

Melville Koppies Nature Reserve and Joburg Heritage site
July 1959 to July 2009
50th Anniversary report.
 Compiled by Wendy Carstens

Melville Koppies was established 50 years ago as a nature reserve and heritage site. The area is of course billions of years old and this is the heritage that is protected.

When it was established in 1959, the Council suggested that a volunteer committee be set up to advise the Council on the management of the reserve since this was a new concept of a public green area. The Johannesburg Council for Natural History (**JCNH**) was set up. It did much more than just advise the Council on management. It set the pattern for the future use of the reserve which included **research, guided tours, school education, publicity, conservation, workers, fire, structures, security, fund raising and relations with Council.**

In 1992 A joint venture relationship was set up with a committee, the Melville Koppies Management Committee (**MKMC**) elected annually from the community, and the Council. The brief was more than just to advise. The plan was that the MKMC would in time take over the full management of the reserve.

The pattern set by the JCNH has been continued by the MKMC. The scale of operations has increased, but problems have generally remained the same!

There was a flurry of **research** in the early years as MK is a rich outdoor museum of indigenous flora, fauna, geology and archaeology. Numerous studies were done and students from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and later The University of Johannesburg, (UJ, formerly Rand Afrikaans University RAU) used the reserve for field work and study. The scale of research has decreased but in-depth studies are still done, e.g. on flowering times, termites, bugs, soils etc by researchers. Students continue to do field work at MK. Bird ringing was started in 1972 and still continues on a monthly basis.

Academics from Wits offered **guided tours** once a month. These open days were well attended as there was not much to do on a Sunday during the apartheid years. Volunteer academic guides led the tours. To cater for the large number of visitors a guidebook was produced for a self guided walk on a marked nature trail. The guidebook has been updated several times since then as features on the trail change. Environmental groups visited on other days by arrangement. The pattern is still the same except that now there are four open Sundays a month. All tours are led by a team of the expert volunteer guides with varied backgrounds and training. Group visits during the week are steadily increasing and specialised tours are offered on a regular basis. The numbers have dropped recently on open Sundays because of the new security pattern of *group walks* only. This does not please those who like to wander around on their own. In the year 2008/9, volunteer guides led 48 open days, 12 bird ringing sessions, 12 monthly hikes, 2 cross koppie hikes and 55 group visits. Last year the number of recorded visitors was 3990, this year it was 3764.

The JCNH promoted **school groups**. Now special programmes have been developed for such groups and the number of school visits is increasing. Transport costs limit the range of schools which can visit. Teachers/MK guides, lecturers and **JCP** (Joburg City Parks) teachers lead the school visits. The www.mk.org.za website devotes a special section to school programmes.

The JCNH **publicised** the reserve by means of newspapers, radio and printed newsletters. Today the scale of media available for publicity has grown exponentially. The MKMC makes use of all possible channels, provided that there is no cost involved. Newspapers, magazines, residents' newsletters, estate agent flyers, TV, radio and websites are contacted regularly. There is a very limited budget for printing of one page brochures and guidebooks as necessary. The first MK website, www.veld.org.za has been revamped to www.mk.org.za and has proved a boon for publicity. The number of visitors to the Koppies bears a strong correlation to the amount of PR that is done. As there is currently so much to do on Sundays, people need to be constantly reminded of open days.

Conservation is the keystone in caring for a nature reserve. This means preserving and protecting the biodiversity for future generations. The biodiversity is protected by the removal of alien species of plants, creating and maintaining nature trails for people to walk on, prevention of soil erosion and maintaining the spruit, attempting fire control, clearing of litter, rubble and glass, discouraging dumping, preventing occupation by homeless people and encouraging sustainable usage. Conservation is done according to an Environmental Management Plan, updated as needed and submitted to Council. The JCNH started this pattern, mainly on the nature trail area of MK Central, and the MKMC has continued it on a far greater scale to cover all 160ha of MK.

Originally conservation **workers** were volunteers assisted sporadically by Council workers. Monthly volunteer work parties continued until 2006 when they were discontinued for lack of support. Conservation is now done by a full time paid conservation team supervised by volunteers. This is very effective because the whole reserve is covered on a systematic basis. Most of MKMC funds are devoted to conservation. JCP assists on a sporadic basis

Veld burning is very controversial. Many experiments and studies have been done on MK and a record of fires has been kept since 1960. A controlled burning programme is very difficult to stick to because people set fires, by mistake or deliberately, and most of the reserve goes up in flames anyway, particularly the open sections of MK East and West. Fire does remove moribund material and certain weeds, but this should be a judgement call and not a matter of chance. We haven't got this right yet nor have we got control of the amount of the reserve that gets burnt every year.

