



Under the Baobab

Editor: Michel Zwaan

Chairman's report by Ian Nowak

It has been an extremely busy month for us here on Grietjie. We have been meeting with Owners and preparing for our "Protected Area" application.

I recently attended a meeting in Skukuza, where the details of the new co-operation agreement between KNP and the surrounding Private Reserves located on the Western boundary was discussed. Exciting times lie ahead for our Reserve, providing we can get our "Protected Area" application in. You will have received emails informing you on our progress and requesting you to submit the relevant documents urgently. Please do this ASAP!!!

I am doing a series of information sharing presentations on Saturday mornings for the entire month of November. Please contact Antoinette Hayes antoinette@malepo.co.za directly to book a spot. If need be I will also do some in December for owners that will be here over the festive season. It is critical that we get all the relevant documents in before the end of January.

Our association membership at the time of writing is up to 83% of owners, and more importantly (for the application) 89% of our total hectares!!! We are very proud of this and it bodes well for the application. I am very concerned that some owners, even though they are members and their properties will be included in the application (if appropriate documents are received in time), have said that this is "not important" when contacted about the presentations. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. If anyone's property is excluded for whatever reason, it will have long lasting effects for owners, including financial ones. Please try to attend one of the presentations, or see me when you are here. I am also willing to have WhatsApp conversations with overseas owners. My number is 083 384 5190.

I am available to meet with owners most of the time. If you are coming to Grietjie but cannot attend any of the presentations, I am more than happy to meet with you when you are here, just let me know. The only time I will be away is from the 18th to 24th of December.

GATE: The gate sub-committee has been busy, and the chairman of the sub-committee will be communicating with all owners shortly. Our legal investigations are progressing well.

STAFF: As per the AGM we have finalised a pension fund for the staff, it will come into effect from November. This has taken me some time to finalise, but we are very satisfied with the product. The staff are very happy about this, and it has been excellent for morale.

Until next time,

From the banks of the Olifants.



The Warden's Indaba by Gerrie van Zyl

1) SECURITY AND ACCESS CONTROL

- No theft reported except for Giraffe bones.
- All fences down from Grietjie gate to Olifants north except for a small portion on Grietjie Mountain belonging to Maseke.

2) GAME MANAGEMENT

- Animals still in fair condition.
- Good sightings of Giraffe, Zebra and Kudu.
- Several Elephant herds on Grietjie

3) VEGETATION

- Trees lush and green.
- New grass all over

4) CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

- 65mm Rain in total measured at gat for October, and 75mm for the season so far
- General climate hot and humid in the mid 30's.

5) ROADS

- Graded all the gravel roads after the rain.
- Filling potholes and general maintenance on Maggie's hill and Marble hill.

6) OTHER MATTERS

Please be aware, according to Nature Conservation/Environmental affairs it is not permitted to pick up, or be in possession of any animal parts without a permit (horns, bones, skins ext.)



How to approach an elephant sighting when driving a vehicle:

- ◆ Slow down as soon as you see the elephants—do not go “rushing” into the sighting.
- ◆ Assess the situation regarding escape routes, terrain and animal behaviour before settling into the sighting.
- ◆ The closest distance the elephants should be approached is 50 m. Switch the engine off. If the elephants are comfortable, they will walk approach you. If they choose to do so, do not switch the engine on, but sit quietly and enjoy the sighting.
- ◆ Do not let the elephants approach to within 20 m of your vehicle. NEVER allow an elephant to touch the vehicle. If the elephants approach within this zone, switch the engine on, wait a few seconds and slowly back away from the elephant.
- ◆ In order to prevent the elephants feeling boxed/caged in, a maximum of 3 vehicles (although 2 vehicles are preferable) are allowed per sighting unless the driver in charge feels there should be less.
- ◆ As elephants are diurnal animals (active during the day), never shine spotlights onto them.
- ◆ When viewing the elephants, do not stand up abruptly or make sudden movements on the vehicle. This may frighten the elephant and cause a threatening or aggressive response.
- ◆ Never take fruit on a game drive.

To avoid apprehensive behaviour progressing to threat and aggressive behaviour:

- ◆ If the elephant seems uncertain, apprehensive or indecisive, slowly retreat from the sighting and give the elephant space.
- ◆ If the elephant is already within 20 m of the vehicle and shows apprehensive behaviour, switch the engine off and allow the elephant to retreat

What to do when an elephant displays threat behaviour:

- ◆ Except in the case of musth bulls, switch the engine on, wait a few seconds and slowly back away from the elephant giving him/her space.
- ◆ If when you switch the engine on it appears to aggravate the elephant even more, switch the engine off immediately, wait a few minutes and try to retreat again.

