 102 bags were collected.
- A Craft Workshop had been hosted by Patricia and Wandesile for the Lathitha Special School for learners with disabilities.
- Discussions were held on how to start a permaculture garden and a worm farm.
- A meeting had been held with the Youth Co-ordinator from WESSA who was interested in working with our schools and taking them on the NMU hiking trails.
- Plans were drawn up for the 2018 Easter Training Camp for 30 to 40 learners.
- A parent meeting was held on the 2 February to inform the parents of the new learners who joined this year about the Masazi Project and the ZC.

Our congratulations to Wandesile on a job well done.

### **Motherwell Buy Back Centre**

EnviroServ generously donated two containers a large table, a scale and a bakkie to the Centre. Many thanks to Louis Beyers for organising the transport of the goods from Johannesburg and supervising the installation of the containers, and to Castle Crane Hire who assisted in placing the containers in position for free.

Dale Clayton has been instrumental in resolving the many structural problems at the BBC, including the planned replacement of the surrounding wall which blew over in a gale.

The BBC is beginning to work efficiently under the direction of M. Desi and we hope to see it turn a profit in due course.

### **Infrastructure**

Our thanks to Peter Senn and Mike Spearpoint for keeping Curlew II shipshape and unsinkable and on all the work they do in assisting with litter bag collection.

### **Pollution and River Clean up**

During the past financial year our Environmental Officer's reports on pollution make depressing reading.

The sewage pipeline from Motherwell to the Fishwater Flats waste water treatment plant continued to break at numerous points. The Markman and Motherwell Canals regularly carry cargoes of sewage and industrial waste into the River.

Sewage sludge caused by outfall from the Kelvin Jones treatment plant resulted in the loss of cattle which drank the foul water.

The Metro appears overwhelmed by the enormity of the task of replacing failing infrastructure. We thank the dedicated contractors who do their best to resolve the constant stream of disasters.

In March 2017, the ZC held a meeting in the Mayoral Chambers in Uitenhage with the certain councillors and officials, including the Mayor. They attended an onsite inspection of the Kat and Middle Street Canals. The various canals continue to be blocked in spite of the Metro having made spasmodic efforts to remove rubbish.

Our attempts to obtain pollution readings from the Metro have been largely unsuccessful. Whether this is due to incompetence or a desire to hide the truth from the public has yet to be decided.

Congratulations to Dale Clayton and his team of dedicated litter-pickers, who scour the banks of the River, and often further inland, for plastic and other litter; Dale sent many hours battling the Metro to pay the litter pickers on time. The fight against corruption within the Metro resulted in delays during which time the ZC has to fund the litter-pickers' wages.

Many thanks to Peter Senn and Louis Beyers for the hours spent on the water moving cargoes of rubbish from collection points inaccessible by road.

We mourn the sudden passing of David Bligh of the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation. He was a staunch ally in the fight against pollution. Three concrete benches suitably inscribed have been erected at Dufour Park to honour his memory.

### **Reserves**

The Swartkops Nature Reserve and the Aloes Reserve continue to suffer from the depredations of gill netters, snare hunters, packs of hunting dogs, abakhwetha burning the bush and cattle spreading jointed cactus.

On a positive note, three rangers have been returned to the Valley where they are able to be useful in removing snares and providing assistance to our teaching teams.

The cochineal bug campaign continues in the fight against jointed cactus.

Our thanks to Emile Hallaby and his drone for highlighting the encroachment into the reserves of squatters and cattle kraals.

Hank van der Water is our sole law enforcement officer in the Valley. Without his contribution, the reserves would be in a far worse state. Thank you, Hank!

Discussions continue with the Metro on a Co-Management Agreement which will provide the legal framework within which the ZC can begin to raise funds to establish the Swartkops River Rangers.

Frank Collier 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018