The policy has always been to restrict ecologically hardened areas to a minimum and **to avoid structures not in keeping with the unique tranquil ambience of MK**. The basic structures designed by the JCNH in the early days have not changed except for a few necessary additions. The original lecture hut retains its simple charm and still serves its purpose. A new septic tank had to be built recently. The Sturgess reception hut in Judith Rd had a much needed toilet and storeroom added. A stone wall and exquisite wrought iron gate replaced a rudimentary entrance at Judith Rd.

The wooden bridge over the Westdene spruit was repaired and a paved pathway for disabled people was built in 2003.

Fencing.

Since 2000, JCP has erected palisade fencing around the perimeter of MK Central, between MK West and West Park Cemetery and on the Eastern pavement of MK West. Unfortunately the fencing along Beyers Naude is regularly smashed by vehicles.

Residents and Adcorp have fenced MK East and the 3rd Ave entrance to MK West. Fencing prevents dumping and gives a measure of security and control to the Koppies.

African Independent Churches.

Conservation areas used to limit the usage of reserves by different . The trend nowadays is where appropriate, to involve people who have a stake in the area, in income generating activities such as tourism and also in conservation. Indigenous people have worshipped on MK West for many years. They were persecuted during the apartheid years for this until 1990 when a code of conduct with the JCNH was drawn up and they were supported by the JCNH. The number of worshippers has escalated over the past three years and a new code has been drawn up to increase protection of the environment. Representatives from the churches and MKMC attend each other's meetings.

Security.

A guard hut was erected on a high ridge in the early days and there was some patrolling. The patrolling gradually declined and then stopped. The hut was vandalised and flattened in 1998. Various factors after 2000 contributed to a greater need for security. From 2002, guards have been supplied by JCP for MK Central by various outsourced security companies ever-changing guards. In 2008 people on the Koppies were systematically targeted by muggers. Combined action by the police and volunteers seems to have removed this scourge but the MKMC continues to take preventative precaution measures for open days and organised group visits during the week.

Finance.

The council gave some grants in aid to the JCNH to assist them in their work. Most of the expenses were for printing. By 1993, the MKMC worked on an average budget of R10 000 per year, raised by donations. This was used for printing and maintenance of equipment.

The MKMC spent R87 000 over the past financial year (2008/09). 81% was on maintenance, 16% on security on 3% on printing and catering. Some income is obtained from donations from visitors to the Koppies. This does not cover expenses and the shortfall is made up from private and corporate donations and interest from the education fund. The equivalent of thousands of rands are contributed annually by volunteers to manage the Koppies. Volunteers give freely of their time, expertise, and equipment such as computers, telephones, cars and petrol. Volunteers do not even claim for reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the Koppies, consequently there are no volunteer management overheads.

The land is owned by the Council so there are no rates. There is no electricity, Telkom telephones, water borne sewerage, or refuse collection on the Koppies, hence no costs. Municipal water is laid on but no one knows who pays the minimal bill (provided the leaking taps are fixed).

Council's role.

Before 1992, Johannesburg Parks was responsible for the management of Melville Koppies. They maintained structures, supplied one worker between 1994 and 2005, and supplied some security. They gave occasional grants to the JCNH which was set up in an advisory capacity.

In 1992 the joint venture relationship was set up with the MKMC and Johannesburg Parks, now Joburg City Parks (JCP). JCP has a limited budget and a large number of green spaces to manage. Consequently there is not a large budget for conservation areas which are fragile and cannot sustain a large number of people, compared to green manicured parks which cater for thousands. JCP has also developed parks in previously disadvantaged areas which had no facilities. However, JCP has assisted Melville Koppies with maintaining and building new essential structures, supplying one daily security guard, occasional park ranger patrols and more recently grass cutting of paths and fire breaks.

