



# EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE HONORARY OFFICER NEWSLETTER

**JANUARY 2019**

## Special Points of Interest:

- Regular news from the Executive Committee
- Louis Fourie steps down from Exec Committee

## NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is responding to a number of calls for more news of what is happening in the Honorary Officer Corps, especially at the Executive level.

It seems that not all of us are using the Honorary Officer Facebook Page or keeping up-to-date on the number of What'sApp Groups that have been formed in the Honorary Officer Corps.

This is the first of many Executive Committee communications to the Honorary Officers.

This is not just a newsletter from the Executive Committee but I hope will become more of an Honorary Officer Corps project that will be used by all Honorary Officers. It will also be a useful way of communicating news from the various Honorary Officer Groups to all the members of the Honorary Officer Corps.

I encourage you to send interesting news to us to include in the future editions.

I encourage you to comment on the topics.

My plea is for us to improve the communications between us.

Drummond Densham  
Provincial Coordinator

## LOUIS FOURIE

Louis Fourie after many years of serving on the Exec Committee has stepped down due his current work commitments. He coordinated the Marine Honorary Officer Groups as the Regional Coordinator and did a great job.

We will miss him at the our meetings with his experience and wisdom when discussing issues pertaining to the HO Corps work.

We wish him well and look forward to seeing him at our gatherings.



Honorary Officers leading an Education Trail

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*"What would the world be, once bereft of wet and wildness? Let them be left. O let them be left, wildness and wet; Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet."*  
Gerard Manley Hopkins.

# HONORARY OFFICER SKILLS AUDIT AND TRAINING

## SKILLS

It has been some time since there was a audit of the skills that the Honorary Officers have within the Corps.

We have seen many of our members retire and new members join us. Some members have learnt new skills since they joined us.

The Executive Committee is aware of the wide range of skills within the Corps, and will be requesting updated information from members in order to update the Skill Database.

This would then enable members to be more effectively used to benefit other HO groups that may not have the expertise within their own groups.

## TRAINING

At the Provincial and Regional meetings, Honorary Officers have asked for training in a number of areas of our work.

There have been calls for training in law enforcement, plant identification, fish identification, alien plant control

work are a few examples

This is an appeal to all the Group Chairs to send your Regional Secretary a list of the training needs within your group as well your priority for training.

We also request a list of names of the Honorary Officers with the skills and who may be willing to run training courses.

We would like the full lists of skills and training needs to be available to all Groups by the end of February this year.

This will assist the Executive to develop a training schedule for 2019.

Tracy Weakly

**Honorary Officers at Rhino Awareness day**



***“We need motivated men and women in the region, willing to sacrifice and volunteer so that others may have it better ...***

***We need people who place a high value on service for the common good ... and ... who love Africa so much that they want to protect her from destructive processes.”***

***Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.***

## EARLY NOTICE OF THE 2019 PROVINCIAL AGM

The Provincial AGM is normally held in May each year.

2019 is the year for the National General Election and although no date has been set as yet— it is likely to be held in May this year.

To organize an HO Weekend and AGM which requires finding suitable camping and other

accommodation when the elections are on has complicated the planning.

It was decided at the AGM last year to have one AGM in Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife’s Head Office in Queen Elizabeth Park and one further afield in alternative years.

The next AGM is being planned for Saturday the 11 May 2019. This is a

tentative date which will be determined by when the elections will held and the availability of the Auditorium.

Please pencil in this date and the final date will be set as soon as we have confirmation from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.

It will be a one day event.

## ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE HO GROUPS

The Annual HO Corps report was read out at our 2018 Provincial AGM. It was not a full report that outlined the work of all the HO's. This report was submitted to the EKZNW Executive and it was included in the EKZNW 2017 - 18 Annual Report verbatim. The report is seen by all the KZN Nature Conservation Service Board members and the senior politicians in the KZN Provincial Government. It is vital that the annual reports reflect fully on the work of the HO's.

Oscar Mthimkhulu said that he was very glad to see a report from the HO Corps. He was pleased to note the contribution that HO's are providing to EKZNW.

The submission of Annual Reports is now a requirement from the HO Corps.

