

James Clarke visits the Tankwa Karoo

Heritage Day

Strelitzia-Bird of Paradise

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

ROLL ON SPRING

eptember is always such an interesting month. Officially regarded as the start of Spring, it's also a time when we collectively hold our breath here on the Highveld, wondering when the rains will come, to change our gardens from dry dust bowls to lush, verdant oases.

We are spoilt for choice when it comes to activities this month, as our Heritage Day on the 24th is conveniently sandwiched between the DStv Delicious International Food and Music Festival taking place on the 22nd and 23rd of September and The Baby Show & #MeetUp taking place from the 28th to the 30th of September. Food, wine, music, culture, history and positive parenting - what more could one ask for? (See the articles about these exciting events in this issue).

If you're not yet ready to brave the outdoors at these events, now is also an excellent time to get stuck into some Spring Cleaning – head space, computer, wardrobes and cupboards!

To our Hindu, Muslim and Jewish readers - best wishes to you and your family as you celebrate your holy days and festivals this month.

Kind regards, **Bev Hermanson EDITOR**



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LIFESTYLE

THERE'S MORE TO OUR HERITAGE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Visiting the Sterkfontein Caves and Maropeng in the Cradle of Humankind seem like the obvious choice when it comes to learning about the early emergence of mankind, but the Origins Centre in Braamfontein also has a wealth of information worth exploring. Situated at the corner of Yale and Enoch Sontonga Roads, on the Wits University campus, the Origins Centre traces an 80 000 year path that showcases a vast array of palaeoanthropological, archaeological and genetic materials charting the origins, evolution and development of humankind. The Museum provides visitors with a unique experience of Africa's rich, complex heritage and boasts an extensive collection of rock art from the Wits Rock Art Research Institute.

During the month of September, the centre is also running a Heritage Month Education Series, offering lectures on topics in the CAPS Curriculum. R60 per person will give you a one hour lecture, followed by a tour of the Origins Museum.

Book online at Webtickets.

Enquiries: bongiwe.ndulula@wits.ac.za, or call 011 717 4700/13. For more information, visit: www.wits.ac.za/origins Opening times: Mondays to Saturdays 10:00am – 5:00pm; Public holidays 10:00am – 5:00pm; Closed on Sundays.

OUR POLITICAL EVOLUTION

CONSTITUTIONAL HILL is one of the museums that tell the story of South Africa's journey to democracy. The site is a former prison and military fort that bears testament to South Africa's turbulent past and, today, is home to the country's Constitutional Court, which endorses the rights of all citizens. Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Joe Slovo, Albertina Sisulu, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Fatima Meer and many other prominent and ordinary men and women of all races, creeds, ages and political agendas served time in the prisons.

Constitution Hill offers a range of guided tours, from a one hour Highlights Tour



to a two hour Full Tour and numerous special tours that include a Night Tour, Time Travel Tour, Walk with Madiba Tour, Art and Justice Tour and a Tour of the Constitutional Court. These tours can be booked on Webtickets or by contacting the museum directly on 011 381 3100/ email: info@constitutionhill.org.za.

Self-guided Tour using the app - adults: R60, children: R30, pensioners over 60: R40, and students: R35. 5% discount for online booking. Various other tour prices available on the website: www.constitutionhill.org.za/pages/ opening-hours-and-admission **Open:** 9:00am to 5:00pm daily.

LILIESLEAF FARM can be found in George Avenue, Rivonia. One of South Africa's leading heritage sites, Liliesleaf opened to the public in June 2008 and has since attracted thousands of visitors eager to absorb and understand one of the most pivotal periods in South Africa's liberation struggle.

Purchased by the South African Communist Party (SACP) through a front company, Liliesleaf was, at the time, located in a secluded, peri-rural area, making it ideal as a meeting place where the underground leadership could meet. The purchase of Liliesleaf also coincided with the ANC's decision to move from non-violent resistance to armed struggle in the protest against apartheid. In late October 1961, Nelson Mandela, who had been operating below the security forces' radar, moved to Liliesleaf and, 6 weeks

OUR ORIGINS





later, Arthur Goldreich and his family moved onto the smallholding to provide an acceptable white middle-class family façade while the thatched cottage and outbuildings concealed covert liberation activities.

The liberation underground movement operated from Liliesleaf for almost two years before the security police raid on 11 July 1963 brought the activities to an abrupt end.

Tour durations vary from 45 minutes to 1 or 2 hours.

Adults: R110, pensioners: *R40, children under 7 years: Free, 8 – 17 years: ** R50, students: ***R60.

* On presentation of a passport or ID. **A tour guide or adult must accompany children at all times.

*** On presentation of a valid student card. **Open:** Mondays to Fridays: 8:30am – 5:00pm; Saturdays, Sundays and Public Heritage – the history, traditions and qualities that a country or society has experienced for many years and that are considered an important part of its character.





Holidays: 9:00am – 4:00pm. If Liliesleaf has been booked for an exclusive function, the site will be closed to visitors, so it's advisable to check the home page to see if a function will affect your visit: www.liliesleaf.co.za.

Located on an 80ha site in Saxonwold, this museum houses weapons and other artefacts from the many conflicts that South Africa has been involved in through the centuries, including the Anglo-Boer Wars, the Anglo-Zulu War, World Wars I and II, the conflict in South West Africa (present-day Namibia) as well as items relating to the armed struggle against apartheid.

Adults: R35 per person, students: R25 per person, SA senior citizens: R15. Open daily: 09:00am – 4:30pm (excl. Good Friday, Christmas Day and the first Sunday in September when the Jazz on the Lake concert is held at Zoo Lake).

DITSONG NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY



HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS NEWTOWN

Newtown, adjacent to Johannesburg's CBD, offers visitors a theatre, art galleries, restaurants, museums, craft markets, buskers, dance venues and clubs.

You can take a guided tour (choose between the one hour or three hour tour) of Newtown with trained guides who are available to take you on a walking trail through the area that is described as one of Joburg's most fascinating heritage and cultural precincts.

The one hour tour starts in the Market Theatre parking area and, passing through the precinct, you'll hear the story of the birth of Newtown, Kippies, Potato Sheds and Railway Sidings, as well as the Market Theatre, Museum Africa and Mary Fitzgerald Square. Next stop is the Electrical Precinct with covers the story of Johannesburg's first power stations and includes the Electric Workshop, Turbine Hall, SAB World of Beer, and the Workers' Museum. The Transport Precinct is next and covers the city's transport history, as well as Newtown's cultural organisations which are situated within this area of Newtown, and include Dance Factory, Moving into Dance, Bassline, Market Photo Workshop, Artist Proof Studio, and Market Lab.

