



# Under the Baobab

Editor: Michel Zwaan

## Chairman's report by Ian Nowak

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by Ian Nowak

#### ON THE BANKS OF THE OLIFANTS:

Greetings from an extremely hot Grietjie! I sincerely hope everyone enjoyed the festive season and wish everyone a prosperous new year!

**Protected Area Application:** This will be the final newsletter before the document cut-off date. The Vice Chair deals with this in detail in her report, so all I will add is: please ensure that your documents are in by the 25<sup>th</sup> of January. We have received some questions regarding the financial incentives, or perceived increases in other costs. Please contact either myself or the Vice Chair, should you have any questions regarding these areas.

**Road / Gate:** As mentioned in the last newsletter we will shortly be sending all land owners a communication regarding the entrance road and gate. In the meantime the Chairman of Balule and I have a meeting with Sean Nielson in the next 10 days, and we will amongst other things, be discussing the security concerns of some owners that have been raised due to the unmanned gates on the R40. I will give feedback on this meeting in due course.

Various contractors have told me that they have been told that we are going to charge R300 per day entrance fees. This is completely untrue, and I urge all owners to wait for the communication regarding the road and gate for the facts.

Balule: The final meeting with the KNP with regards to the new co-operation agreement will be at the end of this month. I will give feedback in my next report. I am very excited for the future of both Grietjie & Balule once this agreement is finalised.

The construction of the first phase upgrade to the fence running along the R40 on farm Paul next door has begun. Ultimately the full 4,5km to the railway will be upgraded. Once completed, the security of the entire Balule will be improved. This new stretch of fence will be patrolled vigorously.

**Game Drives:** We have recently received complaints about game drive vehicles stopping on other people's properties, and allowing their guests to "relieve" themselves. Please ensure that if you do stop on someone else's property, that all occupants of the game drive vehicle remain within a close proximity of the vehicle, and do not leave litter of any kind behind.

**Alien Species:** In next month's edition we will be providing some information and a removal plan for alien species in the reserve.

Until next time,

From the banks of the Olifants.



## From the vice chair

From the Vice Chair

A new day, a new year and exciting times lying ahead of us! I wish all of the Grietjie Community a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2018.

As you are all aware by now, the deadline for owners to submit their respective property documents for the Protected Area Application is looming large. 25 January 2018 will be the last day to submit your documents by hand to #80, via email (originals via postal service before deadline please) or via courier.

It is your responsibility as an owner to get the documents to me, as it is for your own benefit. I need to also advise you:

1. THE AFFIDAVIT HAS TO BE THE ORIGINAL CERTIFIED DOCUMENT
2. THE RESPECTIVE COPY OF THE ID/PASSPORT HAS TO BE CERTIFIED AS WELL

I have experienced great confusion from our foreign owners regarding certification. In South Africa we do need all documents to be certified / commissioned by a Notary Public / Commissioner of Oaths.

Should any owner still have questions regarding the Protected Area Application, please contact myself or Ian as soon as possible.

In February Adrian (Hubby) and I will take a bit of a breather and be on vacation for some time. During this period, please contact Ian directly.

Upon my return I envisage to start organising some community projects as I have stated in a previous newsletter. Cherelle Crystal #83 kindly donated her prize money for the Mhangela baby impala challenge and requested that it should be used to upgrade the steps at picnic spot 1&2. Thank you. I will communicate the community projects via the WhatsApp groups, newsletter etc. Owners and residents willing to help with these projects, whether in person or in kind, please let me know. I hope to see all you strong Grietjie Men lining up to help and the Grietjie Ladies standing in waiting to keep the refreshments flowing!! We can make some improvements to really benefit the Reserve and I personally look forward to the challenge!

If we as the Grietjie Community stand together and not wait for things to happen, but WE MAKE THINGS HAPPEN, Grietjie can only go from strength to strength during 2018.

Regards

Antoinette



**Harcourts**

**Quandi Venter**  
Property Consultant  
T: 082 203 8129 C: 082 535 7834  
E: quandi.venter@harcourts.co.za  
harcourts.co.za

**Harcourts Boet Nothnagel**  
Spidderkruis 44, Steiltes, Nelspruit,  
Mpumalanga, 12113

Here we are.  
With you all the way.




