

Ecological report

The Eco Committee is always hard at work. A special thanks to the Members who contribute a lot of their time to this important cause.

The annual ecological report from the Animal Production Institute is available on the website.

<https://raptorsview.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/RaptorsEXECMO21v1.pdf>

This is unacceptable!



Last month's newsletter contained a special Thank You from our Chairman, Tony Patten, to all those who were adhering to the speed limit. Obviously someone wasn't. Whether this was caused by a resident or a contractor, it is just not acceptable. This was a big tortoise, clearly visible, and the only reason for this happening is that the speed limit was being exceeded again.

Whilst there appears to be a slight reduction in speeding, residents are advised that the speed limit on the estate is 30 km/h, and will be enforced. Obviously the cameras and threatened fines are working. Thanks to Tony and his team for their continued and concerted effort in keeping everyone in check.

Our causeways

Jack's

Very few residents will remember how and why "Jack's Causeway" came to be given that name. Shortly after some heavy rains with the Sandspruit river flowing quite strongly and people being 'trapped' on the wrong side of the estate – up to 4 days while the water level subsided, there was a lot of talk around how to avoid the same situation. The original causeway had been more than substantial but the suggestion was to

make it higher or build a bridge. The cost of doing so was simply prohibitive. Out of the blue comes Jack Clarke, a retired engineer who was, at the time, living on the Estate. Jack had another idea. Instead of going 'up', he suggested going 'down' and this is exactly what happened. Arrangements were made to lower the causeway but, in so doing, create huge cement blocks into which stabilising supports would be sunk. Well, Jack's idea was far cheaper and has proven to be a great success – even surviving the 2012 floods. This is why the main causeway is "Jack's" and will remain part of our history.



Dirk's

A few comments have been received from residents stating that they did not think the small causeway should have been named after Dirk – as much as he is an important member of the team. We are therefore asking for any other suggestions from residents for alternate names.

Please send us your ideas so that they can be considered and may be voted on.



Introducing the Yellow Submarine – (alternatively, please help us think of another name)

Seen on the estate for the first time on Monday, 14th March. Management have been on the lookout for a truck that would be suitable for use to water the roads and keep the dust down. An opportunity came up and our Finance Director actually agreed that the estate could spend some of his precious budget on buying it. Whatever name we give the tanker, Management hope that it will be part of the team for many years to come.

One of our owners suggested the name. A few didn't agree as we are nowhere near the sea. We are asking you, the Residents, to come forward and make some suggestions. We are also trying to find a suitable Tsonga name for it so that our support staff can also tide pride in it.



Is Malaria a concern on Raptor's View?

For a quick update from our own Steve Knowles, an expert on Malaria and prevention, please see the notice at the end of this newsletter. Steve works closely with Kingsley Holgate as a member of Goodbye Malaria.

Water storage reservoirs

Over the weekend of the 13/14 March, Maruleng Town as a whole, experienced a situation where they were without water. It transpired that there had been a break in the main supply pipe just before the Drakensig Reservoirs. Raptor's View has two storage reservoirs but it must be stressed that these will only last for a period of four days at normal usage. Alternatively if care is taken by each household to limit usage, the reservoirs could last for seven to eight days. There was talk on the one group that Raptor's View was supposed to have a reserve supply for 10 days. The above info should clarify the situation.



Resident's Information Evening

The first meeting for 2022 was held on Wednesday, 23rd March. A number of residents attended although the turnout was rather disappointing. The following topics were discussed and minutes distributed:

- Board member portfolios
- Baboon monitoring
- Brief summary of the Ecological Report
- Lightning protection systems
- Residents' vehicle details
- RV residents WhatsApp group
- Emergency water supply and boreholes
- Alternative roofing
- Mosquito control
- Speeding notifications for visitors
- Littering
- Contractors to secure items on vehicles
- General

Points to consider for prospective new home owners on an estate

Below please find a link to an interesting article for anyone thinking of buying in to an Estate. The article highlights some important aspects.

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/property/569942/the-rules-you-should-know-before-buying-in-a-complex-or-estate-in-south-africa/>

Do we have any financial boffins living on the estate?



The Finance Committee is looking for a few additional members to join this hard working team. Headed up by Merrick, the Board Finance Director, the other boffs making up his team, sometimes need to be out of town for extended periods. There are times when decisions need to be taken sooner rather than later and, if there were a few more people to bounce them off, this would only benefit the estate.

Please step up and come and assist us. You would be surprised at how interesting it can be, being involved in the day to day running of an estate such as ours.

Merrick would love to hear from you please:
merrick.oeschger@gmail.com 083 450 5847

Buffalo trail bridge

The Buffalo Trail is a fairly busy one, and we had received complaints that the approaches to the drainage line were a hazard. Gordon and his team have constructed a wooden bridge, not only to prevent trail users from slipping on the pebbles on the embankments, but also to curb the erosion caused by the pedestrian and bicycle traffic.