The three hour tour covers the same buildings and venues but visitors are given the opportunity to explore the Market Theatre, Museum Africa, the Workers' Museum and Sci-Bono Discovery Centre.

To book a tour with Zodwa Nako or Anne-Katrin Bicher, call 011 336 9190 or visit: www.newtown.co.za/heritage/booking. **Rates:** Short tour (approx 1 hour) - R250 for groups of 1 to 3 and R80 per additional person (up to 10). Long tour (entering venues; approx 3 hours) - R450 for groups of 1 to 3

and R120 per additional person (up to 10).

FURTHER TOURS WORTH CONSIDERING ARE:

Walk and Talk Tours of Sandton, Alexandra, Troyville and Kensington and more. Tel: 011 444 1639 or 083 269 9769, email: bporter@iafrica.com or visit: www.walktours.co.za.

Soweto Guided Tours will take you to visit various landmarks in Soweto such as Vilikazi Street, Mandela House, and the Hector Pietersen Museum. Call 011 985 6249 or 076 863 5548 (all hours), email: info@sowetoguidedtours.co.za, or visit their website: sowetoguidedtours.co.za.

Once you've had your fill of cultural and historical inspiration, remember to get your family and friends over for the traditional braai to round off a perfect weekend. If you're mainly one for boerewors, chops and steak, we've included a fish braai recipe, for you to add some variety.



5



Forget about chucking the usual chops and boerewors on the braai, okes. We reckon it's time for a legendary fish braai.

ALL YOU WILL NEED IS:

- 1kg fillet of Dorado or Yellowtail (perhaps you caught some on your latest fishing trip?)
- 2 lemons
- 1 tomato
- ¹⁄₂ red onion
- crushed black pepper
- coarse salt
- 3Tbs butter
- 25g chopped chives
- 2 cloves garlic (crushed)
- heavy duty foil (Serves 6)

METHOD:

• Melt the butter in a saucepan and add garlic. Lay two layers of foil on a flat surface. Rub some of the garlic butter on the foil and place the fish skin down. Roll the sides of the foil upwards to prevent any of the liquids from running out.

- Coat the top of the fish with the rest of the garlic butter.
- Slice the tomato and one lemon into thin slices. Arrange the slices on top of the fillet of fish.
- Coat the fish with the juice of one lemon and ½ a cup of water. Sprinkle the chopped chives, salt and black pepper to taste.
- Close up the foil and place the fish parcel onto a braai grid. Cook over coals of medium heat.
- If you choose, you can cover the foil parcel with another piece of foil. This will allow the fish to steam. Before doing this, though, make sure that you know how long the fish must cook before opening. (When opening, be careful, as the escaping steam could burn you.)
- The cooking time could vary due to the thickness of the fish. If you touch the fish and the flakes separate easily, it's cooked!

SOLD.

Lew Geffen

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STRELIZIA BIRD OF PARADISE

his plant is one of the most popular perennials around the world, not only as a garden specimen, but as a pot plant. It's successfully grown for the cut flower market as well.

Named after Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the wife of George III of Great Britain, the plant family Streliziaceae has five species native to South Africa. The flowers of all five only differ in size and colour.

STRELITZIA REGINAE

This plant grows up to 1,5 metres tall and 2 metres in diameter. It has an extensive root system so be sure to allow enough space around each plant in the garden.

It is suitable for planting in winter and summer rainfall areas and it will tolerate light frost but prefers full sun for maximum flowering. It will, however, grow in dappled shade.

Plant it in well-drained loam soil and only fertilise twice yearly. The plant has a fleshy root system and is water-wise. The flowers have orange sepals and blue petals and are seen throughout the summer season.

Strelitzia reginae can be propagated from seed and, although slow-growing, will start flowering after three to five years. When dividing mature plants, it is important to have a minimum of 60cm clump diameter to encourage recovery. Remove all flowers after division. Full recovery after division will be more or less three years.

Bees and sunbirds are welcome visitors as pollinators. Monkeys, rats and squirrels will eat the flowers and seeds.

When more than one species is planted in a garden e.g. Strelitzia reginae and Strelitzia juncea, the seeds will produce hybrid plants due to cross-pollination.

Strelitzia reginae is seldom affected by pests and diseases, although poor growing conditions will make the plant susceptible to scale infection on the leaves. You can treat this with mineral oil. Bad drainage of the growing medium may also result in root rot or fungus infections. Remove damaged parts and treat with a suitable fungicide.

STRELITZIA JUNCEA

This is a striking feature plant with cylindrical leaves without a leaf blade. The leaf shape indicates that Strelitzia juncea is able to survive on very little water. Companion plants would be Euphorbia, Cotyledon and Encephalartos. The plant size and flowers resemble Strelitzia reginae but the seed production is not as good.

STRELITZIA ALBA

This unbranched multi-stemmed plant can grow up to 10 metres tall and does not tolerate frost. Suckers are often formed at the base of the plant. Leaf blades become torn by wind and age and add to the generally untidy appearance. With leaves up to 2 metres long, this plant is only suitable for large gardens. Huge 300mm white flowers appear in autumn.

STRELITZIA NICOLAI

The Natal wild banana grows up to 12 metres high and 4 metres wide and the multi-stemmed dense clump resembles the wild banana and has an aggressive root system. It will not tolerate severe frost. The flowers of this tree have white sepals with blue petals and will appear throughout the year.

STRELITZIA CAUDATA

This species is unbranched and multistemmed, growing up to 6 metres tall. Flowers appear in autumn and the sepals are white with light mauve petals. This is the smallest of the giant Strelitzia species, but due to the aggressive root system and size of the mature plant, it's only suitable for planting in large, frostfree gardens.

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Car planted at the Padstal

TRAVEL



Tankwa Hill

IS THIS SOUTH AFRICA'S LEAST KNOWN SPOT?

The Tankwa Karoo is one of the most arid regions of South Africa, receiving on average less than 100mm of rainfall per year.

BY JAMES CLARKE, PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARY BROADLEY

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Somewhere north of Ceres in the Western Cape the Karoo begins. The veld becomes coarse, stunted, and brittle underfoot.

