

03 April 2023

Dear Observatory residents,

The Friends of the Liesbeek (FoL) is making an urgent funding appeal to businesses and residents in order to continue with the work of our Liesbeek Maintenance Project.

There are at least three practical ways you can support the FoL:

1. Donate to us. You can do this by EFT (email info@fol.org.za) or by Snapscan (QR code below).

Donate via Snapscan



2. You can register for the [MySchool Programme](#), listing the Friends of the Liesbeek as one of your beneficiaries. This means that any Woolworths or associated shopping you do will passively benefit the FoL, **at no cost to yourself**.



3. Help fundraise for us in any way you can. This could include:
 - a. Joining our committee under the portfolio of fundraising.
 - b. Fundraising for us through your business / school.
 - c. Introducing us to businesses / contacts that would be open to supporting our work.

For over 32 years, the Friends of the Liesbeek (FoL) has existed as a community-led organization with the mandate to care for the Liesbeek River – a phenomenal asset to Cape Town, but one which continues to bear the brunt of the flaws of our society and the consequences of short-sighted urban planning. The organisation was born out of the urgent need to address the deterioration of the Liesbeek River and surrounding greenbelt. In the subsequent years, the FoL has taken on more and more responsibilities, with the City of Cape Town increasingly unable to focus on an area that is not formally protected and situated in suburbs which are comparatively well-off.

In 2004, the FoL secured funding to establish the Liesbeek Maintenance Project (LMP) and employ a team to carry out much needed restoration and maintenance work on the river. The staff employed all came from previously disadvantaged backgrounds and the LMP was a means to provide dignified employment, with the opportunity to upskill our staff. Over the years, our team have been trained in first aid, health and safety, herbicide application, brush cutter and chainsaw use, snake handling and more.

Our primary source of funding has been from the ABAX Foundation, with additional, periodic support from South African Breweries (now AB-Inbev). There have also been other contributions over the years from other organisations, community members etc.

However, the FoL now urgently requires additional funding to continue our ongoing operations. We need to raise in the region of R500 000 in order to cover our projected expenses up until the end of February 2024.

It is critically important to emphasize that all of the funding we receive goes directly into the operations of the LMP (fuel, equipment etc.) and into salaries of our team. Our executive community has never been, and will not be, remunerated. We serve simply out of passion for the Liesbeek, and a desire to contribute to our community. This appeal for funding serves two key objectives:

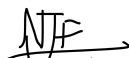
1. We want to continue to be able to continue to employ our staff, many of whom have worked for us for a number of years and who feel like extensions of family. Perhaps some of you will even know Klaas, Zaza, Mlu, etc. from your walks along the Liesbeek Trail. We have always been proud that through an environmental objective, we are also able to make a small social impact.
2. We believe our work is more important than ever, and we want to be able to continue to do it!

The FoL is a fully registered Public Benefit Organisation (PBO (reference number 93000280)) and a Not-for Profit Organisation (reference number 56-033). These registrations list the FoL as an approved PBO in terms of the South African Income Tax Act (Act 58 of 1962), meaning any and all donations received are claimable as tax deductions. **We are therefore able to generate section 18a tax certificates for all donations received.** If you're feeling disgruntled with the manner in which the country is run, this is an opportunity to divert some of your tax money to an environmental and social cause that will directly benefit your community.

Any support we receive will be immensely appreciated. To better understand what the FoL does, a few video links have been shared below. Please consider watching them

- ✓ Turning a canal into a river {[Click to watch](#)}
- ✓ Learning from the Liesbeek {[Click to watch](#)}
- ✓ Citizen action in relation to the River Club {[Click to watch](#)}
- ✓ Mandela Day Planting 2022 {[Click to watch](#)}

Yours sincerely,



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