



MARCH 2017



Photo submitted by: Michael Zwaan

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by Mike Joseph**  
**UNDER THE LEADWOOD:**

**CSOS:**

Our registration with CSOS (Community Scheme Ombuds Service) is almost complete. This will happen soon and GPNR will pay over the necessary amount as required by law. Then GPNR will invoice each member for his/her portion as defined by the scheme. We ask that you kindly reimburse the reserve as soon as possible on receiving your invoice for this.

On behalf of the association, the committee thanks Hans Schmid who did all the ground work to get us registered and to the point where we are now. We do owe Hans a great deal of gratitude for his efforts in dealing with this for us.

**MASEKE:**

All the necessary paper work has been signed, and Balule, who have unanimously approved the inclusion of Maseke into Balule, have forwarded these documents to the APNR for record. We understand this is a formality. LEDET and SANparks have endorsed the inclusion. So in the next few days/weeks Maseke will be a region of Balule, taking the Balule area to around 50000ha.

Fences between Nyati and Parsons, as well as Maseke and Parsons are being dropped at this time. We will soon have to start removing our fence next to Try. The incorporation of the 3 sisters is at an advanced stage and we expect this inclusion soon. After that we would need to start dropping our fence with Doreen. It is possible that all these things will take some time so please be patient.

Maseke will, in time, be consolidating their reserve with the removal of the corridor from Rob5 (Freddie's Minerals) to GPNR. Discussions will now have to be held with the authorities as to what is required to fence off the provincial road (but maintain a gate so that the road is useable). There are a number of scenarios for the road situation and in a separate mail, I will try call a meeting of all residents to discuss the different scenarios for the gate. Bear in mind the new boundary of the greater Kruger (and the APNR will be the R40) so the removal of the corridor provides GPNR with some new opportunities, and of course some minor challenges, and we can discuss these for a decision. Just to dispel myths and fears, no residents will be denied entry and the current road will remain as the entry road until we have a majority decision of what scenario we are to follow.

**WEATHER OUTLOOK:**

There are reports of a strengthening El Nino again, and although it's not, at this time, what it was last year, we need to watch its development. Whilst our recent summer gave us some room to breathe, a quick look at the bush will show that unless we get more rain soon, the back end of our winter season (October and November) could be quite bad for the reserve and the animals. Please keep this in mind especially with respect to possible die offs.

**SPEEDING:**

Just a personal observation, there seems to be a much better adherence to the speed limits by most people, and I thank all of you for doing your bit. There are still some people who do not comply. Please guys, if the speeding carries on, we will be obliged to put more speed and water control structures in place. These cost money and the reserve does not always have the funds. Wouldn't it be good if everyone obeyed the speed limits and saved us the costs of these structures.

**GAME VEHICLE STICKERS:**

We thank those of you have heeded the call to put your plot number (or lodge name) on your game viewers. This really is important as part of our security and helps us in trying to control unauthorized vehicles from using our roads. Please if you have not done so, kindly get the necessary stickers (ask the warden and he can organise for you) from PNS.

Then once we have this going we need to get visitors to the reserve to display their visitors' stickers in the windshields so we can see at a distance that they are bona fide visitors.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Until next time from

Under the Leadwood.

## **RESERVE MANAGER'S REPORT by Gerrie van Zyl**

### **SECURITY AND ACCESS CONTROL / FENCE**

- Fences repairs continues.
- Report of theft of a trail camera.

### **GAME MANAGEMENT:**

- All animals in good condition.
- Lions still very active all over Grietjie.
- 8 snares removed.
- 2016 – 2017 off takes done.

### **VEGETATION:**

- Some trees still green others turn yellow and shed leaves. If continue like this we in for a tough winter.
- Grass has turned yellow.

### **CLIMATE / RAINFALL:**

- Weather warm during the day with pleasant evenings.
- 16mm for March measured at the gate.

### **ROADS:**

- Repaired rain damage on Maggies hill and on Darisandi road.
- Built the 2nd gully on Darisandi road – Please be aware.
- Clean and do general maintenance of signage boards.

### **OTHER MATTERS:**

- Perform maintenance at the gate.

