

CHATTER

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR RECENTLY APPOINTED ESTATE MANAGER—Rob Fordyce, his wife Alicia and their lovely children, James and Amy. We trust you are going to have a long and happy stay at our lovely Estate.



Rob grew up in the Hartbeespoort Dam area and went to school at St Albans College in Pretoria. After school he went to the University of Natal to study BSc. Agricultural Management. Since graduating, he owned and managed a wholesale nursery and farm, also in the Hartbeespoort dam area. They moved to Hoedspruit in December 2011 to allow the children to go to Southern Cross School. Alicia has taken over the vegetable farming operation that they started when they moved to Hoedspruit. They are passionate about the bush and all its fauna & flora. Rob's aim as the Estate Manager is to continue where André left off, improving our Estate and to ensure that all owners and tenants are proud of living here.

FEEDBACK FROM ROB REGARDING THE ESTATE

We are currently putting the finishing touches to the new contractors gate. This should be operational by the end of March. This will put much less pressure on the main gate.

The leopard is very active and still in the area please be AWARE.

Also please adhere to our speed limit of 30km/hr!!

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ZINNIAS | 2 |
| NEWS FROM AFRICAN DREAM HORSE SAFARIS | 3 |
| TREE CORNER | 4 |
| LEOPARD | 4 |
| SHAME ON YOU!! | 5 |
| THE BOLD & THE BEAUTIFUL | 6 |
| IMPORTANT TEL NUMBERS | 7 |

POINTS OF INTEREST

- HWEE NEWS—OUR NEW MANAGER
- ZINNIAS
- RAIN RAIN
- AFRICAN DREAM
- TREE CORNER
- MORE LEOPARD ACTIVITY
- HORNBILLS



ZINNIA PERUVIANA : OBNOXIOUS INCREASING WEED



We have a problem with wild zinnia's and khaki bos growing in abundance on the Estate which over a short period of time destroys natural grass. It is too late in the season to chemically control the plants as they have started setting seeds already.

Management kindly requests that home owners should try and remove these invaders from their stands. The best method would be to carefully pull out the plants and immediately put them in black plastic bags to be destroyed. Care should be taken not to spread the seeds! Management will be doing a spray programme in the open spaces in the next growing season. However we ask that homeowners take responsibility for their own stands. Please help with this mammoth task as it is of paramount importance to get rid of them.



Lilian Malet sent these photos of the Mhlabetsi river flowing at the beginning of March. I must tell you during all this rain it was very difficult not to think about the 2012 floods. Fortunately we did not have the serious damage of 2012. There is a lot of tortoise movement at the moment please be careful on the roads, and look at the size of this one in the photo that Lilian took with a matchbox on it's shell.



The African Dream Horse Safari volleyball tournament during February was a huge success.

11 teams came to compete for 1st place, and there was plenty of competition and banter between them!

Everyone enjoyed a relaxed and fun atmosphere; with music, drinks, food and ice cream keeping everyone in high spirits!

Biscuits and cakes were also sold; made by our students and donated by Pick N Pay to raise money for Hope, our brave rescue pony.

The volleyball itself was fast and exciting, the semi-final 4th place won by BuCo, and Tinswalo played well for 3rd place. The final itself was very close, and Campfire fought bravely to win 2nd place, against Drakensig AFB who were the winners of 1st place and the title!

Thank you to everyone who came, and a big thank you to Wildlife Equestrian Centre for hosting the event! We would like to thank all our sponsors; Sleepers, Hat and Creek, MadHams, Wimpy and the China Shop for their donations towards the prizes; we appreciate all your support!



Traci →



African Dream Horse Safari hosted their first Dressage and Show jumping Show last weekend, and it was a huge success! Riders from Wildlife Equestrian Centre, Phalaborwa, White River and Tzaneen all came to compete and support one another in classes of different heights and ability.

Friday was the Dressage event; in which both horse and rider must memorize a test beforehand, and ride it to the best of their ability in front of judges, marking them for correct paces, turns, commands, responsiveness and willingness of the horse. Everyone looked beautiful with their horses plaited up and with riders wearing white show attire and black jackets. Show Jumping was once again exhilarating and exciting to watch! Locals came from all over Hoedspruit to cheer on our WEC riders, and to enjoy the music and jumping in the shade. The height of jumps went from 50cm with our younger riders and horses up to 1.10m with our own Traci Thomson riding Station Master! Everyone rode fantastically, and the two days of Jumping flew by with every rider excelling at their classes, and riding away with a huge smile!

Thank you to everyone who helped get our arenas up and running, and those who both rode and supported the riders throughout the show! Well done African Dream for a wonderful weekend! Look out for details of the next April show!



SHOW JUMPING ↑→



SHOW JUMPING ↓

THE TREE CORNER : SANDPAPER RAISIN/*Grewia flavescens*



You might have noticed during the last few months all the beautiful star shaped yellow flowers on the different raisin bushes around the Estate. This scrambling shrub usually grows under trees. The brown raisin sized fruit is a favourite with animals like baboons, monkeys, even civits and do not forget the birds! They love the sweet taste of them. The leaves have a rough feeling especially underneath. The sandpaper raisin has obvious square branches.

Different species of raisin bushes occur in the Lowveld all similar looking with the star shaped yellow flowers, smaller or larger leaves but the main difference is they all have round stems /branches.



← Square branches



→ Leaves & fruit

Lynette Strauss of site 697 (exclusive sites) had the privilege of watching the leopard the whole day at a water hole near their house! She said the leopard was totally relaxed and did not bother them at all. What an experience Lynette and thank you for sharing this wonderful moment with us.

