



Under the Baobab

Editor: Michel Zwaan

From the banks of the Olifants

The Chairmans report shall be included with the pack to be send out with the financial statements before this years AGM.

Please do not forget that the AGM will be held on 24-08-2019 at plot nr 80

In the meantime the annual Balule report will be attached for your perusal.

Wayne's World



From the Vice chair

I arrived at Grietjie for the first time during the midst of the drought 2015/16. Today, I sit back and reflect....

I have seen many changes and had many experiences in the last 3 years. Generally, what happened has been positive. I have had the opportunity to meet and engage with most Grietjies. I have seen amazing sightings and had wonderful interactions with the wildlife. I fell "in love" with Grietjie Private Nature Reserve 3 years ago and today this relationship is as strong as ever. I wish to still spend my days here, until I get carried out the gate feet first.

In the very first letter I wrote, I spoke about how "unity can make us formidable", to face the challenges that might arise. Reflecting now, Grietjies of all walks of life have come together - agreed, disagreed and believed! In my humble opinion, we have gone from being perceived as "a problem child", to a leading region in Balule.

I would like to thank ever owner for their commitment. We faced many hurdles over the past 24 months and I am sure we will still face many more in the future. What has been fantastic, is the attitude of Grietjies. When called upon, you delivered! Thank you.

While being on the committee, I have worked with some pretty awesome people. Arti, thank you for looking after the Rand and Cents and being so on the ball! It did not matter what time of the day or night or where in the world you found yourself, if I had a query, you were always there to assist. Dr Freek, thank you for your wise council. Jaco, thank you for always being there and available with the community projects. Without your hands, many of the projects would not have been possible. Lastly, thank you Ian. We have bumped heads, agreed to disagree, worked tirelessly and passionately towards goals. If I think I have worked hard for Grietjie, you have worked 10 times harder! Thank you for your leadership and more importantly, your vision. You have shaken things up and operated in leaps and bounds. It was a pleasure being your Vice.

I wish the best of luck to the incoming committee. May you carry the momentum forward and take Grietjie Private Nature Reserve to place never thought possible.

Farewell

Antoinette



The Warden's Indaba by Gerrie van Zyl

1) SECURITY AND ACCESS CONTROL

- Two cases of burglary was reported for the last 12 months
- Doreen and Morelag fences removed.
- Two workers caught snaring the last 12 months, been dismissed and removed from Grietjie.

2) GAME MANAGEMENT.

- Animals in good condition for this time of year
 - Lions still very active.
 - Elephant impact less since fences were removed
 - Two Vultures were electrocuted by Eskom.
 - Three Elephant and three Buffalo were killed by train on Doreen/Paul.
 - A total of over 200 Buffalo were chased out of Foskor into Doreen after we erected the fence on the R40.
 - Ten lions that escaped from Foskor were darted and removed to Cleveland (PMC. game reserve).
 - Four Lions were darted and collared on Foskor for monitoring purposes.
 - As you all know by now all Balule`s Rhinos are dehorned and no losses on dehorned Rhinos reported yet.
- (a Great thank you to Ian Novak for organizing and his involvement in the de-horning and relocation of the Lions)

3) VEGETATION.

- Grass cover still good away from river on Grietjie.
- Good grass cover on Doreen and Paul
- Treated several Prickly pears with cochineal and Queen of the night with MSMA successfully. I also contaminated some Queen of the night with Mealybugs on Doreen. (Thanks to Freek Venter for his help)

4) CLIMATE AND RAINFALL.

- 285 mm rain for the season at the gate.

5) ROADS

- We used 800 bags of cold mix on our tar road up till now for the year = 20000 KG.(20 Tones)
- Grade roads after the rains.
- Pull tyres on the gravel road during the dry season.
- Erect one berm on Zebra Ln to channel the water away from the road. (Thanks to Hans Schmid)
- Fill holes and put an Emulsion slurry coat on the tar road from Maggie`s Hill towards the Swartspruit.
- Busy preparing Doreen rd. for repairs and slurry coat.

6) OTHER MATTERS.

- Build temporarily gate opposite Rob 5 entrance (thanks to Antoinette and Jaco for their input).

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUPPORT.



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other Petrol and
Diesel Vehicles on
Grietjie
Diagnostic testing
for Engine and
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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.

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