



The Villager

Issue 8 • 2017

*Don't miss the Sunset Walk
& bring and braai on 9 August*

**Yellow
Mongoose
colonies in IFV**

Mind your digital footprint

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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R2.9 million



SOLD

CN1313848

R2.2 million



SOLD

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R2.7 million



**UNDER
OFFER**

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R2.65 million



**UNDER
OFFER**

CN1323118

R4.299 million



**UNDER
OFFER**

CN1326153

R4.35 million



**FOR
SALE**

CN1277535

R3.795 million



**FOR
SALE**

CN1318850

R4.1 million



**FOR
SALE**

CN1315125

R4.15 million



**FOR
SALE**

CN1314561

R4.2 million



**FOR
SALE**

CN1317945

R4.5 million



**FOR
SALE**

CN1320774

R4.9 million

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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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- 02 Message from the Estate Manager
- 07 Financials
- 08 The Khomani San
- 10 The Saturday Walking Group
- 11 Sunset Walk and Bring & Braai
- 14 IFV's Yellow Mongoose
- 15 Travel
- 18 Your Digital Footprint
- 19 Irene Service Providers
- 22 Smalls
- 23 Approved Estate Agents
- 24 Humour

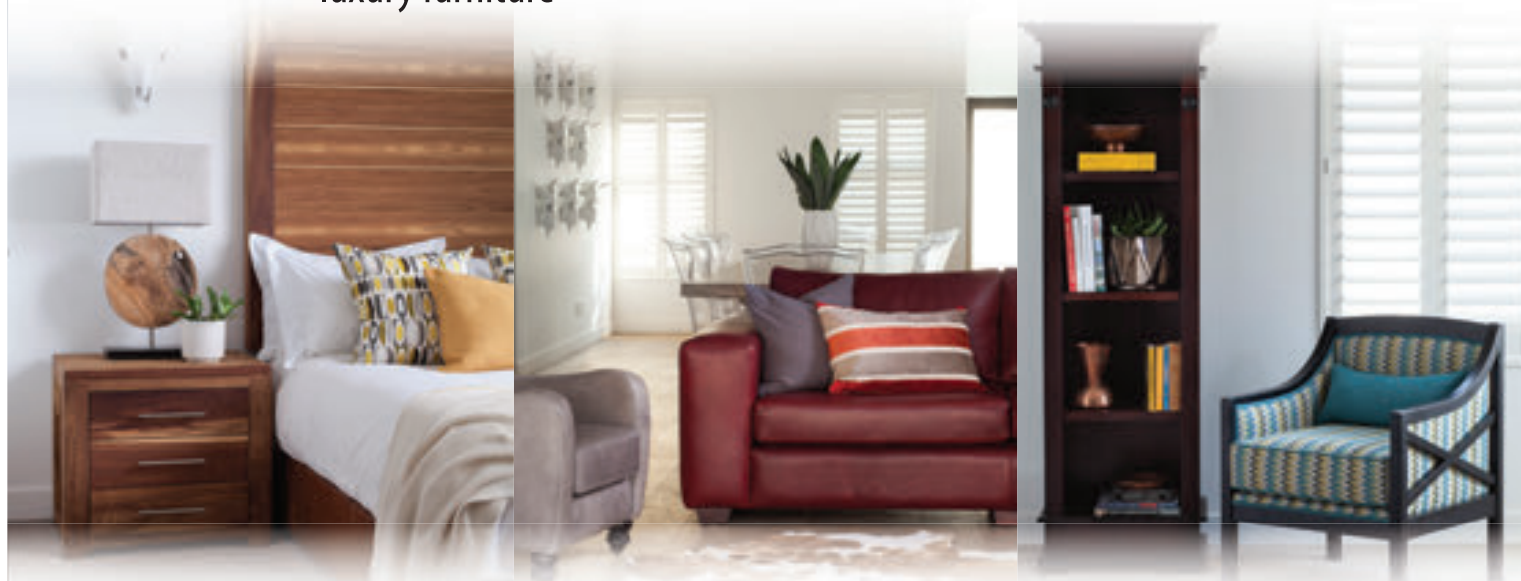
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Dear Residents

We are halfway through the winter of 2017, which I experienced as mild. We hope the scholars of the public schools enjoyed their winter holiday and that the scholars of the private schools will have a great late winter break during August.

From an environmental perspective one can see that the trees all around us are showing signs of new life, forming buds and ready to grow in the new spring season, which is around the corner. We hope that all the younger trees in the Estate withstood the winter. From a gardening perspective, the younger trees, totalling about 1082, are watered every second week during the winter months.