I think this majestic animal loves the attention and he must be the most photographed as well as elusive animal on the Estate!!



Frida Kilian photographed this hornbill at their house where they took over the owl box for nesting. First you see them breaking the hole open & then feeding the babies. Do you realise how the poor male battled to close this nest!



SHAME ON YOU!!!

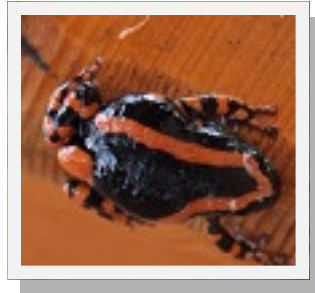


My fellow homeowners the above is unacceptable!! It might be an idea to leave some house rules in your homes and let your friends, family, tenants and visitors read them!

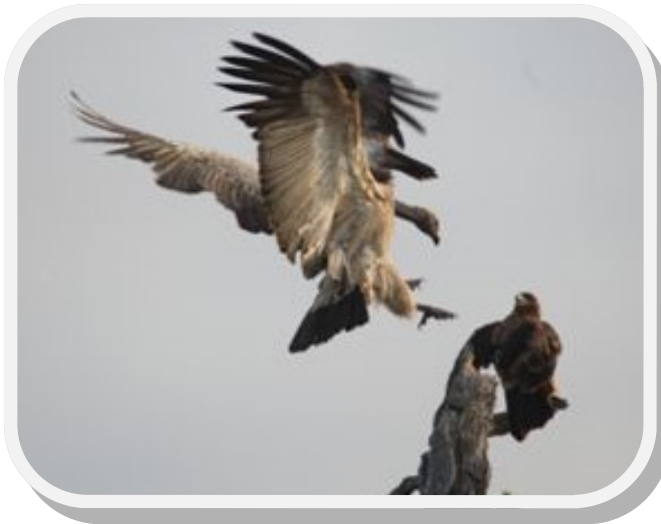
If for any reason there is not a bin at the hides for empty bottles or any refuse whatsoever surely you can take them back home with you.

Management built these hides for the pleasure of every nature lover— the least we can do is leave it clean!!

THE BOLD & THE BEAUTIFUL!



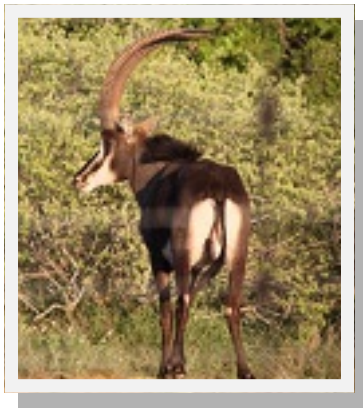
Look at these photos: They are unfortunately not taken on the Estate but still very interesting. The first one the python was taken by Francois Oberholzer on our farm Nyala during the heavy rains—he was busy swallowing a baby waterbuck. The mother and other female waterbuck did not leave the scene—they watched in distress. The strength of the python is unreal!



Vulture in full flight!

Sable/Swartwitpens

Photos—Lilian Malet



Thank you for the lovely photos and contributions which make it possible for me to compile the Chatter. Special thanks in no particular order to Rob Fordyce, Lilian Malet, Coenraad & Sophia Espach, Anna Mussi for the article and photos of African Dream Horse Safaris, Lynette Strauss, Frida Kilian, Francois Oberholzer and as always Bill— always there to take specific photos at impossible times! Kindly send me photos and newsworthy happenings or articles!

GET WELL SOON! The following board members have undergone surgery last month—Danie Cronje & Stuart Woodhead—we wish you both a speedy recovery. Our thoughts and prayers are with Abré & Aneta Steyn in Pretoria during these trying times.

“Being rich is having money: being wealthy is having TIME”

Till next time take care!

Kamila Nortier

email : nortbenz@gmail.com

**HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

No 5 Admin Shop
Main Complex (At Main Gate)
HOEDSPRUIT
1380

Tel No : 015-793 1188
Fax No : 086 6265 387
E-mail : operations@hwe.co.za

WILDLIFE ESTATE
Co Reg . No 2004/01076/08

BOARD Of DIRECTORS

Joe Meyer—Chairman

Gerhard Brits—Legal

Danie Cronje—Fauna & Flora

Meisie Franck—Financial

Mark Graves—Aesthetics

Barney Smith—Security

Stuart Woodhead—Communications

IMPORTANT NAMES & NUMBERS

ESTATE MANAGER:

Rob Fordyce

Cell No: 083 320 9831

OPERATIONAL MANAGER:

Hein Groenewald

Cell No: 073 630 3800

OFFICE:

Gerhard Brits

Charlotte Brits

Telephone numbers :

(As above at physical address)

SECURITY COMPANY:

QUEMIC

**Main Gate—Rhino Wildlife Convention
Centre**

**ALL PERMITS TO BE ARRANGED AT
THIS NEW ADDRESS**

OFFICE TEL NO: 015—793 1715

QUEMIC MAIN GATE:

Cell No : 083 229 1794

HEAD OF QUEMIC SECURITY:

**Phillip Jonker:
No 079 529 8851**

Cell

NOTICE

The Chatter is a private newsletter compiled, edited and distributed by Kamila Nortier on a voluntary basis and without cost to the Homeowners of the Hoedspruit Wildlife Estate and those interested in environmental matters. Special care is taken in the compiling of this Chatter and no responsibility is accepted for errors.

**Contact Kamila Nortier
@nortbenz@gmail.com or cell no
082 926 7990**