

**IMPORTANT**

THEFT/CRIME/FIRE

**0861106417**

CHAIR-PERSONS:	MEMBERSHIPS:	ADVERTISING:	NEWSLETTER:
Lynn Gillis	Karin Smith	Annabel Kyriazis	Caroline Swift
Ralph Roseman	021- 434-8743	021-439-7786	074-722-3599

## FLASH NEWSLETTER - ISSUE NO. 70 - MAY 2014 TO JULY 2014

Autumn/Winter activities. Wear suitable gear and footwear for the weather and roughish terrain. Also waterproof protection or hats, sun-block, lots of water and refreshments for the mid-walk break. Dogs on leads are welcome. For security reasons, please phone the Convenor for meeting place and further details especially on dubious weather days. "Moderate" fitness required - for mountain paths; no climbing or scrambling. No smoking on walks, please, and switch off/conceal cell-phones. Fresnaye Sports Club (FSC) is on the corner of Ave Normandie and Ave St. Bartholomew, Fresnaye.



Date	Convenor	Meeting Details	Event Description	Notes
Sat 10th May	John Wilson 021-461-2082 or 074-147-4404	Start Time: 08h30 End time: 12h30	To the Top of Lions Head Meeting Place: Signal Hill Road at start of Jeep Track.	Visitor: Donation Fitness: MODERATE/ STRENUOUS Members: FREE
Sat 24th May	Margaret Moore 021-790- 2617 or 076-787-9849	Start Time: 08h30 End time: 13h00	Manganese Route Meeting place: Parking opposite Chapman's Peak Hotel, Hout Bay.	Visitor: Donation Fitness: MODERATE Members: FREE
Sat 7th June	John Wilson 021-461-2082 or 074-147-4404	Start Time: 09h00 End time: 13h00	Little Lions Head Meeting Place: Parking at Suikerbossie turn-off opposite Ruyteplaats	Visitor: Donation Fitness: MODERATE/ STRENUOUS Members: FREE
Sat 21st June	Margaret Moore 021-790-2617 or 076-787-9849	Start Time: 09h00 End time: 13h00	Silvermine South Meeting Place: Silvermine Parking.	Visitor: Donation Fitness: MODERATE Members: FREE
Sat 5th July	Annabel Kyriazis 021-439-7786 079-391-4570	Start Time: 09h00 End Time: 13h00	Lions Head/ Signal Hill Meeting place: Top of Avenue Normandie. Fresnaye	Visitor: Donation Fitness: MODERATE Members: FREE
Sat 19th July	Colin Theunissen Phone Annabel Kyriazis 021-439-7786 079-391-4570	Start Time: 09h00 End Time: 13h00	Pipe Track Meeting Place: Kloof Nek parking area.	Visitor: Donation Fitness: EASY Members: FREE

## **2014 First Quarter Rainfall Report**

by Robert Pabst

Herewith the 1st quarter rainfall figures as measured in Rontree Estate, Camps Bay.

January - 37mm

February - 4mm

March - 97mm

Total 1st Quarter - 138mm

Good rains in second half of March made up for an extremely dry February, and the parched gardens and lawns recovered quickly.

## **Friends of Lion's Head & Signal Hill Chairman's Report 2013**

As in previous years one of our main contributions to the local environment is two-way contact with Table Mountain National Parks. In this way we can point out the main areas that we feel need attention and hear from them what is happening on our mountain and their plans for the immediate and long-term future. In this regard three meetings were held with the Area Manager during the year. We are fortunate to have Mathabatha Matjila as our area manager, she is very receptive to our suggestions.

Over the year we have raised several issues, chief of which was the erosion of the paths above Nettleton Road and the re-sprouting of alien vegetation. We have been assured that these items are in the park's plan for 2014.

We welcome the installation of the toilet at the bottom of the Jeep Track but still think that an improvement would be the installation of toilets similar to those at Silvermine, but unfortunately again that is a project for the future.

Security continues to be a major concern and I am pleased to report that this has improved due to more activity. Very few incidents were reported during the year. Patrolling with dogs is proving effective.

### **Activities**

During the year there have been over 20 organised walks with a total of approximately 200 visitors and members taking part. These have mostly been led by Annabel, John, Sidney and Margaret, whose efforts are much appreciated.