Addendum. A

JCNH and Melville Koppies 1959 to 1993

The aim of the JCNH (Johannesburg Council for Natural History) was to advise the City Council on the management of Melville Koppies Nature Reserve. It evolved into a volunteer committee that advised the Council, organised guided tours on Open Days, guided specialist groups, instituted regular bird ringing, developed a nature trail, developed a guide book for self guided tours, encouraged research and set the tradition for the reserve to be used as an outdoor educational university/classroom. In addition, special projects were undertaken and funded by the committee from the grant from the city council and from private donations.

Some themes from this period.

- 59 research papers were published in this period. Papers covered archaeological studies, flora and fauna and geology.
- The JCNH met about three times a year
- Everard Read supervised council labour for a while
- Complaints that the council took a long time to fund projects. Some were promised but never funded.
- Council gave a grant- in- aid until 1986
- Complaints that not enough conservation was done by Council.
- Council workers were not supervised properly and made mistakes.
- Work done by the council was generally not satisfactory if a JCNH member was not involved in the supervision.
- Conservation was needed on paths that were heavily eroded by the number of visitors on open days. Many visitors on open days because nothing else to do then.

- Alien invasions of dodder, kikuyu, poplars, wattles, solanum, cuscuta etc
- A core of volunteers managed the reserve (guiding, research, small jobs, advice).
- There was always a shortage of guides.
- There was always a shortage of money.
- Donations from public requested in 1976
- Vagrants, vandals and security problems
- There was a need for controlled access
- Continual problems with keys and locks.
- Continual fencing problems
- Labourers and guards deemed not suitable as guides.
- Bookings were controlled by JCNH individuals to prevent clashes.
- The council was primarily interested in the number of visitors to the reserve per month, easily measurable statistics.
- Fires and the damage caused by the fires was a constant theme.
- MK West ravaged by a sewer, RAU playing field in the 1970's
- 1992 code of conduct with African Independent Churches drawn up by David Hirsch and Richard Hall
- Criticism that the reserve was not open enough. Initially it was open one Sunday per month, later two Sundays. Group visits booked on other days.

Some **chronological milestones**, gleaned from committee minutes, newspaper clippings and research documents. MK refers to MK Central in this period.

1922 Prof C.E. Moss, first professor of Botany at Wits, began a study of the vegetation of Melville Koppies which has continued ever since. 548 taxa from MK are catalogued in the Moss herbarium.

1959 **MK declared a nature reserve** due to the input by the Transvaal Horticultural Society, Wits, Wild life Society and Cllr Sporie van Rensburg Aug. **First inaugural meeting of the JCNH, Prof N.P Badenhuizen** as chair

1960 .Oct. Meeting of inaugurators. Constitution adopted. **Dr Irene Sturgess** elected as chair as Badenhuizen going to Canada.

1961 Planned a **nature trail**

Poplars on Muldersdrift road a problem

Mr Mauthrer designed a Lecture hut with two toilets and a room for a Ranger

Panel of guides to educate people about nature

Perceived **MENACE OF TERMITES** to vegetation. Asked Dept of Agriculture for advice, said methods not suitable for such a large area and too expensive

JCNH paid for signboards

Need to look after Frans Geldenhuys valley on west

1963 Officially declared a nature reserve

Trees planted on nature trail and 200 in arboretum (The Wilds supplied trees)

Discovery of Iron Age site by Revil Mason.

1964 Labourer to water trees

Rustic bridge built over Westdene spruit.

