

Newsletter August 2021

Erosion control programme

The Eco Committee is investigating a survey of the soil erosion on the estate in order to address this ever worsening problem. This would include areas where severe erosion damage has already occurred and is continuing. For example along draining lines where deep gullies are active and developing up the slopes on either side.

There is a legacy of past poor land use practices that have led to over grazing, bush encroachment, permanent water points and accelerated erosion. We are aware of some of the worst affected areas, but a mapping exercise would assist in identifying areas less obvious which may also require rehabilitation.

Soil is one of the most important components of the Raptor's View ecosystem as it forms the basis for plant growth by supplying nutrients and water as well as support and temperature regulation. It also acts as a storage container for carbon, provides a home for various organisms and a filter through which water passes.

Raptor's View is located in a semi-arid savanna ecosystem where the rainfall is variable. Moisture, or lack thereof, limits the production of grazing and browse for game, and an integrated land management plan should be aimed at conserving soil moisture by minimizing rainfall runoff into drainage lines and maximizing rainfall penetration into the soil.

As identified in the Ecological Management Plan, a priority programme for erosion reclamation would be compiled as part of the integrated habitat rehabilitation programme. (based on the map) to:

- Stabilize headward gully erosion into bottomlands;
- Reduce water run-off and increase infiltration on sodic patches and sheet eroded areas;
- Attend to soil erosion caused by misplaced roads, tracks and historic cattle paths.

Once formalised, the programme will be presented to Members, as control measures will require significant funding which will form part of the capital programme to be presented to the homeowners.

Zebra Trail

The office has received a number of queries regarding the Zebra Trail. The parking area for the Zebra Trail is at the water reservoirs located at Candelabra Corner on Tawny Eagle Road.

It must be mentioned that this trail is not a circular route, but is a link from the northern part

of the estate, through the Aardvark Trail, and down to the bird hide at Guineafowl Dam. From here one can link to the Lion Trail or return to the parking area via the fence line or back along the Zebra Trail, taking various alternative routes along the Aardvark Trail as well.

A printed copy of the map is available at the office. The website link for the Zebra Trail is shown below:

<http://raptorsview.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Zebra-Trail-Map-Final-2020-12-07.pdf>

‘Save the date’ for the AGM and river braai – Saturday 16 October

With Covid-19 restrictions still in place, which limit indoor gatherings to 50 people, a tentative date for the AGM has been set for 16 October 2021. We anticipate that the restrictions may be eased by then, allowing the Board to host a successful AGM.

Official notification of the AGM will be circulated once these restriction levels have been adjusted.

We also intend holding a River Braai after the AGM on the 16th October. This will be an informal function for residents to meet each other, the Board (old and new) as well as Raptor’s View staff. Details will be provided closer to the proposed date.

Change of e-mail address

Please note that Danni is using a new e-mail address for the admin office, and the MWEB email address will be discontinued in the near future.

New e-mail address admin@raptorsviewhoa.co.za

Wilna can still be contacted on info@raptorsviewhoa.co.za for domestic, gardener and Contractor related access and queries and James can be emailed on generalmanager@raptorsviewhoa.co.za

Domestic workers to be collected from the house

It has been noticed that an increasing number of domestic workers (both private and Contractors) are walking from homesteads to the road awaiting their lift. Due to the presence of dangerous wild animals on the Estate, it is requested that domestic workers be collected from the residence.

Closing flaps at bird hide

It has been reported that on two occasions, the flaps on the bird hide have been left open. If you make use of the bird hide, kindly close the flaps when you leave, as the vervet monkeys sometimes get in, leaving an unpleasant mess for the next visitors.

Aesthetics on the estate

Management has noticed a considerable increase in the number of structures going up on the Estate which are not approved in terms of our Rules and Regulations. These include items such as fences to keep animals out of gardens, lath fences being erected without permission, and carports with roofing other than that approved by the members and HOA. TV and Wi-Fi aerials have also become very noticeable where they are either too high or

not painted to match the existing house.

The Board and Management are mindful that Covid has placed a big burden on everyone and, instead of trying to enforce rules, are appealing to all owners to please play their part in making sure that the aesthetics of the Estate, and ultimately, the value of the properties on Raptor's View, retain their values.

It is only by working together during these difficult times that we will all come through this and manage to keep Raptor's View as one of the most sought-after estates on which to live.

Facebook page for Raptor's View felines and other cats

A Facebook page has been created to post and identify (where possible), the leopards and other cats which live on or pass through our estate. The link is below.

It will be a private group for owners, residents and friends of Raptor's View. Those with an interest in cats on Raptor's View are encouraged to join.

Thanks,

Steve

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/551019826324567>

Alien Invasive Plant species identified on the estate.

Fact Sheet:

Name: *Lantana camara*

Common names: Bird's brandy (Eng). Gomdagga (Afr).

Origin: Central and South America. Introduced into Cape Town in 1858, and into Durban in 1883 from where it spread quickly.

Growth: It is a perennial. In other words it will continue to grow for a number of years. Birds and rivers are the main spreaders of seed.

Invades: Edges of forest and plantations, savanna, roadsides, watercourses and degraded land.

Status: A declared weed – category 1b, that must be removed and destroyed as part of an invasive species control programme.

Danger: The whole plant is poisonous. The leaves cause irritation of the skin.



Exotic plant poster

The Eco committee is currently developing a poster to raise awareness of alien invasive plant species found on the estate. These will be displayed at various locations on the estate, and residents are encouraged to report any alien vegetation to Management.

The Raptor

The latest edition of The Raptor is available online. The link is indicated below:

<https://raptorsview.co.za/june-2021-the-raptor/>

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