Newsletter February 2018

Dear Beneficiaries,

OCCUPANCY OF HAMERKOP

Levies – thank you for prompt payment, only few beneficiaries have not paid their levies yet!

Please let Duncan Barker (cell 083-414-9939, email duncan@serala.co.za) know if you are unable to take up your week, so that another beneficiary may be able to occupy your week? It is very important for the house to be occupied!

Please don't forget to fill in the Hamerkop Occupancy book, which has one page per week to be filled in by the beneficiaries in order to see how much the house is occupied. Both beneficiary and Pretty must sign for each week.

If a beneficiary is not going to be present during his/ her week, responsibility for the property may be delegated to a family member or guest who is not an MCSA member provided that a ***non-member permit*** is obtained and a fee is paid to the Trust which is equivalent to the current MCSA joining fee". (NMC 08/01/2018). Please see attachment 1?

SAFETY ISSUES – COMBINATION LOCK ON GATE

Combination lock on Hamerkop gate – the combination is (big secret, please!) 3914

There is a security door key at each main house door, either on a long string or on a hook next to or at the back of the door. Please make sure that those keys stay there in case of emergencies such as fire, so that one can get out!

SECURITY

Tannie Santie is back ☺!

Ollie Oppler has sorted out the 2-way radio and reinstalled it in the Hamerkop house. He went to Rustenburg to renew license and changed the system to one used by all other people in the Valley. He has successfully used it with Tannie Santie. Thank you Oliver!

The old instruction list still fine, so beneficiaries, please re-familiarise yourselves with the 2-way radio and use it for your own security?

Oracle security who manages Hamerkop, tel number is on the Hamerkop noticeboard

WORK HAPPENING AT HAMERKOP

Aleck has completed work on the MCSA campsite in Hamerkop and is working on the drive way, cutting grass in the middle mannetjie and next to the road, also Lantana removal at the Hamerkop entrance

Gary Cundill reported that an MCSA weeding meet took place on the section of the Hamerkop stream that lies on MCSA land. The weeders camped at the car park and found it very suitable.

A trail to Grootkloof has been marked with cairns, but as it goes through thick undergrowth it's not too visible. MCSA is working on the path.

Aleck will work on the invasive plants in Hamerkop only – our neighbour, Jacques Cilliers, has specifically requested not to have any one unknown to him, working on his land. I do feel that we must

introduce Aleck to Jacques, in order to allow Aleck to work on invasives on Jacques' land, hopefully with help of some of Jacques' employees.

FIRE AT HAMERKOP IN DECEMBER 2017

The Hamerkop Fire policy is on the Hamerkop house noticeboard and on the Members page of the web site.

Dead wood around the house, Pretty & Aleck's cottage and water tank must be removed in order to keep the house, cottage and tank safe from fire. Aleck has been commissioned to do so.

It is necessary for the veld to burn in order to combat bush encroachment, create new growth, create a wonderful biodiversity of grasses and veld flowers and its associated insects, arachnids, mammals and reptiles.

During a dry spell in January a fire swept down the mountain towards Hamerkop. It was physically stopped at Kumbagana and burnt out by itself near the house: see photograph.

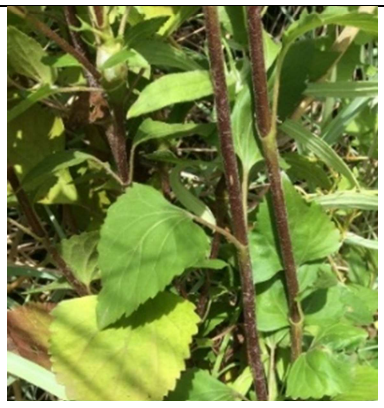
Aleck & Pretty did some quick clearing and wetting around the house as instructed.

Photo: Aleck Nyathi, 15th January 2018

ALIEN INVASIVE PLANTS NEEDING ATTENTION ONGOING

Thanks must go to Penny Ludwig and her team on work done on the Crofton weed in Hamerkop Kloof.

Please, you can help too?