Dear Grietjie owners,

I would like to introduce myself to you.

My name is Quandi Venter and my husband, Paul and I own and reside on property no. 76.

I've joined a dynamic team at Harcourts Boet Nothnagel Real Estate where I am now an Intern Property Consultant. I am focused on working with buyers and sellers in the GPNR and am up to speed with all the local developments, but if you ever have questions about real estate outside of Grietjie don't hesitate to give me a call as I have some great resources I can draw upon.

I can help you or anyone you know with any of these services: Buying; selling; vacant land and current market assessments.

It is important for you to know I take the opportunity to work with you or anyone you refer to me very seriously, and given the opportunity, I can guarantee I'll deliver results.

Quandi Venter  
082-5357834

### "Capture of the moment" competition

1. Spotted Bush Snake with a kill
2. I captured my daughter having a special moment



### News from within

We, Wayne Calitz and Mariaan Visser from plot 23, wants to commend Edgar on doing his job really well.

We had a cleaning lady for a few days and we gave her a lot of stuff she could have.

We forgot to give her a letter allowing her to take the goods off Grietjie.

When she tried to leave, Edgar would not let her.

He phoned Mariaan to confirm that they could take the goods home.

We think he needs recognition for doing his job well.

Hats off to you Edgar.



## Photo's by Wayne Calitz #23



Golden tailed Woodpecker



Lighting on old years eve

A lot of people here on GNPR knows Wayne Calitz.

He has been on GNPR off and on for the last few years and just recently made the move to GNPR permanently.

Wayne is a very talented photographer who loves to photograph wildlife and aircraft and from personal experience I know he can write a great caption or story that will go nicely with the captures.

We think it is a great idea to give Wayne his own column if he is willing to do so.

So buddy.  
It is all up to you now.

## Travels through Africa

I have travelled long and far.  
From the shores of cramped Holland.  
To the jungles of Cambodja.

From the cold of Norway in the winter.  
Sleeping in a tent at -35 Celsius.  
To the beaches of Greece.  
Where I slept under the stars.

Took a plane to Tunesia.  
Where the ancient ruins of Rome and Carthage lay.  
Baking in the harsh desert sun.

Oh Carthage!  
What have you done?  
To be so utterly swept from earths history.  
So savagely deleted.

Further south I made my way.  
Via Marocco and Ghana.  
The west coast enthralled me.

But the east.  
With the barren Somali lands.  
And Ethiopia.  
With those craggly voids.

Then I came upon a river.  
It started as a stream.  
I followed it to Malawi.  
Rich in soil but oh so poor.

The countryside enthralled me.  
But I was not satisfied.  
Through Rhodesia I travelled.

Over the border.  
That great big river wide.  
I came to South Africa.  
I knew I here I could shorten my stride.

I finally found what I was looking for.  
The splendour.  
The beauty.

But a country so divided.  
I hope so for a better future.  
My place.  
My home.

Michel Zwaan  
16-01-2018

## Editors Note

A community is like a living organism.  
It lives

It needs information  
and gives much in return.

This newsletter is enjoyed by all.  
But the participation to provide copy is next to none existent.

In order to be successful I need copy apart from the usual suspects like the chair and vice- chair.

Many of us get guests.  
Some for shorter and some for longer periods of time.  
Also we have residents that came from overseas to settle down here.

It would make perfect stories to learn how the visitors and/ or new residents experiences living out in the wild.

Please send your copy in a WORD file to: [michelzwaan1@hotmail.com](mailto:michelzwaan1@hotmail.com)



### GNPR Buy and sell



Please submit any small classified adverts that you want published every month to [grietjiecomms@gmail.com](mailto:grietjiecomms@gmail.com) or [michelzwaan1@hotmail.com](mailto:michelzwaan1@hotmail.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 #17 - vacant river front, 8.5 hectares.

Plot #18 - river front, 8.5 hectares, 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom, lounge, dining, kitchen, strong room, 2Xstaff quarters, carports, large deck, thatched house overlooking river.

Furniture negotiable and Landrover included.

Please contact mr Colin Robertson if interested @ [arobert@mweb.co.za](mailto:arobert@mweb.co.za)



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



This months Photographs featured were from the editors travels through the northers Natal parks