



GRIETJIE PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE
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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2013

Welcome to the January edition of the Quarterly Newsletter. We have simplified the format somewhat to accommodate the numerous articles, pictures and comments we have received and to make the file size smaller for those of you who download via slow connections. Thank you to all for your interesting and useful contributions. We are happy to publish any interesting pictures or stories on the website, so please keep them coming!

We have good news about the Waterbuck female featured in the last newsletter – she has been sighted alive and well.

UNDER THE LEADWOOD

By Mike Joseph

RAINFALL

As this edition of Under the Leadwood is being written, we are in the midst of constant rain for the last week or so. And not a moment too soon as before this rain, the bush was really very dry and grasses were almost white. Trees and shrubs were wilting at 7 and 8 o'clock in the mornings.

Over the last week I have recorded 334 mm on Muweti. We had 117mm in one night. Even 2 nights after that, there was little run off as the ground was in real need of the profile being filled with moisture. However, as of this morning, with the soil being saturated, runoff is starting to occur. The Swartspruit is flowing and is about 10cm deep on Zebra Lane crossing. I suspect it will rise a bit. For now the Olifants seems OK and I hope things do not go the same as last year; all indications are that we should not. By the time you get this things may have changed.

Having had a good early start to the season (which always scares me); then having had a really worrying middle part of the season, this current rain seems to have remedied a great deal. To date rain at Muweti is 587mm.

ROADS

Overall the roads have held up reasonably well with the current rain. Some repair work will be needed after the rains though. Road works will continue but will be a bit delayed after the departure of Pieter Pretorius.

Work on Maggie's Hill has started. Concrete blocks have been cast and this will be an ongoing item until approx end February when these blocks will start being laid on Maggie's Hill. More on this will be communicated by those concerned in due course.

SECURITY AT THE GATE

We are going back to the entrance /exit permit system. However archaic this was thought by people, at least it worked. We accept that nothing is 100% fool proof, but we will live with the shortfalls and mitigate against them.

There is also going to be new set of rules for entrance into the reserve. Speeding, littering and ID cards and the control of these are issues that will be addressed. More will be communicated by those concerned. We appeal to ALL residents to work with the system, so that we have a better grip on what goes on on Grietjie for everybody's benefit. Please be advised the intention is to seek cooperation from owners, visitors, contractors, labour etc. However, we will be taking a sterner stance against contractors who continue to speed, negate our efforts at access control; we will also be taking a sterner stance on ID cards, and people walking at night, vehicle stickers, people who abuse the system. So please everybody, let's work together to assist the system to improve overall security on the reserve.

RESERVE MANAGER

With the departure of Pieter Pretorius, we are very grateful to have the assistance of Blackie de Swardt who is keeping the ship sailing. Indeed Blackie is doing a sterling job. Blackie has however indicated that his assistance can only be of a temporary nature. A survey sent out to all members in good standing resulted in a very high majority support for a full time reserve manager. To this end we will be pursuing the engaging of a full time person, which we suspect will take a few months. It is envisaged that by end of this month, the committee will be in a position to start this process. Given the realities of Grietjie's circumstances, we will appoint someone who makes the most pragmatic choice, in relation to these realities.

C.A.R.E

The committee was invited on a tour of CARE at the end of last year. I was not able to make the tour; but it has resulted in a better communication with CARE. Whilst our relationship with them is far from perfect, there are at least contact and commitment from them to support our drive for access control with their labour and volunteers. There has also been a major amount of junk removed from their plot. We sincerely hope that we do make improvements in the relationship. But there should be a quid pro quo so to speak. This will be monitored. The yellow cape Baboon (vasectomised) that escaped is fairly happily ensconced within a resident baboon troop and seems to be doing well.

NATURE RESERVE STATUS

Finally, without stepping on the toes of the GLA, there seems to be movement on the land claims front and certain claims in areas surrounding have been settled one way or another. On balance the results appear favourable for Grietjie, and hopefully things would turn out OK for Grietjie. Of course please be advised that this represents what I have been told and is my opinion.

With this in mind, we could be in a situation where we can apply for nature reserve status maybe more quickly than we thought, and if this is so, we need the assistance of every land owner to be part of this drive. Olifants West has been granted Nature reserve status, Parsons I believe have applied, and ONGR are now clear to apply, to my best knowledge. Later in the year, I will communicate again on this topic, once certain facts are better understood.