The participants in these walks are a mixture of members, local residents and foreign tourists. We regard these walks as a contribution to getting greater awareness of our beautiful environment and introducing visitors to the mountain. The walks are guided and some offer the participants an opportunity to learn about the flora and the history of the area.

We would like to encourage other members to lead the occasional hike to relieve the load. Most of these hikes are on Lion's Head and Signal Hill but to add variety some are held on Table Mountain, Devil's Peak, Hout Bay and even as far away as Silvermine.

As we cannot ascertain in advance the fitness of the walkers, all the walks are relatively undemanding, but going through interesting terrain, that the general public would not normally tackle without guidance. It must be emphasised that in no way does the Friends of Lion's Head take any responsibility for the safety of the hikers.

Friends of Lion's Head assisted Hewat Athletic club with their 100-miler this year. We manned a station at 7am on Kloof Road. They gave us a generous donation.

### **Finances**

As can be seen from the circulated accounts, our finances are healthy and we are keeping money available in short-term deposits. We would like to thank Sidney Shlomowitz, our honorary auditor, for his valuable help in over-viewing the accounts.

## **Membership**

Your Committee have constantly endeavoured to increase the membership. With additional members we can extend our monitoring and the frequency of our walks. We will also be in a better position to talk with authority to the TMNP.

The Newsletter has been regularly published. It has been full of interesting material and much appreciated by our members. We also wish to thank Dick Russell for helping with our newsletter.

I want to thank the dedicated members of our Committee who met on 10 occasions during the year and whose enthusiasm made it possible for FLASH to continue with its valuable work. All of the committee have performed valuable work from leading walks, acting as Treasurer and Secretary to organising functions.

I would particularly like to thank Eric Chapman for his work as Treasurer over the last six years. Due to work pressures he has had to resign and I am pleased to report that Karin Smith, a professional administrator, has agreed to take the role of treasurer.

The committee still needs additional members who are willing to be involved. We would particularly welcome some younger members on the committee. The work is not too onerous and meetings are held monthly at the Fresnoy Sports Club, usually for not more than an hour.

**Ralph Roseman**

**Lynn Gillis**

**Joint chairmen**

## **SUMMARY OF COUNCILLOR BEVERLEY SCHAFER'S ADDRESS**

**By Derek Salter**

Cllr Schafer was introduced as keynote speaker by Norbert Furnon-Roberts who thanked her for taking the trouble to attend given her busy schedule prior to elections next month. The Councillor emphasised the importance of municipalities providing a balance between development and maintaining/conserving green spaces. Cape Town was particularly blessed with natural beauty and open spaces - Table Mountain, Signal Hill, Lions Hill, beaches, Sea Point promenade, Green Point urban park - were just some examples. These assets were instrumental in attracting visitors to Cape Town. A significant increase had been obvious in the past year, from both overseas and within SA. The exchange rate was helping to bring in people from overseas who may not have visited in the past - e.g. families on average wages with children who were able to stay in up-market accommodation. Tourism was a vital industry for the Province/City which didn't have the manufacturing industry of other Provinces. Cape Town was winning awards for its environmental approach - a recent one coming from Toronto. Being World Design Capital for 2014 was being used to try and design a city focused on sustainability and, through it, policies in areas such as housing and public transport. The City was often sought as a venue for various international activities and much of that could be attributed to its natural attributes. These helped to broadcast Cape Town, and what it is was capable of, to the wider world. It is very important for all of us to be instrumental in taking care of our open spaces.

The Councillor explained that the protocols for managing access to Signal Hill at night by the boom system were in progress. SAN Parks and SAPS were working together to bring this to fruition. It is already operating unofficially without any reports of incidents. Plans were also in place to re-introduce Park Wardens to open spaces such as the Promenade and Table Mountain/Signal Hill. Attendees raised questions about issues with vagrancy on the hill especially from informal settlements in the Kraal and the Military site in Bokaap. The Councillor explained that once homes had been established the City wasn't empowered to demolish and move people on. She quoted the example of a long-term resident of the Quarry. It was important not to allow new sites to develop by contacting the DPU. Proposals were in hand for development of the Quarry (Strand Street) and the Kraal. These would take time and needed

resources, but were essential to deal with these issues. She expressed a desire for more of the money that came into SAN Parks from the facilities in Cape Town to be ploughed back into the area.

