

The MRCT team with Essentially Natural's team. The MRCT partnered with the latter in their One Percent Project, whereby they vow to donate 1% of their monthly turnover every month towards select non-profit organisations, charities or community projects. PHOTO: DE WETT CRONJE



World Clean-up Day celebrated

ESMÉ ERASMUS

In only two hours an entire ton of waste was picked up in Greenville by a total of 120 volunteers during a clean-up event to celebrate World Clean-Up Day and Heritage Month.

In total, 219 bags were collected, of which 959 kg was general household waste and 67 kg recyclable material.

The top three items collected were plastic pieces (30 671), foam pieces (20 031) and food wrappers (12 200).

The clean-up event on a 55 m² piece of land in Greenville on Saturday 18 September was the fourth event by the Mosselbank River Conservation Team (MRCT) in celebration of World Clean-up Day.

"World Clean-up Day is a global social action programme aimed at combating the global solid waste problem, including the problem of marine debris," says Danielle Cronje, environmental officer of Garden Cities.

This year the MRCT partnered with Garden Cities, developer of Greenville, John Kieser from Plastics SA, Krispy Cream, Essentially Natural, Gem Project and the City of Cape Town's solid waste and water and sanitation department.

"The MRCT are excited to partner with Essentially Natural and its One Percent Project, whereby they vow to donate 1% of their income every month towards select non-profit organisations, charities or community projects," says Cronje.

"Without the support of these businesses

and the community, the MRCT will not be able to continue with their work in the community as the team is reliant on donations," she says.

"But most importantly the volunteers who joined the clean up are the stars of the clean up. We had a total of 146 volunteers – mostly children from Greenville and wider Fisantekraal, as well as residents from Durbanville," she says.

The target area for the clean up was an open field adjacent to the eastern tributary of the Mosselbank River.

"It is important to clean these areas otherwise all the litter ends up in the river, which causes water pollution and has detrimental effects further downstream and ultimately the ocean," Cronje says.

Most of the volunteers were children between 10 and 19 years old.

"It is important for the MRCT to collect this data to see where our gaps are in terms of environmental education," she says.

Plastic bottles is a highly valuable material to recycle, she says. The current value of PET bottles are from R2 per kilogramme.

"Therefore we want to encourage the community to recycle at home and help the MRCT to keep Greenville and Fisantekraal clean and healthy," Cronje says.

All materials that were separated, will be sorted and recycled by LW Recycling and Trade, a local recycler and collector in Fisantekraal. She thanked the City's solid waste department for the donation and collection of the bags.



The PET bottle champions were (from left) Bradley Thys, Jorden Ulthalen and Jonique Gorden. These plastic bottles will be recycled by LW Recycling and Trade. PHOTO: DANIELLE CRONJE



These young girls, (from left) Chrissy-Anne Galant, Nadine Thys and Jazzlin Daniels, were working together to keep their community clean. PHOTO: DANIELLE CRONJE



Marianne van Renssen (left), Sannie Lesch (middle) and Charmaine Plaatjies managed the bag weighing station. Weighing the trash collected gives the MRCT an idea of the positive impact they have on the environment. From only one clean up, one ton of waste was diverted from the river.



The MRCT members are (front from left) Elizabeth Maans, John Khwesa and Buseka Jiya. Middle: Charmaine Plaatjies, Ragel Jackson, Sannie Lesch, Xolelwa Marenene, Hilda Adams and Marianne van Renssen. Back: Charlene Christians, Danielle Cronje, Victoria Jansen and Michael Jaftha Saayman. PHOTO: DE WETT CRONJE