



The Villager

Issue 1 • 2018

Fun Day pics

**TRAVEL: Going
north in
Kruger Park**

**The Art of
Learning**

Humour with James Clarke





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LFPE-4523 R3 495 000



LFPE-3970 R3 995 000



LFPE-4268 R4 200 000



LFPE-4486 R5 500 000



Contents

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Cover photograph by Johann Perie



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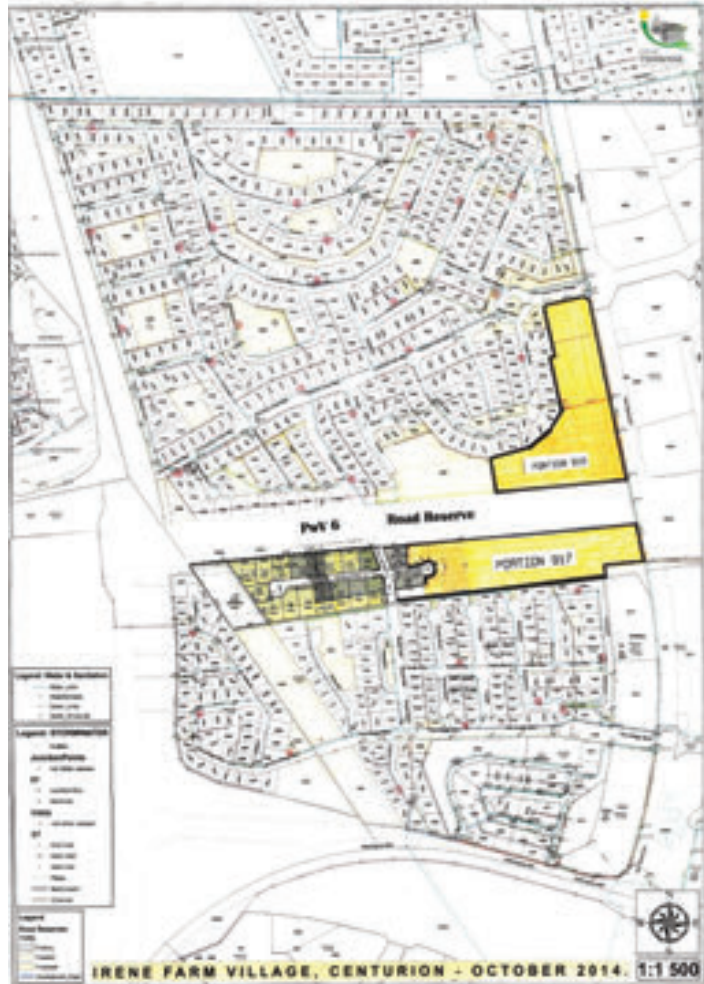
Dear Residents

One of my school teachers used to say that one must always start the New Year with good prospects, which must be definite. My 2018 prospects for Irene Farm Villages are to manage the affairs of the Estate beyond the expectations of the Residents and to continue to contribute to a happy and harmonious community living style in the Estate. I would like to wish all a successful 2018.



At van Niekerk

In the previous issue of *The Villager* it was mentioned that the HOA Board will be looking at viable options to utilize the 7,5779 hectare land, which the HOA acquired from Irene Land Corporation. Communication was sent out on 20 November 2017 via e-mail to all the Members, wherein you were requested to submit your comments



and recommendations to the HOA. Several inputs were received from Members. The Board will consider all the options and give feedback to the Members on the way forward.

The CCTV project has been completed and is fully functional. The HOA is in the process of entering into a maintenance services agreement with XON Systems (PTY), who will be responsible to maintain the entire CCTV network on a 24/7-hour basis.

The Infrastructure Development Plan ("IDP") is progressing. The building plans for the main gate and North gate were submitted to the Tshwane City Council on 15/11/2017. The appointed Quantity Surveyor, Mr Kelvin Nemachi of Citadel Projects, is currently preparing



the Bill of Quantities ("BOQ"), which is expected in January 2018. The building works can only commence once the plans are approved by the City Council.

The voice/radio network is currently held up by the process to agree on a mutual acceptable lamppost pole design by Vodacom and MTN. Proposals will be on the table soon for further discussions to arrive at a solution.

The Family Fun Day on Saturday, the 2nd December, was well supported by our residents, especially the children, who were once again surprised by Santa Klaus, who arrived at the Fun Day on a red tractor. We would like to thank all the exhibitors and the people who had stalls on the day, for their presence and support. From the Estate Management, a special

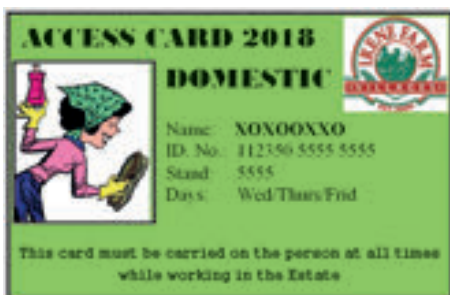


thanks to all the office staff, who were working hard behind the scenes, making everything run smoothly on the day. The Village Games, which now have become an annual tradition at our events, were once again organised and refereed by Mrs Christa Janse van Rensburg, a resident of the Irene Farm Villages. Christa did an excellent job, which adds a lot of value to our Fun Day.

