

Newsletter June 2022

Introducing our management team

A few residents have commented that they would like us to introduce the Management Team.

James Cary – General Manager



Our General Manager joined Raptors in July 2019. James is married to Helen and they have an adult son and daughter.

James has a wealth of experience having worked at Oviston Nature Reserve (Gariiep Dam) as well as having worked in Abu Dhabi, the Wild Coast and a private game farm. James has a really important role, ensuring that all paperwork, reports, rules and regulations and many other time-consuming tasks are fulfilled. He is also responsible for the overall management of all staff as well as the Eco side of the estate.

Gordon Breetzke – Assistant Manager



Gordon is our 'man on the ground'. He is very hands-on and is often seen in his bakkie, driving around advising residents, dealing with everyday matters and always has a kind word and smile on his face.

Married to Annelize who he met in the tourism industry, they have two sons, aged 12 and 7, who are the apple of his eye.

Gordon joined the team in January 2020 and we hope he will enjoy a long career with us.

Gordon has recently completed a Home Owner's Association online course, which will no doubt be put to good use in the management of the estate.

Dirk Lourens – Maintenance Manager



Dirk is another member of the team involved in the day to day activities. Dirk joined the team in November 2013. Reliable and trustworthy, he is seen directing staff, and going out of his way to be friendly and assist residents. He does seem to be happiest perched high up on the tractor.

Dirk is a single parent to Anton, who he took under his wing as a baby. Well done Dirk. We are happy to say that Dirk's contract has recently been extended until June 2024.

Next month we will continue introducing the Security Staff.

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	May '22	Jun '22
Contractors' gate	0	0	0	14	113	121	132	29.5	62	41	101.5	2
Pumpstation 2	0	0	0	17.25	85	111	193.5	29.5	55.5	43.5	92	3
Phase 3	0	0	0	17.6	79	75	211.5	28	68	46	90	1

Rainfall is measured and analysed according to growing seasons (July to June) and not based on the calendar year. In July we will be entering into the new growing season, and the total rainfall for the previous year will be provided.

Responsible rodenticide use on Raptor's View Wildlife Estate

RVHOA Eco Committee June 2022

- We are all extremely grateful that the last couple of rainy seasons have shown average or slightly above average rainfall on our estate
- As you know, increased rainfall versus previous dry seasons has resulted in an increase in vegetation biomass on the estate and in turn, it is expected that the natural population of rodents, both indigenous and invasive species, will be higher than previous seasons due to this abundance of food
- As the winter months approach however, and the subsequent availability of food sources become limited, it is probable that those of us living in the bush will see an increase in rodents visiting our homes in search of food
- It is an unfortunate fact that rodents can be very destructive in our homes via their chewing activities, feeding on our foodstuffs and contaminating foodstuffs via their urine and faeces
- Therefore, it may become necessary to use a pesticide that targets rodents, namely a 'rodenticide'
- Please follow the link below to the full document that outlines the responsible way of utilising rodenticides on our estate

<https://raptorsview.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Responsible-rodenticide-use.pdf>

- Remember to also refer again to issue #1 in the RVHOA series of guidelines covering the 'Responsible Use of Pesticides on Raptor's View Wildlife Estate' for a basic overview of using pesticides in a responsible manner

Raptor's version of a "stop/go"

Residents will have noticed the amazing difference in our road surfaces. Eugene Potgieter, the roads contractor, has been hard at work ensuring the best possible attention is given to them. A better quality surface material has been acquired, which has a higher clay content than the sub-base which has already been imported. With regular watering, the integrity of the surface should be maintained. It must however, be remembered that there are approximately 18,000 vehicles making use of the main gate every month, and it can be expected that there will be wear and tear on the gravel surface.



Danni replacement

As mentioned last month, Danni has decided to leave Raptor's View. After approaching a large tourism company a few years ago to join them, they then tracked her down and offered her an incredible opportunity. Danni, thank you for the time you have been with us. We really hoped you would be with us for longer. We are grateful for your contribution as our Admin lady but would never try to persuade you that Raptor's is more important than following your dreams. Thank you.

The HR Directors are currently looking at relevant CV's and are hopeful of being able to announce Danni's replacement shortly.

Leopards and what to do if you come across one while walking or cycling

Management cannot emphasise enough, the importance of being vigilant while out walking or cycling. Apparently, the one thing that will alarm a leopard, be they old or in their prime, is a child's high pitch scream.

It is said that the best way to react is not to make eye contact but to keep walking slowly away at an angle to the leopard. Under no circumstances should anyone run.

Whilst we love having them on the Estate, it is up to each and every person to make sure that they use utmost discretion when coming across them. Also if they approach your bird baths, give them their space and under no circumstances, try to approach them.

What a privilege to live where we do.

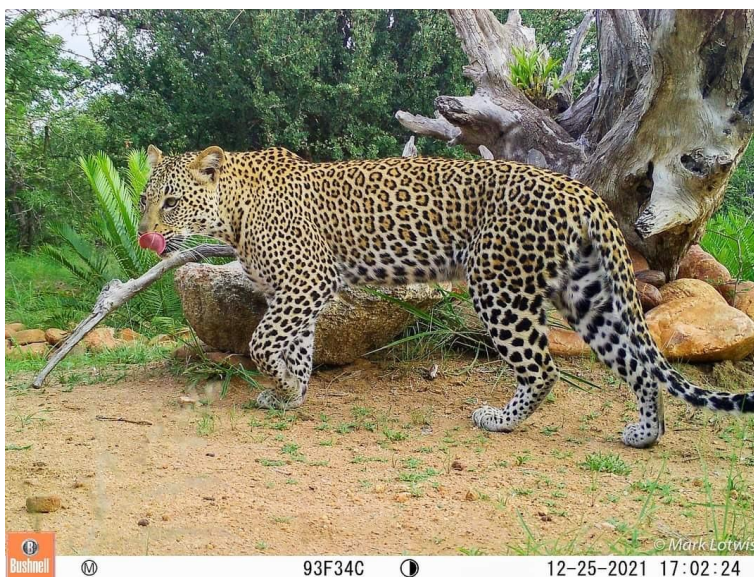


Photo credit: Mark Lotwis RV 212

Fire marshal induction

The first of two information sessions was held recently, aimed at familiarising our Fire Marshals with the procedures to be followed in the case of a fire on the Estate. They were instructed on who to contact, where the necessary fire fighting equipment is stored and how to connect the fire hoses to the various hydrants placed throughout the Estate. With the increased fuel load in the veld this year, I am sure that all residents feel a lot more secure in the knowledge that the team is now on hand and well prepared. Just a reminder however, please make sure that all braai fires are properly extinguished after use.

Thanks to these dedicated residents who stepped up, and to those who helped familiarise them with the requirements.

Unfortunately one of the Fire Marshals in Section 1 has sold his property and will be leaving the Estate in the near future. We would thus appreciate a new volunteer from this section.



Last reminder for bush clearing

Depending on when this newsletter goes out, you have either made sure that your property has been properly bush cleared in terms of the RV rules....or not.

Please remember that Raptor's View staff are not available to assist you and that you must make your own arrangements to have this done by a contractor registered with the HOA, as a matter of urgency.

RV Residents Whatsapp Chat group

The RV Residents Whatsapp Chat group has been set up by fellow resident Tony Gunstone. The group is specifically a private group for residents to participate and communicate with each other and to share their views or give advice on issues that affect our day to day life living on the estate. The groups' spokesperson summarises any issues and presents this at the monthly board meeting. To join the group please Whatsapp your name and stand number to the administrator, Tony Gunstone on 0839906062

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.