



Under the Baobab

Editor: Michel Zwaan

A reminder of the AGM taking place on the 25th 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

Chairman's report by Ian Nowak

ON THE BANKS OF THE OLIFANTS:

Warm greetings from a chilly (for here) Grietjie! The "winter" has set in, and the grass is being replaced by sand. There have been some great sightings all over the last month, and I have been really lucky lately. It is really a special place to live. I never thought I would enjoy "traffic jams" on the way to meetings so much!

Protected Area Application: Unfortunately our application (Balule) is still at LEDET. I will be attending a meeting in 2 weeks where the progress of our application will be discussed. LEDET, SANPARKS, Conservation outcomes and Balule representatives will be present. This is a positive sign as the meeting was convened by SANPARKS to discuss the apparent delay of the Balule application.

I will give feedback on this meeting in the next issue.

Road / Gate: The feedback we have received from the attorneys of Maseke (Sean Nielson). Unfortunately they have expressed concerns about certain clauses pertaining to Rob5 in the servitude agreement. Our attorneys have responded and we are trying to facilitate a speedy resolution so that the servitude can be signed and lodged.

AGM: A reminder of the AGM taking place on the 25th 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.

Balule: On Saturday the 14th of July the Balule AGM will take place. With 12 regional chairs, and the wardens attending the Balule meetings, they can be rather cumbersome and not always as productive as they could be. Therefore the regions recently agreed to a "cluster" system.

Balule will be divided into 3 clusters, namely the Southern, Central and Northern cluster. Each cluster will elect 2 representatives to attend the quarterly Exco meeting. Each cluster will have their meeting prior to the Exco meeting. Both the chairs and vice chairs from each region within the cluster will attend their cluster meeting.

The following positions will be permanent Exco members: Chair, vice chair and treasurer. Therefore the Exco meetings will be these 3 elected officials plus the 6 regional cluster representatives (2 per cluster).

The current chairman Mr Rob Garmany will be stepping down. The AGM will therefore elect the new Exco members and the 6 cluster representatives.

Speeding: We are in the process of arranging speed traps at various times and places in the reserve. A common problem is the burden of proof when one suspects someone of speeding. These traps will give us a proper indication of speed and can be reviewed by the driver. The legal issues relating to the punishment of offenders on servitude roads are being investigated. For now these traps will give us a better idea of the perpetual offenders. We are hoping to present a more complete solution at the AGM.

Collared Elephants: Thanks to those that have posted on the group when seeing a collared elephant. The bull Elon has been on Grietjie recently. Please remember to post if you see one!

Until next time,

From the banks of the Olifants.



From the vice chair

This year is our second winter on Grietjie. Last year I thought that Grietjie does not know the meaning of “cold”. When looking at the weather forecast over the past week, I still believe we have wonderful weather for this time of the year, even though the winter woollies have come out of the closet to keep us protected against the icy wind. We are slowly starting to acclimatize.

I would like to welcome the following new owner to the Grietjie Community:

#102 Chris Strydom

I had a request from an owner to look at the possibility to open up some more roads to drive on Grietjie. This is a good incentive and the intention is commendable. I request all owners who would like to participate in such an arrangement and open some roads on their properties in a reciprocating manner, to please get in contact with me. Send me an email (antoinette@malapa.co.za) and I can put interested parties in contact with each other.

In last month's newsletter I asked for suggestions for the community projects. I have received only a few suggestions. If you can think of any improvements you would like to see on Grietjie, please let me know. Jaco and I have started the next community project on #40. By the time you are reading this newsletter, we hope to have the project near completion. Should you desire to help, whether physical labour, material sponsorship or financial donations, please let us know.

The Judges for the “Capture the moment” photo competition will be doing the final judging in the near future. Winners will be announced at the annual general meeting.

Stray domestic cats seem to have become a regular issue lately. After reading the comments of the Chat group, I would like to remind Grietjies that our Constitution (Section 11) is quite clear that domestic pet may be kept on Grietjie, providing that:

- All cats be sterilised to prevent cross breeding with indigenous African Wild Cats.
- We keep the number of domestic cats and dogs to a minimum with a view to reducing their numbers
- All dogs and cats be vaccinated against Rabies
- We keep our pets confined to the vicinity of their homes or restrained on a leash when not near their homes.

It would be a good idea if owners get pet collars with a name tag and a telephone number. At least we will be able to reunite a cat and owner if we have this information available. I am not sure if these cats are pets that have gone astray or if these are domestic cats that have become feral? I sometime also hear dogs barking, including my own dogs! As a pet owner we will never be able to totally hush our dogs, but please use common sense and investigate when your dog barks incessantly. There might be a predator or snake they are trying to alert you to. It is also a good idea to have your dogs confined to an area when it gets dark or even better inside your home!

I recently learnt that Tannie Maryna Trollip was admitted to hospital. Gladly she is back on Grietjie and we wish her well.

Until next time

Antoinette



P.S. During the week whilst driving I found a BIG INYOKA at the foot of Grietjie Berg. I hope the INYOKA stays appeased! I have just finished my house after the January Storm, the winds are blowing and the dams are drying up.....