At the HOA Board meeting on the 7th December 2017, the Board considered the re-registration of all the residents in the Estate. The last re-registration of residents was carried out in 2016. The Board is of the opinion that it is important to update the residents' data-bank on a regular basis and hence approved the re-registration of residents in 2018. Residents are requested to submit their re-registration forms to the Estate Office by the 31st March 2018. The forms will be made available on the Irene Farm Villages web-page.

The Board also approved the annual re-registration of all household workers, which includes domestic workers, gardeners, drivers, au pairs, etc. This registration must be carried out by the 31st January 2018, which is the final cut-off date. If a household worker is not registered

by the cut-off date, the bio-metric access (fingerprint) of such a worker will be suspended, pending the registration for 2018. The registration fee per household worker is R50. The registration forms will be made available on the Estate's web-page. New access cards will be issued and all the old cards for 2017 (yellow) must be returned to the Estate Office.



The Estate Management receive several enquiries, related to the installation of solar power systems. In the absence of a specific HOA rule, the Board of Directors has adopted the following draft rule, which will be tabled at the 2018 Annual General Meeting for approval by the members:

"Solar Power System:

1. A solar power system is defined, for purposes of this rule, as a system, which consists of one or more solar photovoltaic panels, which panels are installed on the exterior sloping area of the roof of a dwelling for purposes of generating solar power.

2. Prior to the installation of a solar power system, approval for the installation of such system must be obtained from the HOA. The HOA has the right to request a design sketch and/or photo of the intended solar power system.
3. The solar panels or any other equipment, which are part of such system, are not permitted to exceed above the ridge of the roof of the dwelling. If the panels are installed on any form of rack, or structure, such rack or structure is not permitted to exceed above the ridge of the roof of the property.
4. All exposed cabling must be installed in a duct. The duct must match the colour of the roof or the exterior walls of the property."

Members are kindly requested to adhere to the draft rule.

The Financial Sub-Committee of the HOA has decided to add more information to the financial statement, which is published monthly in The Villager. Specifically, with reference to the status of the outstanding levy accounts and the various debt collection steps that are implemented. The levy accounts are e-mailed to all the members from the 25th of the month and payment must be made by the 7th of the month. Failure to make the monthly

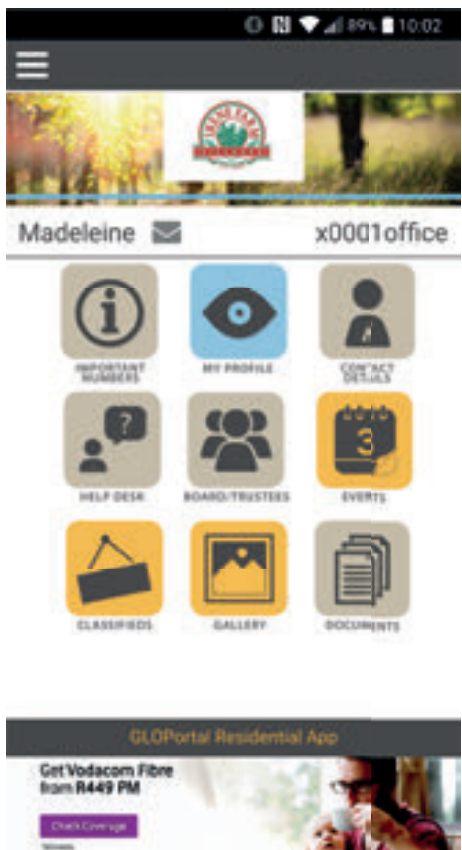


Estate News

payment in time will result in further debt collection steps being taken, which include legal action where necessary. A summary of the Capex programmes is also added to the financial statement.

The Irene Farm Villages HOA web community management system is hosted by Glovent Solutions. The levy accounts of members have now been loaded to the Irene Villages Community Portal, where members will be able to view their latest levy invoice online. Members will be provided with a link, that will take you to your home page in the Irene Farm Villages Community Portal, from where you will be able to guide yourself to the levies section. You can also access your levy information at any time by logging in to the web-site www.irenefarmvillages.co.za.

Glovent has now also made available the Gloportal mobile app for Irene Farm Villages. This app will in future



be used as one of the main sources of communication and management by the HOA. Further information on the app will be sent to the members via bulk e-mail communication from the HOA.

From time to time and with the arrangement by residents, vehicles

belonging to residents are towed out of the estate or loaded onto a truck and driven out of the estate. Residents are requested to make prior arrangements with the Estate Office or the Security Shift Manager (especially after hours), for the vehicles to be taken out of the estate. Vehicles will not be allowed to access the Estate, without the permission of the owner of the vehicle.

At the same token, no person will be allowed to access the Estate with goods, without the written permission by the resident of such goods. The written permission must be handed in at the Estate Office or to the Security. Such permission will then be kept on the file of the resident of the goods.

Residents are reminded, that no business or commercial activity may be conducted on any stand within the Estate, without the prior written permission thereof by the HOA Board of Directors.

The Estate Management would like to thank the residents for keeping their gardens in a clean and neat condition, making it a garden of pleasure.

Special regards for 2018.
Estate Management.