References:

^ESTES, RD (1997) The behaviour guide to African mammals. Russell Friedmann Books, South Africa. ISBN 1-875091-10-6

*www.elephantvoices.org A website and database on African elephants created by elephant specialist Joyce Poole.

Compiled by Audrey Delsink, MSc, PhD Candidate, SACNASP Professional Ecologist

From the vice chair

I would like to thank you, Fellow Grietjies, for submitting photos for the “Capture the Moment” photo competition. The entries for the month of November can still be submitted until the last day of the month. Please remember that you don’t have to own the most expensive camera to take part. A cell phone photo is also OK! Our Judges will only judge the “MOMENT” as seen through the eyes of the Photographer. Let us all get out there and capture some special moments here on Grietjie!

The “Mhangela Baby Impala Challenge” is a very generous initiative from Jens and Jaco. With the lambing season approaching fast, get your camera, video recorder, cell phone and “spotting eyes” ready! The first Grietjie to post a picture of a baby impala on the Sightings group will win R1000. (Regretfully no guides or professionals may take part) Last year the competition was stiff between Grietjies to see who would be the person to spot the first baby impala. I wonder who will be so lucky this year? I, for one, will certainly try my luck!

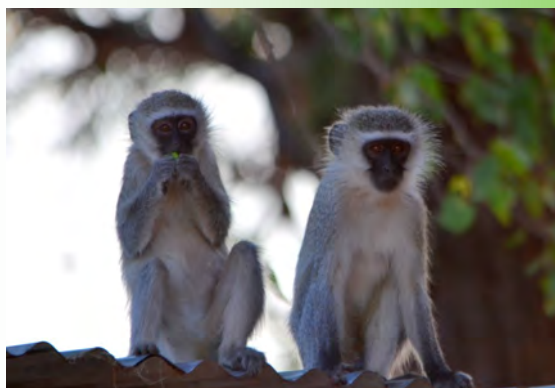
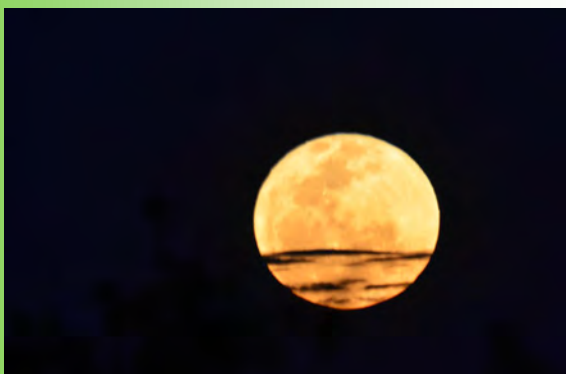
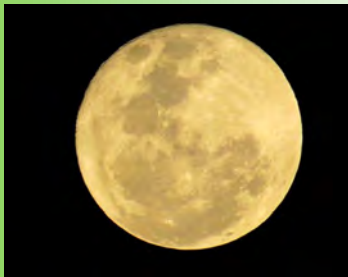
The Grietjie Comms List has been updated recently. I thank all the Owners and Residents who have taken the time to check their details at the gate. If any Owner’s details change, please advise us accordingly. If you know of anybody not receiving the Grietjie Comms or receiving it in error, please let us know as soon as possible.

The response, I have had from Owners to attend the Protected Area Presentation, has been phenomenal. If you have not yet reserved your seat to attend one of these presentations, please contact me as soon as possible. It is such exciting news for Grietjie and I trust that all your questions will be answered at the presentation. What is also so encouraging is the positive feedback Ian and I received from our Owners. I know in my heart that all Grietjie Owners have a common believe: We all love Grietjie and we must do everything in our power to secure our piece of heaven.

I remain committed in offering my time and energy to the Grietjie community and to be your liaison with the GPNR committee. If you need to contact me, I am only a phone call away! You are also welcome to pop in at any time and come and have a cup of tea with me.

Regards

Antoinette



The life and times of Mrs. Sari Altman

On 21-10-2017 one of our oldest community members deceased.

Mrs Sari Altman of plot 23 was laid to rest on her plot where she lived for so long.

