



GRIETJIE PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE  
GRIETJIE PRIVAAT NATUURRESERVAAT  
P.O Box / Posbus 1348  
Phalaborwa, 1390  
Limpopo Province  
Email: [Grietjiecomms@gmail.com](mailto:Grietjiecomms@gmail.com)

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
APRIL 2013

## UNDER THE LEADWOOD By Mike Joseph

### RAINFALL

Once again, we have had rainfall almost in the nick of time. During the first week of April we received rain, the first decent rain in sometime. At Muweti recorded 41mm over 2 days. Very very grateful for this. To date rain at Muweti is 688mm.

### ROADS

A substantial amount of repair work has been done on the tar road. There is still some to do and this is in progress. It has been decided to rip up the last section of tar between 102 and 103 where repairs would be financially not viable.

Concrete blocks for Maggie's Hill have been cast (approx 450-this will be enough for about 50% of Maggie's Hill). Work on Maggie's Hill has been delayed but the laying of blocks will start in April and will take about 3 weeks. A communication about this has been issued to all owners.

### SECURITY AT THE GATE

The new system is now in place. Some teething problems did occur. We suffer from non-co-operation from certain employees; we will be contacting the owners concerned. Again there will be another communication in this regard. However, from 8<sup>th</sup> April, **no badge-no entry**. We ask all owners to support this effort and ensure their employees adhere to the processes outlined.

### RESERVE NAGERMA

Since the last Under the Leadwood, Johan Grobler has been appointed as reserve manager and Johan has settled in well and is doing a fine job. Unfortunately, we employed a new employee, but after a very short period he left our employ to seek greener pastures so this has held back certain changes at the gate with regards to shift times.

### C.A.R.E

The yellow Cape Baboon has been recaptured and is back at CARE.

### NATURE RESERVE STATUS

No further change in this status, and I still await input from OWGR for how they went about this. This facet is a pivotal one in the future of the reserve. We encourage all owners to reconsider their reasons for not joining the Grietjie Nature Reserve Association, and see if they can reconcile their opinions in this regard. We would like to include every plot in the application when we get to this.

### CONSERVATION ISSUES

We have an elephant bull in musth, who was injured in a fight with another bull. He is a tuskless bull, and whilst he appears to be very calm and settled, his wound on his trunk worries him. Therefore please give him space if he is seen so that he does not feel the need to react badly towards your presence.

Once again, a reminder in general to be aware about musth bulls. Also lion activity has been quite plentiful recently, and late afternoon (daylight still) sightings are quite regular now at popular pedestrian routes. PLEASE speak to your employees about this, and ensure that you assist them with lifts to and from the gate.

Following on from our meeting with Mike Peel, without oversimplifying the issue, nor trying to make it too complex, we have a need to look at our biomass split in relation to SOME of the parameters that mutually impact. The issues of bush encroachment, water point management and the conservation of our soil resource need to be addressed. It is the intention to put this on as an agenda item at the AGM. Nonetheless, what becomes blatantly obvious, is the need to manage Grietjie as a unit (and even as part of a bigger unit). In line with the application for nature reserve status (above) it becomes more and more important that landowners move towards allowing the management of the reserve access to manage the reserve as a unit. If we get to a point where we are managing water points, then all owners need to be part of this otherwise the system will not work. Difficult, I know but we have to work towards these things. We also make an URGENT appeal to those landowners who feed wild animals for sympathy or better game viewing to desist from this practice, as ultimately, it will lead to the degradation of the dynamics of the biotic system.

From Under the Leadwood

Kind regards

Mike

### Grietjie Gate

Thank you to all the owners and staff involved to improving the entrance Gate; in particular Jackie Harmse for providing materials and staff, Blackie de Swardt and Johan Grobler for the paving and latte fence. In the near future we will be fixing the thatch roofs of the two cottages and add some more indigenous plants. Within the coming weeks we will implement a night bell at the gate from 22h00 and 6h00. A communication will be sent out with details to this effect before this becomes effective.



### Security

As mentioned by Mike any staff or staff visitor wanting access to Grietjie must have a valid badge. The badge must be worn at all times. All owners should request to see badges for any person wanting a lift. Should the person not have a badge kindly report it to Johan or the gate guard on duty.