### **AROUND THE CAMPFIRE**

I was invited to come to a concert to listen to the tenor HIS MAGESTY THE KING on no 80. After the concert I met up with HIS MAGESTY. To be polite I asked him about his health, wife's and kids. ***You see Mr. Warden I am THE KING around here and I expect people and animals to respect me.*** So Mr. KING what happened? ***Well you see I spend a lot of time patrolling my kingdom and keep intruders away from my family and when I am back home I need to spend quality time with my wives doing nation building. While doing that people will come from all over, some keep their distance but others come with powerful spotlights and shine it into our eyes. One day one of the Jeep jockies, a young guy, came rushing in showing no respect and forced his way past the other people and even separated my wife from me.*** I agree Mr. KING I will also be very mad. ***All I am asking is some privacy after all I am THE KING.***

## RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE STATS by Ian Owtram

No charts are available this month!

## INTERESTING ARTICLES

### **CO-EXISTING WITH NATURE IN A SUSTAINABLE AND BUSH-FRIENDLY MANNER**

#### ***A GPNR forum on guidelines relating to the interaction between humans and the natural environment***

This month we do not have a 'guideline' as such, but rather a continuation of the previous guideline which dealt with building and maintaining our homes in a responsible and environmentally sustainable manner. In this discussion we will look a little closer at some of the applicable legislation.

## GUIDELINE 5 (CONTINUED)

### I. Which Acts have a bearing on what we can do on or with our properties?

- As noted last month, the relatively new **Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013** (SPLUMA), which repealed the Development Facilitation Act of 1995, is the most important Act to regulate all urban and rural land, and bylaws affecting GPNR have already been promulgated under it. (See below.)
- At this stage, the properties comprising GPNR are zoned as agricultural land. This means that, although we think of GPNR as a nature reserve, we legally have to adhere to the rules pertaining to agricultural land. Certain Acts specifically regulate agricultural land, two of which are: the **Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act 70 of 1970** and the **Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983**, which are discussed below.
- The **Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act** was devised to restrict the subdivision (and therewith, control the use) of agricultural land in order to prevent agricultural land from being fragmented into uneconomic portions. The Act thus prohibits the subdivision of agricultural land, except with the consent of the Minister of Agriculture.

The Act furthermore prohibits the transfer of undivided shares in agricultural land without the prior written consent of the Minister. Accordingly, the Minister's consent is required to transfer agricultural land

into the names of two purchasers (whether individuals or entities), including purchasers who are married out of community of property.

(Although this Act was repealed, the repeal was not put into effect and the provisions of the Act still apply, and are vigorously enforced by the courts.)

- The **Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act** may also limit what we can and cannot do on our properties. Among others, it is concerned with the protection of vegetation; the prevention and control of veld fires, the control of weeds and invader plants, the restoration or reclamation of eroded land, or of land which is otherwise disturbed or denuded, and the protection of water sources against pollution.
- The most important environmental legislation that must be adhered to is the **National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998** (NEMA) (read with the National Environmental Laws Amendment Act 14 of 2009). Among others, this Act lists certain activities that call for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out, for example, building on properties in sensitive areas close to the river. The Act also places certain restrictions on the building of lodges and the expansion of existing buildings for purposes of running a lodge.

Section 34 of NEMA covers criminal proceedings and provides, for example, that anyone convicted of an offence in terms of any provision listed in Schedule 3 (of NEMA) is, in addition to other penalties, liable to meet the cost of rehabilitating or preventing damage to the environment. Private persons, employers, directors, managers, agents and employees can all potentially be held liable for environmental offences, whether they are directly or indirectly responsible. Offenders can be ordered to cover the loss or damage caused by the offence, which can include any cost incurred by government to rehabilitate the affected area, as well as costs incurred in the investigation and prosecution of the offence.

## II. Which Bylaws apply to GPNR?

- The **Ba-Phalaborwa Land-Use Scheme** of 2008 (LUMS) restricts the use of agricultural land. Furthermore, and this might come as a surprise, LUMS limits the number of 'dwelling units' per portion to ONE. Written permission from the municipality is required for an additional unit.

Uses, other than those classified as 'agricultural use', 'farm settlement' and 'nature conservation area', either require special consent, or are prohibited. The following uses are permitted, but **only with special consent** from the municipality:

Guest house

Institution

Kennels  
Nursery  
Place of instruction  
Place of public worship  
Place of refreshment  
(Place of) recreation  
Social Hall  
Farm Stall  
Teagarden  
Mining  
Caravan Park  
Telecommunications Mast

In addition to prohibiting other uses, LUMS also restricts the number of parking spaces which may be provided for the uses listed above.

The complicated process of applying for special consent for the abovementioned uses must be carried out in the manner prescribed in Chapter 6 of the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality Bylaw of 2016, discussed below.