The committee and community of Grietjie Nature Reserve wants to convey their heartfelt condolences to the family of tannie Sari Altman. May she rest in peace in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ



Here is a short story about the life of tannie Sari.

It is in Afrikaans but will not be translated as these are her own words and thoughts.

Ek en Pieter Jacobs is in 1942 getroud en uit die huwelik is 7 kinders gebore. Ons was woonagtig in Springs en hy het 'n vervoer maatskappy gehad.

Ons het Plot 20 gekoop vanaf die kaart wat die agent ons gewys het. Hy was ge-stationeer in Witrivier. Hier was nie paaie nie. **Ons het 'n R1000-00 pond (R2000-00) betaal in 1958.**

As gesin kom ons die winter hier kamp onder die oop hemel, dit was baie lekker vir ons stadsjapies.

My man en oudste seun rig 'n sinkgebou op om die nodige hier te stoor soos beddens, tafels, stoele, ens. Intussen rig ons 'n afdak van riete op waaronder ons kamp.

In 1959 koop my man Plot 23 by, ons kom kamp weer die winter hier. Dolf, my jongste kind was 7-maande oud en hy was baie siek. Ek stuur my oudste seun, Dawie om een van die swart-werkers te roep, **ek wou by die groot plaas eienaar, Piet Naude uitvind waar ons 'n dokter kan kry.**

Dawie se aandag word afgetrek deur die trekker wat in die son staan, hy weet sy pa sou dit die duld nie. Hy besluit om die trekker **in die koelte te trek. Hy het 'n .22 geweer by hom** gehad, klim op die trekker en sit die geweer skuins tussen sy bene. Toe die trekker vat en ruk gly die geweer en die skoot gaan af. Tref hom noodlottig in die bors.

Ons het Dr Serfontein by Piet Naude se huis gekry waar hy die doodsertifikaat uitgereik het. Ons moes sy lyk na Gravelotte neem sodat die polisie dit in die lykshuis kon hou. Ons is terug Springs toe en my swaers het sy lyk kom haal terug Springs toe waar hy begrawe is.

1964 trek ons permanent Grietjie toe. My man koop skape en 'n paar melkkoeie. Ons was 2-weke hier toe vind ek uit ek is swanger. Wat 'n skok, waarheen sal ek gaan hier is net 2 dokters. Ek kom by suster Joubert uit 'n vroedvrou. Mariaan is gebore alles wel. Vier maande later is ek weer swanger met Erika. Haar geboorte het ook goed afgeloop.

Met die melkkoeie kry ons so 20 gallon melk per dag. Ek kry 'n bestelling by Phalaborwa Bakery, Boet Schoeman, om aan hulle room en botter te lewer. Ek en die kinders karring en draai die separator elke dag vir die room en om botter te maak.

Ons het nog nie 'n kerk gehad nie, ons het in een van die klaskamers by die Groenskool kerk gehou. Mariaan en Erika is daar gedoop.

My man het baie siek geword, ons gaan sien 'n spesialis in Pretoria en hy stel vas hy het kolon kanker. Hulle opereer en 'n paar dae later sterf hy op 10 Desember 1975.

Ek is 50-jaar oud en weduwee met 4 kinders om voor te sorg, want Meisie en Nellie is toe al uit die huis hulle werk in die dorp. **Ek sukkel sonder 'n inkomste, maar deur die Liewe Heer was daar altyd uitkoms. Ek het nagte om beskuit geknie en verkoop op bestellings van mense op die dorp.**

Die kinders het gehelp waar hulle kon. Geld was maar skaars daardie tye soos julle weet met jong getroudes.

Ek ontmoet 'n wewenaar, Henry Allman wat ek baie gelukkig mee getroud is in 1978. In 1980 kry hy trombose op die brein, hy was 'n jaar verlam en in 1981 kry hy weer trombose en is toe oorlede.

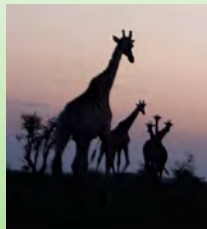
Ek is nou 92-jaar oud, pas die plotte op vir my kinders en kleinkinders.

My Moeksie sal altyd onthou word as 'n waardige vrou wat vir niks teruggestaan het nie. Sy was verskriklik lief vir plante en het haar altyd omring met potplante. Sy was 'n "go getter" niks kon haar stuit nie. Sy het ons 'n goeie opvoeding gegee en altyd haar beste gelewer. Sy sal deur almal wat haar geken het, onthou word as 'n liefdevolle, regverdige, hardwerkende vrou. Sy was geliefd!!

