



News Letter August 2020

Resignation

The board would like to take this opportunity to thank Janine Scorer for her invaluable contribution to the Home Owners Association by serving on the board for the past five years. Janine has held a number of critical portfolios while on the board including ecology, security, legal and finance.

She has also served as Chairman of the board for a number of years and her contributions to our well run estate is in no small measure accredited to her dedication. Janine has resigned from the board due to her engaging in a new venture and we wish her all the best in her exciting new undertaking.

Update on Road refurbishment

The first phase of the road refurbishment project is nearing completion with the appointed contractor having completed the section from the main gate to RV 137, and then from RV 53 up to Bateleur Road.

I am sure that all residents would agree that the new surface is a vast improvement on the unsurfaced and degraded road which previously existed.

The second phase of the refurbishment, as part of the recently approved capital expenditure program, will commence in the next few weeks. This will focus on the sections from RV 137 to RV 53, and from Bateleur to Black Kite Road.

Photographs required for our new website

As you are aware we are in the process of modernizing and overhauling our website. All the script writing is now complete and being edited to submit to the designer. Our next phase is collecting photographs to populate the gallery and represent various topics. If you are interested in participating in this interesting project, please contact Lovelle Henderson on lovelle@iafrica.com to discuss our requirements. You may already have some amazing fauna, creature and flora photographs and videos in addition to photographs depicting our astonishing lifestyle on the estate which you could make available to us.

Littering

When making use of the estate, please do not discard any litter, either from your vehicle, bicycle or whilst walking. Cigarette butts, tissue paper, plastic items and glass bottles are some of the most common items found. Please take these items home with you and discard of them properly.

Donations for game feed

As you may be aware, management continued with the feeding programme for the large herbivores on the estate. A combination of grass and lucern feed bales are placed at each of the ten feeding sites twice a week. Mineral blocks are also placed at several of the sites.

Feeding of animals is not permitted by residents on the estate; however, residents wishing to support the feeding programme by making a donation can contact the office to make arrangements.

Game removals

To date the following animals have been removed from the estate through live capture and/or culling.

Specie	Proposed off-take for 2020	Removed	Still to be removed
Impala	50	50	0
Warthog	25	25	0
Giraffe	10	3	7
Waterbuck	5	1	4
Nyala	10	8	2
Kudu	6	6	0
Burchell's Zebra	7	8	0

Obtaining permits from Nature Conservation as well as sourcing buyers for the removal of giraffe is still problematic. There are, however, farms able to take a few giraffe in the next few weeks. Residents will receive notification prior to the capture.

The remaining waterbuck will probably also be captured in the coming weeks.

Prickly pear

The *Opuntia* plant or more commonly known as the “prickly pear” is part of the cactus family. The name comes from the ancient Greek city of Opus. This is where they found an edible plant that could be replanted and spread by just rooting the leaves.

The *Opuntia* plants are said to have originated from Mexico. The *Opuntia ficus-indica* is the most widespread, as well as the most commercially important species of the family. They are known to grow anywhere but take preference to arid or semi-arid areas. These plants are commercially farmed for their fruits, vegetable nopales (being the pads of the plant) and a couple of other uses.

These are perennial plants which reach a height of around 3-4 meters. The flowers are a

very distinctive yellow, white or red. The fruit is either pale green or bright red in colour. Both the plants and the fruit are covered with small hair-like thorns, which can be difficult to remove from ones skin. The fruit is eaten and used to make jams and jellies. The fruit and leaves can be boiled or cooked and eaten like a vegetable. They can also be eaten raw or blended into juices.

These plants are exotic to Southern Africa. They are an invasive species that grow easily in the wild and can become a problem, as there are not many animals and birds in Southern Africa that eat or utilize them. The fruit is readily eaten by animals, aiding the distribution of the seeds.

Raptor’s View staff have been locating and removing plants to prevent them from becoming a major problem on our estate and in the wild. Over the last eight weeks we have located and removed 42 individual plants from the estate. The plants are not thrown in the waste skips, but burnt, to avoid spreading the plants to the landfills.

Below are a couple photos of our efforts to take control of the invasive prickly pear.

Should you find prickly pear on Raptor’s View and need help to remove it, please call us and we will assist you.

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