**Please contact Johan should you see or hear or see any suspicious behaviour of any sort. One of Johan's main priorities is to keep Grietjie safe from poachers and any other crime. Your support is very precious and your collaboration is of utmost importance.**

**In view of the above we also require all game drive vehicles to have a 2013 sticker visibly positioned on the vehicle for easy identification. Please request your sticker(s) from the gate. This will make it much easier and quicker for the security team to identify any doubtful vehicles which have no business on Grietjie.**

### 2013 Annual General Assembly Tentative Date

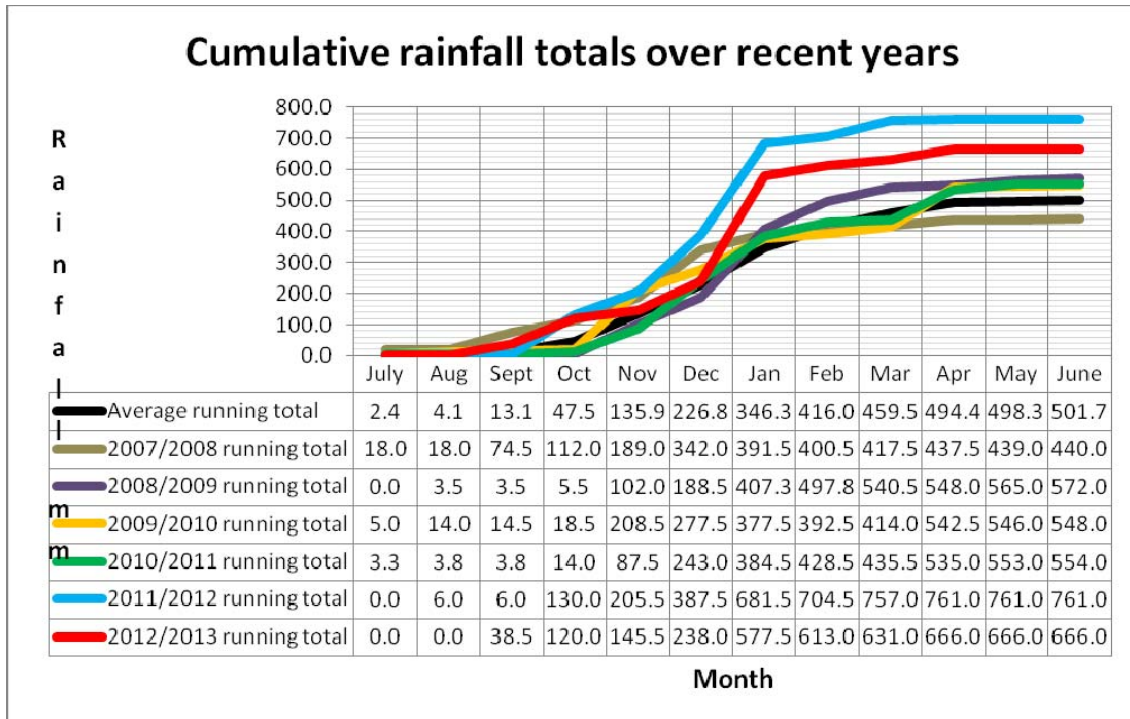
The tentative date for this year's AGM is **17 August 2013**. The date will be confirmed and the location will be announced in due course.

Please note that suggestions, formal requests and presentation for the AGM must be given/sent to the committee ([grietjiecomms@gmail.com](mailto:grietjiecomms@gmail.com)) at the latest by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013.

### Undesirable persons on Grietjie

For security reasons a register of undesirable persons is being kept by the warden. Should you wish to employ a new person you may want to check with the warden if this person figures on this register or has any history in the reserve. Likewise if you give notice to an employee kindly advise name and reasons to [grietjiecomms@gmail.com](mailto:grietjiecomms@gmail.com). This quick check may save you considerable hassle, money and time. **Also be informed that you have every right to ask a police background check or clearance for any new employee you intend to hire.**

### Weather Charts by Antares



### Quick News

The elephant bull that killed two employees in another Balule Reserve has been tracked and shot to avoid any further incidents. One of the reasons this elephant was so angry, no doubt was that he had been shot at with a shotgun and shrapnel was found in his face.

