



The **Villager**

Issue 5 • 2017

FTTH
soon a
reality

Birding
with
children

Man's best friend



I am Irene Farm Villages & Centurion Golf Estate

Peter Varrie 082 457 7416, pamgolding.co.za/peter-varrie

Office: 012 644 8300


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PROPERTIES



I am
Peter Varrie
Irene Farm Villages &
Centurion Golf Estate

I can do the same
for your property too.
Please contact me for
your sales requirements.

Contents

The Villager focuses on Irene Farm Villages. The magazine is delivered to the home of each resident on the Estate. The magazine is co-ordinated and published by Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd on behalf of the Home Owners' Association of Irene Farm Villages. The opinions of workers and personnel of Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd do not necessarily reflect those of the HOA of Irene Farm Villages.

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Cover by Madeleine Du Plessis,
taken at Rietvlei Nature Reserve



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Dear Residents

Autumn started this morning with a chilly morning breeze, but as the day progressed, one experienced the last of the summer temperatures soaring above the 30°C. We trust that the scholars and teachers enjoyed the Easter holidays and are geared for the second term.

Talking of school children, the outstanding world class performance of the 17-year-old Sokwakhana Zazini from the TuksSport High School caught the eye. At the Gauteng-North Athletic Championships, Sokwakhana set a new world youth record in the

400m hurdles in a time of 48.84 seconds, which is 0.17 seconds faster than the time ran by William Wynne of the USA in 2007. Maybe a second



At van Niekerk

Wayde van Niekerk in the making!

All the Members of the Irene Farm Villages HOA are reminded that they have direct access to the web-page of the HOA. Members can access the portal by entering your username and password, which is provided on the portal page, in the Member login area. The portal is part of the Community Management System ("CMS"). The HOA web-page is hosted by Glovent Solutions. Some of the functionalities in the portal available to you as Member, include:

- To update your personal details, which is required by the Estate Management, for example your



newest e-mail address, vehicle and pet registration, etc.

- Sharing of notes, personal news feeds with the Estate Management and other Members.
- View, download or print important documents, for example registration forms, house rules, Memorandum of Incorporation, etc.
- Find service providers in your community. If you are looking for a plumber, electrician or other product service provider in our area start your search at the MySP (My Service Provider) directory in the portal.

Members who want to advertise on the portal are welcome to contact Ian at ian@glovent.co.za.

There are a number of activities and developments in and around the Estate and includes the following:

- **The HOA Property Management Committee ("PMC")** has appointed the professional team that will be responsible for the Infra-Structure Development Plan ("IDP"). They are:
 - Citadel Projects, presented by Mr Kelvin Nemacha, who will be the Quantity Surveyor and Principal Agent for the IDP project;
 - Peet Olivier Consulting Engineers, presented by Mr Peet Olivier, who will be the Structural Consulting Engineer; and
 - Marais 4 Architects, presented by Mr Eben Marais, who will attend to the building plans.

The immediate action steps to follow will be to finalise the building plans, which will be submitted to the Tshwane City Council for approval before the building works can

commence. The PMC will go out on tender to appoint the building contractor. Members are welcome to submit the contact details of reputable building contractors to the Estate Manager, who can then be invited to tender.

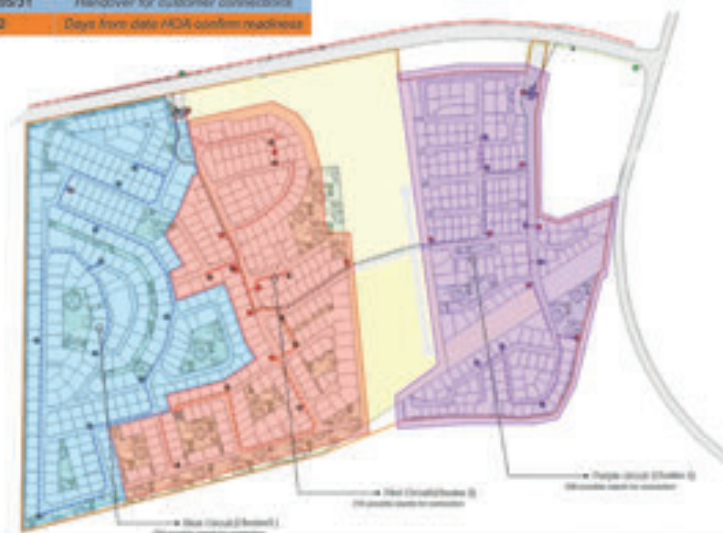
- **The Close Circuit Television ("CCTV")** The appointed contractor, X-On, is in the process of laying and casting the 34 plinth holes, wherein the fibre and power cables, as well as the camera poles will be installed. Once the plinths have been casted, the trenching and installation of the fibre and power cables will commence. The two (2) 20kVA Perkins diesel generators, which are part of the Power Solution, were delivered on Friday, the 24th March 2017. The generators will only be connected and commissioned once the Power Solution as part of the CCTV network has been completed with the planned date by the end of May 2017.

