

## Role Players

*The following people have made this project a reality:*

**David Singer** the Donor

**Mike Griffiths** from **City Trees**, whose original idea it was 3 years ago.

**Willie Makgatho** and **Albert Mosiane**, **Ralson Maboko** and **Zibuse Mramba** - for the truly hard work of cleaning the island, planting the trees and assisting in erecting the bird gyms etc

**Marks Sethaelo**, General Manager **City Parks** and all his staff especially **Patrick Meyer**, **Noel Robson**, **Johnny Jardine** and **Rose Abdullah**. They went that extra mile to have The Fountain painted, and put in order, the statue cleaned, the paving and the signage completed and the myriad of other tasks in time for today's function.

**Ben Masalesa** and **Ruby Moalusi** for photos and general assistance.

**Cebo Mhlongo** and his able team from Conservation Department of City Parks for helping relocate the ducks.

**SIGMA Coatings** – for donating the paint for the Fountain.

**Helmut Nicol** of moyo for his professional advice and his teams assistance with erecting the gyms.

**Geoff Lockwood** for guidance and professional expertise about the birds on the Island.

**Blue Wolf Communications** for the artwork for this and other projects.

**Evie Gobey** of **Signman** for the beautiful commemorative bird and other signs!

**The LIONS** - especially **James Ngwenya** and **Patrick Khumalo** for their help with the boats and many other favours!

**Jenny Moodley** - **Manager** Media, for your advice and support.



## A Celebration of the Rehabilitation of the Island and Conservation of the Heronry at Zoo Lake

**Monday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2006**  
**World Environment Day**

## Brief History of Zoo Lake

Zoo Lake is part of the Herman Eckstein Park. This site was part of a private forest previously known as the Sachsenwald, which was given as a deed of gift to the people of Johannesburg in 1904, with strict orders that it be used as a public park. (Herman Eckstein was a founder member of the Chamber of Mines and Rand Club). In 1906 the city council decided to build a lake in the marshland, which immediately became a major attraction for the people of Johannesburg.

## The Rehabilitation of the Island Project

Over the years the island in the centre of the lake has been neglected and the trees on it have been stripped and weighed down by the many birds on the island.

Two years ago Mike Griffiths of City Trees suggested that we rehabilitate the Island. In 2006 David Singer, a local attorney and environmentalist, donated money for the rehabilitation of the island.

Geoff Lockwood, the well known ornithologist identified the problems on the island as well as suggesting solutions. We were informed that the island contained one of the biggest and most important heronies in Gauteng, he recommended that the herons be encouraged to keep coming to the Island. There was an over abundance of the Greylap type goose so the conservation department of City Parks assisted us in relocating 30 of these geese to other parks with water features.

The Island was cleared of rubbish and Erichia Rigida trees were planted on the perimeter, holes for these trees were first prepared with clean river sand, compost and lime to encourage growth.

Five roosting towers (bird gyms) have been erected near the centre of the island. (It says a lot for the patience of the City Parks Staff who had to ferry everything including 100 litre and 200 litre trees in rowing boats from the “mainland”. The poles were floated across the water to the island. Holes were prepared in the centre of the gyms for new trees, grids on the top of the towers will prevent the birds from stripping these new trees and covering them in “whitewash”. Some papyrus was also planted on the island perimeter.

The above represents Phase One of the project. Phase two will include planting more greenery and erecting smaller wooden roosting platforms. We also intend relocating more of the Greylap geese.

An Eco Group of Bird Watchers from the surrounding churches, under the guidance of Bob Cullen, are carrying out bird counts and we will publish these results when we have them.

The project has been a truly community oriented one starting off with a public participation meeting and articles in the local paper to keep the public informed of the progress.

An illustrated sign on the bank of the Lake will depict the most commonly found birds on the Island, such as herons, ibises, egrets and comorants. The exciting news is that the birds are happily roosting on the new platforms and hopefully, come Spring, the Island will be green.

All the work was carried out by the ground staff of City Parks under the leadership of Albert Mosiane and Willie Makgatho with the help and professional advice of Helmut Nicol and his staff in the moyo workshops.

## PROGRAMME

**15h00**

**Registration at Lions Boathouse**

**15h30**

**Proceed to Plaque**  
Brief ceremony to  
unveil plaque

**Councillor Mike Moriarty,  
Chairman Zoo Lake Users  
Committee to welcome everyone**  
and give a brief description of the  
project.

**Introduction of David Singer**  
– the donor

**Word of thanks by Councillor  
Moriarty to all concerned with the  
rehabilitation**

**Luther Williams,  
Managing Director  
Joburg City Parks**

**16.00**

**Guests invited to moyo  
for refreshments**