PS: Nelson Mandela said:

“If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner”



Nina 082 963 1194
PRINCIPAL SALES AGENT

Eunice 071 676 5940
RENTALS

IRENE FARM VILLAGE

IMMACULATE HOME - CUL DE SAC WEB REF: 1027 R3.1 mill



DUAL MANDATE

3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, open plan kitchen, scullery, pantry, dining and TV room, lounge + fireplace, domestic quarters, DBL garage.

NINA 082 963 1994

COTTAGE STYLE HOME WEB REF: 1031 R3.3 mill neg



4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom, guest toilet, lounge, tv room, dining room, large entertainment room with built in braai as well as a built in bar. Very neat garden and 2 garages.

NINA 082 963 1994

EXQUISITE TUSCAN CHARM WEB REF: 1029 R4.25 mill



Located opposite and adjacent to parks, 4 bedrooms, guest toilet, 2 bathrooms, stunning, french prov kitchen, TV room, dining room, lounge, study nook, domestic quarters, pool and 2 x single garages.

NINA 082 963 1994

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Willem Richter

Dear Residents

I trust you had a blessed festive season and a well-deserved rest over the holiday period.

During December we made some changes and additions to the security protocol in the estate. The security officers are now patrolling the inside of the estate at night and you will see them either on foot, bicycle or golf cart. We also equipped most of our security at the gate and the patrollers with body cameras. These cameras will capture video and audio recordings which will help us improve our environmental observations. It will also assist us to monitor the interaction with residents, visitors and contractors for future training and to improve the security service. All the security officers went on soft-skills training recently. They are scheduled to undergo operational training in the new year.

Since there has been a regional increase in the number of incidents, I thought it well to raise awareness of the modus operandi of hijacking syndicates. Residents are being followed from where they were shopping by the criminals, usually using two vehicles and on average six occupants. These criminals then proceed to hijack the residents at the access gates in front of the estate. This phenomenon has also been observed by many of the other estates in the area. We have seen an increase in the number of hijackings of specifically Porsche vehicles. The

"If your enemy is secure at all points, be prepared for him. If he is in superior strength, evade him. If your opponent is temperamental, seek to irritate him. Pretend to be weak, that he may grow arrogant. If he is taking his ease, give him no rest. If his forces are united, separate them. If sovereign and subject are in accord, put division between them. Attack him where he is unprepared, appear where you are not expected." — Sun Tzu, The Art of War.

security team has developed reaction plans to curb this phenomenon. We caution our residents to be on the lookout for vehicles following you to your destination. Should you become aware of a situation like this, please drive to our main gate and blow your hooter continuously.

With regards to the CCTV Project, I am pleased to inform residents that the cameras are now operational and fully functional. We now have full visibility and monitoring capability of the complete perimeter. All the security staff have been trained and are monitoring the cameras 24/7. The critical areas where potential threats could exist, were identified and rectified to ensure that we do not have any dead spots. The board of directors was invited to look at the practical utilisation of the CCTV cameras. We had some questions with regards to the reporting functionality and we are working on this aspect of the CCTV solution. We hope to have this completed by end of January 2018 and will provide residents with feedback when available.

Again, with regards to resident's privacy, I would like to assure you that the CCTV system will not invade your privacy and where necessary we will place blinding plates to ensure that the lenses of the cameras do not face your property directly. We respect your privacy and will continue to do so whilst ensuring that our estate is a safe place to live in.

By the time you read this article, Bidvest Protea Coin will have conducted a full risk assessment of Irene Farm Villages. The assessment was performed on the 11th December 2017 and as soon as we receive the report we will share it with our residents.

Residents would have seen the mail and SMS's with regards to the murder of the cyclist between Irene Farm

Villages and Irene train station. Please take these warnings seriously as we are trying to provide you with information to stay safe. Remember don't ride where it is unsafe and ride in groups.

Please ensure that garage doors are closed, and downstairs windows are secured at night. One never knows whether someone has moved into the estate with ulterior motives.

I greet you for now until next month. Stay vigilant, safe and report suspicious activities immediately. Only you can help us make a difference.

Kind Regards,

Willem Richter

Acting Assistant Estate Manager
083 274 8829.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

24HR SECURITY GUARD
ROOM: 012 662 1688

24 HR CONTROLLER:
082 947 7610

24HR SHIFT MANAGER:
082 838 7779

JOC: 079 528 1630



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this coming
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IRENE FARM VILLAGES HOME OWNERS' ASSOCIATION Summary Income Statement November 2017

