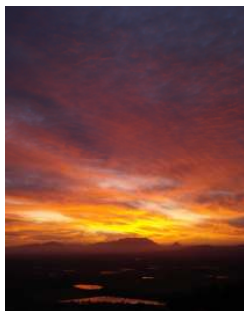




## Newsletter (November 2009)

Summer is here? That is the question.



“Summer” was kicked off with a full-moon hike on Klappmutskop, where about 40 partners and members of the Greater Simonsberg Conservancy attended. Sparkling wine and canapés were served in the Simonsberg Cafe before the hike. It was a fun-filled and beautiful evening, well worth the 9km hike. The media was also invited and the Conservancy was mentioned in Weg and Die Burger the day after. The next full-moon hike will be on 2 December 2009.

The first fire of the season at Uitkyk was a wake-up call to all. Luckily the fire was stopped quickly, before it got out of control. The Conservancy will be using the Fire management plan conducted by Grevile Ruddock for the coming fire season. The FPA is busy being established and will in future serve as the umbrella body for fire issues within the Conservancy and surrounding municipal areas. Three members of the Greater Simonsberg Conservancy serve on the Executive Committee of the Stellenbosch FPA.



### Alien Clearing

The Conservancy received some funding from Landcare to help with alien clearing efforts on Conservancy farms. This money will be used to assist farms identified by environmental specialists as priority areas for clearing. Tokara has been identified as one of these farms, and next month Paul Stander and his team will start clearing here. The long-term plan will be to, where possible, offer assistance to all farms within the conservancy, to control their alien vegetation.

### Skills training

An alien plant identification course was held in October for the staff at Rustenberg. A similar course will be held for all other conservancy members before the end of the year. A snake management course was held in September, to help staff understand the importance of snakes in the environment, and to offer information on the different snakes and their bites.

### Environmental Education

An environmental drawing competition was held at schools in the surrounding area, and 16 kids were chosen, and treated to a day outing to Lion Park and Eagle Encounters. The conservancy is hoping to get funding from Landcare for Junior Landcare camps in 2010. The conservancy will be working together with Department of Health to establish food gardens at a few underprivileged schools in the area.



**MEMBERS:** De Goede Success; Delheim; DelVera; Dirtopia; East Hill; Elsenburg; Glen Elley; Kanonkop; Knorhoek; Laibach; Le Bonheur&Uitkyk; Marklew; Muratie; Quoin Rock; Remhoogte; Rustenberg; Thelema; Tokara; Warwick; Wiesenhof

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