



# Under the Baobab

Editor: Michel Zwaan

Chairman's report by Ian Nowak

## ON THE BANKS OF THE OLIFANTS:

Greetings from a hot and dry Grietjie. Although the predictions show another dry summer ahead, let's hope for the best!

A big thank you to everyone who attended the AGM held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August. The physical and proxy turnout was great. The minutes have already been circulated. Thanks to Adrian & Antoinette for doing such a great job in hosting us. I would also like to thank all those that contributed to a successful day.

I would like to thank you all for allowing me another year to steer the ship during these exciting times. A big welcome and thanks to the new committee, for being prepared to give of your time and expertise to the Reserve. I have a fantastic "crew" and I am really excited for the year ahead.

Since the AGM we have embarked on a process of consultation regarding the CAPs revision motion that was stood down at the AGM. Once this process is complete we will circulate revised motions for an E-Vote.

As discussed at the AGM the servitude agreement has been signed by all parties and our attorneys are submitting it to the deeds office. This has secured the road as legal access for both Grietjie and Magdalene (Olifants North). The construction of the temporary gate near the R40 will begin immediately. Once completed both Grietjie & Magdalene's liability for animals escaping via the corridor will end. We will ensure that the temporary gate is as functional and comfortable as possible. We will also be engaging with members on the new gate house in the weeks to come, as we do want this situation to be as temporary as possible notwithstanding the potential "Government delays".

I am sure during the construction of the temporary gate Antoinette will broadcast when and where you could possibly assist. This is most definitely a community project!

I will give a full report back on the status of our PA application in the next issue.

We also discussed at the AGM the committee would be contacting certain owners with regard to light pollution and similar issues. We do need to show that we as a Reserve are serious about being a Nature Reserve and that our commitment is not just on paper. If you are contacted, please don't see it as criticism but rather a notice of not conforming to the requirements as agreed by the members.

We have allocated portfolios on the new committee and the work has already begun. Thanks again to everyone your support of our Reserve.

Until next time,

From the banks of the Olifants.

## The crew



2 mugshots missing

## From the Vice chair

With AGM behind us and spring in the air and our steps, it is time to get back to work!

Special thanks to all the Grietjie owners and residents who attended the AGM. Annelise and Kosie of property #69 did a fantastic job on the catering. It was delicious! Thank you for all your hard work. Also, a big thank you, to Gerry #79 and Cherele #83 for sending their staff to assist, here at #80, with the preparations for the AGM. It is appreciated.

We still have a small amount of funds available to carry on with the community projects. Again I request owners to put in writing what they would like to see improved on Grietjie. Please send me an email: [antoinette@malapo.co.za](mailto:antoinette@malapo.co.za) If you would like to get involved in these projects, please feel free to step forward and come and join us.

I wrote about the Mhangela Baby Impala competition in the previous newsletter. Practise your “spotting” eyes so long!

Stoffel du Toit #35 and Sam Moore #80 have both been in hospital for unexpected surgery. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope that they will be fit as fiddles soon!

It humbles me when I see the faith that has been put in Ian and me by the Grietjie Owners. Thank you for re-electing me to serve on the committee. I vouch to carry on working in the best interest of Grietjie and for ALL owners. Please remember that my door is always open and that I am also just a phone call away. Even if it is for a problem, a solution or just a chat, you have my ear!

Kind regards

Antoinette



**RESERVE MANAGERS REPORT 25 AUG 18.****1) SECURITY AND ACCESS CONTROL**

- Two case of theft reported for the last 12 months
- Doreen Fence broken by Elephants on a daily basis.
- Elephants on R40 and our excess road almost every night for about three months.
- New Paul fence on the R40 is completed.
- Maseke and Doreen fences being removed.
- One workers caught snaring the last 12 months, been dismissed and removed from Grietjie.
- No incidents or foreign human tracks on Grietjie were reported.
- One gate guard were dismissed and replaced with ranger Dennis so we had to appoint Mike as our new ranger.
- Ten confirmed cases of Rhino`s poached on Balule for the last 12 Months.
- Forty confirmed cases of Rhino`s poached on APNR for last 12 months exc Balule a total of 50 for our region.

Total number of incursions in Balule = 48  
 Poacher success = 21%  
 Balule success = 79%.

**2) GAME MANAGEMENT.**

- Animals in good condition for this time of year
- Lions still very active.
- I am busy with a Leopard survey on GDP with excellent footage this far.
- No Buffalo calf's on Balule herds but surprisingly quite a few on Doreen/Paul herds.
- Brown Hyena still regular visitor.
- We darted five Lions, unfortunately one did not make it. All were TB +
- Elephant impact less since fences were removed
- Two Buffalos on Paul with snares and one Waterbuck on Grietjie with broken hip had to be taken out.
- One Giraffe on Grietjie were electrocuted by Eskom.
- One Giraffe on Doreen was killed by a train.
- +- 200 Buffalo were chased out of Foskor into Doreen after we erected a fence to stop them from going back.

**3) VEGETATION.**

- Grass cover still good away from river on Grietjie.
- Good grass cover on Doreen and Paul
- 45 + trees cut and removed from the main roads

**4) CLIMATE AND RAINFALL.**

- 387 mm rain for the season at the gate.

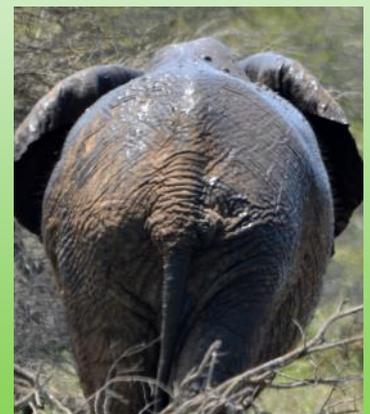
**5) ROADS**

- We used 600 bags of cold mix on our tar road = 15000 KG.
- Grade roads after the rains.

**6) OTHER MATTERS.**

- Fire restrictions in place
- Statistics for the year. = 198 days spend on repairing, removing and erecting fences =54%
- = 71 days on road repairs =20%
- = 41 days patrolling = 11%
- = 55 days Other matters = 15%.

The fences are almost done and hopefully with more reliable equipment we can spend more time on roads.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUPPORT.**

For all your high- end handmade knives

Together with you we design the knife of your choice, choose the handle material and discuss the choice of the best knife steel for the job it is intended too.

Here is a selection of knives we have made (they all have handmade leather sheaths):



High- end kitchen knives are also made by us:



For sharpening of all your smooth-edged knives to a razor-sharp edge at a very reasonable price we are at your service

(All knives come with a 10-year warrantee with normal use)

*Pengandlovu Knives*  
 Pengandlovu Customs  
 Griegje Nature Reserve  
 Pftalaborwa  
 071-9033270  
 pengandlovuknives@hotmail.com  
*Handmade*

