



News Letter November 2019

Festive Reminders

The festive season is a happy time for everyone staying on the estate during the holidays and it is a wonderful opportunity to use and enjoy the facilities.

The Board and staff of Raptor's View wish all residents a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2020.

Important Dates

11th December – 6th January 2020 – Roz's office will be closed.

13th December 18h00 – Contractors gate closes. No contractor activity is permitted during the closure period.

25th December – Christmas, Merry Merry to you all.

1st January 2020 – New Year's day, Happy Happy to all.

6th January 2020 – RVHOA office opens 08h30

6th January 2020 – Contractors gate and office for Contractors services re-open as per usual.

The January invoices will only be finalized after Roz has returned from her well-deserved break.

Important Contact numbers

Estate Management (emergencies only)	-	071 675 2525
RV main gate	-	015 793 1663
Canyon Risk Solutions	-	071 218 1994
Medical	-	072 170 0864
Police	-	015 799 4000
Fire Brigade Maruleng	-	015 793 0536

Waste collection dates

Waste will be collected on the following dates over the festive season:

19th December – Thursday – Phase 2 and 3 will be collected

20th December – Friday – Phase 1 will be collected

2nd January – Thursday

Take note there will be no waste collection on 27 December 2019, as the staff are on Christmas leave. The waste area will be open, with access via town.

Request for Board members

The Raptor's View Board currently consists of four members. If any member wishes to join the Board, please submit your CV to the office.

Zebra trail

The new Zebra trail has been completed. The trail links the northern section of the Estate to the Aardvark and Lion trails through the wilderness area. This obviously allows for multiple variations on the existing trails, allowing better utilisation of the estate for the adventurous residents. The trail has been walked by one of our floral gurus to identify interesting flora along the trail, and name tags will be affixed in the near future. The parking area is situated near the water storage tanks, but this does not necessarily have to be the starting point.

Distances

2.4 km from the water storage tanks to where the Zebra trail joins the Aardvark trail.

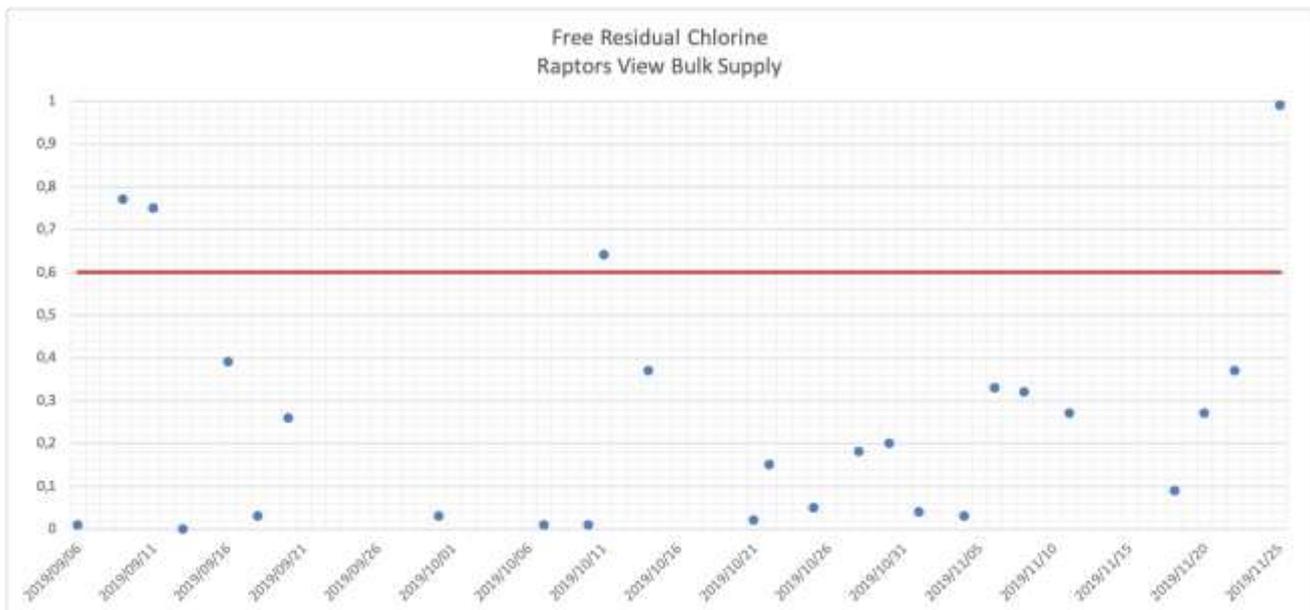
2.2 km from where the Zebra Trail leaves the Aardvark trail southwards to the bird hide.

