



Under the Baobab

Editor: Michel Zwaan

From the banks of the Olifants

Bush greetings from Grietjie. The rainfall has continued and although the roads have sustained damages it is wonderful to see the bush in such great condition. The Swartspruit showed us what a “dry” river bed is capable of!

Our Warden Mr Gerrie van Zyl has been on and off for a while in an attempt to have his illness diagnosed. We wish him strength during this time and our thoughts and full support are with him. I would like to thank Mr Koos Nel for standing in and doing such a diligent job whilst Gerrie is away, and to the other owners that are assisting with maintenance matters. Please keep your messages of support for Gerrie coming in, I know he really appreciates it.

Temporary Gate: Our notices finally arrived and have been up for some time. The power and water supply have been installed and we will begin using the Temporary gate in the next couple of weeks.

Thanks to those of you that have volunteered to serve on the new gate subcommittee. We will convene shortly and begin the process of finalising the plan for new gate that will be built once the road has successfully been de-registered.

Protected Area (PA): The agreement between us and the MEC has been finalised and it has been delivered to LEDET in Polokwane. The documents that install Balule as the management authority have also been finalised and delivered to the MEC’s office. We now need to deal with the objections; once this process is completed we can proceed with the declaration.

At the time of writing I had not yet heard from LEDET regarding any objections received, I did however receive a legal letter from CARE in which indicated that they have objected to our application. I have since obtained the objection. Sadly, this has become a legal matter now, but what I can say is that their objection is “conditional”. They only object to our PA if it means that their Baboon sanctuary has to cease, if we become a Protected Area. I have handed this over to the Balule PA consultants and legal team, and will give feedback in the next issue. **This will however delay the declaration for all of us!**

Speeding: Random checks are still ongoing.

Community Projects: Antoinette’s team have demolished more old buildings this last month and the change on the Reserve is remarkable. Thanks again to everyone that has supported these projects.

Security: The system we are testing at the gate is working well so far. We are adding more functionality as time goes on and the gate guards get more familiar with the system.

Staff Pension Fund: We have added a number of Lodge staff onto the pension fund, unfortunately no private owners have taken this offer up to date.

As was communicated to all owners, I am now the full time General Manager of the Balule Reserve. Although this is a full time appointment, it should not affect my current term as Grietjie chairman. I am still based on Grietjie and will be able to attend to Grietjie matters concurrently. Thanks for all the messages of support I have received. Coordinate overall Reserve management, coordinate the development and implementation of the Balule Management Plan in terms of NEMPA will be my priorities.

Until next time,

From the banks of the Olifants.



From the Vice chair

Everything smells and looks fresh this morning. Soft and gentle rain started last night and persisted through the night. The Impalas seem to have a new lease on life and they are chasing each other, jumping and snorting....It brings a smile to my face!

I would like to congratulate our Chairman being appointed as the new General Manager for the whole of the Balule Game Reserve. Well done Ian! Good luck in your endeavours here on Balule and I am sure with time Balule will be one of the best Protected Areas around.

More congratulations are in order. During the last couple of months, two of our Grietjie Lodges have been awarded a 4 Star Grading by the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa. Well done to Lion's Place #51 and Mhangela #54. Visitors to these properties are assured of a range of minimum standards and the dividends will be reaped by these Lodges. Keep up the good work JB and Jens!

I would like to thank Cathy Dhooge #40 for her continued commitment to make Grietjie a place we can be proud of. Cathy has volunteered to collect any rubble she can find on our public roads on a monthly basis. This is a task that will go unnoticed by many, but has a huge impact if not done. I receive a list and photos every time Cathy does her rounds. It is frightening if you could see what gets picked up on the fringes of our roads. I again appeal to Grietjies to keep all domestic rubble in secured, lockable storage until such time as you remove it from the reserve.

We have been busy with community projects. The derelict buildings on #19 have been broken down. At the time of writing I have secured the service of ONGR TLB and Ian Nowak's Bobcat to remove the building rubble. Thank you to Jo, in advance, for extending a helping hand to Grietjie.

During 2018 we ran a series of articles with explanations of the Game Drive Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct has since been adopted by our members as an annexure to the Grietjie Constitution. LED spotlights seem to be problematic for some properties. I appeal to all Grietjie on drives after dark to NOT shine spotlights in the direction of houses. Secondly, these LED spotlights usually come with a removable red filter. Please do not shine these spot directly into the eyes of animals without using the red filter. This is especially applicable at predator sightings.

On the subject of spotlights, it is encouraging to see that Grietjies are slowly turning spotlights downward, switching them off when they go to bed (removing time switches) and turning the bright white lights to yellow lights. I have found that using a can of yellow spray paint (LED spots) works wonders. An added benefit is that the light will then attract fewer insects.

Tom Venter of property #71 is in the process of painting all the buildings and roofs on the property. Well done and it is starting to look really nice. For those Grietjies who still have white walls and light coloured or reflective roofs, please consider painting your properties in "bush colours".

I received news that some Grietjies have been in hospital for various ailments. Natie van staden #73, Ivan Rademeyer #67 and Gerrie van Zyl #95, on behalf of all Grietjies, I wish you well in your recuperation and I hope you are all fit again very quickly.

Until next time

Antoinette



ESKOM FAULT REPORTING!!

