



WNHA NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2013

Our Mission Statement

“To engage in the conservation, rehabilitation and protection of the natural environment in the Wakkerstroom area”

PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT

Progress is slow, but there is still progress. The Wakkerstroom Protected Environment Management Committee are now finalising the Terms of Reference and Management Plans for this project. Therefore, we are hoping that the Wakkerstroom area will finally achieve “Protected Environment” status during 2014.

VLEI NEWS



The new walkway is complete and has received favourable comment from a number of members. This work was funded by the TELKOM FOUNDATION and our grateful thanks go to them.

Savmor Colliery has donated a further R 55,000.00 to us, to spend on projects of our choice. We are planning various options and getting quotes. The committee will in due course decide on the projects to proceed with. We are also working on getting funding from DIE ERFENISSTIGTING for the repainting of the Paul Kruger Bridge.

We have recently completed maintenance work to the WOW hide and installed a handrail to the small bridge crossing the channel on the way to Clive Beck Hide.

DUMP

We continue to correspond with the municipality regarding the dump. They are fully aware that the dump is unregistered and environmentally unsound. They inform us that they are looking at a solution. We will continue to monitor progress and keep on them.

STOP STREET SIGNS



These continue to be vandalised and there are an ever increasing number of totally unguarded intersections. The municipality has been informed of this and that it is an unsafe situation.

SOCCER

The new season commenced on the 24th of September. As we provided new kit last season, the only requirement for funds this season is for transport. One of our committee members donated two soccer balls and goal keeper gloves to the U/19 side.

SHIRTS AND CAPS

These are now on sale at **Birdsong**. Please support this fundraiser.



EDUCATION

The *Avianator Programme* was officially launched in the Free State during the month of August. This included introductory workshops and on-site visits to each school. Each received a file covering four main themes, namely: Habitats and Sites, Species, People and Birds and Citizen Science Programmes. Each of these themes has several background information sheets for the teacher as well

as related activities in the form of worksheets, research projects, data handling and experiments or practical hands-on action taking. The information covered in each section is not entirely new to teachers. The skills and strategies employed in the *Avianator Programme* are drawn from the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) which is currently being used to guide teaching and learning in schools.

The *Avianator Programme* has definitely caused much excitement with the schools as well as Kristi. We are all looking forward to working with the materials and activities as well watching the programme fledge into an educational legacy for BirdLife South Africa. Thanks to Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited for their support in the Free State region.

The Wakkerstroom Centre is going to be going through a facelift over the next few months as we tackle the damp issue on the dormitory block. Please accept our apologies for any inconveniences caused during this period.



For the next 17 months, we will have a student from Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) based at the centre. Eleen

Strydom is currently finishing her National Diploma in Nature Conservation and will be focussing on the Secretarybird. She will be determining the nesting productivity and diet of the Secretarybird in the Wakkerstroom area. This information will eventually aid in the conservation of these rapidly declining birds.

If you know of any Secretarybird nests in and around Wakkerstroom, please send as much information of these sites to Eleen (preferably with GPS co-ordinates) on StrydomME@tut.ac.za.

MEMBERSHIP

Unfortunately, membership numbers are down this year. We call on members to encourage their Wakkerstroom friends who are not members, to join the WNHA. It is a worthy cause and we need as much support as possible.

We will also be reviewing the possibility of corporate membership.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

We continue to attend many public meetings on your behalf covering various topics, such as mining projects: Coal Bed Methane exploration and Underground mining. We accordingly submit our objections or support as we see fit

AGM

The AGM is scheduled for Saturday 7th December at 11h00. Formal notification will be sent out shortly. The meeting will be held at Wetlands Country House and Sheds. Angus Burns from WWF, who is always absorbing to listen to, will be the guest speaker.

We are also looking for new and active committee members. Some of us have served on the committee for quite a few years now and new blood is always healthy. So if you are prepared to "do your bit", please attend the meeting and put your name forward.

AmaClick Click Photo Club



If you are interested in a 2014 calendar, filled with photographs from our local club, pop into the Mucky Duck and speak to Pat or contact Glenn Ramke. These are

perfect as Christmas gifts for overseas family and friends.

SECRETARY

Diana Osborne has had to resign as our secretary, due to the Osborne's relocation to the United States. We thank her for her enthusiastic service. As a result we are now looking for a new secretary!

CONTACTS AND BANKING DETAILS

Rupert Lawlor 083 227 9020 rupert@lawlor.co.za

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Bank : FNB

Account name : WNHA

Account number: 6207 4355 134

Branch number : 270543 (if required add two zeros to the end of this number)

Please contact us if you have any suggestions as to new projects or fund raising ideas that we can

investigate.

We need your input and feedback.

AGM AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM, held on 8th December 2012
3. Matters arising from said minutes
4. Chairman's report
5. Finance report
6. Membership & Fees 2014
7. Appointment of Auditor
8. Election of Office Bearers. Chairman / Treasurer / Secretary plus other committee members
9. Guest Speaker: Angus Burns. Manager: WWF.SA Grasslands Programme "Challenges facing the environment into the future"
10. Closure

All members, past members and visitors welcome

Any member who is unable to attend, please request a proxy from rupert@lawlor.co.za