Our guide, Vincent Ward of Birding Africa based in Cape Town, said: "This is the Amazon jungle compared with where we are going."

We emerged from the dry Warm Bokkeveld mountains and took the R355, kicking up a dust trail which remained hanging over the roadside. Across the wide flat plain I doubt there was a plant within sight that grew higher than my knee. There were plenty of low-growing succulents and bleached, wiry plants sprouting from the red sand surface.

We were now in the Tankwa Karoo, an alien world to most South Africans; a semi-desert within the Karoo semi-desert, but even drier. Its annual rainfall equals about as much as the Highveld receives in a couple of thunderstorms and even then the rain runs off the brick-hard earth, hardly penetrating to root level.

We were only able to spend two days in the Tankwa before returning to Gauteng and were looking for three rare bird species though I had long wanted to see this region for another reason. Let me go back to 1974. I was involved in organising a national conference on the future of the Karoo. It was said at the time to take up a third of South Africa's 1,1-million km² and was spreading to the north and east. It was feared it would reach the Vaal by year 2000. We environmentalists were all a bit pessimistic in those days.

I had grown to love the Karoo and felt it to be sadly underrated, under-researched and under-conserved. My old mentor, TC Robertson of the National Veldtrust, doyen among the nation's new wave of campaigning ecologists, was still around and through him my fascination for the Karoo had grown.

So many memories came back to me as Mary and I emerged from the Warm Bokkeveld and basin, framed by mountains rendered hazy and blue by distance. It no longer felt like South Africa.

The rain clouds that drift in from the Atlantic come tantalisingly close to the Tankwa only to be wrung dry as they hit the western mountains. The now moistureless westerlies become heated as they pass over the Tankwa to desiccate the Great Karoo whose hot dry breath then penetrates north and east. As a result, the soetdoringboom (then known as *Acacia karoo* but recently renamed *Vachellia karoo*) – precursor of the semi-desert, has been advancing further and further eastwards. Today, it is the most widespread tree in South Africa.

Mitch Reardon's new book, *Wild Karoo* (see review) says the Karoo now covers 60 percent of South Africa, though I think this is partly due to an adjustment in ecological definitions.

The R355, the longest and loneliest dirt road in South Africa, serves Calvinia, the Tankwa Karoo National Park, and Sutherland. We encountered precious little traffic and no infrastructure at all except for the Padstal – an ugly, tasteless, crazy collection of unplanned ramshackle buildings painted in lavatorial green. We liked it.

It was Saturday and the Padstal was busy. A wondrous variety of ancient, dusty vehicles was parked untidily around it, a cart pulled by two donkeys among them. What appeared to be mostly farming people (from goodness knows where), were enjoying a noon-day beer and even an impromptu dance to a local music ensemble. Weathered horns from kudu and black wildebeest decorated the eaves.



Watching a noonday dance at the Padstal

The roofless bar serves a special pink gin as well as something called 'skaap tjoppie'. Nearby, a busy kitchen dispenses hot meals seven days a week, all day. A church service is held every Sunday.

An ancient, blue eviscerated car has been planted, upright, its front upwards for reasons I forgot to ask.

The Padstal – an oasis of geniality - is owned and run by Hein and Susan Lange, a friendly couple whose cluttered shop sells anything from banjo strings to tyre repair kits, an explosive home-made ginger beer and lollipops. There's even a play park for children and friendly animals around. We drove on to some low hills and picked our way up a slope among small, sharp rocks and succulents that were entirely strange to us. The aspect was vast and utterly silent. To the east were the distant Roggeveld Mountains, barely visible to the north the Koue Bokkeveld, to the west the Cederberg and far to the south the Cape fold mountains.

We spent the night in a valley off the R355 at an isolated guest farm called Hartnekskloof. It was dusk and cold, all the same we walked along an interesting bone dry river cutting called Skitterykloof (glittering ravine) looking for birds but were grateful to get to Hartnekskloof's warm hearth for a pre-prandial drink. Dinner was served with a touching and justified pride. Our accommodation was in newly-built wooden huts incongruously furnished in 1920s style.

In retrospect, we should have given ourselves time to go further north to the Tankwa National Park. The reserve, twice the size of our nearest large game reserve, the Pilanesberg, is rich in wildlife and its bird list includes some rare species.

It was good to hear that, on the advice of botanists, the park has been expanded five times since it was established in the 1980s – expanded because scientists are discovering the richness of the Tankwa's unique but under-researched vegetation and the increasing international interest in *Flora Capensis*.

Bar at the Padstal





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Rates from R19 960 per person sharing. Offer includes five nights' accommodation, taxes, tourist tickets, entrance fees, English speaking guide & more. Offer excludes flights and taxes. Valid until 31 March 2019. For more information visit www.curioustraveller.co.za; email: info@ curioustraveller.co.za or contact them on 021 434 6046.

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Rates from R11 600 per person. Offer includes seven nights' accommodation on a motorised boat, seven breakfasts and lunches, local qualified captain & crew, local port taxes and Topdeck representative. Visit the Hvar Fortress, UNESCO World Heritage – listed destinations Dubrovnik & Split and a walking tour of Korčula Old Town. Offer excludes flights and taxes. Valid for selected departures dates in June & July 2019. For more information visit www.topdeck.travel.com or contact them on 0800 982 308.

Cuba Special offer from Ican Holidays. Rates from R22 190 per person sharing. Offer includes three nights in Havana with breakfast daily,



Let's go

four nights in Varadero with breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, private transfers and two days sightseeing with an English speaking Cuban guide. Offer excludes flights and taxes. Valid for travel between 1 November – 18 December 2018. For more information visit www.icanholidays.com, email: info@icanholidays.com or contact them on 021 852 9262.

Fly-in package from Mozambique Tourism.

Rates from R10 450 per person sharing. Offer includes return flights departing from Johannesburg, approximate taxes, return transfers, four nights' accommodation at the Castelo Do Mar with breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, non-motorised water sports and more. Valid until 15 December 2018. For more information visit www.mozambiquetourism.co.za; email travel@ mozambiquetourism.co.za or contact them on 011 431 4067.

Escape to Mogotlho, Kwhai with Flame of

Africa. Rates from R21 599 per person sharing. Offer includes return Maun transfers, three nights in Mogotlho, Kwhai with all meals, selected drinks, two game activities per day and two three-hour walking safaris. Offer excludes flights and taxes. Valid until 30 November 2018. For more information visit www.flameofafrica.co.za; email foaweb@ flameofafrica.com or contact them on 031 762 2424.