From Under the Leadwood

Kind regards

Mike

Author unknown

Submitted by Blackie de Swardt

- * When a goose flaps its wings it creates an upwash for the birds behind it. Flying in a V formation the whole flock adds 71% more distance against flying as individuals.
Lesson: People who share a vision and togetherness can reach their goal much quicker because they fly with the help of each other's motivation.
- * When one of the flock flies out of formation it will feel the resistance of flying alone and will quickly join the formation again to share the advantage of the power of the other geese up front.
Lesson: If we have the insight of the geese we will join the formation of those who are already on the way where we want to go.
- * When the goose that flies in front tires it will join the ranks at the back of the formation and another will get the chance to take the lead.
Lesson: It helps to take turns to complete difficult tasks and to share in leadership. People as well as geese are interdependent of each other.
- * The geese flying at the back will chatter to encourage those upfront not to lose speed.
Lesson: We must learn that when we chatter at the back that it will be to encourage and not to be destructive.
- * When one off the flock falls ill, is wounded or shot down, two other birds will leave the formation to help their colleague and provide protection. They will stay with him till he has recovered and strong enough to fly again. They will then form a new formation or join the previous one.
Lesson: If we as human beings had as much insight as geese we would stand together and help each other.

For more scientific information about the V and J formations used by birds please click on this link
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=why-do-migratory-birds-fl>

GRIETJIE OWNERS LEVY STATUS as at 31 December 2012
Any payments since this date are not reflected here.

**MEMBERS
IN GOOD STANDING**

MEMBER STATUS	OWNERS NAME	PLOT NUMBER
Y	P Ligget	8
Y	L Lewis	9
Y	B Sears	10/11
Y	Kulungi	13
Y	M Rodwell	14
Y	L Shine	16
Y	G Neukom	20
Y	J Caspers	22
Y	H Schmid	36
Y	J Grindley	37
Y	M Joseph	38
Y	I Owtram	39/46
Y	D Klein	42
Y	S Greyling	43
Y	T Trollip	45
Y	T Naude	47
Y	D Havenga	50
Y	N Bridges	51
Y	M Clulow	54
Y	Tulani	59-61/64/66
Y	G Harmse	65
Y	N van Staden	73/76
Y	P Ackermann	75
Y	G De Swardt	81
Y	E Grimbeek	88
Y	F Venter	92
Y	H Kruger	93
Y	N van Zyl	94/95
Y	M Porteus	96
Y	S Stacey	100
Y	Marx/Jacobs	101
Y	J Gaigher	104
Y	T Brown	105
Y	M Kristensen	109
Y	G Zunkel	110
Y	R Dalcher	112
Y	S Elliott	115
Y	P Beguin	116

**NON MEMBERS
IN GOOD STANDING**

MEMBER STATUS	OWNER NAME	PLOT NUMBER
N	G Michaellet	41
N	M Schrenk	79
N	T Pretorius	80

PARTIAL PAYMENTS

MEMBER STATUS	OWNERS NAME	PLOT NUMBER	AMOUNT PAID
Y	Mfubu	6/7	2,000
Y	D Botes	28/33/34	2,000
Y	F van Heerden	49	5,074
Y	B Haasbroek	52	3,000
Y	E Kriek	117	9,600
N	E Vosloo	125	Services
N	A Engelbrecht	126	7,000

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MEMBERS

Please accept our apologies for having omitted Dieter Klein (Plot 42) from the Members in Good Standing in our last issue of this newsletter.

LEVY STRUCTURE 2012/2013

	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	
Basic Levy	R6400	R6400	Per Plot
Association Subscription	R3200	N/A	Per Member
TOTAL per annum same as year	R9600	R6400	

More than one dwelling R1500 per extra dwelling

Rebates (per annum)

Empty Plot	R853	per plot
Pensioner over 65 years of rebate of	R1066	
Multiple Plots	R320	per plot
Early Payment within 30 day: invoice date	5%	After deduction of rebates

(not applicable to CAP Fees)

Commercial Operators are required to pay a Commercial

Application Permit (CAP) Fee are as per table below

A	Up to 6 Beds	ZAR 2,000
B	7-12 Beds	ZAR 2,500
C	13-20 Beds	ZAR 3,000
D	21-30 Beds	ZAR 3,500
E	Over 30 Beds	ZAR 4,000

Community Projects

The Committee has decided to not pursue any further Community Projects until a fulltime reserve manager has been appointed. We have seen in the past that he and his staff are the driving force behind these projects and only very few owners have participated in the last few projects.

However, there are a number of old gates leading to nowhere to be seen all over the reserve. If you would like unused gates removed from your property for aesthetic reasons the Communications Working Group would be happy to organise a community project in this respect.

Alien Plant removal

It is not only difficult to remove alien plants such as prickly pear but it is even more so to destroy the plants to avoid any further propagation. The only way, besides using dangerous poisons, seem to be to burn the plants. However, that is not a very practical solution in the bush.

