

# Rolling out water

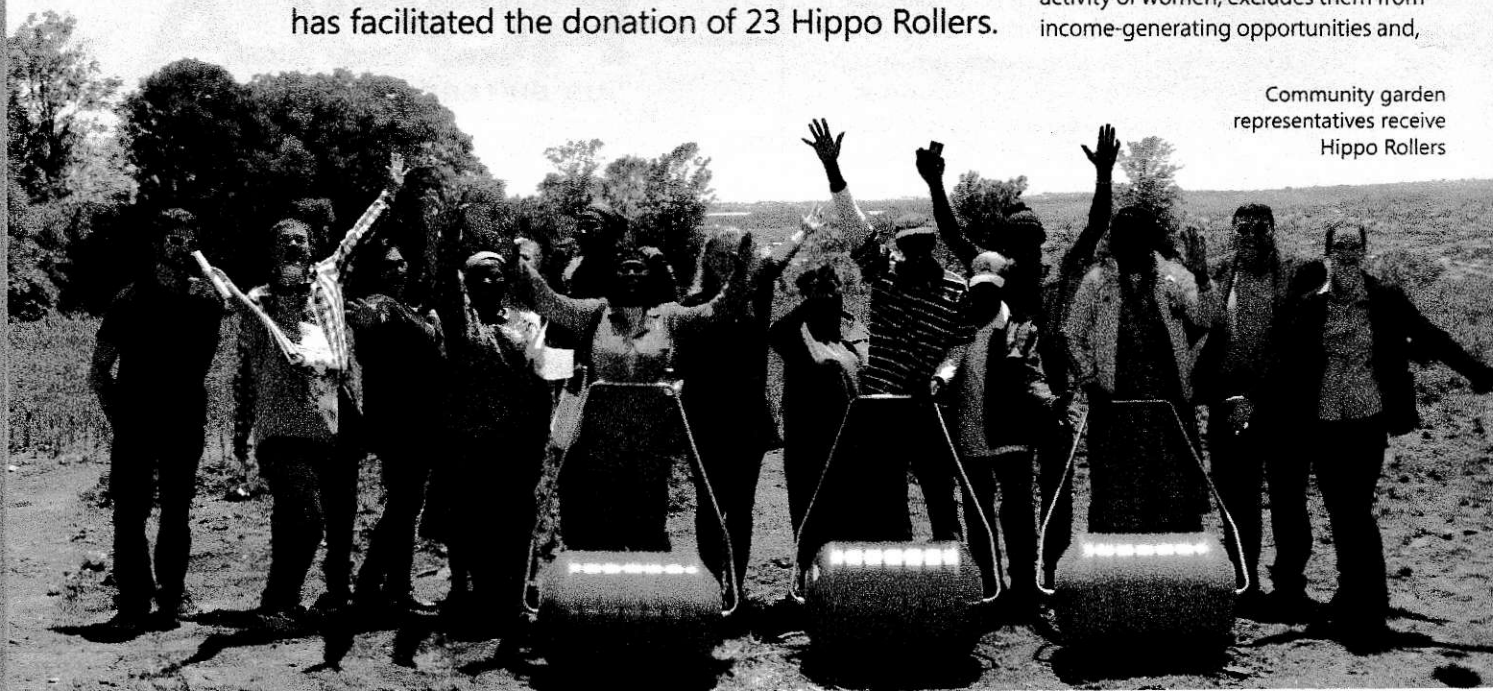


WISA and Hippo Roller hand 11 water rollers over to World Vision

Only 44.4% of South Africans have piped water inside their dwelling, with most having to collect water from an outside source. Through its Water Science Division's Women in Water programme, WISA has resolved to help address the water collection challenges women and children face, and has facilitated the donation of 23 Hippo Rollers.