IRENE FARM VILLAGES HOME OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

	November 2017		Year to Date		YTD Variance	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Value	%
Operational Income						
<i>Levy Income</i>						
Normal Levies	992 116	992 116	7 936 931	7 936 928	3	0.0%
<i>Other Income</i>						
Interest Received	42 329	27 000	383 923	329 884	54 039	16.4%
Contractors Permits	12 490	5 000	135 378	127 888	7 490	5.9%
Estate Agent Registration	0	0	129 960	129 960	0	0.0%
Post Box Annual Fee	0	500	39 100	39 850	(750)	-1.9%
	1 046 935	1 024 616	8 625 291	8 564 510	60 781	0.7%
Operational Expenditure						
<i>Professional /Administration</i>						
Accounting Fees	34 980	34 980	279 840	279 840	0	0.0%
Audit Fees	0	0	58 033	57 500	(533)	-0.9%
Bank Charges	2 989	3 000	26 460	26 733	273	1.0%
Insurance	12 034	13 650	107 414	108 010	596	0.6%
Legal & Professional Fees	3 131	5 000	47 613	54 481	6 868	12.6%
<i>General Office</i>						
Office Equipment	0	1 200	33 600	36 000	2 400	6.7%
General Expenses	10 227	1 000	16 977	8 000	(8 977)	-112.2%
Office Refreshment	400	1 000	5 684	7 033	1 349	19.2%
Printing & Stationary	321	4 750	12 022	20 709	8 687	41.9%
Telecommunication	5 363	6 150	40 528	39 903	(625)	-1.6%
<i>Operational Expenses</i>						
Municipal Charges	157 106	183 414	1 381 378	1 410 332	28 954	2.1%
Recycling	25 000	31 000	276 856	272 000	(4 856)	-1.8%
Donations	0	9 443	53 456	71 806	18 350	25.6%
Meetings	25 000	5 000	55 000	40 000	(15 000)	-37.5%
Salaries & Wages	760	1 500	4 164	6 000	1 836	30.6%
	106 346	136 471	991 903	1 020 526	28 623	2.8%
<i>Security</i>						
Access Control (ClickOn)	578 269	656 572	4 185 537	4 404 943	219 406	5.0%
- ClickOn Recovery	21 473	22 000	165 302	167 154	1 852	1.1%
Equipment Maintenance SLA	(11 539)	(10 000)	(82 903)	(80 828)	2 075	-2.6%
Security Maintenance	30 010	42 799	175 161	187 069	11 908	6.4%
CCTV Equipment Rental	15 772	7 000	72 177	64 744	(7 433)	-11.5%
Guarding Services	0	105 500	0	211 000	211 000	100.0%
	522 554	489 273	3 855 800	3 855 804	4	0.0%
<i>Repairs & Maintenance</i>						
Fuel	174 455	160 525	1 260 898	1 280 210	19 312	1.5%
General Maintenance	4 220	3 000	27 159	24 000	(3 159)	-13.2%
Infrastructure Maintenance	36 591	9 150	84 964	84 464	(500)	-0.6%
Park Facing Boundary Walls	6 055	3 255	19 483	33 547	14 064	41.9%
Park Maintenance	6 227	13 750	133 591	130 750	(2 841)	-2.2%
Park Maintenance Contract	0	8 500	16 638	24 750	8 112	32.8%
Vehicles	121 362	121 370	950 286	950 299	13	0.0%
	0	1 500	28 776	32 400	3 624	11.2%
	979 277	1 071 241	7 455 985	7 733 694	277 709	3.6%
Operating Profit / (Loss)	67 658	(46 625)	1 169 307	830 816	338 491	
Non-Recurring Revenue						
Estate Penalties						
Late Building Penalties	13 500	0	113 000	17 500	95 500	545.7%
	0	0	87 250	0	87 250	100.0%

FINANCIALS November



IRENE FARM VILLAGES HOME OWNERS' ASSOCIATION Summary Income Statement November 2017

	November 2017		Year to Date		YTD Variance	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Value	%
Late Payment Penalties	2 675	0	26 300	10 124	16 176	159.8%
Plan Fee Recovery	15 639	0	58 239	42 599	15 640	36.7%
- Plan Fee Cost	(10 406)	0	(58 627)	(42 987)	(15 640)	36.4%
Expense Recovery	0	0	3 856	3 855	1	0.0%
Sale to Members	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Non-Recurring Expenses						
Scanning of Building Plans	0	0	25 054	25 054	0	0.0%
Traffic Management	0	0	112 518	112 518	0	0.0%
Social Development Projects	0	5 000	6 317	15 000	8 683	57.9%
Water Tanker Roadworthy	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Park Development	0	0	596	0	(596)	100.0%
Historic Tshwane Accounts	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Environmental Development	0	25 000	0	25 000	25 000	100.0%
Cash Provision	0	98 113	0	196 226	196 226	100.0%
Net Positive/ (Negative)	21 408	(128 113)	85 533	(342 707)	(30 387)	
Net Profit / (Loss)	89 067	(174 738)	1 254 839	488 109	308 104	
None	0	0	0	0		
CSOS Levies	13 302	0	53 209	0		

Do something today that your future self will thank you for.

