



Under the Baobab

Editor: Michel Zwaan

Chairman's report by Ian Nowak

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by Ian Nowak

ON THE BANKS OF THE OLIFANTS:

An early winters greeting from Grietjie! The autumn shades are now sweeping over the reserve. The bush however, still looks relatively good for this time of year. I am still enjoying the break from the heat!

Protected Area Application: Not much has changed since last month; we did however receive the PA application endorsement from KNP's Executive Manager Mr Glen Phillips for Grietjie properties specifically. This has been given in by the consultants.

E-Vote: The results of the recent e-vote were communicated to all via email. Thank you to everyone that cast their vote. The "voter turnout" was fantastic. We will proceed in accordance with the mandates received. At the time of writing we were still waiting for Maseke to sign the servitude agreement. Their attorneys have advised us that we will receive their comments shortly.

AGM: Please diarise the 25th of August 2018, this is the date set for our AGM. Please make every effort to attend if possible.

Balule: The process of formally combining as a new region in Balule is underway. The farms next door have signed the Balule inclusion agreements and the Balule constitution. The Balule committee will be asked to ratify their inclusion soon. Once this has happened the new GDP region will be in place. The region's size of 5835 Ha makes us the 4th largest voting region out of 12. We were 8th.

Sections of the Doreen fence have already been removed and the materials have been moved for use on the R40 fence. This removal will continue over the next few weeks.

Speeding: We the recent increase in incidents and altercations regarding speeding, we are aggressively pursuing our options in dealing with this problem. In next month's edition we will communicate what measures will be taken / introduced. If you are unfortunate enough to witness any vehicle causing injury to any animal whatsoever, please record the registration number and report it to Antoinette Hayes. Any photographs will be a great help.


Collared Elephants: Please post on the sightings group if you see an elephant with a collar. We would like to keep a record of the individuals that frequent our area.

Grietjie Clothing: Grietjie caps are for sale at the gate for R 100. All proceeds go to the reserve.

Until next time,

From the banks of the Olifants.






ANTARES Field Guide


TRAINING CENTRE

www.antares.co.za


GAME DRIVES & BUSH WALKS


Accompany Ian, a qualified FGASA guide with 30 years experience, on a 3-4 hour game drive within the Big 5 reserves of Grietjie and Doreen






Enjoy a morning bush walk on Grietjie reserve and experience some of the hidden wonders of the bush





Ian Owtram

From
R400/person
Base rate R1200
min 1 person



Cell:0832868281

From the vice chair

Oom Blackie indulged us and kept his pets (Aka Maseke Males) quiet last night! After a peaceful nights' sleep, this is the perfect morning to put pen to paper!

I congratulate Hans and Sharon Schmid whom are now the new owners of property 37.

I had a request from owners asking for the opportunity to recommend some future community projects. Please take the time and email me (antoinette@antares.co.za) with some suggestions of the things you would like to see happen on Grietjie. Jaco and I will value any input received. I would like to thank Baluleni Lodge for their cash contribution. I have also received financial pledges toward community projects from Muweti Lodge, Hans Schmid and Ian Lourens. Thank you.

I would like to commend all the Grietjies who took part in the "Capture the moment" photo competition. During the month of June and July the "Judges" have an opportunity to re-judge all the winning monthly entries. The final winners will be announced at the AGM. We have had many special moments captured and I think the judges will have a difficult time deciding on the eventual winner! In my eyes, all the entries were winners, but then I am not a judge, thank goodness!



On to a more unpleasant topic. The speeding on Grietjie seems to be a never ending problem. As much as we all like to think that all speedsters are visitors, contractors or passers through the Reserve, this is certainly not always the case. Some owners also speed whilst driving. I BEG of you, Grietjie, to lead by example and keep to the speed limit. Should you encounter someone doing a game drive, let's be courteous enough to slow down, take a few minutes, enjoy the sighting as well and be on your merry way. I had a report from a Lodge with traumatised international guests just recently. As the Lodge vehicle was stationary, a white SUV came speeding down the road. Guests were waving the vehicle down but, to no avail. The Game viewer stopped to watch a tortoise cross the road. I place this photo for you to see the consequences of speeding.

It certainly leaves a very bitter taste in my mouth! You can imagine that the foreign tourists were aghast and traumatised. Is this the image we would like to portray of Grietjie?