**W**hile water issues can impact anyone, the greater burden is placed on women; the role of women in rural areas as the primary water collectors is well known. This activity limits the productive activity of women, excludes them from income-generating opportunities and,

Community garden representatives receive Hippo Rollers



## HIPPO ROLLERS

The Hippo Water Roller Project was established in 1994 in response to the water access challenges faced by rural women and children across Africa.

The South African invention is now in use in more than 25 countries, and makes it easier to collect water in tough rural conditions. The Hippo Roller holds up to five times more water than a single bucket (90 l) and is simple and easy to use. Grant Gibbs, executive director, Hippo Roller, highlights some of the key design elements that make the product tough and user-friendly:

- 1** The clip-on handle allows for the Hippo Roller to be easily pushed or pulled
- 2** A large opening allows for easy access for cleaning, but is small enough to prevent small children from falling into the drum
- 3** A small, recessed cap-in-cap, the size of a standard soda bottle cap – making it easily replaceable – allows for easy water pouring without contaminating the contents and facilitates simple irrigation of food gardens
- 4** A rounded bottom edge with a stable base allows the drum to be easily rolled upright
- 5** The typical lifespan of the Hippo Roller is five to seven years, and often much longer

## World Vision

Aqua Resources generously donated 10 Hippo Rollers to WISA's recipient of choice, World Vision. Hippo Roller donated an additional roller to the organisation.

World Vision will donate these rollers to needy community members through its WASH programme, which aims to increase access to safe and sustainable water supply, as well as sanitation and hygiene practices for poor, vulnerable communities and children.

According to Bheki Khanye, World Vision's interim national director for South Africa, these 11 Hippo Rollers will contribute to changing the lives of about 55 children. "Thank you to everyone involved in making this happen. We hope this marks the first step in a relationship we will continue to enjoy," said Khanye. 35



Mam Vi in her garden in Alexandra

in some cases, even threatens their health and well-being. WISA's Women in Water initiative aims to address these challenges and make a difference in the lives of women.

## Women in Water

The WISA Water Science Division held its second annual Women in Water Conference in October 2017 under the theme 'Making a splash'. Ayesha Laher of WISA's Water Science Division explains that the aim of this conference was to look outside of the traditional water sectors like water treatment and water science. Agricultural practices, which support food security but increase the demand for water, were identified as a focus area.

WISA decided to partner with Hippo Roller and asked conference attendees to sponsor Hippo Rollers to be passed on to needy recipients.

## Uplifting food gardens

The Paper Manufacturers (Pamsa) and Recycling (Prasa) associations of South Africa met this call and donated 10 Hippo Rollers to Food and Trees for Africa (FTFA), a social enterprise that addresses the issues of food security and environmental sustainability. Hippo Roller donated an additional water roller to FTFA.

One of these was handed over to the Modimo Oteng Cooperative in Marlboro Gardens, where a small group of six people, five women and one man, grow

vegetables on a plot of land that was formerly a dump site. The produce is sold for a small profit at a market in Sandton, while some is donated to a nearby old age home.

Another of these rollers was donated to the Alexandra Greening route, established by Paul Maluleke as a community tourism project under the Ecotourism Initiative and Department of Environmental Affairs. The project encourages members of the community to grow their own food to sustain themselves and earn an income. Maluleke said he would like to see more young people getting involved in these initiatives in order to pass down indigenous knowledge to future generations.

The third food garden to receive a roller, donated by Hippo Roller, was the Molobanyane Cooperative in Alexandra, run by Violet Phala Mabaso, or Mam Vi as she is known in the community. Mam Vi grows mainly herbs on a section of land shared by several cooperatives. She has grown her garden to supply produce to locals, markets and some restaurants, and has even built her own drying room where she dries and pickles various produce. Mam Vi says she earns enough selling her produce to cover her living costs and pay the people who work for her. She will use her Hippo Roller to store water for her saplings when the water is off – something she says is a fairly regular occurrence.

FTFA will identify recipients for the remaining Hippo Rollers.