

1 December 2016

To the members of the board: Buffelskloof Nature Reserve

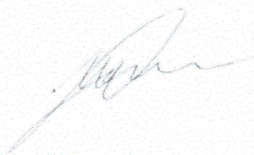
**Usage of Buffelskloof facilities by the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Pretoria**

I have been asked by John Burrows to write a letter outlining UP's Department of Plant and Soil Sciences' usage of the facilities at Buffelskloof, with particular focus on the implications of potential increases in accommodation and other costs to our visits.

I have had the privilege of annually taking the ecology honours student group (app. 4-6 students) to Buffelskloof since 2013, when I started lecturing at UP. We have gained a large deal from these visits. Due to the variety of habitats and vegetation types on the reserve, the high diversity of plants and also the facilities available on the reserve (accommodation arrangements, herbarium, meeting venues, wifi), Buffelskloof has been an excellent location to hold our field course. Another major drawing point has been John's assistance, knowledge and passion for the flora of the area (and beyond). Not only has John helped us a great deal with practical arrangements, but his passion is contagious – after every visit, students are newly inspired.

The nature of our visits to Buffelskloof is two-fold. First, we take an honours class to Buffelskloof on an annual basis. . . . . (shortened)

Best wishes,



Dr Michelle Greve  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Plant and Soil Sciences