As the winter is now upon us, the veld will become sparser. Please remove any rubble that will now become visible on your property. Since I have arrived here, I have literally removed bakkie loads of rubble from property 80. To me it seems like an endless job, as this property grows rusted wires faster than grass! I have been told that it will take years to remove every piece of old metal, rusted wire, broken glass and plastic, but I will just keep at it and eventually succeed! I am not just doing this for my own satisfaction, but I endeavour to make the property a safe place for creatures big and small. After all, soon I will be the proud owner of Protected Area property!

Keep warm and snug. Until next time.

Antoinette

"Capture of the moment" competition

Scavenger and prey

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder



Sightseeing Tours

ANTARES Field Guide

TRAINING CENTRE

Panorama Tour including 3 Rondawels & Bourke's Luck Potholes

Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre

Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre

Ian Owtram : 0832868281 www.antares.co.za



The Warden's Indaba by Gerrie van Zyl

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.
Good sightings of Lion and Elephant breeding herds on Grietjie.
Good Buffalo, Lion and leopard sightings on Doreen/Paul.
Good sightings of Wild dog on G.D.P.
Please be aware of aggressive Elephant breeding herd on Doreen, Chased at least two cars.
As most of you know by now. Dr. Rogers Dated 5 out of the 6 Maseke male Lions, took blood and tissue samples for TB and microchip them. The test results is not out yet, will keep you posted. Unfortunately, the skinny male did not make it and was destroyed.

3) VEGETATION:

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

4) CLIMATE AND RAINFAL

Only 8mm of rain for May and June to date at the Grietjie gate. 386mm for the season.
Temperatures in mid to high 20` s evenings cool and mornings chilly.

5) ROADS:

Grade most of the roads

6) GENERAL.

We had a situation where people were walking with rifles on Grietjie roads in the morning. In the evening I got the message, I contacted Johan to find out if it was the anti-poaching guys, he confirms it was not. After investigation I found out it was two guides from one of the lodges. All of this investigation would not have been necessary if the guides had just send me a message with location where they intend to walk.
The same apply for workers walking on the roads, whether we like it or not our area became a hotspot for Rhino poachers and any human tracks will be followed, it makes our job difficult and unnecessary.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDS | PROJECT MANAGEMENT | PLUMBING | POOLS | ELECTRICAL | ARCHITECTURE |
TEL: TONY 083 675 8123 EMAIL: antennata@meshuasp.co.za



Where Quality is the Difference

- As a Grietjie Owner we understand and appreciate the intricacies of building in this beautiful place.
- Whether its contemporary or traditional bush style we can help you with your medium to large scale building project every step of the way.
- We offer full turnkey solutions to our clients - from the conceptual stage to the completion of your project.
- We are registered with the National Home Builders Registration Council.

Game Drives in Central Kruger Park



Experience Kruger Park with a professional Field Guide




Half Day Safaris
From R950 excl conservation fees

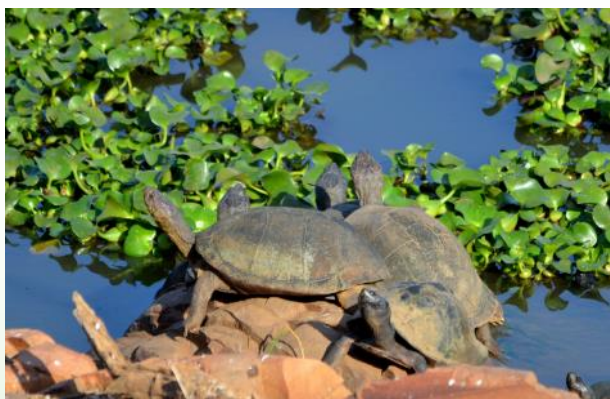
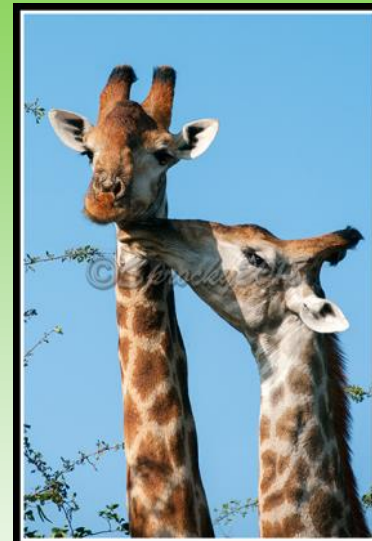
Full Day Safaris
inc. Lunch



Ian Owtram : 0832868281 www.antares.co.za



Wayne's World



Penga n'Dlovu Customs



Handmade

- **For all your handmade knives.**
 - **For all your sharpening of your kitchen knives**
- Come to plot 77 or dial
071- 9033270**