Monaco Formula 1 Grand Prix offer from United Europe. Monaco F1 Grand Prix offer from R15 070 per person sharing. Offer includes three nights' accommodation with breakfast daily, return transfers on Saturday & Sunday, general admission tickets and more. Offer excludes flights



and taxes. Set travel dates 24 – 27 May 2019. For more information visit www.unitedeurope.co.za; email: info@unitedeurope.co.za or contact them on 011 462 0962.

Austria ski package from Pure Skiing. Rates from R15 588 per person sharing. Offer includes transfers, seven nights' accommodation at the Panorama Hotel with breakfast daily, six day ski set, ten days Bryte Travel Insurance and more. Offer excludes flights and taxes. Set travel dates 9 – 16 March 2019. For more information visit www.pureskiing.co.za, email: skiing@puretours. co.za or contact them on 011 462 3673.

Value for money Bali offer from The Holiday

Factory. Rates from R13 770 per person sharing. Offer includes return flights departing from Johannesburg, approximate taxes, return transfers and seven nights' accommodation at the three-star Risata Bali Resort with breakfast daily. Valid between 1 September – 31 October 2018. For more information please visit www. holidayfactory.co.za; email: info@theholidayfactory. co.za or contact them on 0 11 233 2300.

Mermaids Cove Resort offer from Gallivanter

Holidays. Rates from R9 850 per person sharing. Offer includes return flights to Zanzibar, approximate taxes, return transfers and five nights' accommodation at the Mermaid Cover Resort with breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Valid between 9 – 18 September and 26 September – 19 October 2018. For more information visit www.gallivanterholidays.co.za; email: info@gallivanterholidays.co.za or contact them on 011 431 4067.



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Use this link to view a video of the Lamborghini Urus: https://www. youtube.com/ watch?v=ei_ywAuFfHs

ENTERS THE 'SUV' SEGMENT

BY ALAN ROSENMEYER

otor historians will know that Italian tractor manufacturer Feruccio Lamborghini suggested possible improvements to Enzo Ferrari when ordering a car. Ferrari responded by refusing to supply the car and Ferucccio declared that he would simply build his own, better, car.

Being a huge fan of bull fighting, Lamborghini named all of his subsequent cars after famous bulls.... perhaps a lot of bull has followed but many have been worthy of posters on young boys' walls ever since.

In the world of sports cars, Porsche shook the market in 2002 by launching the Cayenne. Sacrilege from a sports car manufacturer! Yet, this went on to rescue Porsche and is now their largest selling model from a now highly successful company. Another strange fact in the world of big business is that both Lamborghini and Porsche are today part of the huge Volkswagen group. Siblings, but fiercely independent rivals in the marketplace.

Now Lamborghini has entered this market segment with what they describe as the world's first SSUV (Super Sports Utility Vehicle), a bold claim until you see the Urus in the 'flesh'.

Lamborghini South Africa decided to have a double celebration and revealed the Urus at the opening ceremony of their new dealership in Cape Town. Sadly, we were deprived of the opportunity to drive the only Urus in SA at present. In fact, the car was only flown into the country days before the event. It was almost punishment being allowed to sit in the vehicle and even start that rumbling V8 without being allowed to drive it. Hopefully, that opportunity will come soon.

Simply looking at the mean, aggressive lines of the car, then hearing about the performance potential of a top speed in excess of 300km/h, I believe the SUPER SUV claim. The interior reminds one of the cockpit of a jet fighter yet it is still filled with every possible luxury item at the same time.

The CEO of Lamborghini, Stefan Domenicalli, was present and during his address stressed the fact that, although hybrid and electric power will feature in the future, this will only be to enhance the power and performance of their existing V10 and V12 engines. In a world of being politically correct and eco-friendly, Lamborghini chooses to fly in the face of all and simply continue on its own wild path.

Looking to the future, Lamborghini plans to double its sales over the next few years with a lot of help from the Urus. Internationally, the launch of the Urus has been so successful that there is already a waiting list in excess of 12 months for orders. Amazingly, 70% of Urus orders so far have been from buyers who are new to the brand.

SA pricing for the Urus starts at R 3,5 million. 🗶



Test cars arrive on the MotorMatters driveway in a vast array of colours and the keys to the Subaru XV were handed over with the comment "Sunshine Orange is a happy colour!" It certainly did brighten my flu-riddled brain, especially since I had been looking forward to this particular test car.

Rewind a few months to my test of the Subaru Impreza sedan and my first on-road experience of the patented Subaru active safety technology dubbed 'Eyesight'. I was really keen to experience the array of features that this offers, this time in the shape of a crossover/medium SUV.

The XV is powered by the very familiar horizontally opposed or H4 engine that Subaru has been using for a number of years. It achieves 115kW and 196Nm from 2L without turbo assistance. In general usage, this is more than adequate and provides the car with performance that suits its usual purpose and characteristics.

The XV is only offered with a CVT automatic transmission in SA. Although many criticise CVT, the Subaru box is smooth and seamless in operation and I believe that CVT is perfectly suited to this type of vehicle. Another feature of all Subaru models is their all-wheel drive system. This provides extra assurance on dirt roads or in the wet and simply adds to the overall safety of the vehicle. Coupled with the raised ride height of the SUV body style, it immediately lets you know that it will transport your family through all road conditions.

As the top of the range model, the test car provides all creature

comforts with full leather, touchscreen infotainment with navigation, upmarket sound system, sunroof and many more features as standard. Again, the orange stitching to match the exterior may be a matter of personal taste – certainly, this

combination is not for the shy or retiring.

Moving on to the 'Eyesight' safety suite, Subaru has made certain that this model is exceptionally well-equipped. Starting with 7 airbags, other features include lane departure warning, blind spot warning, and reverse cross traffic detection. All of these are an absolute boon on freeways and in parking areas. Active cruise control and braking may not be unique to Subaru, but their system works so easily and seamlessly plus these features are offered on models at a much lower price point than those of many other manufacturers that offer similar technology. You can call me old-fashioned, but I am still very conservative about trusting autonomous driving systems, but this one works for me.