The Fibre-To-The-Home ("FTTH") project has become a reality for Irene Farm Villages residents. The Estate Management would like to extend a word of thanks to all our Residents for their patience in dealing with the inconvenience caused during the construction phase. Vodacom has

installed border boxes, also referred to as fibre chambers, next to the sidewalks. Each of these boxes will provide a fibre connection to two houses. The installation of the fibre from the border box to the houses will only take place once the owner of the house has entered into an agreement with either Vodacom as the internet service provider ("ISP") or any other ISP such as MTN, Cell C, Telkom, etc. Hopefully, the Estate Office will soon also have fibre connectivity with not only an



At van Niekerk

enhanced internet connection, but also an upgraded telecommunication system.

At the same time, the CCTV project was driven by the HOA's Sub-Committee in conjunction with Xon Systems ("Xon"), the appointed HOA service provider. The expected date of going live and being operational was set for 31st July. The construction teams had to deal with many unexpected obstacles during the construction period, namely the late rains in February and March this year, the difficulty of the construction site,





which was often limited to a narrow servitude area in which to construct the plinths and rocky ground in which the trenching had to be carried out. These elements caused unforeseen delays. Once the CCTV network is live, the whole 4.2 kilometre perimeter fence will be under camera surveillance and controlled from the control room at the main gate.

The Infra Structure Development Plan ("IDP") of the HOA is progressing. The service level agreements with the professional team have been signed. The Professional team consists of the following companies:

- Citadel Projects: The Principal Agent and the Quantity Surveyor presented by Mr Kelvin Nemacha;
- Marais 4 Architects: The architect, presented by Mr Eben Marais;



Ronnie Mgiba



Klaas Mahlaela



Lucas Chigo

- Peet Olivier Consulting Engineers, presented by Mr Peet Olivier.

The building plans are in the process of being finalised for approval by the HOA, whereafter they will be submitted to the Tshwane City

Council for approval. It is not anticipated that the construction work will start during 2017.

Since the beginning of June 2017, the Bidvest Protea Coin Security system at our Estate has been functioning without the Security Manager, Marchell Galant, who was transferred to George by Protea Coin. The newly appointed Assistant Estate Manager, Mr Leon van der Merwe, has taken over these management functions. In this restructuring process, more managerial responsibilities were directed to the Shift (Duty) Managers. There are currently three (3) Shift Managers, namely Ronnie Mgiba, Lucas Chigo and Klaas Mahlaela. Every shift, whether the day or the night shift, is managed by one of these Shift Managers, who will be on duty either for the day shift or the night shift. Residents can



contact the Shift Manager at any time 24/7 on 082 838 7779. Please keep this number close by in case of an emergency. All security related matters must be reported to the Shift Manager on duty or to the Controller at 012 662 1688.

All incidents reported to Security will be noted in the Security Occurrence Book ("OB"). The OB is checked daily by Estate Management and where necessary, Leon will follow up and investigate. Feedback will be given to the Resident(s) who are involved in a specific incident. In certain instances incidents will be reported to all the Residents via bulk e-mail or SMS communication.

During the past month two (2) children's bicycles went missing in the Estate. Residents are requested to make sure that their garages are closed when not working in them and locked at night. The risk of an open garage door is that an intruder can easily gain access to your house through an inside door leading into the house.

Missing bicycles



We are fortunate that we have had no security breaches or any identified criminal activity during the reporting period. No unlawful access to the Estate was reported. Residents are cautioned to be aware of being followed by criminals to the Estate. If you suspect that you are being

followed, rather go to the main gate and cause an alarm as you approach the gate. Alternatively, drive to the Joint Operational Centre ("JOC") next to the Total garage in Van Ryneveld Road, which is manned 24/7 and where there is radio communication with the SAPS and other security companies.

It is important for us to continuously manage our security, whether at home, work, school or on the road.

The following bigger operational activities are in progress:

- The maintenance and painting of the boundary walls, facing the open spaces and parks;
- The installation of an additional six (6) speed humps were approved by the Board. The tender process has been completed and the construction work should start any day now;
- The landscaping of the circle at the second (North) gate will start soon. New additional gabions will be installed as part of the re-landscaping of the existing garden in the circle. The work will be carried out by Garden Creations as part of the winter garden maintenance programme.
- Rehabilitation of the perimeter areas and servitudes where the trenching for the CCTV network cables took place.

There are always some building activities going on in the Estate. Residents must please take note of the HOA Rules and Regulations pertaining to building plans, namely:

- Building plans must be submitted for the review by the Aesthetic Sub-Committee ("ASC") and the approval by the HOA Board;
- Approval of the building plans by the Tshwane City Council;
- Building plans must be submitted for all kinds of building works, including boundary walls, swimming pools, carports, patios (gazebos) and any form of extension or addition to the existing house structure, which is a fixture to the house structure. Building plans are considered as inclusive of all building works, rather than exclusive;

- Failure to comply with the HOA Rule and Regulations, could lead to a penalty being imposed.
- Residents are reminded that upon selling their property an inspection of the property shall be carried out by the Estate Management. If the property does not conform with the existing house plans, the Member will be requested to submit the "as-build" building plans for the review by the ASC and the approval thereof by the HOA Board, which will delay the transfer of property process.