Irene Farm Village Home Owners Association - Capital/ Development Projects

	Current stage	Current Status	Approved Budget	Actual Spend To Date	Available Budget
Infrastructure Development	Planning		10 332 764	608 344	9 724 420
Power Solution Project	Completed		2 010 879	2 010 879	-
CCTV Project	Execute		775 447	226 192	549 254
Land Purchase Project	Completed		2 380 000	2 282 850	97 150
Total			15 499 089	5 128 265	10 370 824

Summary Levy Statements November 2017

	120+ Days	90 Days	60 Days	30 Days	Current	Total		Previous Month
Members paying via EFT	-	801	18 999	74 497	#####	51 347	27 386	
Members paying via DO	-	-	-	-	-5 624	-5 624	-14 603	
	-	801	18 999	74 497	#####	45 723	12 783	
Debt Collection - AA (30/60 days)	78 482	36 053	31 901	-67 472	22 483	101 447	10%	122 262
Debt Collection - JJR (90+ days)	#####	10 051	7 823	7 891	6 729	147 446	11%	139 555
Debt Collection - L&B (90+ days)	94 633	16 830	19 863	19 754	18 575	169 655	13%	162 904
Debt Collection - Accounts > R200,000	#####	14 163	14 287	48 475	7 990	785 871	59%	751 723
HOA Contact		2 282	11 603	11 256	12 781	18 498	56 420	90 268
Sold - Previous Owner Accounts	-	-	-	-	-7 339	-7 339	-2 825	
In Transfer		828	2 585	3 281	3 239	-7 499	2 433	543
Estate Agent		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other		-	-	-	-	-1 563	-1 563	-1 563
	#####	92 085	#####	99 164	8 967	#####	1.9%	#####

Account Ability

Office Address:
Sovereign Drive,
Route 21
Corporate Park

Accounting Office Hours
8:00 to 13:00
Monday to Friday

Office Tel:
082 780 0059

Accounts Email:
accounts@aams.co.za

IFV Accounts:
Winy Boshoff

Summary Income
Statement by
Account Ability



FUN DAY 2017



MY Day Photography

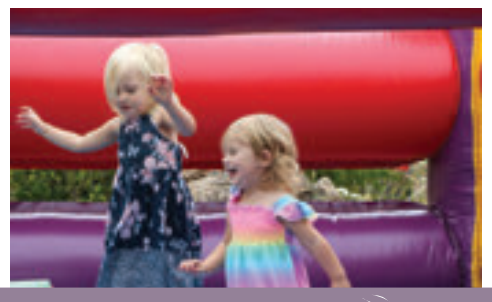


MY Day Photography





Estate News





Estate News





We want to thank the following people and companies that made the day more special. You are more than welcome to contact them. Also a special thanks to Kings Hire for the portable toilets supplied every year



Contact	Company	Phone number
Christa/Nadia	4th Avenue properties	083 388 4736
Ronel/Sylvia	Seef	084 010 8504
Anna-Marie Pretorious	Fruites and nuts / Fudge/cupcakes	082 678 5091
Anita	Sententia laser	073 536 4691
Rumay Havenga	Sekf defence	061 137 9651
Joseph	JJ tradingtoys caps hats	083 249 6546
Keith Ashby	Cafe2Go	061 323 0176
Esta van Niekerk	Pancakes, cupcakes	082 416 1025
Siobhan Beyers	Pentravel	072 742 2522
Elize Visser	Volvo Hatfield	012 431 2500
Belinda	The Pet Box	072 574 8099
Linda	Curves	081 723 0773
Mandy De Ridder	CANSA	072 287 8323

Contact	Company	Phone number
Elisma Nolte	Sterling silver jewellery	082 556 9269
Althia Nortje	Experi - Buddies	072 450 3157
Anne-marie	Tupperware/forever living Aloe Vera	082 892 8552
Dirk	@Fresh - Water	082 557 4240
Maria	Prego's	071 287 4888
Lezl Windall	Freshly cooked	083 608 8952
Charl	Liquor city Groenkloof	012 460 6813
Werda Wiltz	Jumping Castles	082 822 8659
Stefmari Gerike	little jiggle wiggles	082 806 4359
Ladine Joubert	Art	079 496 1863
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GOING NORTH IN KRUGER PARK

It's been years since I travelled the full length of Kruger Park. The distance from Malelane in the far south to the extreme north on the Limpopo is not much shorter than from Johannesburg to Pietermaritzburg – 430km compared with 460km.

Determined, for change, to spend time in the northern region, Mary and I started at Phabeni gate near Hazyview, the nearest gate to Kruger for people driving from Gauteng. This cut the distance to 409km.

I know the south of the park quite intimately – I've been going there for half-a-century – and was looking forward to a few leisurely days getting to Punda Maria, Kruger's most northerly and certainly most rustic camp. Our final destination was Pafuri Camp which Return Africa operates with the Makuleke community who own and largely staff the tented camp strung along the Luvuvhu River.

It had been years since I'd visited this far north-western corner of wedged between Zimbabwe and Mozambique. We chose, on the way up, to stay first at Satara, then Mopani and then Punda Maria.

Satara, with that most productive "S100" N'wanetsi route (known for its variety of game) was my favourite camp. Alas its standards have been allowed to slip. Our circle of huts was coated with bird droppings and the lawns unkempt. Its row of cafes and restaurant is now empty. Mugg and Bean which had taken over in recent years pulled out, disillusioned by the park's management.



Pafuri Camp on the Luvuvhu River



Monotonous mopane scrub

We found the same at Letaba where we hoped to have lunch but found the riverside restaurant closed.

At both camps “field kitchens” have been set up and one dines within a few paces of buckets and hoses and the sight of washing up. At least that’s how it was in December though there was talk of the camp’s management being improved in the New Year.

Things perked up considerably at Mopani Camp, which was clean, welcoming and well managed.