Use this link to view our video of the Subaru XV: https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=QuplYth7w9o



According to the car's computer system, fuel consumption averaged 7,4L/100km for the test period. This included general commuting as well as a number of freeway and open road cruises. Most owners will be able to achieve similar figures with a bit of effort.

The XV with 'Eyesight' is priced at R 450 000, including a 3 year/75 000km Maintenance Plan.



WOODMEAD COMMERCIAL PARK FEATURE



DOES YOUR BATHROOM ADD VALUE TO YOUR HOME?

With rising costs and a tough economic environment, homeowners need to select their investments carefully, making sure they get their hard-earned money's worth.

Most estate agents believe that the major difference between sellers who "get their price" and those who don't, lies in their bathroom. "A modern bathroom will certainly add value to the home and usually leads to a quicker sale," says a popular Sandton estate agent.

Sanitaryware Centre has all the latest trends in bathroom ware and sanitary ware, and they sell all the top brands at the right price. Visit any of their showrooms and let one of their expert sales consultants help you design your dream bathroom.



Wimpole Street Interiors has been part of Woodmead Commercial Park for over 20 years and continues to supply its customers with exceptional levels of personalised service in the furniture and décor arena.

A proudly South African business, they specialise in the manufacture of wrought iron and sleeper wood furniture. Their pricing structures are very competitive, as all the furniture is supplied directly from the factory.

"The popularity of wrought iron furniture has certainly returned as a trend in the home and we are enjoying putting together many new ranges and furniture pieces," says Rob Barrett of Wimpole Street Interiors. "We encourage





Store Details Woodmead 011 802 5717 Woodmead Commercial Park 17 Waterval Crescent, Woodmead, Johannesburg

Fourways 011 465 9655 Forest Road Design & Decor Centre Cnr Forest and Sunset Roads, Fourways

Pretoria 012 993 1982 Atterbury Decor Centre 2021 Atterbury Road, Faerie Glen, Pretoria

people to bring in their own ideas, so that we can make up whatever they require. This also helps to ensure that the furniture fits into the spaces they are working with."

In addition to all this, they have expanded their range over the years and now offer a curtaining, blind and flooring service, as well as upholstery, re-upholstery, beds, mattresses, couches, lighting and all garden products.

Take time to pop in and visit them in Woodmead, or browse their pages on Facebook and Instagram for all their latest products and

COMPETITIVE PRICING SER





Unteriors

Contact Details Rob Barrett

Wimpole Street Interiors Woodmead Commercial Park Unit A1, 17 Waterval Crescent, Woodmead Tel: 011 802 6134 Cell: 083 375 9260 E-mail: wimint@mweb.co.za Website: www.wimpole.co.za







RUBEN RIFFEL BRINGS HIS CULINARY GENIUS TO JOZI

Vodacom presents the DStv Delicious International Food & Music Festival, in association with Visa, Coca-Cola, Heineken, Diageo, Proudly South African, Gauteng Tourism Authority, Flight Centre, Gautrain, Jeep, Generosity Water, and Kaya FM.

Be ready for an all-star music and dance line-up, coupled with gastronomic delights. Bring the whole family.

The DStv Delicious International Food and Music Festival will once again bring international singing and dance sensations and masters of culinary excellence together at a two-day fest taking place at the Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit on 22 and 23 September 2018.

The sixth edition of the festival is expected to again attract an estimated 40 000 visitors. Festival Director, Lloyd Cornwall says that it has become THE Springtime outdoor music attraction in Johannesburg, and has also become a firm calendar favourite with foodies, where great culinary creatives share their passions at the Delicious Mile: the festival's Gourmet Street-Food Market. This year, festivalgoers can expect an even bigger and better gastronomic experience at this extensive market. Along the way, they can also visit the Coca-Cola Taste of the City, which will boast 10 pop-up restos that will serve up their flagship dishes.

In addition, patrons can enjoy a delectable multi-course meal perfectly curated by celebrated South African chef, restaurant owner and TV personality, Reuben Riffel, who is returning to the festival this year. His long-table restaurant, brought to you by Coca-Cola, includes a cash bar where restaurant ticket holders can complement their meal with the perfect wines and beverages that will bring out the flavour profiles of the ingredients in the dishes.

The main music stage will be headlined by neo-soul icon, Erykah Badu; New Zealand's young soul singer and multi-instrumentalist, Jordan Rakei; the incredible experimental cross-genre outfit, Jazzanova; and the British acid jazz band, D-Influence. The power of women will be celebrated with the Womandla stage line-up as its main stage offering. Lira will bring her unique fusion of pop, soul, and R&B sound to the main stage; while Simphiwe Dana, who is known for her combination of jazz, Afro-soul, and traditional music will bring her heart and soul to the fore alongside her musical sisters.

Grammy Award winner Louie Vega leads the star-studded Vodacom Dance Arena hosted by Oskido and Kaya FM. New York born DJ Todd Terry and South African dance demigods, DJ Christos, Vinny Da Vinci, DJ Oskido, DJ Fresh and Greg Maloka complete the music and dance lineup. The stage will open at 2pm on both days.

Music and food lovers can be part of the experience by buying Delicious GA Passes that start at R650 each. [The Delicious Early Bird GA Pass is R550 per person per day or R1000 per person for a weekend pass (Saturday & Sunday)]. Tickets for the Vodacom Kids Zone, for children between the ages of 3 - 13, are R280 per child.

Tickets for the Delicious Lounge in association with Tanqueray and Johnnie Walker are R1450 per person per day. And tickets for Reuben Riffel's Long-Table Restaurant are R750 per person per sitting, either Lunch or Dinner - please note this package can only be purchased in conjunction with a Festival Access Pass.

FEED YOUR SOUL

ENTERTAINMENT

- ERYKAH BADU
- JORDAN RAKEI
- JAZZANOVA LIVE
- **D-INFLUENCE**
- WOMANDLA
- LOUIE VEGA
- **TODD TERRY**
- **DJ FRESH**
- OSKIDO
- VINNY DA VINCI
- GREG THE MAESTRO
- **DJ CHRISTOS**

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CELEBRATE THE JOURNEY INTO PARENTHOOD

I.

Clarion Events is delighted to announce that The Baby Show, which has been a hit in the UK for the last 15 years, will be launching in South Africa from the 28th – 30th September 2018 at the prestigious and centrally located Kyalami International Convention Centre.

