

FROK JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends of Kloofendal

Welcome again to those who have recently signed on for newsletters. Sorry for the long gap since the newsletter in March!

July 2017 School Holiday Programme

Monday 3rd July Nature Adventure Walk with Karin and Nikki

Tuesday 4th July Goldmine Adventure with Rod

Tuesday 4th July & Thursday 6th July - Planet walk with Kenny

Wednesday 5th July Nature Treasure Hunt with Steve & Karin

Thursday 6th July Invasive Alien Plants with Karin

Thursday 6th July EcoCentre Adventure Trail with Karin

Friday 7th July Art from Nature with Rae and Karin

Friday 7th July Presentation of FroK Junior Ranger Awards & badges by Karin

Special July events

Orienteering - Family event- Saturday 8th July, 09h00-12h00

Star Gazing, Saturday 29th July, 16h30 - 20h00

Normal July events

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Information on Kloofendal Nature Reserve signage at Kloofendal Main Entrance

Disabled participants on FroK events

Kloofendal Main Entrance Thatch Roof

Invasive species training

July 2017 School Holiday Programme: Monday 3rd July until Friday 7th July, 09h00 – 13h00

Age range (years) 8 - 13

Cost: R100 per child per day. Bookings with Karin Spottiswoode by FroK cell 079-693-5608. Booking form will be sent by email. Payment prior to the event by EFT or cash by arrangement with Karin.

Children must please bring refreshments, snacks and lunch? There are no shops in Kloofendal Nature Reserve. Hotdogs at R15 each, will be provided at lunch time, booking for the hotdogs and payment at registration, please?

Parents please to ensure that their child wears walking shoes and a hat?

Registration each morning at the Kloofendal Ecological Centre at 9am (Karin & Ann). Parents/guardian to sign indemnity form for each day.

Each activity will be followed by an appropriate short written quiz. These will contribute towards becoming a Friends of Kloofendal Junior Ranger in Kloofendal. The JR (Junior Ranger) Quizzes require the ability to read and write - siblings and friends can team up together😊.

On the final day of the July School Programme there will be an award function to which parents, grandparents and friends may be invited, to witness the little conservation pledge and awarding of the FroK Junior Ranger certificate and FroK Junior Ranger badge to each child who participated in the holiday programme

There will be a "play and snack" and "play and lunch" time each day. The kids playing in the amphitheatre area will be supervised

Monday 3rd July Nature Adventure Walk with Karin and Nikki



Guided walks where children explore nature, picking up whatever interests them in sample jar or net.

The guide interprets what it is he/ she found, and what role the little creature, plant, fungus, seed etc has in nature, how it interacts with other "nature things" and that we must not harm it, everything in nature is needed!



Karin Spottiswoode and Nikki Lopes are Nationally qualified Field Guides.

Butterfly on Reuben's shoulder

Tuesday 4th July Goldmine Adventure with Rod



Rod Kruger will take the children into the Confidence Reef, first goldmine on the Witwatersrand, take them exploring into one of the mine adits, do some gold panning and show the children how the stamp mill used to work.

Rod is our specialist mine historian

On the left is a child emerging from a 10m adit (tunnel) dug into the side of the hill.

Tuesday 4th July & Thursday 6th July - Planet walk with Kenny



Our solar system planets are displayed in the Kloofendal amphitheatre area on a route with their correct relative distances between them and their correct relative sizes. The walk starts at the sun.

Kenny Nevil, astronomer, will bring to life what planets and stars are and what our solar system planets are. Guided walk will last about 40 minutes

Wednesday 5th July Nature Treasure Hunt with Steve & Karin



Nature Treasure Hunt is an environmental educational game, which includes team building and basic map reading. The children will be working 3 children in a team



At the briefing each team is given a simple map of the reserve. The children are taught how to read this map. On it two routes are marked out with "nature treasures" marked on the routes. The "nature treasures" are natural things such as a tree, bush, rock or grass & on each course is a question sheet which the children will be able to answer from what nature treasure they find. At the end of the one trail, the children will do the other short trail. When having done both trails, the children will have a rest and then the organisers will go through the answers with the children.

Organised by Steve & Karin Spottiswoode

Thursday 6th July Invasive Alien Plants with Karin



Jerusalem Cherry
- a declared invader



Karin will teach the children about the difference between indigenous and alien plants and more particularly about some of the declared Invasive Alien Plants (IAPs).

She will lead them into a small amount of removal of IAPs.

Thursday 6th July EcoCentre Adventure Trail with Karin



Follow the arrows to the different display cabinets in the Ecological Centre and answer the questions on the displays. The children can work in teams. The completed questionnaire will contribute towards the Junior Ranger qualification.

Friday 7th July Art from Nature with Rae and Karin



For children 8 years upwards allowing them to experience, experiment & be creative.

The event starts off with a walk in the reserve with Karin Spottiswoode, collecting various "nature ingredients" for the art class. This is followed by the art class with Rae Baur in the KD Ecological Centre.

Children please to wear old clothes or apron & bring scissors? FroK will supply paper, glue and paint.