- **The Fibre-To-The-Home ("FTTH")** project is finally progressing. It will start off with the micro-trenching along the roads throughout the whole Estate in three (3) clusters, the one following the other immediately. The fibre will be

installed at the same time as the micro-trenching is done. The fibre will be taken onto the kerbside, where it will be spliced into a kerb box. Once a member of the HOA has signed up with Vodacom, the Technical Support Team of Vodacom will engage with the signed-up member to arrange for the fibre to be installed into the house in a router, free of charge. Members who are not signed up with Vodacom must request their service provider (MTN or Cell C or Telkom, etc) to liaise with Vodacom. Vodacom will attend to the installation of the fibre to the home of the Members, who are not signed up with Vodacom. There will be ongoing communication by the Estate Management to all the Members as this project unfolds. It is expected that the micro-trenching should be completed by the end of May 2017.

- **M & T Developments:** Notice was given of the development of the land on the East of Van Ryneveld, between the current M & T development in progress and the new mall construction works. Provision is made for the development of a further 200 residential properties. The PMC

Cluster 1	2017/05/17	Handover for customer connections
Cluster 2	2017/05/24	Handover for customer connections
Cluster 3	2017/05/31	Handover for customer connections
CCTV Network	40	Days from date HOA confirms readiness



Estate News

will engage with M & T and further information will be passed onto our Members.

The annual property inspection will be carried out by the HOA Aesthetic Sub-Committee ("ASC") during May 2017. During the inspection, the exterior of all properties will be inspected to ensure, that at all times the aesthetic values are of a high standard and that properties are well maintained. Where the ASC finds that a property requires maintenance of a kind including the painting of the house, the Owner will receive a notice to this effect from the Estate Manager. The Owner will be requested to attend to the maintenance of his/her property within a notice period, failing which a penalty in terms of the HOA Rules may be imposed. The co-operation of all the Members will be appreciated.



Owners are reminded of the HOA Building Rules and Regulations, which inter alia include some of the following guidelines:

- Building plans must be submitted to the HOA's ASC for a new dwelling or any kind of alteration and/or addition to a dwelling. This also includes the building plans for a boundary wall or a swimming pool or a carport or any exterior structure which is fixed to the main dwelling.
- Driveways shall have a paved, stable and permanent surface making use of brickwork or pavers (excluding interlocking pavers) or cement cobbles or simulated stone cobbles. In the instance where the condition of an existing driveway has deteriorated to such an extent, that it requires maintenance, the painting of the driveway as a last resort will



be allowed by the HOA Board. It is important to note that the pre-approval must be obtained from the Board.

- Air-conditioners are not permitted to be fitted higher than 1.5 metres above the natural ground level. In the instance where the air-conditioner was fitted before the inception of this rule (2013), such units must be screened off or camouflaged to the satisfaction of the HOA.
- Awnings, canopies or shutters must be approved by the HOA.
- Antennae and aerials, including satellite dishes, may not protrude above the highest point of the dwelling;
- Geysers may be installed on the exterior sloping of the roof, however

the geyser or the rack on which it is mounted, may not exceed above the ridge of the roof.

- All sewer piping must be screened off in a duct.
- Water tanks are now permissible; however, they may not be visible from the street. The colour of the water tank and any downpipes must be an aesthetically pleasing earth like colour.
- Exterior walls must be painted in an earth like colour, which must be approved by the Estate Manager.