The South African show is called The Baby Show & #MeetUp, reflecting a local partnership with Meg Faure, founder of South Africa's premium TedEx style parenting seminar series. The show offers new and expectant parents the opportunity to shop for thousands of essential products, as well as being able to access unique, expert information and advice about parenting.

For more information, visit: www.babyshow.co.za

PLUS: Complete their survey f

TODAY'S CHILD

Complete their survey for one entry to win the Grand Prize of a Babies R Us Gift Registry worth R35 000!

Simply log onto the below link to access the survey:

https://survey.euro.confirmit.com/wix/1/p1867279491.aspx

Completing the survey gives you one entry, and if you buy a #MeetUp ticket you get an additional entry. The competition closes at 5pm on the 30th September, 2018.

Ts&Cs apply.







50 tickets are up for grabs for Sunday, 30th September. The value is R95 per ticket.

For a chance to win 2 tickets for the 30th, simply answer this question:

Where will The Baby Show & #MeetUp be held?

Please include 'Kyalami Estates The Baby Show & #MeetUp tickets' in the Subject line and send your answer along with your full name, your cell number and your stand number to: info@eiapublishing.co.za. The winners will be notified by email.





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BAD-MOUTHING, RUMOURS, GOSSIP

28 Kyalami Estates • CONNECT • Issue 9 • 2018

s parents, educators and coaches, we need to teach children to live with integrity. It is common knowledge that people love to gossip, and we must teach children to stay out of it. Talking about other people and their private affairs is one of life's greatest temptations that we all succumb to. It is human nature to compare ourselves to others and often we cannot resist talking about other people. It is hard to avoid listening to gossip and we often find ourselves participating in gossiping and spreading rumours. But the truth of the matter is that, at the end of the day, it is nothing but judgemental and disrespectful, no matter what your reasons or motives are.

WHY DO PEOPLE GOSSIP AND SPREAD RUMOURS?

Some people spread rumours and gossip as a way to intimidate others and gain status or popularity. Others spread rumours out of jealousy, fear of competition, or to exclude someone from a group. Spreading rumours as a way to turn people against someone is a form of bullying. It can have serious consequences for the person doing it, it hurts the person being talked about and it intimidates other people.

Sadly, when other people see this kind of thing going on, they do not always stand up for what is right. They may become less friendly to the person who is being talked about or even exclude them.

- The reasons for this may be: • They incorrectly believe the rumour or gossip without clarifying the reality with the
- person being spoken about.

They are afraid of becoming the next target.

• They enjoy being part of the gossiping and may even take the stories further to other people.

Through joining in the gossiping, they exclude the other party, thereby guaranteeing their position and their safety within the group - i.e. exclusion of the other creates inclusion for oneself.
It keeps the focus off them. If one gossips about someone else, there is no time to focus on oneself and one's faults.
Or they may not have thought about why the speaker is spreading the destructive stories in the first place. What does the speaker have to gain from such a conversation? What is their motivation? Does it make them look better or explain away

It is important to remember that we do not have to be friends with everyone, or even like everyone. But not liking another person does not give someone the right to spread rumours, gossip, or put them down. Acting like this shows a lack of courage and maturity. It is a false way to try and gain popularity or status in the group and it almost always backfires in the end.

their bad behaviour?

People generally gossip due to their own insecurities. What they don't understand is that real popularity comes from feeling comfortable with oneself and from treating people with kindness. People who are truly well liked treat everyone with respect and fairness. They do not put other people down. They do not try to gain power by having 'followers' or popularity at the expense of another person. They are confident and sure of themselves, so they do not have to resort to this unkind behaviour. Rumour-spreading, gossiping and talking behind people's backs is destructive. It destroys people's reputations and causes a range of social problems such as exclusion.

BY DR ILSE RUANE

COUNTERACTING GOSSIPING

So what can kids do if they find themselves the target of rumours and gossiping? Firstly, they should turn to a trusted adult and talk to them about what is going on, for example a parent, teacher, school psychologist, or sports coach.

Let that person know what they are going through. Keep them up to date on what is going on, even as things start to get better. Sometimes it is better to talk to someone outside of the situation because they have some distance from the problem and can look at it from a fresh perspective. They could find a friend or two who will stick by them and who will not listen to rumours. They could share their feelings with those friends, without allowing themselves to be drawn into a similar pattern by speaking unkindly about the person spreading the rumours. If

& TALKING BEHIND PEOPLES' BACKS

they do, they then become that type of person. It's better to rather spend time and energy having fun with friends and doing activities they enjoy.

They should not dwell on the situation, but speak up. They could consider speaking to the girl or boy who is spreading rumours; approach her/him and calmly say something like: "I know we don't get along. You don't have to like me, but you need to stop spreading rumours about me and talking behind my back." There's no need to be angry or mean - just discuss the situation calmly, assertively and maturely.

After saying what they want, they should walk away. There is no need to wait for her/him to say anything back. They should leave her/him to think about what they said.

Every situation is different, but it's important to make sure things do not lead to more nastiness or fighting. It can also help to have a friend stand with them when they talk to the girl/boy.

Encourage your kids to take care of themselves and do things that strengthen their confidence and generate positive feelings. Going through a situation like this can be difficult and hurtful but gathering inner strength, and getting support from people who care, can help them to get through this difficult situation. Encourage them to focus on positive things, and believe in themselves.

NEGATIVE ADULTS

There is a disturbing trend of adults gossiping about other people's children. As adults, we do not do enough to stem the tide of rumour-spreading and gossiping. It is bad enough that children are speaking poorly about other children, but it is another thing entirely when adults speak badly about children. More and more often in my therapy consultations, I am seeing parents and children struggling with the fallout resulting from adults gossiping about other people's children. Parents are upset that their children are victims, and children's lives are made very difficult. Parents talk about other children openly in the parking lot or on the sports field. Staff members are shocked at what they hear in their parent-teacher meetings. People ask me why they see more of this behaviour.

Perhaps adults do not seem to understand the harm in their actions because it is 'harmless chitchat'. Or perhaps it is more sinister – that these adults are badmouthing children for specific personal reasons, for example, to discredit other children because of jealousy, to create a diversion from the issue at hand which involves their own child, or seeing other children as a potential threat to their child in terms of status, success or popularity.

Adults have many misconceptions about their own behaviour when they are around children. They think that if they sit in the back of a room at a children's event and talk, no one can hear them. They think that their children will take their advice when they do not live by example, saying "Do as I say and not as I do."