The total distance from the water storage tanks to the bird hide is 4.9 km

Water Quality

Members would be aware of issues related to water quality in the Hoedspruit area through the media and correspondence from the General Manager. Bulk supply of water for the whole area including Hoedspruit town, Raptor's View and other estates is supplied from a Water Treatment Plant situated at Drakensig. The plant is owned, operated and maintained by the Department of Public Works.

Because of doubt relating to the bacteriological quality of the supply from Drakensig, Raptor's View purchased instrumentation to accurately measure the levels of free residual chlorine over a period of time. Measurements of free residual chlorine were taken which is an indication of the expected bacteriological quality. The benchmark adopted was Water Research Commission guidelines for minimum values of free residual chlorine to ensure effective disinfection in the distribution system. Measurements were taken at the incoming pipework at Raptor's View bulk reservoirs from the beginning of September to end of November 2019. The recommended WRC minimum free residual chlorine should be 0,6 mg/l. Following is a graph of the findings:



Obvious is the fact that the minimum required free residual chlorine was only achieved on 4 occasions in the 3 month period. This means that chlorine dosage at the treatment plant or other plant peculiarities are such that disinfection in general is not to the required standard to ensure safe drinking water for residents.

The Board of Raptor’s View suspected the above to be the situation and therefor provided for funding on the 5 year capital program for installation of a chlorine dosing facility at the Candelabra reservoirs. Quotes were invited during Oct/Nov for this purpose. The cost of equipment came to approximately R450 000.00 and with an added building would amount to approximately R600 000.00, which was considerably more than expected. An internal system will present significant operational difficulties because of the highly variable chlorine levels from Drakensig. Over dosing, which also presents health risks, would be difficult to control. Furthermore, the considerable cost and the fact that a dosing facility applying toxic chlorine gas in relative close proximity to some residences, prompted the Board to suspend the project until more feasible alternatives can be found. Alternatives associated with liquid sodium hypo chlorite were also considered.

Roads tender

A second round of public tenders in Oct/Nov proved to attract a few more prospective tenderers. A total of 5 tenders were received of which the 2 lowest were identified as preferred bidders. Unfortunately the lowest tenderer withdrew his tender at the last moment after which we held discussions with the second lowest preferred bidder. This turn of events delayed commencement of the project slightly. The roads tender was awarded to MAN (Pty) Ltd, a local company. A reduced price was negotiated agreed upon.

The tenderer will, during the limited time available in December and January 2020, develop the approved quarry for suitable material. He will establish on Raptor’s View and commence physical construction on 10 February 2020. Due to the current poor condition of the roads, material has been sourced in order for our staff to perform urgent maintenance and repairs to the roads.

The Raptor

If you have any pictures or stories you wish to have included in The Raptor, they can be emailed directly to the editor Sarah Solomon, sarah@kuyimba.com
The Raptor is an e-newsletter for Raptor's View. The Raptor is what YOU make it so please keep sending all the sightings and information.

Leopard sightings on Raptor's View

There are quite a few residents who have camera traps set up near their houses, taking pictures/videos of all sorts of interesting creatures that live on the estate. We have an owner who is interested and willing to compile a report on the leopard that frequent the estate. If you have any pictures or videos of leopard taken on the estate, please forward them to Jeremy Bolton jeremy@bushcamconsulting.com

Following the analysis of the photo and video material a report will be compiled and this information will be made available to owners.