Residents are reminded of the weekly Saturday walk at 07h30, which starts at the Estate post boxes. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Regards
Estate Management

**"Our character is what we do,
when we think no one is looking"**
- H. Jackson Brown Junior

intrigue

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Floor Size 269 sqm

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IRENE FARM VILLAGES

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Floor size 346 sqm

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comprising of 5 bedrooms, a study,
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Security



Marchell Galant

Dear Residents

It would appear that there are again some youngsters playing Tok Tokkie in the Estate. Security received several complaints of youngsters that knock on the doors of Residents and then run away. Any suspicious movement can be reported to the Security on 012-662-1688, 082-947-7610 or 082-838-7779.

Traffic violations are on the increase again. Security has received complaints of vehicles failing to stop at stop streets in the Estate. When investigated, it was established that some of our own Residents in the Estate fail to stop at such intersections.

Security has also received complaints from Residents about refuse bins



that were not emptied by the City of Tshwane's garbage truck. Residents should please remember that City of

Tshwane will not empty your refuse bin if there is garden rubble or building material in.

Residents must please make sure that all household workers are registered. A day pass should be completed if a Resident would like a gardener to work just for one day at their property.

Kind Regards

Marchell Galant

Contract Manager

EPS Irene Farm Villages

Tel: +27 12 665 5602

Mobile: +27 82 300 1835

E-mail: galantm@proteacoin.co.za

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

24HR SECURITY GUARD ROOM:

012-662-1688

24HR CONTROLLER:

082-947-7610

24HR SHIFT MANAGER

082-838-7779

SECURITY MANAGER

082-300-1835

remember

Make Sure

- That all vehicles that are parked in driveways must be locked and all valuables (e.g. laptops, wallets, handbags and GPS navigators) must be removed from the vehicle.
- That alarm systems must be activated and in a working condition. Please test your alarm system regularly to ensure that it is in a good working condition and that it does

send out a signal when activated.

- To be vigilant at all times in the Estate and report any suspicious activities directly to the Bidvest Protea Coin Security.
- To be law abiding citizens and prevent crime, register all domestic workers and gardeners and make sure that they have IDs or valid passport documents.

Residents can contact me directly should they be interested in having an alarm system linked to our Protea Coin 24hrs Call Centre in Highveld Techno Park.

Marchell Galant • galantm@proteacoin.co.za • 082 300 1835



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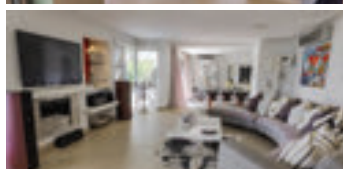
IRENE FARM VILLAGE

Modern Masterpiece R5.9 mill

WEB REF: 987



4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 living areas, built in bar and wine cellar, enclosed entertainment room with dining area, study, kitchen and scullery with Caesar stone tops, walk in pantry, swimming pool, garage fits 3 cars +++
Nina 082 963 1994