Diamond mesh **Fencing** repaired and reinforced

Dodder a problem

Promoted **field study courses** for schools and universities

- Mr Sheat, GM of Parks, did not want unrestricted access but could provide no one to supervise
 Cllr Van Rensburg said small emoluments to people for work done, not allowed from grant
Shelter for furnace finished. Mason said 1st Archaeological museum in SA!
Guard shelter finished at top of ridge. (vandalised 1998)
 Need to fence in 80 acres of MK West before it could be declared a nature reserve
 Special meeting held about recommendations to use MK as a site for **UNISA**
- 1965 MK Central fenced by council (diamond mesh with three strands of barbed wire on top). The reserve was in a bad state, full of alien plants, litter. 60 to 80 newly planted trees in the arboretum were lost due to frost and drought. There was no council supervision of the Reserve. The poles at the lecture hut were showing signs of insect infestation
 Start of **OPEN DAYS**
- 1966
 Lack of protection **for second furnace** north of lecture hut.
 Parks promised new gate at entrance, filling in of quarries
 Bird club advised against construction of a dam in Frans Geldenhuys valley
 Mason proposed a replica of Iron Age village at MK
 Cllr van Rensburg real champion in promoting MK in council
Nature trail made on west, from cave to Kloof, R20 for labour
 Scheme to establish a botanical garden at van Riebeeck Park N of MK
- 1967 mammal survey
- 1968 Officially declared a **National Monument**.
 Present of **Big pool**
 Judith entrance had wooden pole across the top and mesh gates.
 Camps demarcated for veld burning
 Problems of vagrants, vandals, snares, dogs, litter, fires
 Questionnaire sent to ecologists at universities for advice on veld Management, veld burning
 Need for better PR to promote interest of schools
- 1967 **15th Feb. 63 acres of the Westdene Koppies declared a Nature Reserve.**
1969. Two guards are regarded as garden workers, to do maintenance work on MK.
Problems with wattles, poplars and kikuyu encroachment.
The roof over the furnace completed with plastic sheets, R550
 Unveiling of plaque of National Monuments committee
 Parks constructed **stone wall and wrought iron gate** at Judith Rd entrance
- 1971 **Kikuyu critical invasion**
- 1972 Bloom bird bath in memory of late Florence Bloom.
 E. Read working with council labourers on weeding
Parks planted kikuyu at main entrance
 R100 for replacement of **tent shelter** used at main entrance on open days
- 1973 R30 paid for **cupboards in the storeroom** at the lecture hut for specimens
 Sluis Cremer audited the books for the past ten years.
- 1974 sale of game hides by hawkers outside the reserve stopped
 Funds stood at R2219
 An increase in the annual **grant** from the council was requested
 Prof Engelbrecht offered to try to get RAU to help on MK West
 830 visitors on open days. Paths needed protection. Need for trail to be more

- Self guiding
R10 monthly subsidy granted to Everard Read to continue the weed
Eradication programme.
- 1975 **Improved fencing requested from council.** Von Maltitz family resigned from
organising open days. A guide roster drawn up
**RAU fields built on MK West wetland and on land given to the public by
Frans Geldenhuys**
Remuneration for Wits staff guides R12, R5 for students
Annabelle Lucas produced booklet, 'some aspects of plant ecology in the
Reserve' 1 000 copies printed
There was a **locked telephone** at the lecture Hut
Decided it was futile to protest about RAU fields in the west
The council planned a large **relief sewer** through the Kloof, Council should
Compensate by developing the west section. Not done
Christmas gift of R3 each for guards (3) and labourers (2)
- 1976 R30 for **loudspeaker** for guides on open days
Stone steps constructed by council on the nature trail. Some steps in wrong
Place
Donation box at entrance on open days to help JCNH.
Reprint of guidebook. 3 000 at R700
Open days once a month with lectures at lecture Hut.
- 1977 Infestation of cuscuta, **dodder, lantana, solanum**
Lack of parks supervision in the reserve.
Bunning's 'Birds of the Melville Koppies and Emmarentia Dam'
Council grant increased to R400 per annum
Full scale model of the furnace given to the Africana Museum. Cost
JCNH R50
- 1978 Dilapidated benches at the lecture hut replaced by **stackable chairs**
- 1979 Annual grant to JCNH reduced to R100
- 1980 Robbie Steele joined the committee, co-opted from Wits Archaeological
Research dept
Dr Jackson (Sturgess) resigned as chair after 20 years
John Freer new chair
Proposed botanical gardens at MK West rejected in favour of west rand
because of more financial support by Roodepoort council
- 1981 Council help needed with furnace protection and gabions to protect stream
Banks
Rotary club of SA honoured Dr H friede for his work at MK.
Sponsored a bench for him, erected when he died
- 1982 An *Acacia galpinii* planted at the arboretum for Beth von Maltitz.
JCNH to contribute to a brochure for newly established Mondeor
Koppies
3 indigenous shade trees planted at Judith entrance
Work done to stop erosion of stream bed by council ineffective.
- 1982 prof Raymond dart resigned from JCNH aged 90
- 1984 new guide book, orange cover included section on geology by
Prof van Biljon of RAU
Friede and Steele to give **demonstrations of smelting**
- 1985 promoting school visits
Reserve now open on **second Sunday 9am to 12pm**

Discovered plans to build **pylons** and a plan for a **PWV highway** to traverse the reserve

9 Oct, **Silver Jubilee. Braai** hosted by deputy mayor

1986 Dr I Sturgess funded the **new reception hut** with funds from her late husband's estate. The condition was that the building was in his memory. Cost R8 000. Council contributed nothing. The building plan was accepted by the National Monuments Council

1986 **Break in of storeroom** and bird ringing and personal equipment stolen.

