



The Mountain Club of South Africa

Founded 1891

Johannesburg Section

Established 1931

EXPLORE • DISCOVER • CONNECT • PROTECT

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23 April 2012

Dear Sheila, Alex and Les,

On behalf of the Johannesburg Section of the Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA), I would like to express my sincere condolences to you on Francois' passing. He will be sadly missed.

As you know, the MCSA, and particularly the Johannesburg and Magaliesberg Sections, owes a great debt of gratitude to Francois. We would have been in a parlous state as regards access to our favourite Magaliesberg kloofs and climbing areas had he not from the early 'sixties "bullied" an initially reluctant Club into buying key properties which provide both access to and enjoyment of these unique mountain gems.

Apart from anything else, we are aware that Francois laboured tirelessly in his quest to share the mountains he loved with the underprivileged, thereby setting a wonderful example for the Club to pursue further.

Francois' passion for the Magaliesberg influenced the Club to become involved in its conservation, which led to the establishment of the Magaliesberg Protection Association and the declaration of the Magaliesberg Nature Area (now Protected Environment). We are hopeful that one of Francois' legacies will be the establishment of the Magaliesberg Biosphere under the aegis of UNESCO.

Francois was always happy to provide advice to the Club on various decisions and issues of principle that it faced over the years. His counsel, sometimes controversial, was always wise. His passing has left a great hole which will be difficult to fill.

May you have strength in your bereavement.

Best wishes,

Dobek Pater

Chairman, MCSA Johannesburg Section

CC.: Dave Jones, National President, MCSA

Jenny Paterson, Honourable Secretary, MCSA