There we witnessed the awesome spectacle of the massing of the “locust bird” – dense clouds of twittering quelea finches filling the evening sky and settling in the trees just in front of us. We watched them settle along every available branch tightly squashed together. At dawn they swarmed across the sky, billowing like smoke.

We crossed the Tropic of Capricorn just beyond Mopani Camp and felt we were now truly in the northern region. The vegetation changed to

mostly monotonous mopane scrub. I remember in the 1950s, before the elephant population explosion, the landscape was mostly parkland



Tropic of Capricorn

forest with grazing between the tall mopanes.

We stopped at Shingwedzi for breakfast. The camp has been refurbished since the devastating 2013 flood submerged it up to its rooftops, dumping chairs, tables and refrigerators way down river.

We reached Punda Maria in the early afternoon.

The scenery and ambience in the north is very different from that of Kruger's central and southern regions. It is thickly forested but there's savannah too with some monumental baobabs and, I am sure, the tallest mopane trees in South Africa.

We discovered near the camp one of the most beautiful loops in the Park – the Mahoney Loop where we saw our first lion of the trip and a rich variety of birds.

The name Punda Maria has long intrigued me. I understood that the first ranger had used the Swahili name for zebra (punda milia – meaning striped ass) but changed Milia for Maria – his wife's name. But, I wonder. The Venda people had a name for an adjacent area near the Soutpansberg – Phande Mariha. Coincidence?



Mahoney Loop

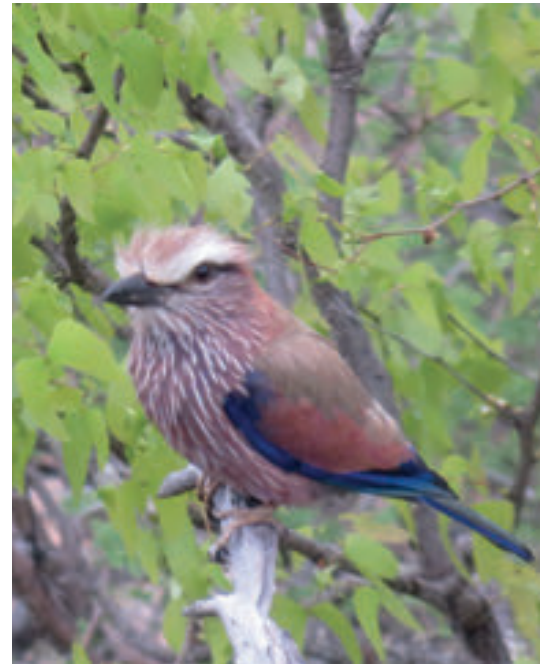
Here we made a great discovery: a delightful little cottage adjacent to, but outside Punda Maria camp. It is called Russell Cottage. It's a very private, beautifully furnished two-bedroomed cottage that accommodates four people. It has two lovely "period" old bathrooms, a fully-equipped kitchen and a braai with a view.

One's private gate leads on to Punda Maria's short nature trail which takes one to the camp's centre.

Decades ago the cottage was a police station but Roland D'Ivry Russell – one time ranger at Mana Pools in Zimbabwe – and his wife, Ursula, bequeathed their estate to Kruger Park which used the money to convert the building. To stay there cost us not much more than we would have paid to stay in one of Punda's family cottages.

As I say, our final destination was Pafuri Camp (formerly Wilderness Safari Lodge) whose widely separated safari tents – all en suite and sheltered under thatch – look down at the passing wildlife parade along the Luvuvhu.

Each tent has its own private deck and each is reached from the dining and communal heart of the camp, by



Purple Roller dries out after shower

an elevated wooden walkway. This was our type of "camping"! – the beds are enormous and a bathroom full of luxurious little touches – and breakfast and dinner prepared by a top chef plus a morning and a sunset drive with a knowledgeable guide.

It was "Birding Big Day" and, thanks to our guide, Tristan Phipps, managed to identify 138 birds. Mary, with well over 700 species on her life list, chalked up three new ones.

The site is very near Crooks Corner which is reached by driving along the Limpopo itself. We watched a herd of elephant moving like wraiths through South Africa's biggest fever tree forest.

Pafuri Camp's entrance is only metres past the Pafuri Bridge on Kruger's H1-9 route. There, at dusk, during the evening drive and sundowners, we identified a green sandpiper, a rare vagrant in South Africa. An amiable bull elephant contemplated using the bridge but changed its mind. Minutes later a magnificent leopard appeared behind us and we spotted a lone buffalo 50 metres way – three of the big five in one go.

We vowed to return to the north for a longer stay.



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THE ART OF LEARNING

Students are largely taught WHAT to learn, but seldom are they taught HOW to learn. The process of active learning can only take place if students know HOW to effectively interact with information, process it, retain it and access it. If students are taught HOW to study from an early age, they will benefit from learning an array of skills, not only for study purposes, but for life-long learning. Learning takes place in two phases: active and passive. Generally, passive learning is spontaneous and happens all the time e.g. learning how to interact with others, building relationships, social cues, gaining knowledge about the weather, animals, non-verbal language etc. whereas active learning is typically described as studying – a conscious process that requires time and effort. For the purpose of this article, the terms learning and studying will be used interchangeably because the process of acquiring knowledge is ultimately the same, albeit that studying requires tangible intervention.