They think that when they talk about other children to other adults, especially in front of their own children, there is no harm being done to that child. But both children are being harmed; theirs and the other child. Their child, who is listening to the stories, is being raised to believe such talk is acceptable and harmless, and the other child, whose character they are defaming, is being harmed in many unseen ways.

It is important to remember we never know the whole picture of a child from the little pieces we get from observing isolated events in their lives, such as at sports events. Adults who participate in bad-mouthing or gossiping about other children, even as a listener, need to remember the child that is being gossiped about is being harmed by their indirect participation. The adult doing the gossiping does not necessarily have the insight into their behaviour and the effects thereof, therefore, the onus falls on the listener to try and see the bigger picture. By trying to see the bigger picture, the listener can prevent themselves from falling for the gossip story and can perhaps glean the hidden agenda.

Gossip is spread for social reasons; therefore, if someone is gossiping to you, consider what they are hoping to achieve. Also remember, if a person so easily gossips to you, do you really think they are not gossiping about you, behind your back, to someone else as well?



THREE TIPS FOR PARENTS

I offer three tips to parents regarding rumours and gossiping based on what I hear in my private practice:

1. Do not bad-mouth others in front of your own children, whether it is your own adult friend you are having words with or the fact that you are jealous that another child did better in the exams, cricket match or dance competition than your own child. Children do not understand how to process such information, never mind the fact that they are observing first-hand what disrespectful and unkind conversations are like. You are the role model and their observations become the basis for their behaviour.

2. If you no longer want your child to play with a particular child, simply stop the playdates. Make your rules for your own child. Do what you feel is right without spreading stories about the other child. The old saying "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all" should apply equally, if not more so, when you speak in front of or about other children who are still learning about socialisation, behaviour and expressing emotions.

3. There is NEVER a valid reason to go after another child by using rumours and gossip. If you as an adult have a problem with a particular child, maybe you need to look a little closer to home to uncover why you feel this way. By looking honestly at your motivation behind participating in rumours and gossip, you might uncover awareness regarding where these feelings come from. Even if you, as an adult, dislike a child, there is still no valid enough reason for bad-mouthing a child to other adults or children.

Nothing exudes unhappiness and insecurity more than rumours, gossip and bad-mouthing others.



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FREE CODING APPS FOR KIDS **MOVE THE TURTLE**

hey say that coding is the way of the future and that there will be over 250 000 coding jobs up for grabs in the next decade and less than 50 000 coders to fill them. So, if you want job security for your kids, teach them to code today with these free coding apps available online.

DASH & DOT

Although you do have to purchase the robots for this, they have several apps to go along with it that teach coding and programming.

Link: https://itunes.apple. . com/za/app/blocklyfor-dash-dot-robots/ id906750147?mt=8&ignmpt=uo%3D4





THE FOO'S

The creators have one app right now, but are working on creating another more advanced one. On their website they have curriculum for the Hour of Code to go along with their game.

Link: https://itunes.apple.com/za/app/codespark-academy/ id923441570?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4



This is for ages 5+ and teaches coding and programming basics using graphic commands. It gives you challenges and tasks to complete.

Link: https://itunes.apple.com/za/app/move-theturtle-learn-to-code/id509013878?mt=8&ignmpt=uo%3D4

HOPSCOTCH

This app lets you create your own games and share them!

https://itunes.apple.com/za/ app/hopscotch-make-games/ id617098629?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4



DAISY THE DINOSAUR

This has a "drag and drop" interface to teach the basics of programming.

Link: https://itunes.apple.com/za/app/daisy-the-dinosaur/ id490514278?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4

A.L.E.X.

This one is a puzzle game where you have to programme your robot.

Link: https://itunes.apple.com/za/app/a-l-e-x/id597040772?mt=8&ignmpt=uo%3D4

ROBO LOGIC

In this game you programme a robot's movements by dragging commands to the robot's memory.

Link: https://itunes.apple.com/za/app/robo-logic/id300025550?mt=8&ignmpt=uo%3D4

ROBOT SCHOOL

A robot has crashed in space and needs to find his way back to his planet. This game teaches coding in a "drag and drop" format.

Link: https://itunes.apple.com/za/app/robot-school-programming-for-kids/ id943154220?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4

CARGO-BOT

This game is a puzzle challenge where you have to move crates by using coding.

Link: https://itunes.apple.com/za/app/cargo-bot/id519690804?mt=8&ignmpt=uo%3D4 K





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SAYING GOODBYE...



Surviving the passing of your fur child

ur pets become members of our family from the moment we welcome them into our home, and we build a connection with them that can be every bit as strong as those we share with our human loved ones. One of the very few drawbacks about having pets is that we will generally outlive them and have to cope with their loss.

There is nothing that anyone can do or say to lessen that grief, but our hope is that what we share here will help prepare you for the day that you have to say goodbye, and offer some suggestions on how to navigate your loss.

EUTHANASIA – WHAT TO EXPECT

We cannot prepare ourselves for the accidental or unexpected death of a pet, which brings with it shock and disbelief. Many times, however, we as pet parents will be faced with a difficult decision that we don't encounter when a human family member is terminally ill: the option to euthanise our pet and thereby end its suffering sooner than nature would allow. Understanding your options and the process involved



when a pet is 'put to sleep' can help you prepare yourself and know how best to support your furry loved one, yourself and the rest of your family through the experience.

Your veterinarian understands, better than most, the complex emotions and the challenges involved in making the best decision for your pet. They will always allow for a pre-euthanasia consultation to answer all your questions and to give you an honest assessment of the likelihood of your pet living a meaningful life in the future, judging by its current quality of life. No vet will ever make the final decision for you, unless the pet is deemed to be suffering extremely and unnecessarily, in which case they have an ethical obligation to end an animal's suffering. However, they will guide you to the extent that you involve them. Speak to your pet's health care team - as pet parents themselves they know the pain of loss first hand, and they want to help you in any way they can.

Your veterinary team will most likely be prepared to go out of their way to make this your personal time with your pet. Let them know if you have specific wishes with regards to the venue or time, so that they can take care of everyone involved.

You may choose to remain with your pet throughout the process, to offer comfort and reassurance, and you will always be afforded some time alone with him or her afterwards. That said, for some pet parents it's just too overwhelming to stay, and it is completely okay to leave your furry loved-one in the caring and capable hands of your vet after saying your goodbyes.