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

	March 2017		Year to Date		YTD Variance	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Value	%
Operational Income						
<i>Levy Income</i>						
Normal Levies	912 407	912 406	912 407	912 406	1	0.0%
<i>Other Income</i>						
Interest Received	47 930	37 000	47 930	37 000	10 930	29.5%
Contractors Permits	53 740	10 000	53 740	10 000	43 740	437.4%
Estate Agent Registration	140 790	129 960	140 790	129 960	10 830	8.3%
Post Box Annual Fee	37 850	2 000	37 850	2 000	35 850	1792.5%
	1 192 717	1 091 366	1 192 717	1 091 366	101 351	9.3%
Operational Expenditure						
<i>Professional /Administration</i>						
Accounting Fees	34 980	34 980	34 980	34 980	0	0.0%
Audit Fees	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Bank Charges	5 872	3 000	5 872	3 000	(2 872)	-95.7%
Insurance	11 456	11 060	11 456	11 060	(396)	-3.6%
Legal & Professional Fees	2 500	5 000	2 500	5 000	2 500	50.0%
<i>General Office</i>						
Office Equipment	379	1 200	379	1 200	821	68.4%
General Expenses	3 078	1 000	3 078	1 000	(2 078)	-207.8%
Office Refreshment	2 138	1 000	2 138	1 000	(1 138)	-113.8%
Printing & Stationary	15 761	4 750	15 761	4 750	(11 011)	-231.8%
Telecommunication	5 291	6 150	5 291	6 150	859	14.0%
<i>Operational Expenses</i>						
Municipal Charges	33 929	31 000	33 929	31 000	(2 929)	-9.4%
Recycling	8 909	8 909	8 909	8 909	(0)	0.0%
Donations	0	5 000	0	5 000	5 000	100.0%
Meetings	0	1 500	0	1 500	1 500	100.0%
Salaries & Wages	106 709	111 470	106 709	111 470	4 761	4.3%
<i>Security</i>						
Access Control (ClickOn)	20 206	22 000	20 206	22 000	1 794	8.2%
- ClickOn Recovery	(10 085)	(10 000)	(10 085)	(10 000)	85	-0.9%
Equipment Maintenance SLA	20 610	21 650	20 610	21 650	1 040	4.8%
Security Maintenance	(13 558)	7 000	(13 558)	7 000	20 558	293.7%
CCTV Equipment Rental	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Guarding Services	503 100	503 100	503 100	503 100	(0)	0.0%
<i>Repairs & Maintenance</i>						
Fuel	3 191	3 000	3 191	3 000	(191)	-6.4%
General Maintenance	8 466	9 150	8 466	9 150	684	7.5%
Infrastructure Maintenance	3 368	3 140	3 368	3 140	(228)	-7.2%
Park Facing Boundary Walls	2 325	13 750	2 325	13 750	11 425	83.1%
Park Maintenance	0	5 000	0	5 000	5 000	100.0%



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

	March 2017		Year to Date		YTD Variance	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Value	%
Park Maintenance Contract	114 492	114 500	114 492	114 500	8	0.0%
Vehicles	0	1 500	0	1 500	1 500	100.0%
	883 119	919 809	883 119	919 809	36 690	4.0%
Operating Profit / (Loss)	309 598	171 557	309 598	171 557	138 041	
Non-Recurring Revenue						
Estate Penalties	1 000	0	1 000	0	1 000	100.0%
Late Building Penalties	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Late Payment Penalties	2 650	0	2 650	0	2 650	100.0%
Plan Fee Recovery	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
- Plan Fee Cost	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Expense Recovery	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Sale to Members	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Non-Recurring Expenses						
Traffic Management	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Social Development Projects	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Park Development	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Historic Tshwane Accounts	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Environmental Development	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Cash Provision	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Net Positive/ (Negative)	3 650	0	3 650	0	3 650	
Net Profit / (Loss)	313 248	171 557	313 248	171 557	141 691	

Irene Farm Village Home Owners Association - Infrastructure Development

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Value	%
Revenue						
Special Levies	203 984	203 984	203 984	203 984	0	0.0%
Stand Sales			0	0	0	100.0%
Projects						
WIP - CCTV Project			71 506			
WIP - Infrastructure Development Project			103 007			
WIP - Land Purchase Project			0			
WIP - Power Solution Project			1 152 904			

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Office Tel:
082 780 0059

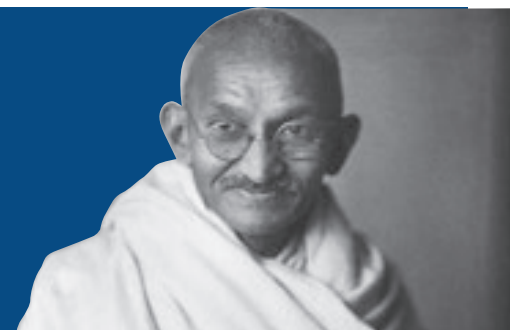
Accounts Email:
accounts@aams.co.za

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Winnie Boshoff



Summary Income
Statement by
Account Ability

“An ounce of practice is worth
more than tons of preaching.”
— Mahatma Gandhi





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Model shown with optional extras.