- Pursuant **SPLUMA**, mentioned above, the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality published its **By-Law for Spatial Planning and Land Use Management** in the Provincial Gazette, Extraordinary, of 9 September 2016.

Apart from Chapter 6 noted above, important sections include s. 68 (consent use), s. 75 (certain applications which require provincial or national consent) and s. 169(4). This section provides:

'A land use that commenced unlawfully, whether **before or after** the commencement of this By-Law, may not be considered to be the lawful land use.'

### III. Conclusion

In view of the latest, stricter rules, all owners are urged to make sure that we do not fall foul of the law. Lodge owners, in particular, should note that existing lodges, no matter whether they have a valid CAP or not, will be operating unlawfully if the necessary municipal (or previously, provincial) consent had not been obtained.

Yet, while we digest all these laws, let us not forget our obligation to promote and respect the welfare of Grietjie as a *Private Nature Reserve* – a place that belongs, not only to us, but to all the animals and the plants that make Grietjie so much more than just 'agricultural land'.

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Compiled by Liz Lewis

## ANIMAL FACTS

# Black backed Jackal (Rooijakkals)

*Canis Mesomelas*



### **Distribution in South Africa**

Black-backed Jackal are distributed throughout South Africa

### **Habitat**

Black- backed Jackals occur in most habitats from desert to mountains to coastal areas. They prefer drier areas and tend to avoid marshy areas and wetlands.





### **Habits**

They live in pairs that form long term bonds and establish territories, but more often than not scavenge and hunt alone. They are extremely cunning and very adaptable.

### **Day or night**

Although they are at times also active during the day, they usually rest up in holes dug by other species such as ant bears (aardvark), as well as in other shelters like rock crevices, under bushes etc. Black-backed Jackals are mostly active at night and are often seen at dusk and dawn. In protected areas and reserves they are also active on cool overcast days, but in areas where they are persecuted by man they tend to be shy and hide away.

### **Difference between male and female**

Males are larger than females.

### **Mass**

Male: 6 to 11 kg.

Female: 5 to 10 kg

### **Lifespan**

About 12 years

### **Breeding**



Mating takes place during the winter months. The average litter are between 1 and 6, but sometimes (although very seldom) up to 9 or 10 cubs, are born from July to November depending on the region, area and rains.

### **Gestation**

About 2 months

### **Diet - Food and water**

They are hunters and scavengers with a very acute sense of smell. Their diet consists of a wide range of food including small antelope, hares, reptiles, rodents, insects, birds and eggs. Some types of wild fruit and berries (The Jackal berry tree is named after them) that have fallen to the ground are also eaten. Newborn calves of cattle, sheep (lambs) and young goats are often killed by them as well as chickens. They also scavenge for carrion. Because of their adaptability, Black-back Jackals are not really water dependent, but will drink water on a regular basis if available.

### **Enemies**

Lions, Leopards, Hyena, Cheetah and other Jackal will often kill their cubs if found. Large eagles also sometimes take young jackals and pythons are also a danger to jackals. Humans are most probably their greatest enemy.

### **Status**

They still occur in large numbers throughout South Africa. In farming areas they are considered as pests and many are killed daily. However they are safe from persecution in wildlife and nature reserves, as well as in National Parks.

### **Interesting facts**

The haunting call of the Black-backed Jackal is part of the wonderful array of sounds to be heard in the African bush at night and is one of the typical night sounds of wilderness areas.

Due to stock losses (chicken, lamb and small goats), many farmers have no love at all for this animal and in some areas they have eradicated them with poison, gin traps and by hunting them, especially with dogs.

Source: <http://www.wildlifesouthafrica.com/blog/mammals-of-south-africa/black-backed-jackal-fact-file>

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

Please submit any small classified adverts that you want published every month to [grietjecomms@gmail.com](mailto:grietjecomms@gmail.com) and we will gladly provide free publication thereof.

**If you are interested in purchasing property within Grietjie please contact the committee as we have a good selection of properties for sale by their owners.**

### **FOR SALE**

**Plot 70 - Please contact Ian Lourens**

**Plot 125 - Please contact Mrs Nellie Vosloo.**



Shuttle transfers from Hoedspruit's Eastgate airport to your doorstep at Grietjie. From as little as R350, contact Hennie on 072 640 8033

Greyhound now provide a daily return bus service between Phalaborwa via Nelspruit to Johannesburg.

Contact [www.citiliner.co.za](http://www.citiliner.co.za) or Krish on 071 000 7727