Teuns Trollip, Plot 45, is kindly making his old water reservoir available for owners to drop off any alien plants which have been removed from their property. Please deposit them inside the reservoir. Here the reserve manager will regularly desiccate these plants and if need be burn to destroy them.

When removing eg prickly pear from your ground it is very important that no pieces of plant (no matter how small) are left on the ground - they will just regrow.

Hippo Fight

By Trish Liggett

Below are two awesome pictures of a hippo fight taking place on the Olifants River below Trish's house.



Hippos chasing each other on the river (above) and then having a stand-off fight!



Floods January 2013



22 January 2012 Mfubu Lodge 8 am
not the highest flood level yet



22 January 2013 Mfubu Lodge 8 am



January 2013 Swartspruit at Leadwood Crossing

Useful Refrigerator Tips

By Robert Snell

- ☺ Store your cheese in the refrigerator vegetable compartment to avoid mould forming Weevils in your dry goods?
- ☺ Put flours, pasta, rice etc. in a sealed container and pop in the deep freeze. It comes out fresh, dry and ready for use.
- ☺ Want to make your own cream cheese? Buy a litre of Maas, pour into a plastic colander lined with muslin, (placed inside a bowl) cover and refrigerate. Leave for 3 -4 days, drain off liquid & spoon residue into a container. Voilà, your cream cheese is ready!
- ☺ Beetroot can be frozen successfully: cook and peel, leave whole, drain well, put in an airtight container in the deep freeze. When needed, defrost and slice normally.

Four things you probably never knew your mobile phone could do!

Submitted by Pauline Stacey

There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies... Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that you can do with it:

FIRST

Emergency

The Emergency Number worldwide for all Mobile Phones is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and your mobile will search any existing network in your area to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly this number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. This works on all phones worldwide and is free. [It is the equivalent of 000.](#)

SECOND

Have you locked your keys in the car?

Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone: *If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their mobile phone from your cell phone.*

Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be [thousands](#) of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other 'remote' for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk).

Editor's Note: I didn't believe this when I heard about it! I rang my daughter in Sydney from Perth when we went on holiday. She had the spare car key. We tried it out and it unlocked our car over a mobile phone!

THIRD

Hidden Battery Power

To activate, press the keys ***3370#** (remember the asterisk). Do this when the phone is almost dead. Your mobile will restart in a special way with this new reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery life.. This reserve will [get re charged](#) when you charge your mobile next time. [This secret is in the fine print in most phone manuals. Most people however skip this information without realising.](#)

FOURTH

How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone?

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone:

***#06#**

[Ensure you put an asterisk BEFORE the #06# sequence.](#) A 15-digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. [If your phone ever gets stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code.](#) They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody did this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones. [This secret is also in the fine print of most mobile phone manuals. It was created for the very purpose of trying to prevent phones from being stolen.](#)

ATM PIN Number Reversal - Good to Know !

If you should ever be forced by a robber to withdraw money from an ATM machine, you can notify the police by entering your PIN # in reverse. For example, if your pin number is 1234, then you would put in 4321. The ATM system recognizes that your PIN number is backwards from the ATM card you placed in the machine. The machine will still give you the money you requested, but unknown to the robber, the police will be immediately dispatched to the location. [All ATM's carry this emergency sequencer by law.](#)

Are Monitor Lizards dangerous or poisonous?
Please pass this message to your staff



Rock Monitor

This afternoon I found a beautiful monitor lizard in our yard, I got some info from the internet to show my staff so that they don't kill the monitor lizard. I am trying to educate my staff about animals and reptiles so that they don't always kill everything they see or that looks dangerous.

To all owners, please share with your staff to help protect our flora and fauna.

Jackie Harmse

NO, Monitor lizards are not dangerous for humans. I understand that their size can be intimidating but they are usually really shy and want to be left alone. The only time it would defend itself would be when cornered with no way out. Their defence is using their long and very powerful tail to hit you. But again, that would only happen if you were to push it in a corner where the lizard felt trapped. So please don't kill them if you see them just leave them alone and they will go away if not disturbed.

For more information on Monitors visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monitor_lizard

Appeal to GPNR Owners!

We appeal to all owners to encourage their staff NOT to walk on the reserve and in particular not at night. We have knowledge of staff walking as close as 200m to a lion kill!!! Grietjie now has a number of resident lions and they are very active mainly at night. They have killed two buffalo in the past few weeks. There are also numerous elephants that enjoy charging pedestrians and vehicles. This has now happened multiple times on the reserve. Luckily so far an incident has been avoided except for one vehicle on a neighbour reserve which has been damaged and a few staff members have had very close and frightening encounters. It is important that you inform your staff of the risks of walking. You cannot outrun a lion nor an elephant!