



Greetings,

The LEFPA 2019 / 2020 membership rates are published on page 4. Please pay your fees when they are due to ensure that you are eligible to access the resources provided by membership. We've pulled a few happy snippets of wildfire related news from around the world for a quick read over a cup of coffee, while Johan continues to educate us about nasty alien invader plants on page 2. Until next time.

Quick Read Snippets

All Fired Up keeps an eye out for interesting and informative bits of wildfire news and we thought you'd enjoy these stories.

Kids Say Thanks

A pair of well-raised youngsters decided to thank one of the Working on Fire pilots hard at work overhead the Betty's Bay fire in January. A video of their efforts did the rounds on social media and pilot Zayin Vermaak expressed his delight at their handywork with this super message:

"Our job is demanding, and generally in difficult conditions, but over and above putting out fires there is always huge satisfaction in the human factor of helping protect people and their homes.

The appreciation shown by the two awesome kids and their 'Thank you' sign makes it all worthwhile!" Watch the video on www.goodthingsguy.com/people/thank-you-sign

Race to Save Tortoises

The fleet of foot show a clean pair of heels when a fire breaks out but for a toddling tortoise, getting out of danger is extremely difficult. When Corné Uys was evacuated from school during the Hermanus fires in January, he and his father Hugo chose to help slower wildlife escape the flames. For several hours, they raced up and down, rescuing 33 tortoises and other wildlife.

What an amazing, unselfish thing to do. Read Corné's post <https://m.facebook.com/groups/370473456426923?view=permalink&id=1286749621465964>

Extended Exclusion Zone to Curb Drone Danger

While strictly speaking this isn't wildfire news, following the article about drones in the March issue of *All Fired Up* comes a ban on drones flying within 5 kilometres of British airports. Mischief or malice? Either way, London's Gatwick airport was closed for 36 hours in December 2018, causing mayhem, inconvenience and expense for more than 120 000 passengers. The drone issue is far from under control and pilots, airports and aviation authorities across the globe are seeking ways to protect aircraft, pilots and passengers from hazardous drone invasion of airspace. **DO NOT** fly your drone anywhere in the vicinity of a fire!

Read more: www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2019-02-20-britain-bans-drones-from-flying-within-5-kilometers-of-airports/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=First%20Thing%20Wednesday%2020%20February%202019%20Investec&utm_content=First%20Thing%20Wednesday%2020%20February%202019%20Investec+CID_053662bccafc845f3bb6ddd3afc01da8&utm_source=TouchBasePro&utm_term=Britain%20bans%20drones%20near%20airports

Office Staff Given Practical Insight

Dispatcher Edwin, Administrator Ivina, Base Manager Queen and Permit Officer Nomchebo recently joined the LEFPA crew on a burning project.

Andre Scheepers says "This was an opportunity for them to personally experience the procedure and process that takes place once they have issued a burning permit. They were also shown what type of burning operation they have given a permit for, in this case it was a slash burn."

The group witnessed first-hand the Fire Danger expected on that day and what impact the FDI has on a specific burning operation as well as fire behaviour. There is nothing like the lesson of a practical experience to provide insight into the vital role played by every member of the LEFPA team.



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Permit Requests

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No Shortage of Famine Weed

IAP Species: *Parthenium hysterophorus*

Common names: Famine weed, Feverfew, Congress grass (English), Parthenium; Demoina bossie (Afrikaans). **Nemba Category: 1b**

Description:

An annual herb growing up to 1,5m high with an erect, longitudinally grooved hairy stem and a deep tap root. It has pale green, hairy leaves and small white flowers in compact heads that appear from September to May. The entire plant is a skin and respiratory irritant. It invades roadsides, rail sides, water courses, cultivated fields and overgrazed land.

Where does this species come from?

South America and the West Indies.

How does it spread?

Parthenium is browsed by stock and spread by seeds that may be viable for many years.

Why is it a problem?