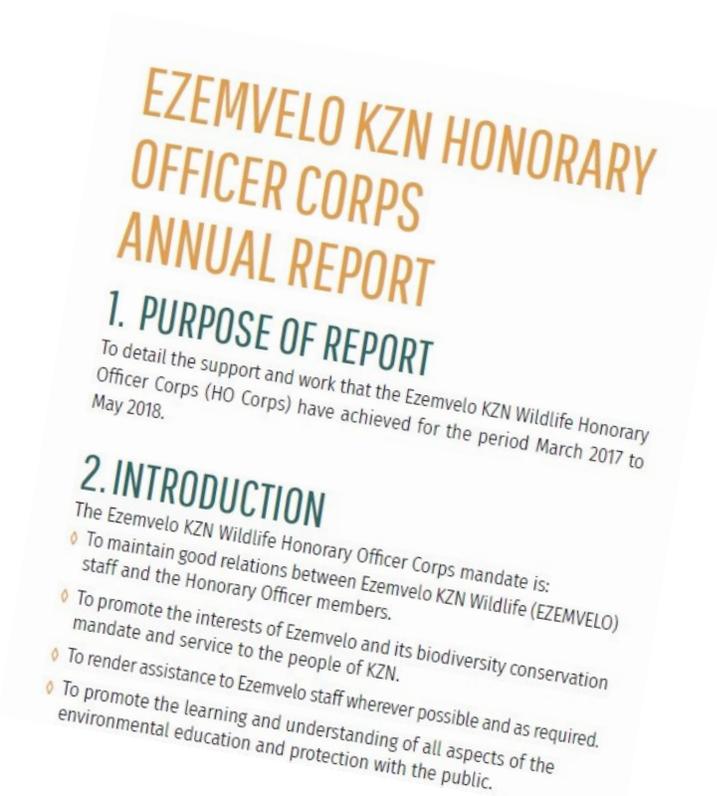
The HO Executive is developing a reporting system for all the Group Chairs to follow will be sent to all Chairs and Secretaries to use with deadlines.

## SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT & HONORARY OFFICER CONSTITUTION

I have been working on a draft Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW) and the HO Corps. It will detail the roles and responsibilities of both organizations.

The draft SLA will be discussed with the EKZNW for final ratification by both organizations—hopefully in the first half of 2019.

I have had advice from EKZNW that there should be only one Constitution governing the HO Corps. I indicated this fact at the 2018 Provincial AGM and the West Regions meeting that may happen.



Allan Williams is currently working on the revision of the Constitution with this aim.

The revised draft Constitution will be sent to all HO Group Chairs (and via the Chairs to all HOs) by the end of January 2019 for review and comments.

An explanation will accompany the document for the HO Groups to follow with a deadline for feedback from the Groups.

The Constitution will form part of the SLA..

Drummond Densham

## MPENJATI RESERVE: THE YENGELE TRAIL REBIRTH

I have had the honour and privilege of working on the beautiful Yengele Trail at the Mpenjati Reserve, since that moment when I put my hand up at my first meeting of the Mpenjati Honorary Officers, in October 2017.

I had no idea what the trail looked like or what a mammoth task I had assigned myself too, until the day when Anna took me on the trail. She imparted her incredible knowledge of the plants and trees and her passion for the environment oozed into me. I knew it was possible to bring this trail back to its former glory for all to enjoy and this amazing journey began.



It started with clearing the actual path from *overgrowth*, at some places it was so dense, I had to leopard crawl to get through, so chainsaw, bush-knife and hedge trimmers in full use, I began to see the 'light beyond the trees', so to say.



It then became evident that the trail would not be publicly

reopened until such time as the viewing deck had been entirely rebuilt. The deck was old and rotting, with many planks and poles missing, thereby posing a danger to potential visitors. I realised I needed help, lots of help, in the way of funding, donations and manpower, this, I could not do alone.

The real heroes of this project then came together in a spirit of community and gave me their support. I must make special thanks to all!

I received donations of material from the following companies, who deserve a mention and should be acknowledged:

**Gate Hardware:** The largest sponsor of material including treated poles, thread bar, nuts & washers and offered substantial discounts on additional materials purchased.

**Jaap Bester:** His huge donation of pre-cut planks for the actual decking.

**Amos Hardware**

**Macsons Supermarket**

Not to mention the huge amount of financial donations from our local community and those from afar who wanted this project to be a success:

**Trafalgar Conservancy**

**Visitors to the reserve**

**Facebook friends**

In total the amount I managed to raise for this cause so far is around R4000.00 in cash and approximately R2000.00 in material donations and discounts.

Then another huge donation was that of manpower and time provided by the First Margate Scout Troop's Eagles Patrol, without whose energy, the actual work on the deck would have been impossible.

To Chris and Robyn Pieters, and the Eagles Patrol of 1st Margate Scout Troop, I am eternally grateful!



So the viewing deck is complete and the 1st half of the trail has been reopened to the public. I still have a huge amount of work to do to refurbish all the stairs on the east side of the trail/viewing deck. This will once again require labour hours, man power and funding and I hope one and all, will come together to get it all complete for everyone's enjoyment.

By Penny Shone  
(Mpenjati Honorary Officer group)





## EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE HONORARY OFFICERS CENTRAL OFFICE INFORMATION

PO BOX 2220,  
Mount Edgecombe,  
4300

E-mail: [hoprovincialsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hoprovincialsecretary@gmail.com)

Website: <https://ezemveloho.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EKZNW.HOs/>

The Honorary Officers are a group of volunteers who give of their time and expertise to assist and support KZN Wildlife in their mission “to ensure effective conservation and sustainable use of KwaZulu Natal’s

*“If we can teach people about wildlife, they will be touched.*

*Share my wildlife with me. Because humans want to save things that they love.”*  
Steve Irwin

Determined people  
working together  
can do anything.

Jim Casey

## YOUR CURRENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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DEPUTY COORDINATOR: EAST (MARINE)	- VACANT -	-
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