1) SECURITY AND ACCESS CONTROL/FENCE

In the process of removing Doreen / Grietjie fence.
New Fence on R40 in progress.

2) GAME MANAGEMENT:

All animals in good condition.
Small Elephant breeding herds scattered on Grietjie.
Good Buffalo, sightings on Doreen/Paul.
Aggressive Elephant breeding herd on Doreen.
Sad to say all of the darted lions tested positive for TB, one borderline.
Monitor two cripple Buffalo cows, one on Grietjie and other one on Paul/Doreen.

3) VEGETATION:

Bush turning yellow.
No grass along the river. Good grass cover further up towards our border.

4) CLIMATE AND RAINFAL

1mm rain for July at the Grietjie gate. 387mm for the season.
Temperatures in mid to high 20`s evenings cool and mornings chilly.

5) ROADS:

Graded most of the roads
Received 400 bags of cold mix for road repairs. We will start with repairs if weather permits (need the sun to heat up the cold mix)

6) GENERAL.

Receive reports of domestic cats wonder around on the Reserve. Please take note that all cats need to be sterilized to preven breeding with African wild cats.



Wayne's World



A BUSH LOVE LETTER.

My Dear Moon Shadow

Did I tell you that I wear your lovely name on my heart like a fresh baobab flower? to remind myself of the sweet fragrance of your memory; and the dainty elegant innocence of our love festooned on the mighty African giant's bosom so that none can assail our sincerity?

Teach me how to live in this dark fire scorched bushveld and yet remain untainted by the soot of its controversies. I saw you saunter across a burnt field, with dignified grace, it was black and peppered with white ash, but not a speck of dust could besmirch your saintly feet and character. Was that done on purpose or put on show to enthrall my conquered heart? I know one thing only, how you have given my life a new meaning. I see the world differently now, and everything calls me to the higher purpose of your love and our love.

The russet bushwillow pods are ripe and bright and sing of your beauty; but cannot hope to rival the beauty of your eloquent spots. The mopane leaves have turned scarlet in their blushing at your breath-taking presence. And the Bishop of the bush, the Right Reverend Fish Eagle cannot wait to recite your homily. It's a morning song of hope and scours the open woodlands in search of slumbering dreams and ambitions.

I see myself in your eyes, not my image, but what I could become with you, a magnificent hero yet to imprint his spoor on the mighty dry Shingwedzi river bed. In your eyes I rise taller than the iridescent bright fever tree, and beyond reach of the rasping tongue of giraffe.

I want you to know that I am waiting for you. It is not fear that pounds in my heart, but Africa's ancient rhythm, the love beat of the world, that evokes only the best within us.

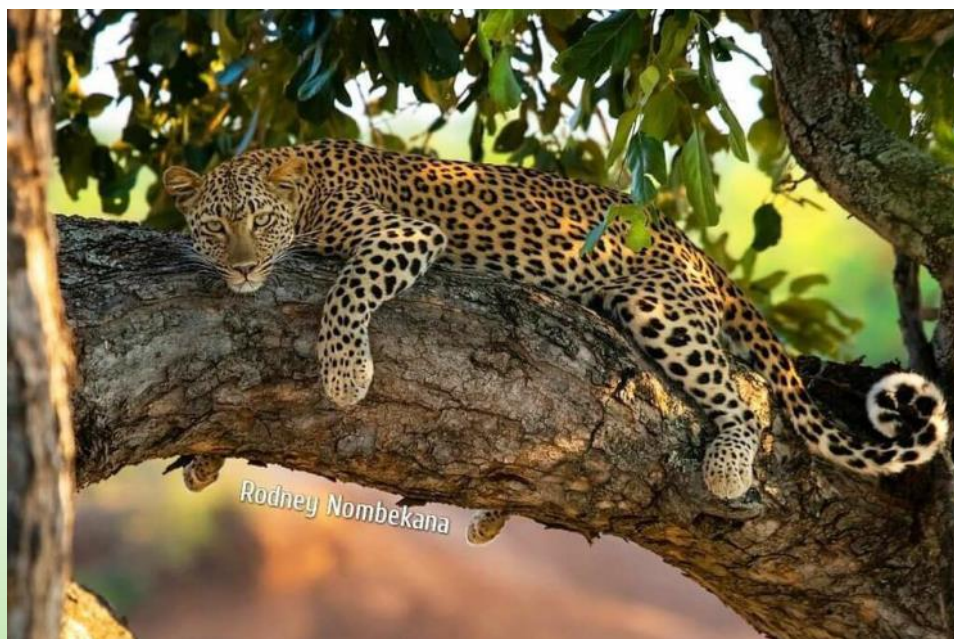
I love you my Moon Shadow - with the tumultuous evening aerial display and song of the African weaver birds. Can any spectacle tug at our heartstrings with so much dint of love and desire rolled into one? It is the true force of love; and I am waiting patiently in the Marula tree for the sunset to speak of your beauty and sweet love.

I love you always

LONG TAILED INGWE

Leopard son
Kruger National Park
South Africa.

Copyright Ralph Sibande
Photo by Rodney Nombekana



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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)

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