Walking, riding, hiking and birding on the estate

It is wonderful to see so many people out there enjoying every minute of the lifestyle that Raptor's View offers. Management would please like to remind everyone that we live on a wildlife estate and, apart from the normal plains game that we love, there are predators amongst us as well. Please, please take extra care as we know of the pregnant female leopard as well as others that are being recorded regularly on the camera traps throughout the Estate. They will most likely not approach residents while they are fit and healthy and can hunt for themselves. However, as a predator gets old or is injured, it may not always be able to hunt as effectively. We are not trying to cause alarm but feel that a general awareness warning is long overdue.

The neighbouring estates have elephant, lion, rhino and leopard, and residents making use of the cut-lines along the boundary fences are reminded that a fence will not stop them from coming through – it is only a deterrent.

An update on houses being built or undergoing renovations

In the past, it was customary to update residents about the number of new homes under construction or where renovations were being done.

At the moment there are four new houses and two being renovated or having additions done.

In the “old days”, it was the highlight of a weekend for residents to go and check out all the new houses under construction. This is no longer the case. Building sites can be dangerous with loose material lying around and we would request residents to please avoid these sites. It is also against the National Occupational Health and Safety act regulations to have unauthorized persons on a building site.

And while on the subject.....

It has always been some kind of “unwritten rule” that no one approaches, visits or goes up someone else’s driveway without calling ahead. Why? Well, to be honest, we all live in this amazing environment where (at times) we all enjoy our homes to the full, moving between rooms or darting to the outdoor shower, with nothing on. If we all respect each other’s privacy, there will be no red faces – or naked bottoms. Thanks for the respect.

Southern Cross Schools functions

Please be aware that Southern Cross Schools will be hosting events on the below dates and there will be noise associated with these activities.

Movie Night:
Wednesday, 6 April

Swimming Galas:
Friday, 8 April

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.

Raptor's View and Mosquitos – Compiled by Steve Knowles

We live in the bush and this is the time of the annual mosquito breeding, with perfect temperatures and lots of standing water after the rains, both natural and manmade with neglected pools, birdbaths pots and other miscellaneous containers left about the garden. Although some residents have commented, we haven't noticed an above normal amount of mosquitoes this year.

Mosquitos are basically split into disease bearing vectors and nuisance mosquitos.

I am positive that the mosquitoes we are experiencing are Culex or nuisance mosquitoes, and not anopheles the malaria vectors.

The annoying buzzing and big red bites are Culicine mosquitos. Anopheles are small silent and deadly.



Identification -



Anopheles at rest, sit at a 45-degree angle to the surface
Bum up and head down



Culex at rest, sit parallel to the surface

Most town bye-laws state that the onus is on the homeowner or occupier to ensure that there are no mosquito breeding sites on their property. In our case this should be a simple weekly check around the house after rain for containers retaining water and supporting breeding, checking flat roofs for standing water and suchlike.

I do not believe that it is the responsibility of RVHOA and am sure no one will support the idea of the refuse collectors walking around your house on an inspection!! Vacant houses are a different problem and can be sorted out by the Board.

Mass larviciding of standing water on the estate will do more harm to the environment and insects than be of benefit to us.

Look after your own property and yourself (repellents)

Facts: Mosquitoes – only the female bites, as she needs blood to fertilize her eggs; they stay close to their breeding sites, and don't travel more than a few Km (and that's with a wind); it takes 5/ 7 days for a mosquito to develop from Eggs to Adult; in our environment an adult mosquito lives for 3 weeks to a month.

Mosquitoes are most active in the early evening and morning.

Malaria

Hoedspruit is not a malaria area but be especially aware of malaria when going into the northern areas of the park or close to the Mozambique border. There are also some hotspots such as Vhembe District.

Malaria is seasonal in South Africa: **October to May** are the transmission months.

Know the symptoms and get tested as soon as you experience any of them. It is not the number of bites that determine the severity of the dose of malaria but the **TIME** between presentation of symptoms and treatment!

Symptoms:

- Flu like symptoms - chills and fevers
- Headaches and tiredness
- Pains in body joints (especially neck) - Very Very sore!!
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Sweating

Be aware - Symptoms only show 10 – 14 days after the mosquito has bitten you

You may be out of the malaria endemic area / country at home

Malaria can be prevented !

There are four means of prevention:

- **Kill adult mosquitoes** (Residual spraying, knockdowns)
- **Prevent mosquitoes from biting** (Nets, screening, repellants)
- **Control mosquito breeding** (Larvicide, environment management)
- **Anti - malarial drugs**

Coupled with:

Early, Effective diagnosis & treatment
