September 2016

Dear Hamerkop Beneficiaries,

Our third Hamerkop newsletter this year 2016!

Steve and I spent two days in Hamerkop this last week, this time as guests of Ray & Jenny Basson

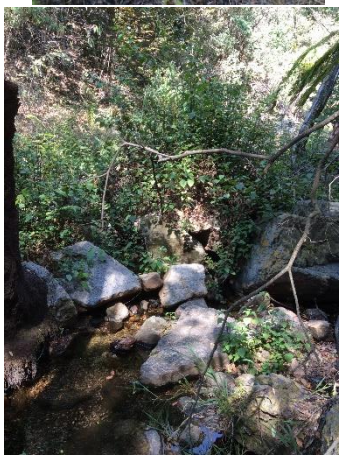
Ray & Jenny were 25 years married while we were at Hamerkop	Reginah & Dakalo – who is now 2 years old and very friendly (he offered me some of his chips ☺)

Hamerkop flora – nice ones in spring

The wild apricots (*Landolphia capensis/ Ancylobotrys capensis*) creeper is in full flower, giving off a wonderful fragrance	*Ochna pulchra* with new red leaves coming out – the leaves will turn green later	*Cotyledon orbiculata* flowering profusely

Hamerkop Flora - problem ones:

Paul told me that the fallen-over old *Acacia robusta* tree, is sprouting. He suggests that the tree be left where it is, as the young sprouting tree will be an asset, so please, do not remove?



 Pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*) – alien invasive in Hamerkop stream bed, the dam wall and in Cilliers' river	 Crofton Weed (*Ageratina adenophora)* is occupying upper part of the Hamerkop kloof – see photographs above – and is very plentiful in the stream bed near Laurrie Cilliers' house, where brambles also pose a problem

Digging out problematic invasive alien vegetation such as Crofton Weed (Mexican Devil) and Pampas grass, needs to be done to avoid spreading and taking over the water way. The Mexican Devil/ Crofton weed is presently in full flower.

Humphrey Farrer has generouslymade this week and next week at Hamerkop available for volunteers to work on invasive plants.

Steve & I (cell 072-595-6991, tel 011-694-2980) have engaged two young workers to come out with us next Wednesday morning (21st September) early to dig out the invasive Crofton Weed, Pampas grass and brambles in both the Hamerkop stream and the pool stream bed including Cilliers heavily infested area. We will leave Thursday afternoon. Please let us know if anyone would like to join us on Wednesday and/or Thursday? One will need leather or other good gloves, resistant against thorns (bramble), good garden fork, secateurs to cut off flower heads, and plastic garbage bags to remove the flower heads. If beneficiaries and friends would like to come out over next weekend (Friday 23 September to Sunday 25th September to work on the invasive plants, please contact Claudine at 011-646-7594? Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Hamerkop fauna

A vervet monkey managed to get in through some loose mesh fencing of the security gate in the kitchen causing a mess, but luckily the Bassons were in the house and could open a door for the monkey to get out. So do be alert for loose mesh on security doors, the monkeys are getting pretty smart! There are cable ties for fixing up holes in the mesh, in the kitchen "tool & cleaning material" cupboard which is situated in the passage next to the kitchen

The young spotted genet was present on both evenings we were at Hamerkop, so lovely to see him/ her!

Swimming in pool

Please remember to open the "sluice gates" when leaving Hamerkop? The big trees (*Mimusops zeyheri & Olea capensis*) will die if their roots are continuously under water and then the embankment, steps and all, will cave in

Reginah

(i) Reginah's cottage

Reginah's uncle, who is a builder, under William Tyson's direction, did the various jobs which Reginah and Joseph wished to be done to their cottage: He replaced some of the corrugated iron roof, sealed the roof where the corrugated iron segments join, holes have been plugged so the resident squirrels no longer have their home in the cottage's roof, ☹ squirrels &☺ Reginah & Joseph

The single plug has been made into a double plug and Reginah was given an additional extension cord with more plugs in case she needs more plugs.

The light bulb attached to wire is still the same but Reginah is satisfied with that arrangement

Reginah still needs a cupboard for storing her food. – anybody got a spare cupboard?

(ii) Absenteeism

Reginah has been absent recently several times whilst beneficiaries have been at Hamerkop. I have asked her please to let me know if she has a need to be absent, so that I can inform the relevant beneficiaries. She has agreed to do so. Please let me know if she is absent during your stay? As mentioned in the August newsletter, Reginah should be at work every morning except for Sundays and public holidays, as per her work schedule which is stuck on the side of the fridge.

(iii) Cleaning materials

I have asked Reginah to let me know if she needs any cleaning materials so that I can let beneficiaries know what they need to bring. Record of purchases can be kept in a book (by me)

Book repair

I have repaired "Field Guide to Wild Flowers of the Witwatersrand &Pretoria region" book and returned it to Hamerkop.

Domestic affairs

Please let any of the Hamerkop domestic subcommittee members (Claudine, Gail and I) know if something in the kitchen is broken, and replace it if you can?
Recently (this year) we have bought various items which we thought were needed at Hamerkop. Some have been damaged – see pan and bodum below:

Deformed frying pan	Bodum coffee plunger is chipped and cracked	Microwave looks a bit scary – probably needs to be replaced

Jenny and I have noticed that over the years items have gone missing, such as the plastic melamine tea cups and dinner plates – also pottery dinner plates. Our domestic team aims to meet at Hamerkop in the second week of October to see what needs to be replaced or added onto. We may put up an inventory list so that the beneficiaries can see what all should be in the kitchen
Please note that the right hand two two-pin plugs next to the toaster (to the left side of the fridges) has been taped up with masking tape, reason being that if those plugs are utilised, a short is caused and the house power switch will trip. The electrical box is outside the annex, outside the first double room there.

Security gate keys in the main house should be hanging next to each gate (hidden behind lounge curtains), and the key to the wooden door of the kitchen and passage door should also be hanging up on the back of those doors – as mentioned in a previous newsletter, this is a safety measure in case of fire in the main house.

New holiday house in Magaliesberg biosphere

Situated on top of the ridge between Kumbagana and Groblers kloof at 25°51'5.30"S 27°25'47.34"E

• Front view	• Side view	• Back view

The MPA will have to deal with this

Contributions to Hamerkop Newsletter

Please submit anything of interest for our newsletter, website (sspotty@pixie.co.za), Facebook or write in the Hamerkop book if it is there?

Kind regards, the "Hamerkop Newsletter Team" (Karin Spottiswoode, with input from Claudine Bennett)