Volunteer made steel door for the storeroom and shelving

1986 Anne Berry 1000 slide collection given to SA Nature Conservation at Delta.

Council refused a grant- in- aid

1987 Friede selling his house in Judith Rd and could no longer watch over the Koppies and open up.

1988 Frank von Maltitz died. A tree planted in the arboretum next to wife's

A **plaque put on rock**, since stolen

1990 Hirsch and Beeton joined JCNH. Friede died

1991 Moses Ndlovu co-opted onto JCNH committee

Hirsch working on a **code of conduct with churches**

Booking procedures for groups discussed

1992 AIC braai. Code of conduct read to 100 people

1992 draft for low cost handouts to schools by Beeton

Metal display box for reception hut

1992. Louw Geldenhuys View site (MK East) added to Melville Koppies

1993 4th Feb. JCNH held a meeting to elect a committee to manage MK in the **Joint**

Venture systems of Dr Pat Condy, Director of Conservation, Parks.

Anschen Dreyer elected as chair

People involved in the JCNH in varying capacities

Arnott, P	Hirsch, D	Van der Merwe, L
Babich, K	Jackson, I Dr (Chairman	Van rensburg, H.M.J. Cllr
Badenhuizen, N.P Prof	1960 to 1980)	Von Maltitz, A
(chair 1959)	Lloyd, P	Von Maltitz, F
Bannister, A	Lucas, A	Walmesley, B
Beeton, D	Macnae, W	Winkens, M
Berry, G	Mason, R.J Dr	
Biccard Jeppe, C DR	Mogg, A.O.D Dr	
Bunning, LJ	Ndlovu, M	
Camerer, S	Norton, G	
Carr, D	Pelletier, R.A. Dr	
Dart, R prof	Read, E	
Davidson, L	Reid,R	
Dee. D	Smith, J	
Ericksson, L	Smuts, N.R	
Eybers, R	Steele, R	
Falconer, D	Swart, H.J Dr	
Freer, J (chair 1980 to	Treadwell, G.F	
1993)	Valkhoff, M prof	
Friede, H. Dr		

Addendum B

Chronology of some of the management features of the MKMC since 1993.

1994

Cllr Anschen Dreyer chairman.

Sasol donated 8 stone slabs for benches.

New signboards erected to encourage good behaviour.

Internal fences on MK West removed.

Encroachments referred to City Council. No action taken by Council

Zoo released small animals, hedgehogs, tortoises, small non poisonous snakes, into reserve.

Ellery (vegetation) and Bunning (birds) doing research.

Johannesburg Parks. Shane Burns from Bot Gardens doing regular maintenance

1995.

Andrew Duthie chairman.

Grove of wattles on MK West felled, funded by Bot Soc

Survey of squatter camps, 71 on MK West, 3 on MK central, 12 on MK East.

Squatters removed by the police and mess cleaned up by volunteer and AIC work parties.

Johannesburg Parks. David Mpilo appointed as a labourer to MK Central

1998

Phil Silcock chairman

Section 21 discussed

Green Trust sponsored development of grade 4 and 7 courses on MK

Peter Rich designed an ecumenical centre for the composting area at West Park cemetery

Furnaces and guard hut vandalised

1999

Storeroom burgled. Many tools stolen

Honorary wardens appointed

Raymond Cardosa guest speaker at AGM (heritage)

2000

Bryan Wicken organised monthly guide training

David Hirsch set up website, www.veld.org.za

Three open days per month

William Martinson designed an education centre and Richard hall raised funds for it.

New forest path along the old road by St John's boys, supervised by Richard Hall

Umesh Bahadur guest speaker at AGM (conservation, Environment and land affairs)

2001

Wendy Carstens chairman

Poster of Iron Age kraal for lecture hut.

