



# KORSMAN CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

## WINTER 2019

### Controlled Ecological Burn 27 July

Always the biggest and most exciting day of our annual work calendar, we burned a record four sections in one day. The wind was a light northerly, as forecast, which carried the smoke over the water at one section and away from the reeds at others.

The firefighters, who are normally putting out fires instead of helping light them, had just as much fun as the volunteers and helpers.



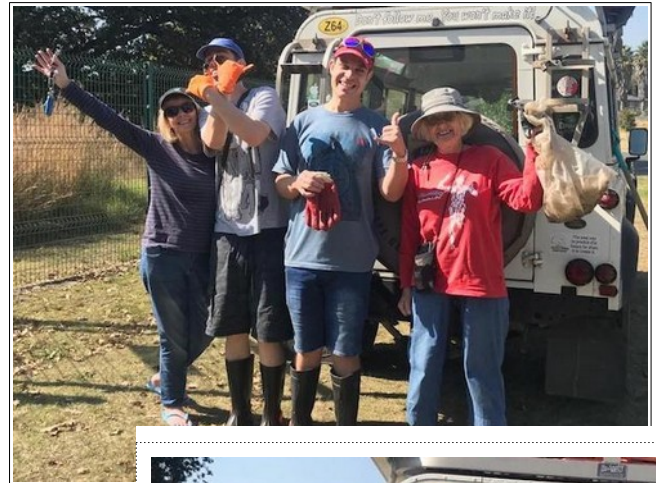


**Litter Pickup 19 May**

Volunteering is fun! You could stock your wardrobe or furnish your house with what we find in the mud.



*Daniel and Luke preferred their own caps to the one they found*



*Tracy waded in to lead the "Dirty & Dangerous" team*



*Where's the wine?*



*No gold in here, just mud and litter*



*Adolf Hüster to the rescue, removing the bags*



**EcoLogic Awards 2019**

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE WON A SILVER AWARD (SECOND PLACE) IN THE ECO-COMMUNITY CATEGORY AND WERE FINALISTS (FOURTH PLACE) IN THE BIODIVERSITY CATEGORY. THE AWARDS EVENING WAS HELD IN CAPE TOWN, SO KORSMAN CONSERVANCY WAS REPRESENTED BY DEBORAH MANN, (SECOND FROM LEFT IN PICTURE) WHO RECEIVED OUR CERTIFICATE ON OUR BEHALF. THANK YOU TO YOU, THE MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY, FOR MAKING KORSMAN CONSERVANCY WORTHY OF THIS AWARD.



**A 'Silver Surfer' is born**

In 2018, two tall exotic cottonwood trees toppled on the southern side of the Sanctuary, damaging the fence and the historic Cork oak tree at Aloe St.

The puzzle of how to remove them, which would have been a massively expensive task, was solved by member Rod Burnett, who volunteered to cut and remove them – with a vision!

His staff member Nick, a talented wood carver, wanted to sculpt the trunks. Initial carving was done on site to reduce the weight for transportation. The Silver Surfer is nearly completed.





**CWAC quack**

The Co-ordinated Waterbird Count by the East Rand Bird Club takes place twice a year to monitor waterbird populations for conservation. Werner van Goethem led the count, which totalled 458 birds over 27 species. One of the most numerous ducks present was the pretty Cape Shoveler. Photo: Eugene Liebenberg



**BIRD NEWS SNIPPETS**



**New Furniture, 1:** Black-headed Herons enjoying the new water perch created from dead branches

**New Furniture, 2:** Installing an Owl box donated by Glynis Wall in the Honey Locust tree opposite Aubrey Ritz Park

**Rare Visitor:** A Yellow-Billed Stork paid a flying visit to Korsman. The species was last recorded here 30-40 years ago.

**What the Stork Brought:** Two Goliath heron chicks, hatched in mid July in the sedge heronry opposite no 70.

Question What do these spotty black and lumpy green grasshoppers have in common?

- a) They are both ugly or beautiful, depending on your point of view,
- b) They are actually the same species,
- c) Both of the above?



Answer c. The spotty black are nymphs, or wingless juveniles, of the Green Milkweed Locust (*Phymateus viridipes*). In many insects, the developing nymphs look very different to the adults. And yes, they are beautiful ;-)



Gallery: As we never see them (But Eugene Liebenberg does)