Residents are reminded of the following community activities:

- The Village Sunset Walk takes place on Wednesday, the 9th August 2017 at 16h00 from the Estate post office. After the walk, there will be a family bring and braai at the post office;
- The Khomani San Outreach will take place during the September/October 2017 school holiday (one week). Residents can donate clothing, educational toys and sport equipment, which can be dropped off in the green bins at the exit of the Estate. Residents who are interested in joining the outreach in the Northern Cape are welcome to contact the Estate Office for the details of the event organiser, Mrs Gail Horak.

Report back on the Annual General Meeting ("AGM"), that took place on the 27th July 2017, will be published in the next issue of The Villager.

Best regards

Estate Management

PS: My Late Dad used to say to us as boys, when we were planting the tobacco fields,

"Do what you do, do it well"

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the heart to make
a house a home

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RENTALS

IRENE FARM VILLAGE

SPECTACULAR!! R5.9 mill

WEB REF: 987



4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms,
2 living areas, 2 dining areas,
enclosed patio, study/gym, pool,
3 garages and domestic quarters

NINA 082 963 1994

UNDER OFFER

MASTERPIECE – NEW LISTING R5.2 mill

WEB REF: 1005



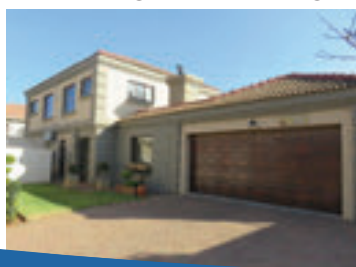
5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open
plan tv room/ dining, 2 gas
fireplaces, spacious living area,
pool, storeroom, 3 garages and
domestic quarters

NINA 082 963 1994

UNDER OFFER

FAMILY HOME – NEXT TO PARK R3.150 mill

WEB REF: 1003



4 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms,
kitchen with separate scullery,
lounge, 3 open plan living areas,
dbl garage, covered patio and
pool

NINA 082 963 1994

RENTAL R15 000pm



3 bedrooms, study, lounge/dining,
TV room, dbl garage, domestic
room

Eunice 071 676 5940

LET BY BUYSSELL



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

	June 2017		Year to Date		YTD Variance	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Value	%

Operational Income						
<i>Levy Income</i>						
Normal Levies	992 116	992 116	3 968 465	3 966 476	1 989	0,1%
<i>Other Income</i>						
Interest Received	52 081	32 000	201 380	143 000	58 380	40,8%
Contractors Permits	23 758	10 000	93 318	40 000	53 318	133,3%
Estate Agent Registration	0	0	129 960	129 960	0	0,0%
Post Box Annual Fee	250	2 000	38 100	8 000	30 100	376,3%
	1 068 206	1 036 116	4 431 224	4 287 436	143 788	3,4%
Operational Expenditure						
<i>Professional /Administration</i>	74 404	110 040	245 412	274 660	29 248	10,6%
Accounting Fees	34 980	34 980	139 920	139 920	0	0,0%
Audit Fees	0	56 000	1 425	58 500	57 075	97,6%
Bank Charges	3 795	3 000	15 293	12 000	(3 293)	-27,4%
Insurance	11 399	11 060	45 592	44 240	(1 352)	-3,1%
Legal & Professional Fees	24 230	5 000	43 182	20 000	(23 182)	-115,9%
<i>General Office</i>	34 231	14 100	65 077	66 200	1 123	1,7%
Office Equipment	23 309	1 200	33 338	4 600	(28 738)	-624,7%
General Expenses	1 257	1 000	4 335	14 000	9 665	69,0%
Office Refreshment	922	1 000	4 181	4 000	(181)	-4,5%
Printing & Stationary	727	4 750	8 623	19 000	10 377	54,6%
Telecommunication	8 017	6 150	14 600	24 600	10 000	40,6%
<i>Operational Expenses</i>	166 134	156 879	612 697	642 179	29 482	4,6%
Municipal Charges	27 277	31 000	90 936	124 000	33 064	26,7%
Recycling	0	8 909	26 728	35 636	8 908	25,0%
Donations	0	5 000	30 000	20 000	(10 000)	-50,0%
Meetings	300	500	1 618	3 000	1 382	46,1%
Salaries & Wages	138 557	111 470	463 415	459 543	(3 872)	-0,8%
<i>Security</i>	491 425	615 237	2 126 548	2 406 504	279 956	11,6%
Access Control (ClickOn)	20 294	22 000	81 708	88 000	6 292	7,1%
- ClickOn Recovery	(9 568)	(10 000)	(40 422)	(40 000)	422	-1,1%
Equipment Maintenance SLA	20 610	41 717	82 441	126 734	44 293	34,9%
Security Maintenance	4 102	7 000	37 535	28 000	(9 535)	-34,1%
CCTV Equipment Rental	0	139 950	0	279 900	279 900	100,0%
Guarding Services	455 987	414 570	1 965 287	1 923 870	(41 417)	-2,2%
<i>Repairs & Maintenance</i>	154 814	156 910	614 850	607 730	(7 120)	-1,2%
Fuel	3 183	3 000	10 582	12 000	1 418	11,8%
General Maintenance	8 887	9 150	38 404	36 600	(1 804)	-4,9%
Infrastructure Maintenance	4 832	3 140	14 234	12 560	(1 674)	-13,3%
Park Facing Boundary Walls	15 721	13 750	66 251	55 000	(11 251)	-20,5%
Park Maintenance	0	5 000	6 138	20 000	13 862	69,3%



