

# RV NEWS BULLETIN

MAY 2015

## 1. Lost items

We have a set of small binoculars which were handed in by a resident. If you have lost them please call in at the office.

## 2. Ecology

### 2.1 Female Leopard

The female leopard has returned time and again to the northern side of the Estate. After discussion with various stakeholders it was decided to relocate her to another estate some distance away.

Over the past few months the story of a young leopard on the estate has intrigued and fascinated many of us. It is, of course, not the only leopard in the area but it has been the focus of attention due to its very relaxed behaviour in close proximity to people. This situation is potentially very dangerous, compounded by the fact that the leopard had settled in the vicinity of the school. It was necessary to do something to mitigate the risk to both people and the animal.

On 9 April a meeting was held to discuss this potential threat, particularly to the school, and to decide on an appropriate course of action. The meeting included members of the RVHOA Board, the SCS Board, a local leopard conservationist and an experienced wildlife vet. At this meeting it was agreed that the leopard should be caught, collared and relocated to a site far away from the school on the other end of the estate. A trap was set on the school property and the leopard was caught on the morning of 23 April. A satellite collar was fitted and it was released on 29 April.

Within a few minutes it managed to remove the collar and returned to the northern part of the estate. The trap was set and the leopard was caught on Monday 11 May. Once again the collar was fitted and it was released at the southern-most point of the estate. This time the leopard was unable to remove the collar and it was possible to monitor its movements by means of the six downloads per day. It was established that it had made quite a journey, first in a south-easterly direction and then east and eventually back to the northern part of the estate where it arrived on Sunday 17 May.

After the leopard's return, another meeting of all the stakeholders was held on Tuesday 19 May to decide on an appropriate course of action. On advice of the experts it was agreed to relocate the leopard to a site far enough away that it could not return. Its unusual behaviour increased the risk of interaction with people. If there was an unfortunate incident then the leopard would have to be put down. The stakeholders unanimously agreed with this decision.

Towards the end of last week the leopard was caught and the collar removed. It was taken to an appropriate location and released into a wildlife area. It is believed that this course of action is in the best interests of all concerned.

**We remind everybody on the estate that leopards are wild animals and extreme caution must be exercised.**

## **2.2 Estate tours**

We have the names of a few people who responded to our offer to be taken around the Estate to see how it is managed – if you are interested please let the office know. The tours will be conducted by either Byron Wright or Hugh Marshall.

## **2.3 Wild dogs**

Much excitement has been experienced this week with sightings of a pack of wild dogs on the estate. We are told that they are currently denning in Zandspruit. We expect to see more of them over the next few months so if you spot them, please do not hinder traffic and respect the privacy of other members.

**We remind everybody on the estate that all our animals are wild and extreme caution must be exercised.**

## **3 Capital Projects**

### **3.1 Water Storage Project**

We are now in the final stages of the planning and will be hosting an information evening in June to present the details. However to prevent delay in installation we will be doing some site preparation work ahead of this meeting.

After the upgrade we envisage an overall increase in water pressure. We advise residents to install pressure relief valves in their water supply lines if you have not already done so in order to limit potential over-pressurization of the system.

## **4. Leadwood Traverse**

In a recent Leadwood Homeowners Association meeting the following modification to the traversing rights for RV homeowners was decided:

From 1 July 2015 any Raptor's View owners wishing to traverse over the Leadwood property must do so in a proper game viewing open vehicle painted in Mala Mala green as required of all Leadwood homeowners. However, traversing on the main road - Leadwood Drive - from the main gate through to the Bloubank boundary would be permissible in other vehicles. Access through the Leadwood main gate is restricted since the gate is only manned during working hours on week days. Arrangements for access will need to be made with the Leadwood Homeowners Association (at Jordan Properties) unless the person has access to Welverdiend and can therefore enter from the Bloubank side. All people wanting to use the Leadwood properties are now required to buy a windscreen sticker (or a body sticker for game viewers) with immediate effect. The Leadwood Homeowners Association reserves the right to terminate such a decision.

## **5. Information Evening**

We are planning an information evening during the month of June to present the following:

- The conversion of the Articles of Association into a Memorandum of Incorporation
- Review of the proposed Estate Rules
- An update on The Water Storage and Electrical Upgrade Projects
- Feedback concerning the relocation of the young female leopard

All relevant information will be distributed timeously.

## 6. Facebook Page

We have created a Facebook page called **Raptors View Wildlife Estate (community)**. The purpose is to share issues of common interest to members but it is not intended to replace official notices and bulletins. Have a look and if you have any suggestions for improvement please send these to the RVHOA Office (rvhoa@mweb.co.za)

## 7. Resignation of Anthony Cavill-Taylor

Anthony Cavill-Taylor has resigned from the board due to work opportunities abroad.

Anthony wrote to the Board advising of his offer to develop tourism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His family will however remain in Hoedspruit.

Anthony expressed his gratitude to the team and for the privilege of Chairing the Board for three years. He made further mention of the good work done by Brian Brink, Keith Hartshorne, Richard Braun, Byron Wright, Hugh Preston and the late Jack Clarke and David Golightly. He thanked Hugh Marshall and Sarah and Derek Solomon for speaking for those that cannot – our precious wildlife – and to Roz Saverton for managing the RVHOA Office so effectively.

The Board wish to thank Anthony for his invaluable contribution to the estate and wish him and the family everything of the best in the future.