

## Delta Park Newsletter - April 2016

**To see all the photos** - ([Ctrl+ click for the link](#))

There is a lot to read and if you click onto the photos you can see all we have done.

The trees are starting to change into their autumn colours and the leaves are fluttering down for us to crunch through and soon the park will have golden and red trees to admire and photograph. We had a week of wonderful rain but the accompanying wind brought down six trees. Peter Hammond hired a man with a chainsaw (for me) and they first trimmed a fallen fir tree inside Penelope Rd. The dead fir tree close to it was leaning towards the houses so that was efficiently downed to the place just where we wanted it and all the branches removed – anyone who wants fire wood - come and collect! The trunk has been left there and it is nice for the kiddies to play on or just to be sat upon.

Then the treefellers moved down to the Craighall Rd entrance where a massive tree had fallen into the garden blocking the path. The cyclists were ploughing through the flower beds so we were relieved when the tree was cut enough to open the path again and all the large branches were laid alongside the garden beds to define the path -- all this made a big hole in our meagre finances.

The following Friday I had a phone call to say a huge branch had fallen on the path on the far side of top dam- Peter went out with his bowsaw and cut and cleared enough to open for Parkrun and the walkers and the following day the rest of the tree collapsed so out he went again to clear that as well. Hard work!

I think you all have seen the big tree on the main field has toppled over, not surprising when members of the public chose to ignore the sign prohibiting fires in the park and disposed of their hot braai coals into its trunk and the whole tree caught fire – it took two visits from the fire brigade to put it out. At the moment we will leave it where it is.

The last tree was inside the Florence Bloom Bird Sanctuary – it fell onto the overflow of the wall. Again Peter and Arkin went down and with bowsaws, cut all the branches blocking the wide wall and then hoisted the many and very heavy broken branches out the water. What is left is being supported on a thick branch so there is no weight on the dam wall. We left some of the branches in the water as they will keep the reeds from blocking the overflow. I think Peter had earned his egg sandwiches—his ‘salary’ for all this!

At the Standard Drive parking all the weeds have been dug up from in front of the beds. Even with the drought all the plants are doing well and the plants in the new bed are surviving on the 5liter water containers I take down.

At top dam after the +120mm of rain Shepherd and Wilson removed all the rubbish which always gets washed into the dam. Just in time as a group of 3<sup>rd</sup> year students from UJ came to take samples of the water and fish. They even took a few hyacinth plants away.

The cosmos isn't its normal magnificent show and are much smaller but there is still enough for us to enjoy (please don't pick the pink flowers; we need the seeds for next year!)

Shepherd and Wilson have cut down the bamboo on the wall at top dam. so anyone wants supporting canes for growing beans or whatever they are there for the taking.

At the entrance to Road No 3 you will see the weeds have been removed and planted with agapanthus. BCA had contracted a garden company to beautify the islands on Jan Smuts Ave and part of this is the removal of all the plants, so Elizabeth in her bakkie and Arkin collected five loads and brought them to the park. It will take 4 days to get them planted at Rd No3 and in the Craighall Rd entrance garden and while we will lose some, I hope enough will survive to give a beautiful show later in the year. Thank you Elizabeth for all the hours of hard work.

I employed man with a brushcutter to cut all the blackjacks on the school embankment and now, not only does it look better but I got it cut before the seeds set, so hopefully next year there will be fewer - don't I say that every year? But it looks much better so I guess we are winning.

I am sure a lot of you know that Kenneth Dube and Arkim Nkokheli have been working in the Florence Bloom Bird Sanctuary for nearly 18 months and have made an incredible difference there. Sadly last week City Parks ran out of money and gave them 24 hours' notice. I have found a sponsor for them to work for two days a week but I wondered if anyone else would be prepared to either sponsor them for working in the Park and Sanctuary OR would like to employ them as gardeners or workmen. Geoff Lockwood and I will attest that they are intelligent and hard workers who can work without supervision and it is sad that these two men have suddenly lost their jobs.

***If you would like to sponsor either one or both of them for one day a month, please contact me.  
When you do the deposit, please can you put as the Ref 'A& K' so I know it is for them  
and not for Delta maintenance.***

I am always thinking about how to raise money for work done in the park and I have an idea that I would like to have feedback on.

How about we do a calendar of Delta Park for 2017, following the seasons by using all the wonderful photos we see on facebook? Or if anyone would like their photos to be used - no people and no animals, unless you see a mongoose! Err no Calendar Girls at the moment either!

I would need someone who would be prepared to do the printing at a reasonable cost.

Is there anyone in that profession who could give me an idea of costs? If I could get it going I think it would be fun and hopefully it would be something lots of people would buy for themselves or as presents to show off our wonderful park and swell the Hyacinth account coffers.

So please do send me a quick email of your thoughts. I think we'd need to have the 2017 calendars ready by October so we'd need to move ahead of this one quickly.

I think this will be a begging paragraph.....

One of the workers dropped his cell phone in water so it won't work now. Does anyone have a cheap phone they don't need any more - I would be grateful to have it so I can contact the man for working and I feel happier if they have one while working.

Another plea -- at the Standard Drive parking we would like to redo the yellow paint showing the 'No Parking' paved area and the paint had faded over the past year. We need 5liters of yellow road paint which will cost R460 plus a new narrow roller and perhaps labour for the day.

Is there a kind person willing to finance this?

The "Hyacinth" account seems to go down very quickly and it would be wonderful if more people could put in R50 a month (or more!) so we can do more in the park and I hope you can all see where the money is spent.

Here is another treat -- Delta from above ... <https://youtu.be/P0tHhSpm8ro>  
CourtesyofLeonDippenaar-- from <http://www.droneworks.co.za>

A big thanks you to all the people who do pop their contributions into the account every month, without it we couldn't do anything and as always -- and grateful thanks to Peter Hammond for all his hard work.

A little on security and safety----There have been far too many unpleasant incidents with the homeless living in the river behind the playground - and with unpleasant confrontations between cyclists and pedestrians.

**I would like to point out that the bylaws state that pedestrians have the right of way on the paths.** We can only rectify these problems if they are reported. If you do have an unpleasant incident, please email all the details to me at [deltapark@myblairgowrie.co.za](mailto:deltapark@myblairgowrie.co.za) and I will send them on to the relevant parties so we can get them rectified.

As a reminder our account is.....

ABSA BANK -- A/C HYACINTH -- No 917 362 9924 -- Access No 632 006

Enjoy our wonderful park as we watch the changing season and I hope you enjoyed all the photos.

*Shirley*