Photo competition

Here are the entries of this month's "capture the moment" photo competition

1. Bateleur
2. Our own Loch Ness monster
3. **What's for dinner?**



Black Mamba Fundraiser

Come all and please support this fantastic initiative of Transfrontier Africa.

The Ladies of the Black Mambas need our support

Indlovu Camp

Olifants West

Balule Nature Reserve

R40, Hoedspruit

1380

Tel. 078 993 5678

amyclark@transfrontierafrica.org

27th October 2017

To whom it may concern,

Our non-profit organisation is planning a fundraiser to benefit our Black Mamba Anti-Poaching Unit. The majority female anti-poaching unit, operates within the Balule Nature reserve, and is the first line of defence against poaching. The eyes and ears on the ground to alert our armed units of any suspicious activities.

The Black Mamba BINGO night will be held at 3 Bridges on the 24th November and we are writing to you to request a prize donation for our raffle and/or our lucky BINGO winners.

We will gladly advertise your donation on social media and announce your contribution during the course of the event.

I am looking forward to hearing if you will be willing to contribute towards our event.

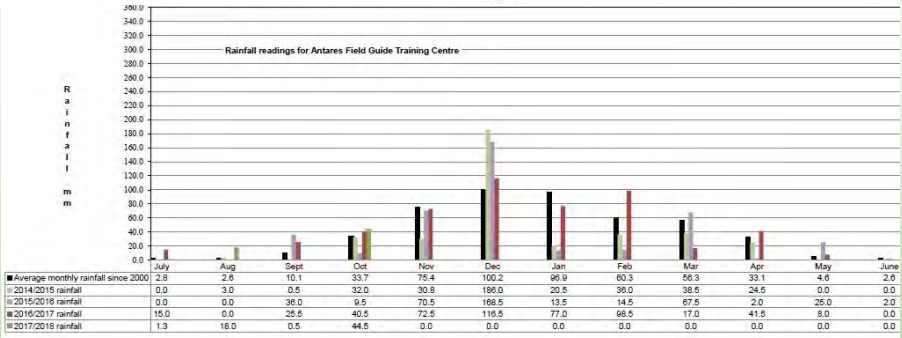
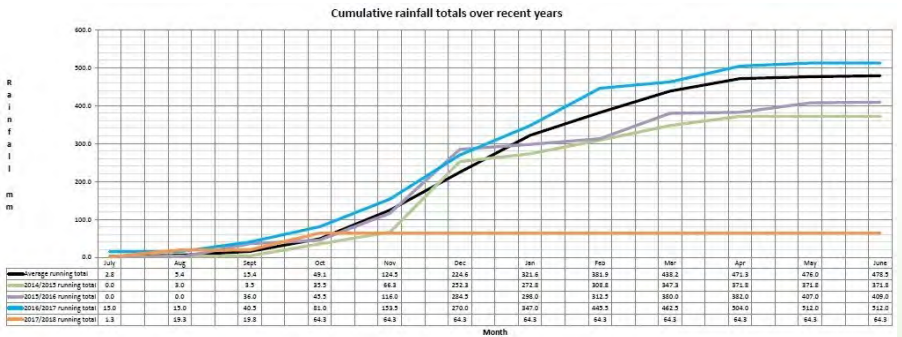
Sincerely

Amy Clark

Event Organiser

In an extra copy of the newsletter we shall do a more in- depth series of who the Mambas are and what they do. This is a worthy cause Grietjie owners and residents. These ladies deserve our support as they provide, not only the animals, but also the residents of the ANPR a safe haven to stay in.

Rainfall and temperature stats by Ian Owtram



Eco-Warrior Silver Award 2017

Rhino Conservation Practitioner of the Year 2015

UNEP Champion of the Earth 2015

Bush Meat Poaching reduced by 89% since 2014

Rhino Poaching reduced by 17% since 2014

BLACK MAMBA APU
Balule Nature Reserve
Hoedspruit
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BLACK MAMBA APU
MAJORITY FEMALE ANTI-POACHING UNIT

"We must conserve nature, because nature conserves us"
Siphwe Sithole 2016

ESPMBO PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME
CONTRIBUTING TO A NATION AT WORK