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

	June 2017		Year to Date		YTD Variance	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Value	%
Park Maintenance Contract	121 362	121 370	464 839	464 870	31	0,0%
Vehicles	828	1 500	14 403	6 700	(7 703)	-115,0%
	921 008	1 053 166	3 664 585	3 997 273	332 688	8,3%
Operating Profit / (Loss)	147 197	(17 050)	766 638	290 163	476 475	
Non-Recurring Revenue						
Estate Penalties	500	0	32 500	0	32 500	100,0%
Late Building Penalties	0	0	0	0	0	100,0%
Late Payment Penalties	3 675	0	12 975	0	12 975	100,0%
Plan Fee Recovery	0	0	27 747	0	27 747	100,0%
- Plan Fee Cost	(8 561)	0	(36 696)	0	(36 696)	100,0%
Expense Recovery	100	0	100	0	100	100,0%
Sale to Members	0	0	0	0	0	100,0%
Non-Recurring Expenses						
Scanning of Building Plans	0	0	25 054	0	(25 054)	100,0%
Traffic Management	0	0	0	120 000	120 000	100,0%
Social Development Projects	0	5 000	0	15 000	15 000	100,0%
Water Tanker Roadworthy	0	0	0	0	0	100,0%
Park Development	0	20 000	0	60 000	60 000	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)	(4 286)	(25 000)	11 572	(195 000)	(133 320)	
Net Profit / (Loss)	142 912	0	(42 050)	0	778 210	0

Irene Farm Village Home Owners Association - Infrastructure Development						
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Value	%
Revenue						
Special Levies	203 984	203 984	815 937	815 937	0	0,0%
Stand Sales			0	0	3 756	100,0%
Projects						
WIP - CCTV Project			75 308			
WIP - Infrastructure Development Project			103 007			
WIP - Land Purchase Project			0			

Account Ability

Office Address:
Sovereign Drive,
Route 21
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Accounting Office Hours
8:00 to 13:00
Monday to Friday

Office Tel:
082 780 0059

Accounts Email:
accounts@aams.co.za

IFV Accounts:
Winnie Boshoff



Summary Income
Statement by
Account Ability

“To love what you do and feel that it matters how could anything be more fun?”
— Katharine Graham



Caring and sharing



It is evident that the people living in our Estate are generous and are willing to share. The green collection bins at the gates are being used to place clothing and other items donated to the Khomani San in the Kalahari.

We have received many donations to date and will be able to pack clothing for most of the girls and women with these.

We are still in need of lots of clothing for boys of all ages and small men (sizes 30-34) as well as small ladies clothing (sizes 30-32).

Each person in the community receives a parcel of clothing that is packed specifically for them. The age, size and gender are taken into consideration when we pack these items. For smaller children we often pack a soft toy into the parcel. Small household items, such as bars of body soap, laundry soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant are included in the parcels.

You can contribute to this worthy cause by placing your unneeded clothing and any toiletries in the bins at the gates. Bins will be at the gates until the end of August.



Should you wish to join the outreach during the school holidays in October 2017, please contact Marthinus at 084 555 2489 or Gail at 083 651 1957 for more information.



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The Saturday walking group

Joining the IFV walking group on a Saturday morning has been invigorating and interesting. Time is spent walking and learning about our beautiful Estate and landscape all around us. Information is shared by the group to enlighten us on the history of the Estate, which was once a farm, as we traipse along the paths which have been made for all to enjoy and are meticulously maintained.

It is like a hike through the wilderness as we learn about the different plant species and trees planted in

our Estate that I was not aware of. Walking through the grass allows me to reminisce about my childhood when we would walk care-free through the long grass and inhale the aroma of fresh berries that we could pick and enjoy while walking and talking with our group of friends.

