



## Newsletter December 2021

As the year 2021 draws to a close, no one can say that it has not been an interesting and challenging one. For those of us living on Raptor's View, I think we have all counted our blessings more than once. To our absentee owners, you have an amazing estate to return to when this terrible Covid thing decides to be fair to us. The redeeming factor is that our circumstances are not unique and the travel restrictions have affected the whole world. We are all in this together. Let's hope we can all find it in our hearts to rejoice for what we do have and not be too sad that loved ones are not able to visit again or we travel to visit them.

### 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.

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

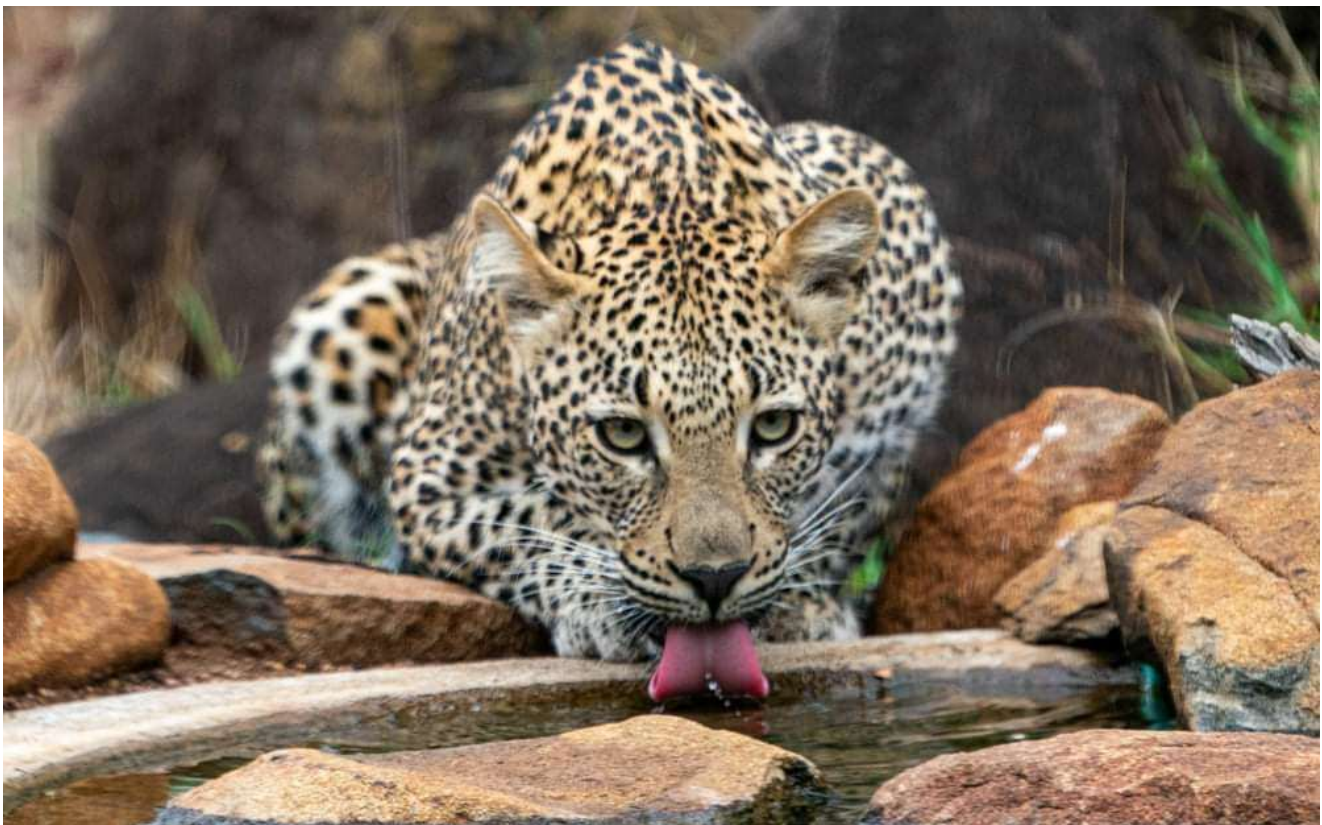


Photo credit: Mike Whatmore RV 312

Steve Benbow has also set up a working group comprised of five residents to help identify and possibly establish territories and densities of leopards on the estate. He has also invited Owen Grobler from the HWE to assist us, as well as liaising with Glen Poole of the Rietspruit Conservancy to ensure we are not duplicating the naming of the leopards and to share information.

