

Newsletter April 2022

Rainfall figures

The following rainfall has been recorded at our three stations on the estate, since July 2021.

	Jul '21	Aug '21	Sept '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22	Mar '22	Apr '22
Contractors' gate	0	0	0	14	113	121	132	29.5	62	41
Pumpstation 2	0	0	0	17.25	85	111	193.5	29.5	55.5	43.5
Phase 3	0	0	0	17.6	79	75	211.5	28	68	46

We hardly need to introduce our head of security – Mishack Khoza

Who are those friendly faces, keeping us safe at the Main Entrance Gate? Apart from their standard security duties at the main gate, they go out every day, checking fences, patrolling the estate and acting as a delivery receipt service for all the parcels delivered to Raptor's. We felt it was time to acknowledge these dedicated people. Although they are not employed directly by Raptor's View, they are invaluable members of the security company and thereby, our own team.



Mishack is security supervisor. Mish has been with us since June 2007. He is married to Fiwe and they have 4 children.

Thank you Mishack for your many years of dedicated service, your kind and friendly manner and for your genuine dedication to your task of ensuring our safety. You set a great example for your team and we hope you will be with us for many more years to come.

We will introduce other Canyon Risk team members over the next few months.

Use of Jack's Causeway

There has never been a problem with how and when residents cross the causeway. However, as the Estate has grown, with more and more permanent residents, it has been noted that vehicles are shooting across and sometimes meeting in the middle. Management feel that this is possibly because the causeway is being approached at too high a speed for the vehicle to stop once it has started on the decline. At that stage, it is quite difficult to gain the traction required to reverse.

We don't want to have to put up signs, making Raptor's look like 'Sign Town' so we are rather asking everyone to please slow down. If someone has already started the decline, let them go and wait for them to cross. If there is a vehicle close behind the first one, we feel that vehicle should also be allowed to cross.

Can trees be grown if they do not have roots to start off with?

When an owner saw that a 2m tree had to be cut down as part of site clearing in preparation for building, it was decided to plant the branch – never for a minute thinking it would grow as there were obviously no roots. It was later identified it as a Kanniedood.

The picture below shows the tree. It is alive and well and has been growing in phase 3 for the past 6 years. Since then, other branches have been planted in the same way. The longest branch is 2.5m and was planted this past summer. The two different types of Kanniedood trees applicable are the Glossy-leaved Corkwood or Blinkblaarkanniedood and the Common Kanniedood. (Thanks to Dave and Bernie Spencer for the I.D.) The branches from the Blinkblaar seem to show signs of establishing themselves quicker than the common variety.



Does anyone know whether there are any other trees that may grow like this, other than the Coral Tree? Attempts have been made with Star Chestnut but without success at this stage.

Water tanker

Last month at the Info Evening and in the newsletter, suggestions were called for to give it a name. Only a few responses were received, one of which was "why give it a name?" Good question. However, someone came up with the name Ubebe (which means to carry on your back), so if you do hear it referred to like that, this is the yellow monster keeping our roads dampened.

Lizards and their tails



DID YOU KNOW that it is normal, when a lizard self-amputates its tail when they encounter a predator, it may bleed a little? The tail, containing a portion of the spinal cord, is voluntarily detached by muscular contractions (caudal autotomy) that break the tail at a weak point within a single vertebra. They can re-grow severed tails, but in lieu of the original tail that includes a spinal column and nerves, the replacement structure is an imperfect cartilage tube. Re-growth can take 9 weeks.

With kind permission of Ian and Lesley Thomson - "African Talked"

<http://www.africatalked.wordpress.com/>

Proud baboon monitors

Showing off their new bikes, the two baboon monitors now have a quicker reaction time when they receive reports of baboon action around the houses.



Meet Pieter Makaseuela (left) and Lucky Matene (right). These guys do not have an easy task so please give them a smile and wave as you pass by.

Seen at the bird hide



Is this really necessary? Whether or not one chooses to smoke is entirely their concern. What they do with their stompies is ours. These kinds of smokers obviously have no respect for their fellow residents. If you must smoke please remove the evidence. While both of these stompies would have burnt out before reaching the grass, fast drying and visible in the picture, it just takes one person without thinking to flick the cigarette in to the veld. Seriously smokers, show some respect. With the high fuel load in the veld after our incredibly good rainy season, just one stompie mistake could have disastrous effects for the whole Estate.

And while on the subject of the bird hide.....

A few requests have been made to please ask anyone walking or cycling past, to please do so with the thought in mind that there are likely to be people trying to find that elusive bird to tick off their list. Please pass quietly, and preferably try to take a route a little way from the hide.



Late rains and a reminder about bush clearing

What a nice surprise to receive late rain over the Easter Weekend but one has to feel sorry for the visitors or holiday makers wanting some bushveld sun.

Some owners have already started bush clearing. For those who have not really given this much thought yet, please do so and don't leave it to the last minute. Also a gentle reminder that Raptor's View will **not** be undertaking any bush clearing around residences this year, so each owner must make their own arrangements.

Remember that in terms of most insurance policies, bush clearing has to be done annually. Owners are advised to check their policies. Some require clearing by end of April, others by end of May. In terms of Estate Rules, this must be done by the end of June.

Medical emergency response on the estate

Some residents are unsure about the details of this service. Basically, all residents, their families and visitors, are covered for Emergencies while on the Estate. This is in terms of an Agreement signed with Hoedspruit Medical Rescue for ongoing medical response. The details are on the Website but they will be updated shortly.

Important Contact numbers

Estate Management (emergencies only)	071 675 2525
RV Main Gate	015 793 1663
Canyon Risk Solutions Control Room	072 806 4868
Medical Response	072 170 0864
Police	015 799 4000
Fire Brigade Maruleng	015 793 0728
After hours Primary Health Care Assistance for Medical Emergencies from 6pm to 6am (no house calls)	063 051 2999

Times: Weekdays: 18h00 – 06h00 Monday – Thursday

Weekends: 18h00 Friday – 06h00 Monday

The doctor-on-call would be one of those shown below:

Dr S. Verhagen, Dr A. Polley, Dr J. Mkhebela, Dr M. Kirstein, Dr H. Shivambu

Any comments on the newsletter would be welcomed, as well as any interesting articles that residents may want to include.