Newsletters now emailed

2002

Solar panel in furnace stolen
 Jenny Grice sponsored gardener Philip twice a week
 New bushman trail opened up
 A full colour brochure sponsored by SAPPI
 Anthony Paton did assessments for guide accreditation
 Richard Hall preparing eco modules for guide training
 Endangered *Holothrix randii* seen on MK East.
 50/50 did a 20 minute documentary on MK
 Murrie Slotar heading bird ringing
 Val Worth guest speaker at AGM (indigenous muti)

Joburg hosted the World Summit on Sustainable development. Extra funds available for MK (Business plan for improvements drawn up for Council by MKMC at short notice)

JCP. Flora Mokgohloa new conservation manager
 Three daily security guards appointed
 New JCP signage at MK Central's 3 entrances, 5 information panels by Site Solutions, an EIA done for a proposed educational centre for which Richard Hall raised funds.

2003

SAPPI donated R10 000 for maintenance
 Education centre idea rejected by committee as non sustainable
 Nedbank planted 20 trees along embankment of old road
 New encroachments into MK East reported and site visits done. No action by authorities
 Guide, treasurer, fauna and flora expert, Bryan Wicken died.
 Norman Baines worked out hiking trail on MK West and made brochure
 MKMC conservation team started with casual workers under Wendy Carstens.
 Architect William Martinson designed repairs for the wooden bridge, the disabled trail, a trail to the cave and extensions to the reception hut. Funding was not available for the full cave trail and the JCP builder changed the plans for the extensions to the reception hut.
 Lucille Clift guest speaker at AGM (conservancies)

JCP. New palisade fencing for perimeter of MK Central completed, toilet and storeroom added onto reception hut and wooden bridge repaired, new palisade fence between West Park Cemetery and MK West. Ecumenical centre idea had to be scrapped as the land now part of the cemetery.
 Shoni Munzedhzi new conservation manager

2004

Lorraine Stone started monthly hikes on MK West trail
 New constitution drawn up for NPO requirements
 The Botanical Society of SA awarded Richard Hall Honorary life membership for his services to Melville Koppies.
 Bulrushes planted in the remains of the MK East wetland adjacent to Rustenburg Rd.
 Adcorp sponsored a large stretch of fencing on MK East.

JCP started a 4 man patrol team under Suzette Gordon, effective but only lasted for one year.

Kobus Theunissen organised gabions on MK central spruit, barriers along Beyers Naude, new septic tank at lecture hut, polywood table, supplied wooden guard hut and erected signage banning mountain bikes from MK East and Central. Toilet at reception operational two years after being built.

2005

Guide Claire McDonald died

Wits first yebo Gogga yebo amablomo exhibition.

David Carstens donated a contour model of MK to the committee

Information board for kraal by site solutions.

Graffiti painted on MK West removed by conservation team.

Signage at all entrances revamped.

Sparrow school's fence taken down by Jim Hutchinson and John Corrie.

Stone steps built to MK East lookout point

Vincent Carruthers guest speaker at AGM (conservation)

JCP. David Mpilo left. No replacement

2006

Top security volunteered to assist with patrols

pyromaniac active

Volunteer work parties led by Norman Baines discontinued through lack of support.

All of MK East now fenced by the community

Holothrix randii found on MK Central

Di Beeton resigned.

Allan Abel guest speaker at AGM (orchids)

JCP. Mabotwane security appointed,

Kenneth Mabila new conservation manager, cut fire breaks

2007

MK exhibited at Yebo gogga again

Blackheath Rotary awarded Richard Hall and Wendy Carstens the Paul Harris Award for their services to Melville Koppies

Grade 9 course funded by education fund (R40 000) and developed by Delta Environmental Centre.

Richard Hall's DVD of 'The Spirit of Melville Koppies' funded by education fund (R90 000).

pyromaniac active again

Tool room burgled again. All remaining tools now kept at Wendy Carstens' house.

Richard Hall resigned due to ill health.

John Freer guest speaker at AGM (old times)

Open 4 Sundays per month

New trail made above the cave on MK West

Donations of Zille bench, Teodor van Wyk's insect collection, Woodhouse collection, 1 000 plastic bags from Ivan Parkes (these used to bag weeds that have seeded)

Afribug survey

Cross Koppie hike, 30 people
 Stone steps built to the cave.
 Heritage plaque done by SAHRA for Judith Rd entrance.

