



News Letter September 2019

Water tanks

The town of Hoedspruit has in the past few weeks experienced numerous days without water, mainly due to a contractor breaking the main supply line. The most recent event was caused when it was not noticed that the pumps and pipes from the Blyde River were not actually supplying any water. Residents can be thankful to all that had the foresight to have the water tanks installed, sparing many an unwanted wash in the pool...

Pollution

Unfortunately, this trend seems to be continuing. Some residents and/or their guests are showing complete disrespect for the environment in which we stay. Litter is often found near the roads, simply thrown out of the vehicle, or is left behind when visiting the various dams or the bird hide. This not only poses a danger to wildlife ingesting it or being cut on the glass but is also unsightly to anyone entering or staying on Raptors View.

If anyone is seen discarding their rubbish anywhere in Raptors View, they will receive a minimum fine of R2000. Please report any offenders to the office immediately.

Feeding of wildlife

We are still receiving reports of wildlife, especially Vervet Monkeys, posing a risk to residents when looking for food. Some monkeys have become habituated to food being placed outside, even if only for the birds. They will not hesitate to attack humans if they feel threatened or want to access the food. Two monkeys had to be caught from houses this month.

There was also an incident where a Nyala bull died from ingesting mealies. A post mortem was conducted by Dr Peter Rogers. Although these pictures may be graphic, it is necessary to inform residents of the effects that their actions have.



It is against the Homeowners Rules section 4.2 to feed any wildlife or birds on the Estate, and a fine of R2000 for a first offence will be imposed on anyone caught.

Baboon patrol

After consideration, the staff members who have been doing the baboon patrols will be withdrawn from this function. It is felt that this is an ineffective utilisation of staff and also not very effective. If you do notice baboons causing damage to property, please advise management as soon as possible so that the necessary steps can be taken.

Domestic pets

No domestic animals may be brought onto Raptors View and/or kept as pets, as per Rule 5.10 of the Homeowners rules. We occasionally receive reports of dogs barking, and action will be taken against offending residents. NO cats, dogs, reptiles, birds, rodents or any such pets are allowed on the estate. If pets are found in your possession or at your home, you will immediately receive a heavy penalty and instruction to remove the pet from the estate.

The penalty will be doubled for every additional day that the animal remains on the estate illegally.

Game

Management are continuing to put out Lucerne and grass for the game. This is done twice a week at ten stations. Antelope lick blocks have also been placed at three sites since the beginning of September. Blocks are formulated with specialised vitamins and minerals, which supplement important trace minerals. The animals are generally in a good condition despite the drought. We will continue feeding throughout the spring and into summer, depending on the rainfall patterns.

Game capture

To date we have managed to capture the following animals from Raptors View:

Burchell's Zebra – 10

Giraffe: 10

Kudu: 10

Waterbuck: 10

Impala: 33

Due to the small groups of Impala, the cost of catching them is astronomical, although the capture costs are borne by the capture company. There are still two giraffe and a few Nyala to be caught. We have resorted to culling Impala and Warthog, in an effort to reduce the pressure on the veld.

In September, 47 impala and 21 warthog were culled. The removals are based on the figures recommended by Dr Mike Peel following the last biomass and game census studies that were conducted by him.

Speeding

We are doing random speed trapping and heavy penalties for breach of this rule are being handed out. Please remember that the speed limit is 30km/h.

In addition, we have joggers, walkers and cyclists constantly using the estate roads, part of the reason why people came to live here. Please keep to the speed limit and slow down around pedestrians and cyclists to minimise their dust. This is just polite behaviour.

Speeding also poses a risk to our wildlife, especially when attempting to cross the road. Bear in mind that we stay in a wildlife estate and need to respect the habitat.

Furthermore, in the breach of the rules, speeding penalties (as displayed at both the estates entrances) are as follows:

- 31 to 34km/h (R250)
- 35 to 39 km/h (R500)
- 40 to 44 km/h (R750)
- 45+ km/h (R1000 to R2000)

These are currently under review by the Board and new penalties will be published once approved.

Painting of satellite dishes

Thank you to the residents who have made the effort to have their satellite dishes painted. There are, however, still dishes that are not painted. Please note that all satellite dishes need to be painted the same colour as the exterior walls of the house, as per Architectural Rule 18.1. If not painted, they are an eyesore for other residents and can be seen from far off.

Fire

Due to the dry conditions currently being experienced, the risk of runaway fires is greatly increased.

Please take care when lighting fires, and only do so in favourable conditions, in areas specifically designed for this purpose.

We also request that any information regarding a possible veld fire be passed onto management as soon as possible, even if it just the smell of smoke, so that it can be investigated, and action taken if necessary

Members' staff security screening of all domestic workers and gardeners

Many of the domestic workers and gardeners have not been screened and had SAPS clearance done for many years, some as long as 12 years ago. This poses a security risk for Raptors View, in that some may have a criminal record, subsequent to being screened. We require that all domestic workers and gardeners be screened at Canyon Risk Security before 1 January 2020.

You are also reminded that all domestic workers and gardeners need to tap their cards in order to record their entry and exit.

Security checks at houses

Our appointed security company, Canyon Risk Security, are available to conduct random security checks on your house whilst you are away. Please contact the office should you wish to make use of this service. There is a cost of R40 per inspection applicable.

Eco sub-committee meeting

On Thursday 3rd October the Eco sub-committee walked the proposed new "Zebra trail". The trail effectively runs from the water tanks in the north, through the Aardvark trail, and ending at the bird hide at Guinea Fowl Dam. The trail will increase the area that can be traversed on the Estate, either on foot or mountain bike, also providing numerous options when linking with the other trails. The sub-committee were pleased with the idea and had an enjoyable walk. More details will be available in the near future.



Eco sub-committee at the start of the outing

Following the walk, the Eco sub-committee had a meeting regarding ways in which to improve the current environmental state of the Estate, specifically with regard to the poor soil condition. A presentation was done by Pieter Nel and Dr Cleo Graf of the Southern African Wildlife College and all members left with food for thought. Further information will be made available in future newsletters.

Roads tender

The tender for the resurfacing of the roads will be advertised again later in the week. We have had quite a few interested companies contact the office following the last tender in July (which was not awarded due to lack of response) so hopefully we will be successful this time. The tender will only be awarded in November with work to start by 13 January 2020 at the latest. If you know of any contractor who will be able to complete the tender, please get them to contact the office.