



KORSMAN CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2018

Freshwater Life Event 18 March



Kimberley expertly finding microscopic creatures

We asked Kimberley Perry, a freshwater ecologist we met at the wetland course in August last year, to show us what fascinating creatures live in our water.

Several species we collected such as biting midge larvae and limpets, are bio-indicators of good quality water.

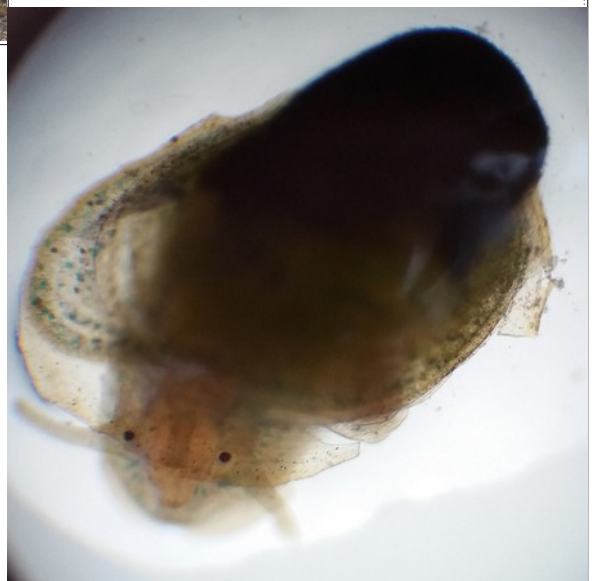
We examined some with a microscope and the fascinating results are in the latest Korsman video <https://youtu.be/to9O0YFlu4c>



Up to his chest in water, Luke's wellies were a little superfluous



Southern mouthbrooder, an indigenous species



This 3mm limpet is a bio-indicator of good water quality

Willowmoore High Interact Club

On 17 March, 25 Willowmoore learners and teachers helped the environment again when they removed the invasive succulent *Bryophyllum delagoense* at the Victoria St rockery.

Shortly after we started work, the heavens opened unexpectedly. The learners had such a great spirit that instead of 'melting away' in the rain, they created impromptu rain gear and removed 15 bags of the tiny but highly invasive weed.



Tracy's Pontoon Invention

We had great success removing reeds early this season, with the water level was lower than usual. To tackle reeds in deeper water, Tracy Boggis has designed and built a modular pontoon providing a floating platform. After the high rainfall in autumn, it has become essential. The pontoon is in the testing phase and already has helped us cut the reed line back from the shore.

The reeds will still have to be treated in summer. In the meantime, the cut areas are popular not only with us for the new expanded views, but also with birds who rest on the safe islands away from the shore.



Tracy is chest-deep in water, but Johnson more sensibly stays dry on the pontoon.



Goliath Heron in 'delta-wing' sunning himself on a cut reed patch

Litter pickup 20 May

Twelve volunteers cleared litter from the southern and eastern sides of the Pan.

There were so many bags that Adolf Hüster, who kindly volunteered to carry them away in his bakkie, had to make two trips.



Hendro and Tracy of the 'D&D' team (Dirty and Dangerous) cleaning under the swampy willows



Ivonne from Lemongrass Restaurant driving the pickup



Kaizer is a teacher in Western Extension who can educate the kids not to litter



Teagan and Jodie serving the community



Teamwork by Lee and Helen Thain

Success Through Persistence?

Ekurhuleni's Water and Sanitation department finally replaced the broken sewerage pipe at Shannon Rd, that leaked into the pan via the storm water drain every time it rained or blocked up. For four years, I have emailed, messaged, begged and pleaded.

In the end, I gatecrashed a meeting to get results. After I (politely) hijacked a discussion at their Crystal Park depot in November, Ekurhuleni ordered a camera inspection of the line and confirmed that it had a massive hole and was in appalling condition.

I declared (initial) victory when workers finally replaced the line in April. Restoring the pavement will be final victory. The repair also helps the community by reducing sewerage spills.



St Dunstons Litter Pickup

A week after our community pickup, pupils and teachers from St Dunstons came to help clear the opposite side of the Sanctuary, the western and northern side.

We found more than litter – teacher Sarah spotted our first live sighting of an African Mole Rat, emerging from its burrow near the fence. It scampered off into the grass, even though there was no chance of it being put into a black bag.



Water Perches

We dragged fallen branches into the water to create new water perches near Short St, and kept watch to see what would sit on them.

This African Darter regularly enjoys one as a spot to dry its wings, as well as a platform to do a bit of 'bird yoga'.

These beautiful pictures were captured by Eugene Liebenberg.

