

ESTATE NEWS

AGM

Please diarise Saturday 19 August 2017 as the date set aside for the estate AGM. Further documentation and information will be circulated to owners nearer the time.

Waste & Recycling

There have been a number of enquiries regarding our waste collection and, in particular, our recycling program. As a result we have looked into the effectiveness of our recycling effort and have identified the following challenges:

- 1 The amount of waste collected from residents has increased enormously due to the additional houses built and occupied in recent years. Times allocated for staff to separate recyclables is thus under pressure
- 2 The collection of recyclables is currently not frequent enough and as a result our containers and storage areas are overflowing.
- 3 Many households are not following the set guides and are mixing wet waste with their recyclables.
- 4 A number are putting their wet waste in the coloured bags and recyclables into black bags.

Management can address items 1 and 2 by changing our schedules, acquiring additional storage space and negotiating with the recycling company, which we are in the process of doing. However, items 3 and 4 can only be resolved if we have full co-operation from all the residents of the estate.

Please assist us by adhering to the following simple guidelines:

Recyclable waste includes the following:

- hard plastics i.e. yogurt containers and cool drink bottles
- glass i.e. wine bottles and jam jars
- tins i.e. beer cans
- paper and cardboard boxes

Put only recyclables in the coloured bags; there is no need to separate recyclable items into different bags.

Put non recyclables in black bags only (our staff will not process these bags at all).



Bird Hide Bridge

The RV team has recently replaced the pedestrian bridge at Guinea fowl dam.

Here are the team hard at work.



Bush Breakfast

It seems the idea of a winter bush breakfast is not that appealing so plans have been shelved.

Pets

This remains a sensitive subject, however the Association is governed by the rules that members have voted for and the current rules state “No dogs, cats or any domestic animal or birds, caged or otherwise, or domesticated wildlife, are permitted on the estate”.

Should a pet be found, the Board of Directors will take action in accordance with these rules. We are aware that “there are pets on the estate”, but as we are not always notified who it is flouting the rules we cannot act upon empty allegations or assumptions.

If you are one of the residents who is not complying, please remember that the contravention of this rule is not only against the spirit of the estate, but also unfair towards other members who have had to give up their pets in order to live on Raptor's View.

Short Term Rentals

The issue of short term rentals has cropped up again and we hereby remind you of the RVHOA stance on short term rentals as per the current Home Owner's Rules:

“No short term rentals of less than 30 consecutive days shall be permitted.” Those homeowners who are not complying with these rules, whether inadvertently or consciously, please adhere to them in future.

Drinking Water Quality

We have had our drinking water tested. The results have shown the water quality to be good except for the coliform count that was present. This count could possibly be due to contamination during collection of water samples, or due to the overnight transport to the laboratory. The test results in this regards may be skewed.

Items that were not tested for were total residual chlorine count and turbidity, both of which give good indications of water quality. We have also started investigating the treatment of our water supply as well as the treatment facility. Some areas of concern have been raised, but all results are pending further investigation and discussions.

In conclusion we cannot yet fairly comment on the quality of water, nor advise you if it is safe to drink. To date no one, to our knowledge, has become sick due to our water supply quality but should you have reservations please boil your water or purchase treated water. We will keep you informed as further information comes to light.

Planned Eskom Outage

Please note that Eskom has issued the following advisory:

Date : 07 June 2015
Duration : 06:00am to 18:00pm
Feeder : HOEDSPRUIT

Please ensure that electrical appliances are disconnected and regard all installations as live.

Eskom apologises for the inconvenience, for more information call the Eskom Contact Centre on 086 003 7566

WILDLIFE NEWS



Giraffe Control

During the last game count we had 34 giraffe on the estate, and they have reproduced exceptionally well with many new additions in the last season, in spite of it being a dry one. The current market availability for giraffe is limited, and the prices for live giraffe are very low. There is a critical need to reduce the numbers of giraffe on the estate, or at least limit future population growth, especially since we are apparently not out of a drought cycle as yet.

After consultation with the Eco Committee and Dr Rogers, your board has decided to sterilise the sexually active bulls by means of a simple castration procedure. This will limit population growth during this dry period, and new bulls would be brought onto the estate at a later stage to ensure genetic diversity, whilst females could again be removed in a time of plenty. This program will take place on an ad hoc basis when Dr Rogers has the available time to assist us.

Snares

We have had two recent incidents of animals with snares in phase two of the estate. A Nyala bull was darted and the snare removed, and the second was an impala ram reported only last week. We have not had any snaring on the estate in the last 8 years.

This is very concerning; and should anyone be caught placing snares on the estate, they will be apprehended and charged as poachers. Please report any suspicious activity.



Leopards and Other Predators

Wild dogs continue to come in and out of the estate, hyena have been reported regularly, and there have been increased leopard sightings of late. Some of the leopard sightings have occurred during day light just after sunrise and just before sunset.

These are popular times for residents to be out walking and cycling so the chances of coming across one or more of these animals is increasing. Please be extremely alert and remember these are wild animals.



Feeding Stations

Activity at the feeding stations has increased during May; the feeding stands on the northern side of the estate are utilized most frequently - especially by waterbuck and zebra. We have also seen an increase in the number of warthog coming onto the estate from other neighbouring estates.

Feed is put out most days and the feeding stands topped up regularly.

The increased warthog numbers need to be controlled and culling activity will take place in June.

Camera Trap Survey



Jeremy Bolton of Bushcam Safaris, has recently completed his camera trap survey on the estate. A short write up will be shared in the next issue of The Raptor and the full report will be uploaded to our website in due course.

Below are some interesting general statistics received from the survey:

- 1 Camera traps were set up at 59 different locations on the estate between 29 March 2017 and 10 May 2017.
- 2 In aggregate they were installed for 1149 “trap nights” The median duration of a camera at each location was 19 days.
- 3 Almost 45 000 images were recorded during this period but all non-wildlife photos were deleted when seen. These included human and vehicle shots as well as “blanks”
- 4 From the above approximately 32 000 images were retained for further analysis
- 5 Just over 3 500 “events” were recorded from the above. An event could include a single animal walking past the camera or a herd of animals standing in front of the camera for hundreds of images.
- 6 In total 35 mammal species were recorded. Two were only seen through the fence, namely brown hyena and eland. This represents excellent species diversity and can be compared to my recent survey in Kruger where only 25 species were recorded – and this included the big 5.
- 7 The camera that recorded the greatest diversity of species was located on the southern fence (23 different species). This was followed by the one on the western fence where the Zandspruit tributary crosses under the fence into Zandspruit estate.