A giraffe was killed by a train and to avoid it's carcass being "poached" it was brought onto Grietjie where vultures had a feast.

Rifle shots have been heard on numerous occasions coming from one of our neighbouring farms where buffalo was being legally hunted.

GRIETJIE OWNERS LEVY STATUS as at 31 March 2013

**MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING**

MEMBER STATUS	OWNERS NAME	PLOT NUMBER	MEMBER STATUS	OWNERS NAME	PLOT NUMBER
Y	P Ligget	8	Y	G Harmse	65
Y	L Lewis	9	Y	N van Staden	73/76
Y	B Sears	10/11	Y	P Ackermann	75
Y	Kulungi	13	Y	G De Swardt	81
Y	M Rodwell	14	Y	E Grimbeek	88
Y	L Shine	16	Y	F Venter	92
Y	G Neukom	20	Y	H Kruger	93
Y	J Caspers	22	Y	N van Zyl	94/95
Y	F Becker	24	Y	M Porteus	96
Y	L Jackson	35	Y	H Van Niekerk	98/99
Y	H Schmid	36	Y	P Stacey	100
Y	J Grindley	37	Y	Marx/Jacobs	101
Y	M Joseph	38	Y	J Gaigher	104
Y	I Owtram	39/46	Y	T Brown	105
Y	D Klein	42	Y	J Grobler	108
Y	S Greyling	43	Y	M Kristensen	109
Y	T Trollip	45	Y	G Zunkel	110
Y	T Naude	47	Y	R Dalcher	112
Y	D Havenga	50	Y	S Elliott	115
Y	N Bridges	51	Y	P Beguin	116
Y	M Clulow	54			
Y	Tulani	59-61/64/66			
				<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>42</b>

**NON MEMBERS  
IN GOOD STANDING**

MEMBER STATUS	OWNERS NAME	PLOT NUMBER
N	G Michaelletti	41
N	L Van Der Watt	48
N	M Schrenk	79
N	T Pretorius	80
N	E Vosloo	125
N	A Engelbrecht	126
<b>NON MEMBERS</b>		<b>6</b>

**PARTIAL PAYMENTS**

MEMBER STATUS	OWNERS NAME	PLOT NUMBER	AMOUNT PAID
Y	Mfubu	6/7	4,000
N	D Botes	28/33/34	2,000
Y	F van Heerden	49	5,074
Y	B Haasbroek	52	4,000
Y	G Burgmer	83	7,412
Y	E Kriek	117	9,600
			<b>6</b>

## Johan Grobler, Grietjie Reserve Manager

### **My Family History...**

The first Johan Grobler came to South Africa just after Jan van Riebeeck from Germany and worked as a wood cutter for the ships. He then became a wagon driver and a free burger, bought a farm, married and had four sons who in turn had children. That is the four branches of the Grobler family in South Africa. During the Great Trek the first town in the old Transvaal was Potchefstroom where one of the Grobler sons settled and became the magistrate. The second town was Orgjstad where another son also became the magistrate. They were with Hendrik Potgieter and Louis Trichardt when the Blyde and Treur Rivers were named. From there they moved to Schoemansdal where a fort was built with five corners similar to the one in Cape Town. Hendrik Potgieter is buried there. Today one of the Schoemansdal farms together with others is still part of our family farms in the Soutpansberg near Mara, approximately 20 km west of Louis Trichardt.

I was born in Pretoria in 1951 and grew up in a mixed farm environment (cattle, goats, game, cotton and citrus). My grandfather taught me to hunt from a very early age. All through my school years I participated in various sports, athletics, judo, wrestling and chess. During my military training in the Army, I qualified as a sniper and subsequently spent time at the border to train and prepare soldiers for border duty. After completion of my military service I spent four years as technician in order to qualify as an electro mechanical technician. However, farming and hunting took the upper hand and 38 years ago I bought my property on Grietjie, then started farming with goats, cattle and a few impalas.

### **How would I describe myself?**

I am versatile with wide general knowledge and interests. I have two passions diametrically opposed and have actively participated in Ballroom and Latin American dancing for 25 years on the one side and hunted professionally on the other. I love Grietjie, the bush and hope to help Grietjie pull through the last few difficulties to become a Nature Reserve.