How fortunate I am to have the luxury of doing this now, 5 minutes from my doorstep with a lovely group of neighbours. Our walk takes an hour for the 4–5km trail through the veld and on to the road. However, this

feels like less as we talk and listen to each other and the sounds around us, before we know it we are back at the post boxes!

*Come and join us
on a walk along the
boundaries and trails
of the Irene Farm
Village Estate.*

Lynn Muller





IRENE FARM VILLAGE SUNSET WALK AND BRING AND BRAAI ON 9th AUGUST 2017 @ 16:00

It's that time again for us to put away the "winter chills" and step out in the Estate.



Join us for a wonderful afternoon walk amongst the beautiful scenery within the Estate followed by a family "bring and braai". It is a time to gather with family, neighbours and friends for a relaxing stroll and enjoyable evening meal.



We will meet at the Village green (post boxes) at 16h00 to commence the walk and return at 17:00 where the family braai is to be held.

Residents are encouraged to bring along their picnic baskets filled with goodies, camping chairs and gas braais to enjoy the August evening with us.

We look forward to seeing YOU ALL

WORK | DINE | UNWIND



In Shere



4 Graham Road, Shere, | Pretoria



WORK

Work in Shere
Work amongst the trees and landscaped gardens



DINE

Dine in Shere
Dine at any one of our Restaurants



UNWIND

Unwind in Shere
Unwind and Relax

Yellow Mongoose colonies in IFV

– Are they affected by developments in our area?

By Dr. Marthinus Horak

During the past months a number of Residents have noticed the yellow mongoose colonies in the Estate becoming prominent and regular visitors in our gardens. Residents who do not have pets in their gardens report the mongooses are becoming really confident and are approaching surprisingly close to people. Although I enjoy observing these inquisitive little mammals in my own garden, we are all aware it is not desirable to habituate wild animals therefore I approached members of the Environmental committee to comment on this apparent change in behavior of the mongoose colonies. **Nico Grobler** and **Andrew McKechnie** provided the following interesting information which provides considerable food for thought.

One of the main problems is that when mongooses are habituated and routinely approach people closely, it makes it more difficult to distinguish between a healthy individual that is merely tame versus one which is genuinely behaving abnormally because of a disease. Although it is highly unlikely that the current mongoose population carries any diseases of concern, we must be aware these are wild animals that roam around freely and unlike our pets, are not inoculated against highly infectious diseases.

The mongoose colonies were resident in the area and were not artificially introduced, which means they were self-regulatory in terms of their own population dynamics and “carrying capacity” for the area. The change in

behavior of the mongooses is a classic symptom of the severe impact on the environment in the immediate vicinity of our Estate. Most apparent is the vast expanse of total destruction of natural grassland on the eastern side of Van Ryneveld road adjacent to IFV. Urban area development always starts with graders, bulldozers and back-actors removing virtually all topsoil and vegetation cover. All habitat for the yellow mongoose colony has been lost. The total area between IFV and the R21 highway has been denuded of basal cover and grassland diversity of plants that is the natural foraging range of the yellow mongoose family.

Range expansion is becoming a necessity for the mongoose colonies – therefore more intrusions into homesteads of IFV. Winter is a difficult



time for the mongooses, with their natural food often in short supply, and because their foraging radius has been drastically reduced, their levels of desperation for food increased.

The foraging habitat of the yellow mongoose inside IFV is very limited. We possibly underestimate their required range size and the distances they cover over a 24-hour period. More of this habitat is going to be lost very soon with the new housing stands to be developed in our green belt. This will cause a further reduction of their habitat in our Estate.

The current situation with the mongooses is a typical wildlife management problem caused by human impact. The difficult but critically important decision now

is for Residents not to feed the mongooses. Feeding wildlife is always a bad idea for reasons which are properly researched and recorded by animal behavior and environmental specialists.

The Environmental Management Committee appeals to all Residents not to feed the mongooses.

Please be reminded that the feeding of wild animals, with the exception of birds, is a transgression of the rules of our Estate and carries a penalty. Rather maintain and develop your garden with as much indigenous plants as possible without feeding any yellow mongoose. Indigenous plants have a higher probability of contributing to habitat quality for most indigenous small mammals

than exotic plants that are so easily available in nurseries. Feeding wildlife enslave wildlife and disrupt behaviour ecology because of the impact of the provision of convenient energy. They will lose their fear of humans, which means they will become our direct responsibility – in case of any misbehaviour.

Finally, it is important to emphasize the purpose and benefit of mongooses in the ecosystem. These animals have a function and may contribute to pest control in our gardens. Therefore, they should not be labelled as pests which happens so often in farming communities. In reality, it is imported domesticated animals like cats and dogs that have caused major environmental impact in natural ecosystems of our country.



Writing can sometimes be very trying. For instance, when a war correspondent is trying to pen something and bullets are pinging off his helmet. Or, as I found myself one day, trying to write notes on the Hermanus seafront, while whales were distracting me by cavorting in Walker Bay.