Dr Kearney Advanced Dentistry – Teeth done right

Your smile is one of the first things people notice upon meeting you. You also only have one set of permanent teeth, which is supposed to last your entire lifetime.

Professional dental care is therefore one of the most important commitments you can make for yourself and your health.

At Dr Kearney Advanced Dentistry, they believe that preventative care and educating their patients are the keys to optimal dental health. Instead of “disease care”, their focus is on dental health care. At Dr Kearney Advanced Dentistry, dental exams include checking the overall health of your teeth and gums, performing oral cancer exams as well as taking x-rays when required because many diseases, such as cancer, can be detected early on in your mouth.

The team consists of highly skilled and trained clinicians. To stay on top of current trends they are committed to continual education and learning. This means that they attend (and sometimes present) lectures and meetings in order to stay informed of the newest techniques, the latest products and the newest equipment to provide you with state-of-the-art dental care.

Some of the newest technology that they use, which is a great advantage to them and their patients, include the fantastic CEREC – a machine that enables them to provide you with a dental prosthesis (a crown) in a single visit! There is no unpleasant impression material used, no bothersome temporary prosthesis, and no follow-up appointment!

They also have a state-of-the-art 3-D X-ray machine which enables better prediction for treatment and dental planning!

At Dr Kearney Advanced Dentistry,



they also strongly believe in giving back and they are actively involved with several charity organisations and community outreach. One programme that they feel very passionate about is the El Shalem Haven – a private learning establishment for people with severe disabilities. During their charity day, dental treatments were done for the children who needed it. They also regularly visit the home to provide cleanings as well as some goodies to these children.

What do they do?

Teeth whitening
Tooth replacement
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Teeth alignment
Restoration
Major tooth repairs
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Preventive dentistry
Treatment of grinding
And more!

Meet the team:

Dr Willem Kearney – the owner of Dr Kearney Advanced Dentistry. He studied at the University of Pretoria and also has advanced training and experience in dental implantology and orthodontics. He is the Vice-President of the Gauteng branch of the South African Dental Association.

Dr Marvin Choma – dentist at the practice. He graduated from the

University of Pretoria. In conjunction with Dr Kearney Advanced Dentistry, he also holds a post at the University of Pretoria Dental School, where he is a lecturer. He hopes to continue his studies further and become a specialist orthodontist.

Angelique Kearney – Manager and Oral Hygienist at Dr Kearney Advanced Dentistry. She received her Oral Hygiene Diploma from the University of Pretoria. She is also a qualified beauty therapist, personal trainer, aerobics instructor, lifestyle and image coach. She is also the Gauteng Chair of the Oral Hygienist Association of South Africa.

Nicolette Brink – she is the friendly receptionist who makes everyone who walks through their door welcome.

Amanda Schutte – she is one of the Oral Hygienists.

Dr Edwin Alberts – one of the dentists at the practice.

Need a dentist over the weekend or after hours? Don't worry, Dr Kearney Advanced Dentistry is here for you! Simply phone the office (012 663 8810), where the voicemail service will provide you with the contact details of the doctor on call!

Some testimonials from satisfied patients:

“I like the service, it's very professional and you always get the best out of the doctor (Kearney) and the staff as a whole. May God bless you all!!!” – Lesego Melato

“Friendliest practice, greatest results, wonderful experience all-round. Who would have thought teeth-work could be enjoyable.” – Tracey Kalker

“Awesome practice! Very professional & efficient! Plus it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be! Yay” – Boipelo Lekwane

THE JOY OF BIRDING WITH CHILDREN

A couple I know did the Napi Trail in Kruger Park in January. It is a particularly scenic wilderness trail some distance east of Pretoriuskop; it meanders among the giant granite boulders near the confluence of the Byamiti and Napi rivers. If they'd fallen in either of these rivers they would have had to dust themselves down because the park was in the grip of the worst drought the staff could recall.

There was no grass, no leaves on the trees. Dust devils danced about in the 40 degrees heat. The bushveld had become a desert. "It'll take years for the park to recover from this," said my friend.

They then motored up to the central region, to Satara, in the hope it would be greener. It was also a desert. Hippo were crammed together in the few pools of water left in the dried river beds.