Stand 10

The Board is pleased to announce that it has received a favourable offer to purchase on stand 10. The board signed the acceptance of offer to purchase on Friday 29 November 2019.

Staff

Gordon Breetzke has been appointed as the new Assistant Estate Manager. Gordon, born in the Eastern Cape, and now residing in Pretoria, is married and has two sons. His working career started as a ranger/field guide in the Lowveld. He is currently involved in the construction industry, although his passion lies in tourism and hospitality. Gordon will commence his duties on 1st January 2020. We welcome Gordon to the Raptor's View team.

Use of Estate staff for private work

Our estate staff are able to assist with work around your home, if required. This will obviously be done at a fee.

The estate team can assist with the following services:

- Water leaks repairs on mainlines (R 500 excluding fittings)
- Firebreaks (R 900 / day) R 112-50 / hour / 2 persons
- Trimming of trees (R 50 / hour / person)
- Bush clearing (R 1200 / day) R 150 / hour / 2 persons
- Erosion control (quoted per request)

Please note: This service is subject to availability of staff as estate work will take priority. Contact Wilna (0157930267 or info@raptorsviewhoa.co.za) should you wish to book or require any further information.

Veld monitoring plots

Following the Eco sub-committee meeting in September, several veld monitoring plots were established on the north-western section (near the Zebra trail) of the Estate. There is already a significant difference in growth between the various intervention options that were applied. This is obviously a long term monitoring programme and the true results will only be evident in a few years.

Rainfall

Wonderful rain was received during the month and there are already significant signs of the vegetation reacting to this.

However, with the heavy downpours, there was some damage to our boundary fences, and roads. The fences were repaired on the on the same day and maintenance will be done on the roads.

The rainfall figures for the month are indicated below:

Contractors' gate	152 mm
Phase 2	132 mm
Phase 3	118 mm



Due to the downpours received, several fences were badly damaged, and staff spent their Saturday repairing them.

Game capture

No nyala were caught during November. The passive capture sites were erected, but due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Limpopo province, if any animals were caught, they would not be allowed to be removed from the property due to Veterinary restrictions that have been put in place.

Once the source of the outbreak and the spread of foot and mouth disease has been contained, we will once again attempt the removal of nyala.

Security checks at houses

Our appointed security company, Canyon Risk Solutions, 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. Canyon Risk Solutions are currently running a special offer on alarm installations for those that are interested. Details can be obtained from their office on 015 004 0880.

Below is a list of Do's and Don'ts for considerate conduct on the estate

Please share them with your guests and tenants. Please give some thought to how your activities can impact those around you.

Please do!

1. Obey the speed limit of 30 km/hr at all times, this is to ensure the safety of children, animals, little creatures, joggers and cyclists on the estate.
2. Look out for cyclists, pedestrians, especially children and observe the courtesy of slowing down for oncoming traffic.
3. Give right of way to wildlife and game that frequently cross our roads including the littlies like tortoises, snakes and dung beetles.
4. Ensure that your children are safe and do not cause danger to themselves on the roads. All cyclists to please wear helmets.
5. Respect the privacy of people's homes including driveways; only approach them if you're intending to visit.
6. HAVE A GREAT STAY WITH US!

PLEASE DON'T!

1. Make any fires other than in designated areas at houses or if there are strong winds. You may not collect wood from your garden or the rest of the estate to make fires please buy in your wood. The dead trees are part of the eco system.
2. Abuse the security guards and the controlling security rules and systems in place for your security
3. Disturb our peaceful environment with loud music, electronic instruments, power tools etc.
4. Bring any domestic animals whatsoever, including rabbits, or birds, caged or otherwise onto the estate.
5. Collect or take anything from the estate, including any wood, stones, flora, fauna or the remains of fauna.
6. Feed any wildlife on the estate.
7. Litter or dispose of cigarettes on the grounds; use your bin or ashtray. Ensure bins are secure from baboons.