Rae Baur is a renowned art teacher and ex-City Councillor for Kloofendal.

Friday 7th July Presentation of FroK Junior Ranger Awards & badges by Karin



Doing the conservation pledge: "Try and look after Kloofendal and other nature areas"

Special July events

Orienteering - Family event – Saturday 8th July, 09h00-12h00

Come and try it, it is fun!

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|  | <p>Organised by Nick Cooper from the Rand Orienteering Club</p> <p>Information and bookings with Karin at FroK cell 079-693-5608, tel 011-674-2980</p> <p>Bookings essential to cater for printing of orienteering maps of Kloofendal Nature Reserve</p> <p>R70 adults, R60 pensioners, R50 children (Includes a map per person),</p> <p>Participants can go out as a team, or individually. It is advisable for each participant to have a map in order for each member to actively participate</p> |
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Star Gazing, Saturday 29th July, 16h30 – 20h00

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|  | <p>Planet walk around amphitheatre - meet at the "sun" at 17h00. See the moon, planets, stars and constellations through telescopes put out and manned by the West Rand Astronomy Club.</p> <p>Adults R50, Pensioners free, Children R30 + R10 per car.</p> <p>Boerewors rolls & coffee, tea & Milo for sale</p> <p>Please be warmly dressed. Bring binoculars.</p> |
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Normal July events

Saturday 1st July, 09h00 – 11h00. Walking tour through Kloofendal

Sunday 2nd July, 14h00 – 16h00 Goldmine Tour

Saturday 8th July, 08h30 – 10h30 Alien Invasive Plant Control

Sunday 9th July, 08h00 – 10h00 Bird Spotting

News

Information on Kloofendal Nature Reserve signage at Kloofendal Main Entrance

A big thank you must go to Rotary Roodepoort Central for donating the sign and having it erected. At last motorists and pedestrians going past the Kloofendal entrance can see what the Kloofendal Nature Reserve has to offer. A special thanks to Austin Daly, who was the driving force for the sign to actually happen.



Disabled participants on FroK events

Our blind friends enjoyed being part of FroK's monthly Goldmine Tour



Learning about the local geology

Kloofendal Main Entrance Thatch Roof

The thatch roof over the entrance had a narrow escape as a big truck with crane gear on the back had to exit Kloofendal. With great difficulty the truck had got in under the roof, causing some damage, but going out was more difficult, going against the grain of the support timber and thatch roof.

Joburg power has been working on the power lines running through the Reserve and the truck seemed to have been used by them or one of their contractors.

Luckily I arrived just before any serious damage was done and provided the easy solution of using the Zircon gate entrance, which the new security guard had not been briefed on.

The Kloofendal main gate entrance was designed by the late John Hill, one of our Friends of Kloofendal, and erected in 2004.



2004 - Brand new thatch entrance into Kloofendal Nature Reserve – top of the back of this roof was under serious threat this last Friday!



June 2017 - Damaged roof of Nature Reserve entrance

Invasive species training, herbicide applicators course and practical training, June 2017

National SAGIC accredited course was offered at Kloofendal on Tuesday 6th June until Friday 9th June 2017. The first part of the course was on the legislation that declared plants and animals by law have to be controlled and/ or removed. Second half of the course was on how to do so, using mechanical, biological or herbicide means.

Steve and I attended as it is important to us to know how problem invasive plants should be controlled. Kloofendal has many declared and non-declared invasive plants that need to be controlled. I am working on a booklet to help identify these declared invasive plants correctly - this "work-in-progress" document is available on the FroK website. Invader plants consume much of our precious water, they replace our indigenous plants and are hardly or not at all, utilised by our indigenous animals eg. Black Wattles take over the water system, kill off other plants, our animals don't feed off the wattle plants, the wattles consume lots of water

Herbicide Applicators Course "in action"



Foliar spray training - Landiwe's turn



JCPZ managers - great that they attended the course!



Foliar spray - my turn - not as easy as it looks!
Only trained operators to apply foliar spray!!



Full cover ground based herbicide application.
Training needed to get the full cover right!
Water & dye was used in this training event.



Ring frill - used mainly on thick barked trees
such as the eucalyptus species

Some of Kloofendal's "invaders":



Black wattles moving in, eventually replacing grasses
and Proteas by themselves - June 2017, Kloofendal



Lantana camara - declared invader, prickly
stem, bad smell, some fruit visible in
photograph - grows between rocks, difficult
to remove, hardly addressed by JCPZ. easily
confused with the harmless, indigenous *Lippia*
javanica - June 2017



Jerusalem Cherry (*Solanum pseudocapsicum*) - declared invader - common in Kloofendal, toxic berries.



Ronde klits - *Cyathula uncinulata* - not a declared invader, but very invasive in Kloofendal. Their seeds stick onto animal fur and people's clothes and socks

That is all for now.

Keep well and warm and stay fit by walking in the reserve, maybe joining us in some of our events?

Kind regards,
Karin Spottiswoode
Committee member of Friends of Kloofendal
Cell 079-693-5608, tel 011-674-2980