I have three successful sons and eight grand children. My sons actively participate in motor sports, practical pistol shooting and one is the chairman of the Police Forum in Centurion. I am from the old school and maybe a bit conservative according to my sons but it is important to me to keep a good relationship with everybody. I generally have good judgment and things are not always black or white ... there is space for grey.

*If you love the work you do – then you never work a day in your life!*

I am thankful for the opportunity to work for the Grietjie community. My main priorities being, security, roads, fencing and conservation.

### **Some interesting facts about our area of which you may not be aware ...**

Around 1898 two British horse camps under Anderson were situated on the southern side of the Olifants River, many artifacts have been found on Olifants and Grietjie. I have in my possession a partial canon and canon shell. The University of Pretoria came to Balule West to research and excavate in the area, their game ranger donated artifacts found, to Bloemfontein museum.

### **News about the waterbuck that featured in the October issue of this newsletter.**



We would like to share this picture with you. She is still around and looking stronger than before however the wound seems to be terribly big and ugly.

### Staff profile

Under this title we will provide some background information on members of the Grietjie Staff. In this issue of the newsletter we introduce you to Gate Guard, **Terrence Matjukutja**



Terrence attained Grade 11 at school and attended Sir Val Duncan College. He then trained as an upholsterer. After which he worked at Safari Café and later for Mr & Mrs Shuttleworth Plot 63 as a guard and for the past 10 years has worked as a Grietjie Gate Guard. Terrence is 38 years old, married with 2 children, a 7 year old daughter and a 2 year old son, Terrence would like to study further and his dream would be to study law. His hobbies are Soccer and Gospel Music, his favourite meal is Boerewors.....

What bird is this?

If you know/want to know send a mail to [grietjiecomms@gmail.com](mailto:grietjiecomms@gmail.com)





**Grietjie Lions by Ian Owtram**

Over the past couple of months the lion dynamics have been pretty confusing. There has been an attempted take-over by 2 male lions; then the original male reappeared and tried to regain his pride. And in the meantime it was a case of which females belonged to who, what happened to the female with 2 small cubs seen at end of last year and a host of other unanswered questions. What happened to the pride of 10-15 lions that we saw 2 years ago? Have these lions all split up and created smaller units or have they been chased out and replaced by new ones? Over the past 2 years the lion population dynamics on our side of the river (and possibly on Olifants south too) seems to have been turned upside down with new males taking over and females and young scattering as a result.

With all this going on I thought it would be a great idea to try and work out who was who in the zoo (so to speak) and I have started to try and put together an identikit of the lions on the reserve. If anyone has any more photos of lions taken in the past 6 months on the reserve could you please email me a copy with as much detail about the sighting as possible, when, where and under what circumstances. The photos must be close ups of the face area so I can see the individual spot patterns or other noticeable features which will distinguish one lion from another. I have given the lions a name for no other reason than facilitating this project - they are in no way intended to be used as household names for individuals.



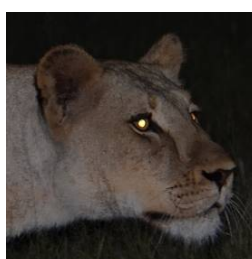
*One of the 2 males in the recent take-over attempt - Caesar*



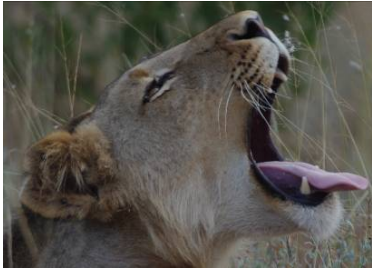
*Lioness "A" - Andromeda*



*Lioness "B" - Betelgeuse*



*Lioness "C" - Cupid*



*1 of 2 young males. Approx 18 months old Jan 2012. Missing top half of his left ear - Mandleve*



The above photos are all I have at this stage. I am not sure if all 3 lionesses are different. Certainly A and B are individuals but C could be a 3rd lioness or one of the other two from the right-hand side of her face. Many of the above photos are courtesy of my students. The 2 photos of "Mandleve" I took last year after he joined us during our sleep out in the bush and we had the pleasure of him calling at us for about 3 hours from only 20m away from the campfire- we only saw him after it turned light!!!