



FRIENDS OF PILANESBERG

Non-Profit Organization Fund Raising Number: 006-421 NPS

***SEDIBA***

January to June 2022

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**Letter from Editor**

**January to June 2022**

**Lauren Gunn**

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Dear friends

Another year is flying past, I can't believe it is August already and that it is almost spring!

We have had a busy year in the park and recently committed to clearing out the Geological sites. There was recently a great post on Facebook explaining the relevance of all these sites.

When I was at school I must admit History was my least favorite subject, however after school everywhere I go I dig into the history of the area we are visiting, it has become a bit of a hobby.

The park has an interesting history with traces of Tswana habitation dating back to 1750 AD. There are many Iron Age and Stone Age remnants around the park and we have the one just past Tilodi Dam that is a focus for us to clear as many of the walls are still standing and the kraal layouts are clearly visible.

In the 1800's the Voortrekkers settled in the area and farms were built on the land. In 1969 Potchefstroom University recommended the area to be developed into a nature reserve. From then until 1979 when the Pilanesberg National Park was established, the farm buildings and windmills were all demolished, alien vegetation removed and eroded land was rehabilitated. The fluorite mine was also dismantled. One of the only buildings still standing is the Pilanesberg Centre which used to be the court house.

With all the Geological sites being revamped I decided that it would be an option to look at the potential of revamping the Historical sites as well. This past work party I drove around inspecting these sites looking into the viability of tackling these next. Unfortunately for most of these locations there is nothing to show. The buildings that were in these locations have long been removed, as mentioned above, and the site number on the map is just that, I reference to what was once there.

There are a couple of sites that have plaques erected, particularly the Dutch Reform Mission site just above Batlhako Dam and a small grave yard is visible up on the hill behind this site which I believe formed part of the Welgeval farms.

We continue almost every work party with the removal of the alien vegetation and with summer on the way I feel that we will be removing much more of these again.

Looking forward to the rest of what 2022 brings.

If you have not seen the advice on Facebook, please note that the AGM has moved to the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 and not the 22<sup>nd</sup> as per the calendar.

Warm regards,

Lauren



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#### Committee Contact Info

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#### Notes:

Again - I have used a lot of pictures in this newsletter – thanks to everyone who contributed either via WhatsApp or allowing me to “steal” from Facebook!

The Historical information was referenced from pilanesbergsafaris.com.

We do welcome input from any members who have a feature, a story or interesting information to add. Please send any submissions to fopsnews@gmail.com for consideration.



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**January 2022**

**Paddy Coombe-Heath**

Hi Folks,

36 people attended. A couple of us went up early and repaired 8 cairns, replaced tiles.

Trevor removed 12 honeycombs from Letsha cairn, 3 and a half hours of work. 4 people went to remove the bees. Trevor and John Livock got stung.

Saturday- a team went to Rathlogo. The walkway and firebreak were tidied.

Trevor and Iron Age team cleared the kraals

Alien vegetation- Pride of India on Nare and Lantana on Sefara needed to be removed.

Another 6 Pride of India and 10 Lantana were removed on Tlou Drive

It was a productive work party.

Regards.

Paddy.







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**February 2022**

**Paddy Coombe-Heath**

Hi Folks,  
50 attended. There were 6 projects:

Iron Age: Cutting, clearing and spraying was done

Lenong: Willie and team made progress

Letsha Cairn: First layer of bricks completed, cladding to be done next month.

Rathlogo: Roland and team worked hard to close the open panels.

Dithabaneng: required road clearing again.

Alien vegetation: cleared along Kgabo from the North; Cleared Lantana at PC. Purple top is EVERYWHERE.

Regards.  
Paddy.





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### March 2022

*Paddy Coombe-Heath*

March saw 46 members plus 10 extra from the Lada Club. This meant that Trevor had a total of 19 people at the Iron Age Site and was over the moon!

At Lenong filling and stamping again, it is almost done and one more work party should do it.

Makorwane lots of work done, but still plenty more to do

Malatse cleared Inside and Outside, looks good. Some road clearing done on the way back.

The Direction cairn took 8 hours, a long slow job, but it looks great and only needs a roof.

Alien Vegetation cleared along Mankwe Way, Kubu, Thutlwa and Tlou. Approximately 30 plants removed.

Everyone worked their butts off! A great work party







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**April 2022**

**Paddy Coombe-Heath**

Good Work party with huge turnout – 58 People. We also had 36 School Children that went to the Iron Age Site – that meant 45 people there in total – Trevor was VERY happy.

Makorwane had 15 people and lots was done. Lenong is finished and looks wonderful. Direction Cairn past Wimbledon bridge finished at last!

Dithabaneng road clearing and G-Site cleaned up.

Alien vegetation and more direction cairn clearing, 10 Lantana Bushes removed.

A very fruitful work party with Jeremy ending the day with a chainsaw training session.





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**May 2022**

**Paddy Coombe-Heath**

A good turnout of 39 people.

Iron Age had the school again and 4 of us. No chainsaw – Trevor very upset, shame.

Bosele Gate – 4 people, Nigel upset, but all came to help with potholes.

Makorwane walkway almost finished. Moloto Picnic site – half done by Parks Board, we did a good job and Pieter says it looks great.

Pot Holes – the BIG bug bear, 17 guys went out, started at Tshukudu, Kubu intersection all the way up to Kubu Highest point going down to Moepoe mine when we ran out of tar. A long day from 7 to 15:30 – 198 potholes completed 😊







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**June 2022**

**Paddy Coombe-Heath**

A good turnout of 42 people.

Five projects to get through

Mankwe parking and Walkway, 9 people who worked all morning, hard work. The fence needed repairing and it looks 100% better.

G sites, G1 and G2 cleaned up and the look good! Makorwane – finished off there at last and it looks great.

Batlhako started repairing the floor boards, a bigger job than first thought, the team worked until 4pm! All the guys were bushed,

Iron Age – same old stuff, but looking great.