Learning is like art. It is individual, interpretive and distinctive. Every time a student creates new knowledge, whether through conversation or a study note, they create a masterpiece: a one-of-a-kind interpretation that is uniquely construed by its designer. Each of us has a distinct central processing unit that “sees” and “understands” differently. Knowing how to access, drive and manage your CPU is indeed an art. Most people believe that as we grow older, we naturally develop the ability to study effectively. Unfortunately, this rarely happens because studying is a skill and generally happens if (a) it is taught; (b) it is learnt; and (c) it is practiced. Effective study techniques are largely the result of experimentation and

procedure, and study habits can only be created once an reliable method is procured.

Learning is an art because it requires skill. Most skills are taught, and if taught properly, will enable us to develop the skill as we grow, both developmentally and chronologically. Sadly, the skill of learning is largely absent in the school curriculum and hence, many students struggle to perform in activities that require the written recall of information.

The art of learning is complex and requires a variety of competencies. There is no “quick fix” study solution: teaching students how to study takes place over time, with much

exploration of different methods as well as the mastering of certain concepts. During the concrete learning stages (generally Grade 0-3), students engage with tangible learning concepts and tend to learn spontaneously. Informal testing is introduced during this phase of learning as a means to determine if the required concepts have been consolidated. When the student



progresses to formal learning i.e. Grade 4 upwards, concrete learning is steadily replaced with abstract learning and hence, the need for a specific set of skills comes into play. At this stage, the introduction of study skills should take place. The success thereof rests largely on the proficiency of the facilitator and the continuous exposure to the required skills. Essentially, students should engage in study skills throughout the course of the year in all subjects, so as to establish different methods for different contexts.

Learning HOW to learn includes a particular combination of skills. The student requires the knowledge and skill of a variety of processes in order to study effectively. Herewith a brief breakdown of the most important skills relevant to the art of learning when active studying is required:

- **READING** – competent reading skills are at the core of effective learning because the bulk of learning takes place through the skill of reading. Proficient readers are not fast readers – proficient readers accurately comprehend the reading material and actively engage with its meaning.
- **UNDERSTANDING** – competent readers gain understanding from the study material and are able to quickly assimilate, process and store the information. One cannot learn what one does not understand because the brain cannot access what it has not processed. In this phase of learning, the working memory is at the forefront of the activity. If value is not added in this phase, the information will be lost because the brain will not recognise the importance of it and hence, it will not be retained.
- **CHUNKING** – breaking information down into small, manageable parts enables the student to process information easily. Chunking is like building a puzzle: you build piece by piece, understanding where and how each piece fits into the whole, until the

picture is complete. Chunking also relates to the management of time during study periods: regular breaks are essential to maintain focus and concentration, and to allow the brain sufficient time to process the new information and store it appropriately.

- **SUMMARISING** – this is indeed an art and requires the ability to identify only the most important keywords. A true summary is a methodical breakdown of the original into smaller, manageable parts that are easily interpreted and consolidated. The use of a highlighter or circling of important words or phrases is a key summarising tool.
- **CREATING THE MASTERPIECE** – in this stage, the actual study notes are designed. This is an active stage and will result in the masterpiece. The inner artist will emerge in this phase and use colour, abbreviations, personal shorthand, images, signs and symbols to “create” a work of art. The masterpiece is distinct and characteristic of its designer, hence it is very difficult to “study” from another person’s notes as their notes are created as a reflection of their individual thought processes.
- **REPETITION** – once the masterpiece is complete, the stages of repetition, rehearsal and revision takes place. The art of reading will once again feature in this phase too, because the student will be reading through the notes repeatedly.
- **RECITAL** – this is the final phase of learning and will require the student to “test” whether the knowledge has been gained. Some of the ways in which to execute this stage is through active teaching of the content (to the parent, the dog or the teddy bear on the bed), writing a test (ideally designed by the student so that the art of asking and answering questions is enhanced) or creating a further breakdown of the study notes (a summary of the summary). Teaching is probably the most effective because it will require

the student to exercise the skill of expressing the information to an audience.

- **TIME MANAGEMENT** – effective time management skills are vital to the learning experience. Students need to learn HOW to manage their time so that they set aside enough time to study effectively and in advance. Students also need to practice working within specific time frames so that they learn how to manage their time during tests and exams when time limits are a huge factor of academic success. Effective time management is a life skill and if introduced early in schooling, will develop into a healthy lifestyle habit.

Furthermore, a calm disposition throughout the learning process is essential. Students cannot function optimally if they are plagued by stress and anxiety. Angst is often a large determining factor in retaining and recalling information. The brain cannot process or retrieve information if the physical or emotional state of being is hindered. Although it is very difficult to maintain peace of mind during the active learning process, every effort should be made to manage anxiety levels.

Active learning is an integral part of formal schooling and provides a platform for further study. If students are taught HOW to learn effectively, they will feel competent and confident in the classroom, encouraged to continue their learning journey well after high school.

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January 1.

Dear Diary, this is me again, Selwyn!

This year I have resolved to write something EVERY NIGHT ALL YEAR!!! because I know that “every day is a precious gift”, as Shakespeare said, or was it Bles Bridges? Today, for instance, I got up (11am) after a heavy night welcoming in the New Year and blowing a whistle (quite loudly). Mabel Larkin smiled at me last night in a meaningful way. Went home and went to bed in my new Christmas pajamas with little red devils on them.