As we have been experiencing more and more electricity outages of late here is how you report a fault to ESKOM

Share Call Number

08600(Eskom) or 0860037566 Please have the following ready before you call: Account number, meter number, pole number, address details and your contact details.

Send a Sms

35328 - The SMS message must include a valid account number, premises identification or stand number, meter number, or pole number for successful delivery.

Please use one of these 2 ways to report the fault you are experiencing in your electricity network and do not rely on others to do it for you

Around the campfire

“The Beautiful Noise” vs “The Green, Green Grass of Home”

This festive season we were fortunate enough to spend with family and friends. We made use of public transport and it turned out to be a tiresome and exhausting exercise. Between late departure, road blocks and long delays, we eventually reached Egoli or better known as the City of Gold.

Alas, our journey was still not over and we had to navigate the busy N1 and M1 towards the Northern Suburbs. While passing the Houghton Golf Course with the beautiful stretches of green fairways, the perpetual humming noise of vehicles along the motorway, still, did not escape us.

“The Beautiful Noise” of the city, as described by Neil Diamond’s song, starts at about 5am. It is as if the whole city is waiting with bated breath. When the clock strikes 5am, the entire city is out of its starting block and the rat race begins in all sincerity. The race carries on relentlessly until close to midnight, after which there is a bit of a lull. After midnight the dimension of the beautiful noise changes. Emergency vehicles rush to accident scenes with wailing sirens and at death defying speeds.

Unfortunately, Kosie returned to Grietjie sooner than planned. I was thus left with a house sitting task on my own. In the evenings it was an intricate task to arm my “fortress” for the night with all the latest technology as far as motion detectors and laser technology are concerned. I had to “by-pass” this, “arm” that and “reset” the next zone! Needless to say, I got it terribly wrong a few times! Picture this: Alarm system going off, I stand there utterly bewildered by the wailing of the siren, flickering lights everywhere, and the dogs merrily howling in harmony with the siren!!!!

Eventually it was time for me to come back home. As we were driving back from 3 Bridges, I was totally amazed by how beautiful the bush has become in my 3 ½ weeks absence. As we drove along the Grietjie road and entered the gate, I felt an overwhelming sense of belonging.

It was as if a new world greeted me. I had the sensation that I was seeing some of the old landmarks through a pair of brand new eyes. That evening as we sat on the veranda of our “Round House”, the night was spreading her blanket over the bush and the priceless tranquillity and serenity of the Bushveld crept into my being. It was as if I was unpacking the heavy stones from my heart and a wonderful sense of calmness substituted them.

I kept saying that “It is SO good to be back!”, “I am SO happy to be home!” Instinctively the words by Michael Nolan came to mind: “There as many things in life that will catch your eye, but only a few that will catch your heart!”

I conclude: “Cheers to Grietjie! It is a privilege to be living here!”

Regards

Annelise du Plessis #69

P.S. Seeing that it is mid-summer and that we are still experiencing some rather hot days, I have decided to share a nice “cool” salad recipe with you. Enjoy!

Confetti Salad

2 x Baby red cabbages finely shredded

2 x Baby green cabbages finely shredded

150 gr Spinach finely shredded

1 x Pineapple cut julienne

4 x Carrots cut julienne

2 x Mangoes cubed

5 x Spring Onions chopped

½ Cup Toasted Sesame seeds

50 gr Chopped Pecan nuts

Dressing

60ml Soft brown sugar

60ml Light olive oil

5 ml sesame oil

30ml Freshly chopped ginger

Juice of 1 lemon

90ml Rice vinegar

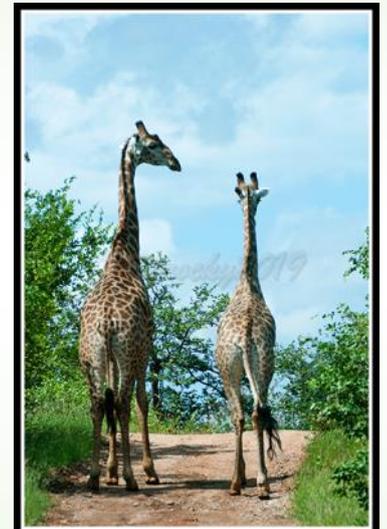
5ml Salt

Black Pepper to taste

Mix all the salad ingredients together besides sesame seeds. Just before serving, pour over the dressing. Gently mix and sprinkle the sesame seeds.



Wayne's world



Some fantastic shots again by Wayne Calitz from plot 23

Well done



Service and Repairs
to all Game Viewer
Vehicles and all
other Petrol and
Diesel Vehicles on
Grietjie
Diagnostic testing
for Engine and
Gearbox, ABS,
EBD and Airbags
Dion #71
0836961805



Since being a resident on Grietjie, I realized how difficult it can be when your vehicle breaks down and Repairs are needed. I would like to offer my mechanical skills and experience to assist residents of Grietjie if help is needed.



Ever thought of making your own knife?

Now you can.

Penga nDlovu Customs is offering a basic, 2 day, knife-making course for a reduced price for owners and residents of only R 1600.00

You make your own knife under the professional tutelage of Michel Zwaan in a professional knife making workshop.

The 2- day course includes all the materials needed, coffee or thee and lunch.

For more information contact Michel Zwaan

071-9033270 or pengandlovuknives@hotmail.com