JCP cut firebreaks

2008

Ex Cllr Sporie van Rensburg, ‘father of MK’ died
 Bird Life SA awarded an Eagle Award to Wendy Carstens for preserving Melville Koppies as a birding site.
 Yebo gogga again
 Pyromaniac again.
 MKMC now a NPO and PBO
 Constitution adjusted by Allan Farndell for PBO requirements
 Environmental Master Plan updated and submitted to Council
 New code of conduct with churches; fires and night services discontinued.
 Donations; Droste Trust R50 000, Private trust R5 000, Nedbank local hero R10 000 , R75 000 fence on MK East by Pieter Cilliers, Ann Lamprecht bench, two gardeners sponsored once a week by Hinton, Herald and Godsell families, 1 000 plastic bags from Ivan Parkes, donated income from Bankenveld Bot Soc MK tours. Birthday calendars sponsored by Willem Prinsloo. Other private donations from well wishers
 Lucky Mdluli appointed full time on a year’s contract for conservation
 Cross Koppie hikes, 33 and 91 people. (May and 24th Sept, Heritage Day)
 Carols on Koppies hosted by Melville Junction church
 Sue Krige and team from Trevor Huddleston memorial centre guest speakers at AGM.

JCP. Fencing along Beyers Naude intact for a total of 6 weeks during the year, new fence on MK West pavement (Bot gardens reject)
 Kobus Theunissen acting conservation manager, sent grass cutting team.

2009

Paths cut on MK East by C Hewlett and G Johnston
 Cross koppie hike, 340 people on 1st May
 Yebo gogga again
 Clement Ndlovu and Lucky Mdluli on year’s contract for Wendy Carstens’ conservation and security team.
 Donations; Droste trust R5 000, CB Trust R6 000
 Security big issue, over 60 people mugged. Cooperation between community and police to catch muggers, thank you breakfast for police.
 CPS security employed on open days and MK West walks.
 Open day guiding pattern changed, group walks only, for security reasons.
 New path map for MK Central reflecting numbered nodes of paths.
 Gail Schaum heads monthly bird ringing, public can book to watch.
 ‘Flowering Times’ calendar by Peter Johnson
 New website set up by TJ de Klerk and revamped by Norman Baines, www.mk.org.za
 Complete set of keyed-alike locks made for MK Central
 The mystery of tombstone to ‘Harry Roberts, A life well lived’, solved. Harry lived at 5 Hill Rd and walked the Koppies every day with his dog. He died in 1986 and his daughter scattered his ashes on his beloved Koppie.
 Revil Mason to be guest speaker at 50th AGM (archaeology of MK)

JCP. Bishop Ngobeli new JCP conservation manager, Suzette Gordon replaced by Sizwe Mabuza and Matome Baholo for security, contractor paid by 'before and after' photographs for path and perimeter cutting and some weeding.

Addendum D

Some of the volunteers who have contributed in so many ways to the preservation and promotion of Melville Koppies since 1994

Abel, Allan	Hall, Richard.	Meyer, Samantha
Baines, Norman.	Hammond Tooke,	Ndlovu, Clement
Beeton, Di	Margaret	Nelson, Gill
Broekmeyer, Gus	Herbert, Ross	Paton, Anthony
Cabaco, Maria.	Herold, Gavin	Richards, Pat Cllr
Carstens, Wendy	Hewlett, Cecily	Rolfe, Peter
(Chairman 2001 -)	Hinton, Terry, Sue	Rose, Cynthia
Carstens, David	Hirsch, David.	Russell, Vaughan.
Cilliers, Pieter	Hofmeyr, George, Heike.	Schaum, Gail
Cousins, Katty	Isaacs, Georgina	Silcock, Phil (Chairman
De Klerk, TJ	Johnson, Peter.	1997 to 2001)
Dickinson, David	Johnstone, Gordon	Sannie, Kenneth
Dreyer, Anschen Cllr	Jones, Lis	Slotar, Murrie
(Chairman 1993 to 1994)	Kyriacou, Xenia	Stone, Lorraine
Duthie, Andrew	Lamprecht, Ann	Tuckey, Caroline
(Chairman 1994 to 1997)	Maloon, Seymour,	Van Heerden, Marianne
Fah, Vicky	Marlene	Waywell, Sheila
Freer, John	Martinson, William.	Wicken, Bryan
Farndell, Allan	McDonald, Claire	
Flanagan, Colleen	Mdluli, Lucky	
Gair, Donald		
Gibbon, Theresa		
Godsell, Gillian		
Grobler, Louis		
Grobler, Nick		