Parthenium poses a major health problem and it is a threat to agriculture in South Africa. It inhibits the growth and seed germination of other plants through allelopathy. It suppresses crop yields and contaminates crop seed. Meat from livestock that has eaten the weed is badly tainted and not fit for consumption. The presence of *Parthenium*, which is a nerve depressant, poses a major health hazard. Regular contact with the plant, usually over a prolonged period, produces allergic dermatitis and asthma in humans. Cattle may also be affected and pass the toxic principal into their milk.

Does the plant have any uses?

None.

Control methods

Successful management of *Parthenium* is possible through a combination of control methods including biological control, chemical control, containment strategies and the utilization of competitive plant species. (Navie *et al.* 1996; Adkins *et al.* 2005; O'Donnell & Adkins 2005). *Parthenium* can be controlled using herbicides and several are known to be effective in South Africa (Goodall *et al.* 2010). The cost of chemical control of *Parthenium* along road verges in parts of KwaZulu-Natal Province was estimated at R177 per hectare in 2008 (M. Braack, pers. comm.) and continual follow-up is required to remove new emerging plants and provide effective, long-term suppression of the plant (Goodall *et al.* 2010). Financial constraints may render chemical control unfeasible for many landowners in Africa. Hand-weeding is a labour intensive, although common, weed control practice in Africa (Akobundu 1991), but it carries health risks associated with frequent contact with *Parthenium*. Subsistence farmers are particularly affected by *Parthenium* invading grazing and arable land subject to high levels of disturbance (Nigatu *et al.* 2010). Reducing grazing pressure by lowering livestock densities is an effective means of managing the plant (Holman 1981), but it may be difficult to achieve this in unfenced, tribal or community pastoral systems in Africa. Limited research has been conducted on the use of competitive grass species to control *Parthenium* in South Africa (van der Laan 2006). Considering all of these management problems and constraints, biological control using introduced natural enemies offers a promising supplemental control option for management of *Parthenium* in Africa.

Biocontrol

Two species of beetles have been released in South Africa, a stem boring weevil *Listronotus setosipennis*, and a seed weevil, *Smicronyx lutulentus*. A rust fungi have been of some use: the winter rust *Puccinia abrupta* var. *parthenicola* plus the summer rust *Puccinia xanthii*

References

Invasive Species of South Africa. *Parthenium hysterophorus*. www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/295-famine-weed-parthenium-hysterophorus L.W. Strathie, A.J. McConnachie & E. Retief. Initiation of biological control against *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. (Asteraceae) in South Africa. *Agricultural Research Council - Plant Protection Research Institute*.



The Legal Benefits of LEFPA Membership

The legal benefits of LEFPA membership are highlighted when disaster strikes. The law places compliance with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act squarely on the landowner's shoulders whether or not they are members of an FPA. This onerous duty is time consuming and a heavy responsibility on top of overlaid workloads so why not join an Association and be guided and supported by the experts?

LEFPA does more than suppress fires. The Association assists members to fulfil their legal responsibilities by offering guidance and advice regarding reducing the risk of wildfires as well as coordinating activities before, during and after fires and throughout the fire season. LEFPA membership ensures that there is no presumption of negligence in civil claims for damages in the event that a fire from the member's land causes loss or damage to a neighbour. Did you know that insurance companies will often grant a rebate on premiums for members of an FPA?

A successful court case won by a member who was guided and supported by LEFPA underlines the full scope and value of being backed by the association. The drawn-out legal battle between neighbours reached the Supreme Court before the neighbour and insurance company eventually negotiated a settlement which compensated the LEFPA member for loss and damage incurred.

Suffering wildfires on your property is traumatic enough without the legal costs. Is your neighbour a member? If not, it may be a good idea to pop around with a copy of *All Fired Up* and discuss the legal and cost saving benefits of cooperative neighbours.