Please continue to share your wildlife sightings on the various Facebook pages.

## The Raptor

The December 2021 edition of The Raptor is available on the website. Thank you to Alison Joy and all the contributors for a wonderful edition.

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

## Summer has truly arrived

The first baby impala to be born was reported on the 8th November in Phase 3. It must have been a 'prem one' as the rest arrived en mass around the 22nd. It didn't take them at all long to be frolicking all over, and already having mastered the kind of 'rocking' motion that they do so gracefully. One lucky owner reported an unusual sighting of a baboon catching and eating a baby impala right at the patio area. Although this may seem gruesome for some, this goes with the privilege of being able to live on Raptor's View.

## Calling all bird lovers

Would you like to have an underground bird hide on the Estate? A few owners have suggested that for the real bird lovers and photographers, this could be a fantastic added feature. Management would welcome any comments from owners. Please let us have your thoughts by e mailing: [info@raptorsviewhoa.co.za](mailto:info@raptorsviewhoa.co.za) Maybe this could become a special Owners' Project? Is there anyone out there that has experience in setting up an underground hide and willing to take it on? An investigation would need to be done on the costs involved as well as whether or not an Environmental Impact Assessment is necessary.



Purple heron. Photo credit: Steve Benbow

## Fence upgrade complete

There was an item in the approved budget for the upgrade of some of the fence sections. We are happy to report that the necessary replacement and maintenance of the sections of shared boundary fence between Khaya Ndlovu, Bloubank and Zandspruit have been completed. Our neighbouring estates kindly offered to contribute to the expense and have been subsequently invoiced for their share.



## Erosion control

As discussed at the AGM, and budgeted for over the next few years, Raptor's View is in dire need of some serious erosion control work. The aerial survey which will determine the areas of high priority, will be conducted by fixed wing aircraft on the 30th December. The survey will not involve any low-level flying as it is conducted from 1500ft. High resolution images and contour maps will then be available to management for planning purposes.

## Walking trails

We appeal to everyone making use of the trails to please let Management know if they notice anything that may require attention. It was mentioned that a few labels on the trees had faded or fallen off. Sometimes a branch may have been broken and blocking or obstructing the path. Please drop an e mail or a WhatsApp message to the office to bring this to their attention. This is your estate. We want you to enjoy it to the full.

## Solar options

A group of Members, led by Merrick Oeschger, will be investigating various solar options in detail in the new year, as discussed at the Information Evening on 22 November. An appeal is again made to anyone who would like to be involved, to step forward and please assist.

## Road upgrade

The upgrade of Marsh Harrier and Pygmy Falcon Roads as per the approved capital expenditure budget, has been completed. With rain forecast for the next few weeks, we trust that the surface will provide a far better driving experience for the residents that reside in these areas.

## Approval for use of a generator

In terms of clause 24.2.7.2 of our MOI we wish to inform members that an application received from RV314 to operate a generator has been approved on medical grounds, subject to all prevailing rules.

## Speeding

Speed trapping on the estate has continued, and a number of fines and warnings have been issued over the past weeks. The number of vehicles caught speeding whilst the radar and cameras were in use remains at approximately 6%. Unfortunately, there have also been a number of incidents where wildlife have been on the receiving end. Whilst these may not always be due to excessive speed, a lower speed would allow the driver more time to react to a dashing tree squirrel or bird crossing the road.

## Waste collection

Waste collection will be done on Thursday 23 December.

Household waste will **NOT** be collected on Thursday 30 December, as most staff will be on leave. The waste yard at the contractor's gate will be open on the 30th, with access via town, for those residents wanting to drop off their own waste bags.

Collection services will resume on 6 January 2022.

## And..... a few gentle reminders.....

Please remember to send in your forms of your vehicle details for the start of 2022.

With the fast approaching Festive Season, Santa is going to be parking his bush sleigh more frequently and with a lot more parcels than normal. An earnest request is made to please remember to collect your parcels from the gate as soon as the gate guards let you know that they have arrived. We are really concerned about the limited space available and whether they or the gate guards are going to take preference in the crowded space.

## In closing

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff wish all our owners and residents a wonderful Festive Season. There will be parties on Raptor's View and we all hope you enjoy what time we may be able to share. We ask that you respect your neighbours at all times ... or at least invite them to the party. 2022 promises to be another interesting year, but working together, we will all get through this.





## 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. Mkheabela, Dr M. Kirstein, Dr H. Shivambu

***MERRY CHRISTMAS!***