Attendees were updated on the progress re re-zoning the Stadium as well as the proposals from Province to develop four sites in the area - among them Tafelberg School and the Nurses Home near the Waterfront. Further development of the V&A could be expected - this was a huge tourist draw into the area - and the proposal for a new international berth for cruise liners in the harbour was welcomed. Derek Salter from Atlantic Seaboard Neighbourhood Watch (ASNW) mentioned its work. He agreed to provide details to the Friends' Secretary so that she could circulate to members. He said that walks/patrols, on the edge of that part of Signal Hill which was under the responsibility of Sea Point SAPS, were due to happen as part of a series of walks with SAPS and ASNW members later this month. He also reminded attendees of the Council's C3 system for service requests and used the example of a recent street audit by ASNW and the positive outcome from that. Everyone could be empowered to take initiatives themselves to improve their community.

Attendees asked about recycling initiatives in the area - they felt signage to the Tramway depot could be installed. Councillor Schafer to pursue. Derek Salter also mentioned the initiative in the Firmount Road area for collecting recycling material for individual residents. He agreed to provide the Friends' Secretary with details of the recycling companies operating in this part of Sea Point.

Councillor Schafer concluded the evening with an upbeat assessment of development in Sea Point. Whilst this may be irritating whilst underway it held promise for long-term benefit. The site at Tramway Road had been sold well above the expected price and the development at The Point was helping to transform Regent Road. She mentioned that the CID had just introduced LPR cameras into the area and these were expected to be a significant help in tackling crime and benefiting the security of residents and visitors.

### **Oppelskop Walk, 22 March 2014**

**By John Wilson**

The walk to Oppelskop from Tafelberg Road was well attended with Friends and quite a few newcomers joining in. It seems that *Die Burger* does get the message out there! Fortunately the threatening weather was kind and made for cloudy and cool, but enjoyable walking conditions. Those who wanted to inspected the ruin of the old Forestry fire lookout on Opelskop itself. The wonderful traverses on Devil's Peak that we walked on were built by convicts during the afforestation of the mountains of the Peninsula.

Two of the party opted to turn back after our tea break, and I was very grateful to Ralph Rosemann for escorting them back to their car. Thank you Ralph, without your sacrifice the whole party would have had to "about turn" and miss the rather cloudy and damp path up to the Saddle. At the Saddle we came across a church group, kneeling towards the west, and praying. They were all very friendly, and we passed perhaps a bit wiser.

We were soon back down on Tafelberg Road and another lovely walk, with wonderful people, had come to an end!

**FRIENDS OF LION'S HEAD AND SIGNAL HILL**  
**APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP**

NAME Mr/Mrs/Ms

First name.....Surname.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

Area Code.....

Telephone No (h).....Cell No.....

Email .....

Do you want to receive our newsletters by email (yes or no)? .....

**Notes**

- 1) Membership is R50 per person per annum, effective from January to December.
- 2) Either your completed form, cash and/or cheque may be:
  - a) handed to the leader of the walk together with your cash or cheque, or
  - b) details sent by email to [friendslionshead@gmail.com](mailto:friendslionshead@gmail.com)
  - c) posted to Mrs Annabel Kyriazis, 304, Trafalgar Place, Regent Road, Sea Point together with your cheque or,
  - d) deposited directly into our Absa banking account. Please ensure that the bank deposit slip includes your name in the **bottom right hand corner of the deposit slip** or
  - e) deposited using internet banking facilities, provided of course that you include your name as a reference.
- 3) Cheques must be crossed and made payable to Friends of Lion's Head.
- 4) Banking details are:
  - a. Bank: Absa
  - b. Account no. 9176 925 131
  - c. Branch Code 632 005.
- 5) Should you choose contact by email, as per above, your payment, once banked, will be confirmed by email.
- 6) Activities presently include: regular hikes, alien hacks, litter clean up. Other activities could include rock climbing, bird-watching and paragliding, depending on volunteer guides.
- 7) For any further enquiries please contact Annabel tel. 021-439-7786 (after hours).
- 8) Friends of Lion's Head is a non-profit organisation and a member of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA).