



# Under the Baobab

Editor: Michel Zwaan

A reminder of the AGM taking place on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Please make every effort to attend if possible. A reminder that all motions need to be circulated by the 25 July 2018, so please forward these to [grietjiecomms@gmail.com](mailto:grietjiecomms@gmail.com)

## Chairman's report by Ian Nowak

Greetings from Grietjie. This will be my final newsletter report before the upcoming AGM. I will present a full year's report at the AGM so in this edition I will just update you on a few developments.

**Protected Area Application:** There has been some positive movement on our application after the meeting with LEDET and the relevant parties. Specific causes for the delays have been identified, and are being dealt with one by one. Again we have been told that our "intention to declare" will be published in the Gazette in the upcoming weeks. We may have some good news on this at the time of the AGM. Fortunately the delays have not been due to problems with our application, but rather "administrative" problems within LEDET.

We will be sending out a news flash when the gazetting has taken place.

**Road / Gate:** Rob 5 and Maseke have reached consensus regarding their respective concerns in the servitude agreement. We will all be meeting during the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> of August to finalise the wording of relevant clauses, and then signing the agreement. The agreement will then be lodged at the Deeds office.

**AGM:** The official notice of the AGM has been sent together with the respective motions we received from members. The accountants will send through the financial statements on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August and these will be circulated to all members upon receipt.

The newly elected Balule Chairperson Mrs Sharon Haussmann, will be addressing us on a few Balule issues such as the PA and the Kruger Park agreement. It was unfortunately not listed on the agenda as confirmation was not yet received at the time of sending out. We have a lot to get through at the meeting so please arrive a little earlier to facilitate speedy voter registration.

**Balule:** The feedback on the Balule AGM has already been circulated. Thank you to everyone that sent me words of support for my new role as Deputy Chairman of Balule. I will continue to serve in the interest of Grietjie and the reserve as a whole.

I will be standing for re-election at the AGM, as I would like to see through the very important goals that we set at the beginning of my term. My role as Deputy Chair for Balule will run until July 2019.

**Speeding:** We have finally acquired a source for the speed trap devices. These will be hand held laser units. They will be deployed as soon as they arrive in the country. Again more info on this will be shared at the AGM.

**Outgoing Committee:** I will deal with this in more detail in my final report at the AGM. I would like to thank the committee members for their contribution to the Reserve over the last 12 months. I would like to give a special thanks to my Vice Antoinette Hayes, for her continuous support and hard work. She is passionate about Grietjie and is never too busy to help anyone with any issue, big or small. Her compassion towards all Grietjie owners is evident in the great work she has spearheaded on the community projects. We have worked well as a team and look forward to continuing the successful combination in the coming year, if that is the will of the members.

Until next time,

From the banks of the Olifants.



### From the vice chair

The year has absolutely flown past! It is AGM time again! I trust that we will see many of our owners on the day!



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian Nowak for all the work he has done for Grietjie during the past year. He has truly gone the extra mile, beyond what was ever expected. With his leadership Grietjie has become a shining example in the Balule Game Reserve. People now notice us and see that we are totally committed to our Reserve and also committed to be part of the open system with the Kruger National Park. Well done, Ian, and keep up the good work. We wish you well in the year to come as the Deputy Chair of the whole of Balule!

At the beginning of my elected term, I set out with a few objectives. One of these was to meet as many Grietjies as possible! During all my chats and travels I picked up a common thread. Even though we are all diverse in our cultures and lives, Grietjies are committed and dedicated people. This is such a wonderful attitude and I can see this Reserve going from strength to strength. Sometimes we can get a bit frustrated and excited about things, but in the end of the day our common goals will be the same!

The community project at #40 has been completed. The owner is very grateful for the assistance and delighted with the end result! We managed to collect a good sum of money from the scrap metal on the property to off-set against the cost of the project. Stoffel du Toit #35 made and sponsored lovely sleeper wood benches for picnic spot #3. He has also committed to make more benches for the other picnic spots. Thank you, Stoffel. The community projects are by no means complete and I trust that the new elected committee will carry on with this initiative. Thank you, to everybody who contributed during the year by giving donations and labour. A special thanks to Oom Teuns for always proving us with transport!

In the previous newsletter I asked if any owners will be prepared to open their properties to fellow owners for traversing. I had no response?



As I sit and write to you, our “Judges” are busy with the final round of judging the monthly winners of “Capture the Moment” photos. Thank you to the “Judges” for volunteering and to every person who entered their photos. We will publish the top 10 photos in this newsletter. The 3 winners will be amongst them. Thus, if you see your photo, please ensure that you are at the AGM to possibly be announced a winner! Thank you to the sponsors of the prizes, Adrian Hayes #80, Graham Crystal#83 and Lorna Sacks #117.

Mhangela has advised me that the “Baby Impala” competition will run on an annual basis. The rut has started a bit earlier this year.....keep your spotting eyes open nearer to the time! Thank you, Jens and Jaco, for your generosity.



Accolades to the owners of #39 and #76, for painting their houses in bush colours. We LOVE it! The houses “disappeared” in the surrounding landscape. If you are planning any construction in the future, please get in touch with Jaco #54. He will gladly assist and advise on compliance with the Building Guidelines. Remember that it is all about our footprint!

Speeding and litter seems to be an ongoing problem here on Grietjie. These topics will be discussed at the upcoming AGM. Think of solutions so long, as we already know what the problems are!

Lastly but not least, I would like to thank all Grietjies for giving me an opportunity to serve on the Committee and placing their trust in me. Thank you for all the encouragement along the way. I had my fair share of personal bumps on occasions, which made me a bit despondent at times. Always after a chat to Grietjies, I realised that my problems can also be overcome and that I must keep looking forward and keep our goals in sight! I will carry on wearing my Grietjie Cap with distinction in the years to come!

Kind regards

Antoinette

P.S. Caps with the Grietjie Logo will be for sale at the AGM at R100 each.

P.P.S. Please arrive early for the AGM to allow ample time for registration, for a cup of refreshment and lovely bites to eat. See you soon.

**1) SECURITY AND ACCESS CONTROL/FENCE**

Doreen / Grietjie fence removed.

New Fence on R40 concluded except last 100 m.

Followed two sets of tracks crossing the river by the railway bridge from Rusermi into Doreen, across Grietjie towards Moreslag fence and out on the R40 on the corner of Maseke and Paul.

**2) GAME MANAGEMENT:**

All animals in good condition.

Good Lion and Leopard sightings on Grietjie and Doreen

Good Buffalo, sightings on Doreen/Paul.

**3) VEGETATION:**

Good grass cover away from river for this time of year.

**4) CLIMATE AND RAINFAL**

387mm for the season.

Temperatures in mid to high 20's evenings cool and mornings chilly.

**5) ROADS:**

Cold weather prohibits the use of cold mix to repair potholes.

Roads to dry to grade.

**6) GENERAL.**

There are still game viewers either without prescribed stickers or no stickers on doors and back.

Maintenance done on Land Cruiser.

**Community Projects**

### Capture of the Moment competition

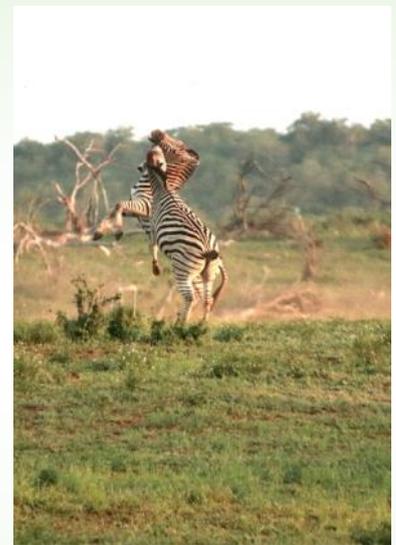
After the final round of judging, which was an extremely difficult task, the judges selected these photos as the top scorers. The 3 winning photos are amongst them and will be announced at the AGM. Thus if you see your own photo, please attend the AGM to claim your possible prize!

Thank you to our judges and every person who took part in our competition!

Kind regards.

Antoinette Hayes

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Berg Road fun

A few days ago Mopaya Game Lodge invited the residents of Berg View road to join them on a safari in Maseke Game Reserve and a dinner thereafter at the Lodge. Naturally, everybody jumped at opportunity to go on the drive! What a wonderful experience! The landscape is magnificent and the game viewing did not disappoint either. We were fortunate enough to find a pack of wild dogs, just as they made an impala kill. This sighting was incredible and the cherry on the top of the whole experience. After all the excitement of seeing the wild dogs, we arrived back at Mopaya Lodge where the rest of the staff welcomed us warmly and treated us like Royalty. A sumptuous dinner was served to end the perfect day in the bush. We would like to sincerely thank Oscar and Michel for the generosity, hospitality and the good will they show towards their neighbours in Berg Road.

From the Residents of Berg View Road