Indeed, as a writer of many summers and almost as many winters I have known suffering.

I was at the time following the N2 highway that begins at Ermelo and passing through Piet Retief and Pongola and, from there, it more or less follows the coastal plain to Cape Town from where the N7 takes one north to Namibia.

One can begin, as I did, by taking the first turn to the east after Pongola. This takes one to Kosi Bay by passing through Jozini (a dreadful little town) and skirting Jozini Dam. The road is not in good condition (I was driving a low-slung car) but the journey is worth it for Ndumu and Tembe

Elephant Reserve and on to Kosi Bay with its lakes, its fish and its forest patches which rates as one of South Africa's most interesting and unusual destinations. One can go south-east from Jozini to Sodwana Bay (this is the best route to this magical coast with its wonderful coral reefs.

The less adventurous will prefer to skip Jozini and carry on down the N2 which now has many diversions to game reserves such as Mkuze, iSimangaliso Wetland Park (take the turn off to Mtubatuba and St Lucia) and, for those who want five-star luxury, there's Phinda Private Game Reserve.

Beyond this point we took a chance on B&Bs along the entire route and were spoilt for choice wherever we stopped. B&Bs have become very competitive so tariffs are reasonable. And Airbnb and cellphones make it very easy to book even an hour ahead.

The highway takes one on to Ballito Bay and Durban and the South Coast. Here we were warned not to go through the Transkei. We did so

all the same and found it an excellent road, though be careful of goats and beware too of drivers who got their licences via correspondence school.

The N2 offers one of the world's great touring experiences – tropical forest; unrivalled wetlands; great beaches; deep gorges, unparalleled wildlife, wild coastal scenery, grand mountains and fynbos.

One can do it in sections as I have done. The Wild Coast stretch is just one highlight with its charming little resorts within easy striking distance and then the Eastern Cape. One can, at Grahamstown, take the short deviation to Kwardwe, a 15 000ha reserve in the Fish River valley. It's a most unusual region, rich in wildlife and fynbos. The design and decor of Kwardwe Lodge – set in the middle of a truly vast wilderness of bush-covered hills – is world class.

On down to Port Elizabeth and Addo Elephant National Park which now extends to the coast – and on to the Garden Route. There's Plettenberg Bay and Knysna – Knysna where we opted for a cruise on the 16-ton

Travel

yacht, Oudtenique, which was to have taken us through the Knysna Heads but the weather was foul and we'd arrived late so the skipper ushered us below into a warm and capacious cabin where a table was generously laden with what I would call Mediterranean fare and some excellent Cape wine.

We spent two nights nearby at the Kingfisher Inn just inside Sedgefield, which was comfortable and friendly. Then on to Mossel Bay and, if time is no problem, there are some worthwhile deviations – such as to the De Hoop Nature Reserve – intensely beautiful and rich in plant and animal life (a World Heritage Site). Its 16km-long, bird-filled lake was once an estuary and is classified as a wetland of international importance.

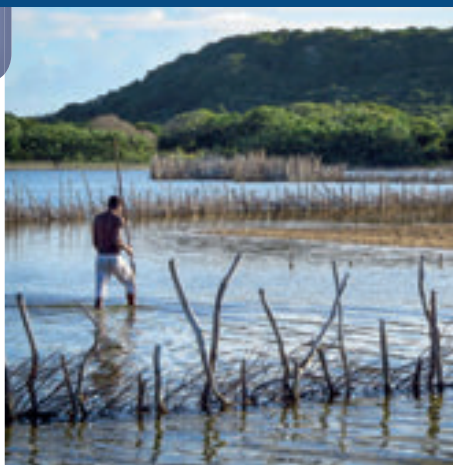
After entering the reserve one descends steeply on to a dense fynbos plain. To the south is a line of white sand dunes resembling snow-covered hills. A walkway through the dunes brings one to a bay where, even in winter one sees the occasional whale – but in summer they come close inshore.

We carried on to Bredasdorp and on to Cape Agulhas, Africa's most southerly tip and where we visited the relatively new Agulhas National Park.

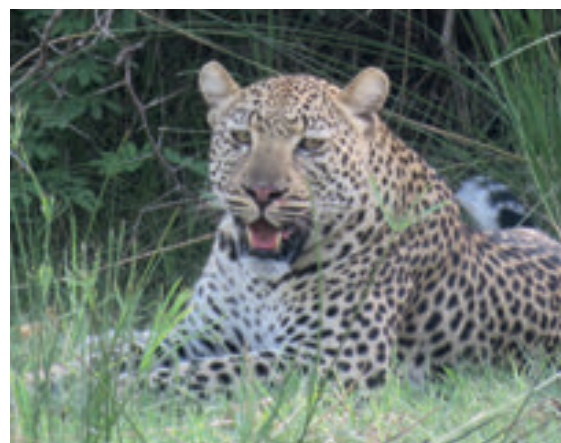
Instead of rejoining the N2 we stayed two nights in Arniston, a delightful old fishing village. From here we thought of rejoining the N2 via the Bontebok National Park and then on to Cape Town with the options of crossing the highway to Fanschhoek or going down the Sir Lowry's Pass to False Bay and Cape Town.