This morning phoned mother to wish her happy New Year and she asked, “Who’s this?” I said it’s your son, Selwyn, and she said “What do you want THIS time?”

Had some cold chicken for lunch and watched telly. After last night, have resolved to give up drinking forever.

January 2. Dear diary, Got up and went to work. Nothing much happened except Petrus in Accounts who wanted to go to Mussina for Christmas caught a taxi going to Umtata by mistake but says he still had a good time. Peter Lloyd in Customer Care met a girl at Ballito Bay. He said she’s cool and Gladys asked HOW cool? And Peter said “Never you mind,” in a meaningful sort of way.

Ate Nando’s, watched telly and went to bed.

January 3. Got up and couldn’t find toothbrush. Office still very quiet. Peter has a date tonight with Beryl, that’s her name. The computers went down so we just sat around talking about cricket and Zuma except Peter who was talking on the phone in a very low voice to Beryl who is quite high up in toiletries at the local Clicks.



Went home, ate take-away lasagna (very good); watched soccer on the box. Went to bed.

January 4. Got up. Peter was wearing dark glasses today. He said it’s because of the glare but Gladys said he was hiding a black eye. She asked him: “Didn’t you click?” (She is very witty sometimes.) Peter said he and Beryl got on fine thank you very much but he said it in a meaningful sort of way. The tea lady didn’t turn up.

Gladys said “TGIF!” which she said means “Thank God it’s Friday”. Isn’t that clever? Had the rest of the lasagna for dinner tonight and two beers. This is not meaningful drinking so I haven’t really broken my New Year resolution.

January 5. Got up. Nothing meaningful happened.

January 6. Got up. Made scrambled egg for breakfast.

January 7. Got up. Went to work. Said “TGIM” to everybody but nobody knew what I was talking about.

Mr Beasley came back from leave and said he had been fined R1000 near Beaufort West for doing 141km/h! He said Beaufort West employs thin cops so they can hide behind telephone poles on those Karoo highways. He is still angry about what Jackson did to the rubber plant at the office party last month. I can’t tell you, dear diary, because it was DISGUSTING. The plant died. Mr Beasley said that the rubber plant had been the only intelligent thing in the office. Mabel, his secretary, gave him a meaningful look so he said he was only joking and that quite a few of us were more intelligent than the rubber plant. I asked “WHO?” but he wouldn’t tell.

“How about me?” asked Wayne who is BIG and has huge muscles and even Mr Beasley wouldn’t dare call him stupid.

Mr Beasley said, “Wayne you are as strong as an ox and twice as smart!”

Wayne was all smiles after this.

January 8. Got up went to work.

January 9. Got up

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No you are not buying time share. When you buy time share, you buy holiday time. When you buy Co-ownership, you own the property in your name. The percentage you buy of the property will be registered in your name in the deeds office.

You will own a R5 – R6 million lodge and use it as a R5 – R6 million lodge, but only pay 10% of the total price. When selling your Co-ownership you will receive property growth as with any other property investment.

2. Is it the same as Fractional ownership?

No it is not the same as Fractional ownership. With Fractional ownership you buy shares in a company that owns the property. When buying into a company you stand a chance of losing your shares. Should the company, for any reason, go bankrupt or experience tax issues you will be liable.



3. Am I buying into a holiday scheme?

This is not a holiday scheme. Co-ownership allows you to make a property investment. It is a property and lifestyle investment.

4. Who determines the levies?

The levies are determined by the Home owners. Levies will include Home owners' association levies, municipal levies, weekly cleaning services, DSTV, home and vehicle insurance, maintenance, and other services the home owners decide on. No management company vat fees are involved.



5. How often can I use the lodge?

A calendar is worked out 10 years in advance. Each 10% owner can use the lodge 5-6 times a year. A 10% owner will get a week every 10 weeks. The weeks rotate every year so you don't have the same weeks year in year out. The weeks run from Wednesday to Wednesday. Long weekend's guaranteed.

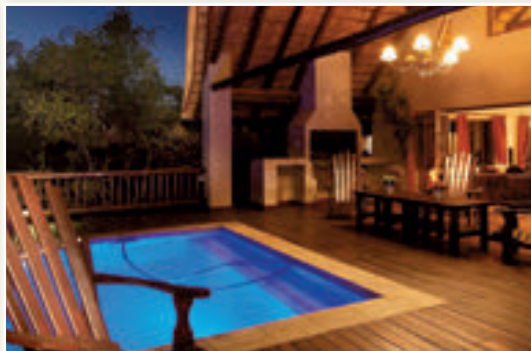


6. What happens to my shares when I pass away?

Because you own the lodge, your shares can be left to the person/s of your choice in your will. Whether you own 100% or less the process is exactly the same as with your other properties.

7. Can I earn an income by renting the lodge out?

According to the legal Home owners' agreement, which is signed by all home owners, you are allowed to rent out the lodge when you are not able to use it, or wish to earn extra money to cover levies or other expenses.



8. Does the lodge include a game viewer?

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9. What will my return on investment be?

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