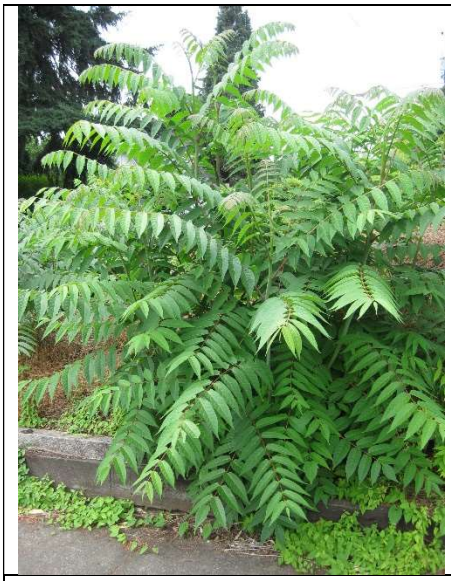
Crofton weed grows in water, has triangular serrated leaves and reddish stem, which have an unpleasant smell! Pull out.

Bramble – please pull out? These prickly bushes are very unpleasant to walk through!

Jointed cactus and Prickly Pear need thorough extermination as shown above! Rocks are good tools ☺!

Cyathula cylindrical var. cylindrical – troublesome invasive burrs formerly found at the back of the main house and around Aleck and Pretty's cottage. Aleck has removed many but should check for more around their cottage, and take out where needed! Please help him if needed?

A new invader, very invasive, discovered in Klein Kloof, near Junction Pool, is the **Tree of heaven *Ailanthus altissima*. It is a declared alien invader, no. 29**



http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/trees/plants/tree_heaven.html

Please, if you can, cut down and physically remove? This should be followed up to ensure that root suckers are not formed (Bromilow, C. Problem plants and alien weeds of South Africa,. 2010. Briza.)

HAMERKOP SIGHTINGS

Please do let me know of any interesting sightings at Hamerkop – just send me a WhatsApp, a picture would be a bonus!

SPARKLING WATERS PROJECT (SWP): It looks like the Biosphere Committee have the strongest strategy in place, dealing through Lebo Diale a senior official in NW Province who chaired the committee leading the Biosphere application and agreeing its zoning criteria. Paul Fatti will let us know when their next meeting takes place.

HAMERKOP DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

PRETTY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Pretty's contract finalised with end of probation in December 2017. Her revised contract in line with the law, communicated to her was signed. New outline of her tasks, and Aleck's, have been laminated and put up on the fridge – please see attached duties list – attachment 2.
Beneficiaries are welcome to give food but this is not obligatory.
Pretty and Aleck have chosen to do their own shopping in Rustenburg on Sundays before or after their church service that they are able to attend via a lift from the valley. Our offer of getting Karani's to do a delivery once a month was then turned down.
If beneficiaries are asked to buy anything for Pretty & Aleck, and agree to do so, please, with their consent, claim back from Andre, not from Pretty & Aleck in cash, as they usually have very little or no money.
Pretty and Aleck have received a 10% raise from 1st.January 2018 and each receive R100 a month airtime.
There has been a request for donation of a chest of drawers or clothes cupboard or both for Aleck and Pretty, as they do need those. Does anybody have a chest of drawers or clothes' cupboard to donate? It would be much appreciated!

BENEFICIARY'S RESPONSIBILITIES AT HAMERKOP

Please report to Gary Cundill (cell 081-257-8411 – sorry, I previously had his cell number wrong!) if anything is not working or malfunctioning e.g. leaky toilet. Preferably fix it yourself if possible? Also broken, missing lightbulbs – preferably replace them yourself☺?
NB.1. Please bring the following to Hamerkop when you come out?

> Toilet paper, garbage bags, towels, soap, own linen/ bedding, torch in case of power failure. If you forget or do not bring out your own linen, please pay Pretty to wash the soiled linen after you leave, R25 per item? Thanks very much!

NB 2. Please take home with you all the garbage and make sure that the pool has been emptied before you leave? Thanks very much.

Granite slab on kitchen table – please do not use it as a cutting board, as the knives will go blunt if you do so. There are plenty of cutting boards below the sink. Thanks!

HAMERKOP HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

Thank you for suggestions, Gary is working on them!

As always, enjoy Hamerkop when it is your turn to stay there, it is a special place!

Kind regards,

Karin Spottiswoode - Cell 072-595-6991, Tel 011-674-2980

Hamerkop committee member