Instead we kept to the coast to join False Bay at Rooi Els and then along the winding coastal road to rejoin the N2 beyond Gordon's Bay.

We continued our "summer cruise" by heading north along the N7 which, with its deviations to Paternoster, Langebaan Lagoon and then Cedarberg is a totally different experience.



Kosi Bay's fish traps



Leopard at Phinda Lodge



Penguins at Agulhas



Dolphins off Western Cape



De Hoop cottages



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Paternoster off the N7

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Mind Your Digital Footprint

We live in a world where technology has become an integrated part of our lives. We've all Googled a holiday destinations or perhaps images of places, only to find the next time we go on Facebook, we receive targeted marketing, offering hotel accommodation in that area. So much of what we do online is tracked and used by advertisers using cookies, placed on your web browser, to track movements, make the internet more usable and help to secure online transactions. In this way companies can customise marketing

solicitations to you. Increasingly employers, schools and universities go online to look into your background and you can well imagine that this could have a significant impact on decisions they may make.

From a young age, children are being exposed to technology and, by early primary school; many already have their own cell phones. Devices give them access and whilst they are young, spontaneous and unable to always make the right choices, they are incredibly vulnerable online. Their decision-making skills, ideas and judgements on aspects such as privacy, both in the real and online world, are still being formed and they are unable to grasp and truly understanding consequences of impulsive actions. They tend to over-share, react instantaneously – placing themselves at risk.

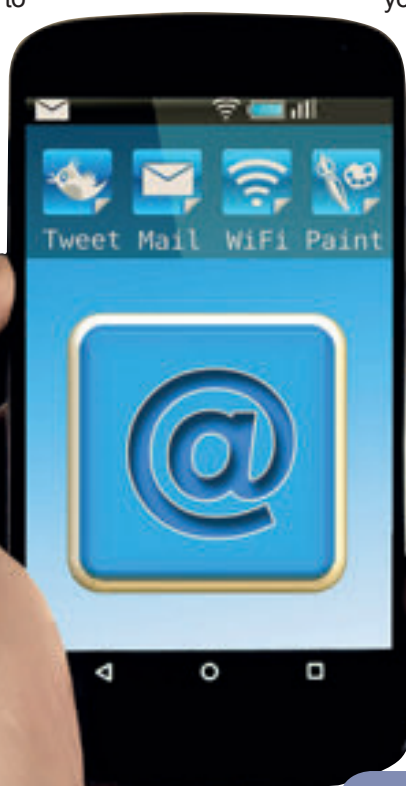
Every move they make online starts to paint a public picture of who they are, of how they behave. It

is therefore essential, that we teach moderation and caution, from a young age. And, whilst this applies to our children, it certainly applies to teens, young adults and parents too.

What is a Digital Footprint?

Essentially, as we move around on our devices, we constantly leave behind pieces of information on the Internet – sites we view, things we buy, comments we make, pictures we post, apps we use and even Skype calls we make. This footprint is made up of our traceable digital activities, communication, contributions and actions. Over time, we create both a passive and an active digital footprint. The passive footprint is all the data which is collected without our knowledge and can be stored for later use. The active footprint we create consists of personal data we deliberately share about ourselves on websites or on social media, which is stored online.

As you can well imagine, this starts to create an image of us and so, starts to build your online reputation. People can view all aspects of your world – who your friends are, what you do for fun, what your views are on various things – all based on comments and posts.





Sexting and your sexual footprint?

There is another aspect to the digital footprint in the online world, one which people don't often consider, and that is our online sexual footprint. Young tweens and teens are experiencing body changes, hormonal fluctuations, suddenly other people start to look very attractive to them and they crave peer acceptance. They start flirting and dating and it feels wonderful to have this positive attention directed at them. But, their primary communication channel is now through their devices and so, it's all too easy to get caught up in sexting.

Sexting is any online message, photo or video which is sexually suggestive, contains nudity or even sex. Nude or suggestive selfies are often the greatest danger. If these messages or photos were to be passed on, it would be incredibly embarrassing, humiliating and could ruin reputations. This often leads to bullying, to them being victimised and ostracized. This in turn leads to anxiety, self-esteem issues, depression and even suicide.

It is so important to make your children mindful of the dangers of sexting from a young age:

- Once they send a message of this nature it is out of their control.