Fire Training Costs 2019

BASIC FIRE FIGHTING AND REFRESHER TRAINING 2019		
Cost per Course:	BASIC FIRE FIGHTING: R6200.00 excluding VAT	BASIC FIRE FIGHTING REFRESHER: R3100.00 excluding VAT
Course Duration:	2 Days	1 Day
Course Dates:	As per your arrangement	As per your arrangement
Location & Venue:	On Site	On Site
Availability:	Maximum 20 Delegates per training course	Maximum 20 Delegates per training course
PROTO TEAM AND CREW LEADER TRAINING 2019		
Cost per Course:	PROTO TEAM: R33 800.00 excluding VAT	CREW LEADER: R19 300.00 excluding VAT
Course Duration:	2 Days (Lunch Included)	2 Days (Lunch Included)
Course Dates:	TBC	TBC
Location & Venue:	LEFPA OFFICE	LEFPA OFFICE
Availability:	Maximum 30 Delegates per training course	Maximum 12 Delegates per training course
INITIAL ATTACK FIRE BOSS (IC TYPE 5) TRAINING 2019		
Cost per Course:	INITIAL ATTACK FIRE BOSS : R27 000.00 excluding VAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • The science of a fire • The use of canvas hoses • Some causes of forest fires • Types of Forest fires • Classification of all fires • Fire duty and fire season organisation • Basic Principles of firefighting • Emergency measures at a fire • "Laces" • The 10 standard firefighting orders • 18 situations that shout "watch out" • Personal Protective Clothing • The use of hand tools • Manual fire line construction • Burning an escape route as last resort • Communication at a fire • Discipline at a fire • Fire fighting in the evenings • The fire fighter and his team • Mopping up
Course Duration:	2 Days (Lunch Included)	
Course Dates:	TBC	
Location & Venue:	LEFPA OFFICE	
Availability:	Maximum 15 Delegates per training course	
		
CONTACT DETAILS		
Contact Details:	Ivina Alberts Administrator	082 566 2728 admin@lefpa.co.za



LOWVELD & ESCARPMENT FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

2019 / 2020 LEFPA Membership Rates

2019 / 2020 Membership rates were approved at the Special General Meeting held in the LEFPA Boardroom on Thursday 14th March. Annual fees are due for payment within 30 days of statement date and membership runs from 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2020. We rely on prompt payment of your membership fees in order for the association to function. Please help us to help YOU by paying your dues on time. It's the right thing to do!

PLEASE NOTE: membership will not be confirmed nor membership certificates issued unless a member's account is paid in full and up to date.



Basic Members	Basic Rates 2019	Basic Rates 2018
0 – 100 hectares	R 402.00 + VAT per year	R 380.00 + VAT per year
101 – 500 hectares	R 925.00 + VAT per Year	R 875.00 + VAT per year
500+ hectares	R1.85 + VAT / Title Deed ha per year	R 1.75 + VAT / Title Deed ha per year

Aerial Members	Aerial Rates 2019	Aerial Rates 2018
Aerial	R 32.50 + R1.85 + VAT / Title Deed ha per year	R 30.50 + R1.75 + VAT / Title Deed ha per year
Corporate	Basic R1.85 + R5.65 + R32.50 + VAT per ha per year	Basic R1.75 + R5.65 + R30.50 + VAT per ha per year



USE FIRE RESPONSIBLY

REPORT WILD FIRES

0860 66 3473

www.lefpa.co.za



LOWVELD & ESCARPMENT
FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Activities for the Month - April

- Check all radios.
- Prepare manual tracers.
- Attend LEFPA meetings regularly.
- Obtain LEFPA rules and regulations.
- Train your employees in fire management.
- Obtain standby rosters from your neighbours.
- Check that water points have adequate supply.
- Burn open areas on rotational burning programmes.
- Implement a daily vehicle checklist to ensure fire readiness.
- Match your fire-fighting resources based on the fire risks identified.
- Prepare roads bordering open areas and firebreaks that will be burned.
- Obtain LEFPA standard operating procedures related to high FDI periods.
- Slash burning allowed if weather permits - get a burning permit from LEFPA.
- Implement procedures to ensure the availability and supply of fuel, rations, etc.
- Implement operational procedures to ensure a quick response to provide medical and mechanical protection and other services.



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LOWVELD & ESCARPMENT FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Important Note:

- Basic Firefighting Training is available to LEFPA members. Interested parties should contact the LEFPA office.
- FDI weather emails and SMSs are available to LEFPA members, contact Ivina for more information.
- PLAN YOUR TRAINING NEEDS EARLY!
- **SUCCESS** cannot be spelt without **U**. Attend and participate - we need your contribution!