I had booked for March to go with Mary (my photographer companion) to stay at Kruger Park Lodge where I am part owner of a house on the Lower Sabie River. Mary's daughter, Suzy, and Suzy's two children, Alex (8) and Ashleigh (5) would spend the first three days with us.

Alex was unusually excited about the prospect because at Christmas he had been given a small bird book – a slim pocket-sized copy of *Pocket Guide to Birds of Southern Africa* by Burger Cillie and Ulrich Oberprieler. I'd never heard

of it (nor had I heard of the publisher, Game Parks Publishing) but it was nicely illustrated with 200 coloured photographs of the more common species.

Alex was told that if he was able to identify and remember 25 of the birds in the book by the end of the Christmas holiday (at Ballito Bay) he would get a pair of binoculars.

It had the most extraordinary effect. Mary, being an experienced birder, was able to show him how to use her binoculars. By the time Alex came home he had identified 43 birds.

Even the journey back from the Christmas holiday to their home in Randburg became exciting for he was able to spot conspicuous birds such as the Pied Crow, Cattle Egret, House Sparrow (at the filling stations) – he was even able to add an Ostrich to his list.

I was relieved to see, in March, how green was Kruger Park Lodge and its golf course. But then the golfing estate has ample groundwater for irrigation – but what would the park be like?

The Sabie River was fuller than I had seen it in years and we walked along its banks under the shady canopy of riverine trees pierced by shafts of sunlight. Alex, in front, suddenly stopped and, very cautiously, pointed: there, at eye-level and only metres away, perched on a twig against a

mudbank, sat a brilliantly-coloured, Half-collared Kingfisher.

The bird was unfazed by our presence. Then, flashing its spectacular "kingfisher blue" wings, it flew a few metres to join its mate.

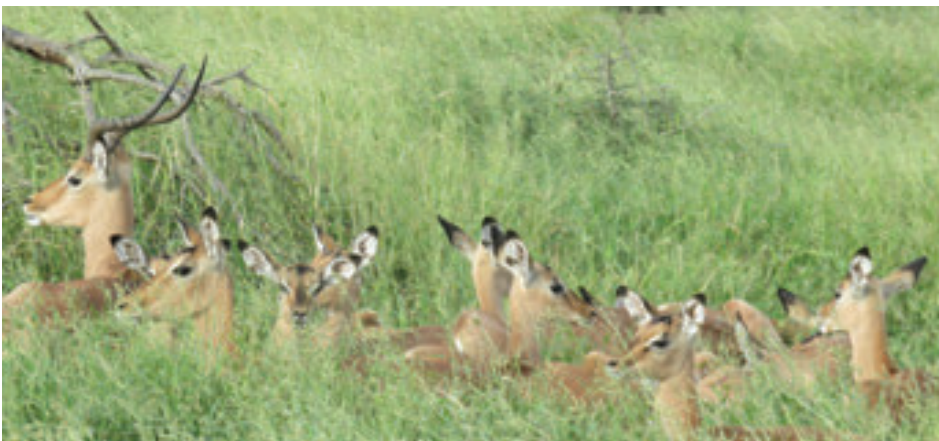
Alex, thrilled at having spotted a bird that enraptured us all – I'd seen it only three times in my life – was transported with joy. His sister, "Ash", had by Easter, over 50 birds on her list.

We saw a Purple Turaco gliding between trees on blood-red wings but the kingfisher sighting was a special moment and I became aware of the added enjoyment of birding with enthusiastic young people.

Next day we entered the Kruger Park and within a few hundred metres of passing through Phabeni Gate we saw a huge shapeless mound in a mudhole. It puzzled us until, as the mud cascaded off its head and horns, it revealed itself as a buffalo.

The desiccated park of January had become a green paradise. The grass was as high as an impala's eye; silver-leaf terminalia shone in the sun and the maroela trees were heavy with berries.

There were European Rollers, Lilac-breasted Rollers, White-fronted Bee-eaters, Yellow Hornbills, Red Hornbills, Grey Hornbills... the bird book pages were fluttering (we had at least four



Up to their ears in fresh grass



The Half-collared Kingfisher - it made everybody's day.