- Every action they take or words they post, creates a picture of who they are – and in this context – their sexual footprint.
- Legally speaking, taking a sexually explicit photo is considering as making porn.
- If they send or forward the photo, they are distributing porn.
- If they receive the photo, they are in possession of porn and they are underage.

Online Reputation

When having a conversation with your children about safety and awareness in the world of social media, discuss appropriate behaviour, consequences and possible repercussions that could harm their reputations. Here are some useful tips to share with your tween or teen:

DON'T:

- Accept anyone as a 'friend' if you don't personally know them.
- Post anything online when you are angry or hurt.
- Post anything you wouldn't want your parents, teachers or future employers to see.
- Be unduly negative or offensive online.
- Lie.
- No sexting – this may be considered child pornography.
- Post inappropriate photos –

especially not when drinking, drugging, or being sexually provocative or inappropriate

- Beware of political or radical statements of opinion – your views may change over the years.

DO:

- Set your profile to private.
- Think before you post.
- Showcase your interests and hobbies.
- Create a positive blog if you wish to write online content.
- Build your credibility.
- Project an image of who it is you want to be known as, what you stand for.
- Delete anything or anyone questionable.
- Using common sense is a good rule of thumb.
- Speak to a trusted adult if you are concerned.
- Report online abuse.

Always encourage your children to think about who they want to be, what they want to stand for and be known as. The only one who can really protect them in the online space, is themselves. They need to take responsibility for their own safety and actions – even in the virtual world.

Other sources:

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/2011-sexting.html>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckQn7eG9es>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_footprint
http://www.internetsociety.org/your-digital-footprint-matters?gclid=Cj0KCQjwhrzLBRC3ARIsAPmhsnXUovmfvPhjnuI9N4HOLyzBfsC7FJwDAXkwbj2uhPzFdw9WGum5Wa4aAifFEALw_wcB

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Join the club

Several years ago Johannesburg's Rand Club decided to allow women to use its front entrance. Until then women could use only the side entrance in Fox Street. Even then they had access only to the restaurant. The next hurdle was to allow women to use the grand staircase into the heart of the club – a staircase ironically dominated by a huge portrait of the Queen.

For nearly 100 years women had been forbidden to use those marble stairs. The original reason, I was told, was because members might then be able to look up their dresses. I say! I suppose this would have led to the slopping of drinks and perhaps older members collapsing.

But women don't wear dresses much nowadays – they wear trousers – so it won't matter even if they slid down the banisters.

I recall seeing, for the first time, women in the club's bar. According to friends some were even offering opinions. Many old members when they saw this for the first time said it was the end of something, I forget what.

Today the club is no more. Anybody can now hire the magnificent old building for an event.

Men's clubs worked well for centuries. Then came this women's liberation thing and next thing even London's Reform Club was having to eject women from its steps because they were using abusive language and demanding membership.



Why were men's clubs so chauvinistic? I think it was because men are more able to sit in a companionable silence for long periods. Women cannot sit in silence for longer than...

Ring. Ring.

THRENODY, DON'T ANSWER THAT PHONE! Too late. I knew it. It's the E*D*I*T*O*R. Threnody (she's my secretary y'know) says the editor says if I carry on like this I'll be horse-whipped by irate women readers.

Maybe I should confine myself to discussing this new theory that women invented language way back in pre-historic times. It's hardly surprising. Men had to stalk wild and dangerous animals right up until the cow was invented and that required silence or, at most, the occasional "Pssst!" Exhausted hunters, returning home dragging a mammoth or woolly rhinoceros, would hardly have been in the mood to join in chatter.

Womenfolk, having to constantly tell their kids to eat their boiled lizards

nicely, would have had a much greater need for words. And working communally, gathering berries, would have been conducive to chatter. "I say, Sybil, you smell dee-vine! Are you using that warthog gall bladder juice again?"

They probably compared each other's head lumps from the night before when they were bonked (if you'll forgive the expression) on the head by club-wielding lotharios before being dragged off for a romantic interlude. (As I say, clubs have always been important to men.) This is why men can happily sit in a club lounge all afternoon and evening and say nothing. He can simply go "hurumph!" and the club steward will know to bring a pink gin.

Women would be talking all the time about kids and clothes in that high-pitched way they have. Clubmen don't care how their fellow members dress – as long as they wear a dark suit, black shoes, quiet tie and non-commercial cufflinks. Nor do they discriminate as long as members are all male, all the same colour, have a similar standard of education, speak the same language and share the same views about damned foreigners. Modern women currently attacking male exclusivity are displaying nothing less than the Bobbit syndrome.

Ring, Ring.

Threnody! DON'T TOUCH THAT PHONE!
HEY? WASSAT?

A friend tells me of a fellow who, to prove to his wife that women talk too much, read out a news item: "Men use about 15 000 words a day – women use 30 000." His wife said, "That's because we have to repeat everything we say." He said, "What?"

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