Birding

kinds of bird books in the car) and Alex and Ash were almost spinning around trying to absorb it all.

Then an eagle in a tree. An eagle! This was serious stuff. A Wahlberg's Eagle or a Tawny? The former has a straight narrow tail like a short ruler whereas the Tawny has more of a fan-shaped tail. Alas this one was sitting on its nest of sticks and we concluded it must have been Wahlberg's, a breeding migrant.

Sadly Suzy and the children had to go home but before leaving the park Alex had positively identified (pi'ed as we old birders like to say) his 100th bird.

I say "sadly" because they missed coming with us to Satara which was by then greener than Ireland. There were fat herds of zebra and wildebeest wading in waist-high grass.

The children missed experiencing a birding phenomenon that we saw on the Satara-Orpen road: swarms of Red-billed Queleas (the locust bird) sweeping over the veld like a blizzard; tens of thousands of them, just like locusts. They flocked just above the grass and then, in one second and in a perfectly synchronised movement, they dropped like little stones into the grass. Seconds later they were off again, swirling and dipping.

Central Kruger Park, as I have witnessed many time before, heals so quickly. We found all the rivers flowing strongly, happy hippos everywhere.



Alex and Ashleigh



A flock of Queleas. We also witnessed swarms but too far to photograph.



The perpetually nodding Mourning Dove in Satara Camp.



European rollers were particularly abundant.



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My Mom once jokingly told me her advice for the parents of teenagers. She said, "When your children enter the teenage years, it's best to get a dog. That way, at least someone will be happy when you get home." And although, as a teenager myself, I have to act offended by such advice, I can't argue with the dog logic.

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

A dog is undoubtedly one who is excited when you get home. (You can usually notice this by the fact that you can hardly get out of your car without a shower of doggy-breath licks and having to dodge the tail-turned-helicopter rotor blade.) Dogs are our protectors, our cheerer-uppers, our source of laughter and ultimately, our true best friends. And as it turns out, it has been this way for quite some time. In fact, Greger Larson, the director of the University of Oxford's palaeogenomics and bio-archaeology research network, says that recent studies may be indicating that humans first kept dogs as pets some 12,000 years ago.

Some 12,000 years ago, dogs were still fairly wolf-like. As such, dogs were initially kept as animals of usefulness, rather than just the pets that we often make of dogs today. In fact, dogs were used for herding sheep, protection and sometimes even for their coats. In Rome, some 2000 years ago, there was a sudden demand for dogs to curb the

growing black rat problem. Dogs are truly interesting and really have a fascinating history and so in honour of our "best friends", I've put together a list of some of my favourite dog stories and facts.

- 1. Heroic dog stories:** When it comes to heroic dog stories, the list is endless. However, my favourite dog story is that of Greyfriars Bobby, a Skye terrier that lived in Edinburgh, Scotland, in the 1800s. After his owner passed away, Bobby sat next to his grave and guarded it for 14 years. In his honour, a statue of Bobby was erected in Edinburgh. It's believed to be lucky if you rub his nose as you pass and as a result, his statue's nose has become shiny.
- 2. Classy accessories:** As it turns out, it's not only the modern-day celebrities such as Paris Hilton who find dogs to be good accessories. In fact, there is evidence that the royalty of Europe of a few hundred years ago, had special garments made with pockets to carry their dogs. Furthermore, dogs and even

just portraits of dogs soon became acceptable gifts amongst the royalty.

- 3. Names:** Milo, Snowy, Bouncer, Fluffy, you name it, dogs have been called it. In case you were wondering though, a recent survey indicated that the most popular dog name is Max. This is closely followed by names like Molly, Sam and Maggie.
- 4. Special training:** Dogs may have become our pets but that doesn't make them any less useful than they were to humans 12,000 years ago. Nowadays, dogs can be trained to alert people before they have a seizure, to be able to sniff out prostate cancer from a urine sample and to detect drops in the insulin levels of those with diabetes.

When you examine the facts, there's no doubt about it. Dogs are undoubtedly our best friends. Whether it's the Mooikloof patrol dog or just your very own fluffy hound, dogs bring together all the most beautiful traits in life.



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