Some veterinary practices offer the option of euthanising a frail pet in the comfort and privacy of your own home. If this is your wish, discuss it with the clinic staff ahead of time so that they can make the necessary arrangements.

If your pet is elderly or ill, start having these conversations with your veterinary team and put some plans in place to reduce as much of the stress as possible when the time comes.



HOW WILL I KNOW IT'S 'TIME'?

Deciding to put a beloved pet to sleep is never going to be easy, regardless of how old or sick he or she may be. We all worry that we'll push our pets beyond the point where they can't manage anymore because we want to hold onto them for as long as possible. Or that we'll make the decision too early and rob them of a few extra weeks or months with their family. The following guidelines from a veterinarian may help you reach a decision that you can be as comfortable with as possible.

You know your pet the best: what makes him happy, how he shows his enjoyment of life and what routines and activities demonstrate his positive engagement with his family and other pets. For instance: running to the gate to greet visitors, playing favourite games, purring like a tractor-engine, tail-wagging, interacting with family members, eating well, and the ability to maintain their personal hygiene. Pets become very stressed about losing their dignity and especially the control of their bodily functions.

Make a mental note of these behaviours while your pet is still healthy and then decide, based on the absence of these, where the point is reached that your fur baby is no longer enjoying a decent quality of life. As pet guardians, we should consider quality over quantity when it comes to their



AND AFTERWARDS? Municipal by-laws generally don't allow pets to be buried on your property, and in Johannesburg, there is a professional pet crematorium that provides a service to all veterinary hospitals. They can also collect your pet after a home euthanasia (or unexpected death).

lives; now more than

ever before, medical

advances allow us to

beyond what might

otherwise have been

possible. It falls to us

to balance our ability

to have our beloved pets live longer than

ever before with the responsibility not

to extend suffering without the prospect of

a meaningful recovery.

It's truly a privilege to be

able to make a decision

to spare our furry loved

ones pain, suffering and

loss of dignity.

extend our animals' lives

In our personal experience after many years in the veterinary industry, these facilities are absolutely outstanding and their operations are based firmly on dignity and respect. Before your pet is put to sleep, your vet will discuss the options available to you: a communal cremation, a private cremation with the return of your pet's ashes, a memorial plague at a garden of remembrance, or the possibility of creating a lifegem from your pet's ashes - and the associated costs. You may want to bring along a favourite toy, blanket or other meaningful items to be cremated with your pet - in as far as possible, every effort will be made to fulfil your wishes in this regard. You may also arrange to attend your pet's cremation.

If you've opted for return of ashes, these will generally arrive within a week. Some owners bury or scatter the ashes in the pet's favourite spot in the garden, perhaps plant something beautiful there or create another form of memorial. Any form of remembering your beloved pet will greatly help you and your family come to terms with his loss. This is also a special way of assisting children to process what may be their first encounter with death.

HOW WILL I COPE?

The loss of a pet can have the same impact as the loss of a person, and it follows the same stages of grief. Everyone experiences a very personal bereavement and there is no right or wrong in our feelings, or in how long we take to grieve.

Take some time off from work, create space

for yourself, have conversations with your pet ... whatever you need to help you feel okay. There is no script and no one can tell you when it's time to 'get over it'. Seek out the company of fellow animal-lovers who understand what you're going through and won't contribute ridiculous comments like "But it's just a cat!" or "Why don't you just get another dog?"

There are also dedicated pet memorial websites where you can share the memory of your pet, which gives many pet parents comfort.

In some cases, the remaining pets in the family may also be suffering the loss and need support. You may find them huddled on the bed of the pet who passed, or they begin sitting in his favourite place in the garden. They could be subdued and lose their appetite for a while. Some will 'ask' you to help them look for their missing friend by pawing at cupboard doors, trying to get behind the bed or the fridge, or popping out to the garden every now and then to check that he hasn't perhaps turned up. If you have other fur kids, give them lots of attention and reassurance at this time, regardless of how low you're feeling - you'll find this contact and the shared activities will help everyone. It's been said that grief is merely love with no place to go, so be sure to pour out that love to those close to you.

Young children who haven't yet formed a concept of the finality of death will process the passing of pets differently, based on their age. There are many helpful resources online to assist parents.

SHOULD I GET ANOTHER PET?

Nobody can tell you when it's right to get another pet: whether you should do so immediately, or give yourself some time. This is something only you and your family can decide. It can be healing to focus on the needs of another animal - a helpless kitten, a rescue dog or whatever special furry being calls to you and needs your TLC. But you may also feel that you need to fully grieve for your pet first, before considering making space in your heart for another. Some people never get another pet, given the pain their loss caused them. But we hope that your grief will not prevent you from opening your home and heart to another fur baby to experience your love and care. It may help to imagine what the deceased pet might want for you.

We will miss and always remember the furry companions that have shown us so much unconditional love and enhanced our lives in so many ways. Perhaps the fact that they are only with us for a short time should be encouragement enough to make every moment count. Make each day a special one with your dog or cat – take them places, spoil them, expand their horizons and give them loads of hugs. They repay in kind beyond our wildest imaginings and leave us with a lifetime of wonderful memories.

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RESTAURANT COMPETITION FOR SEPTEMBER

DON'T FORGET TO ENTER OUR MONTHLY RESTAURANT COMPETITION.

Here is the question for this issue: *Q: Which plant is featured on the Gardening page in this issue?*

Please include 'Kyalami Estates Restaurant Competition' in the Subject line and send your answer along with your full name, your cell number and your stand number to: info@eiapublishing.co.za. The winner will be notified by email. The restaurants featured in this competition have been carefully chosen and, even if you aren't a winner, we hope that you'll enjoy visiting them whenever you are looking for a memorable culinary experience!

Competition Winner for August

Well done to the winner of our last competition! Congratulations to: **Lena De Bellis** who receives a R500 meal voucher from one of our participating restaurants.

Terms and Conditions:

•Vouchers cannot be exchanged for cash. • Portions of the monetary value of the voucher cannot be refunded as "change". • Bookings need to be made in advance with the restaurant detailed on the voucher. • Service charges/gratuities are not included, regardless of any balance left over after the meal. • Vouchers will be numbered. Please provide your voucher number when you make your reservation. • The competition is open to readers over the age of 18. • Indemnity: The publishers, Kyalami Estates and other associated parties are not responsible for the fulfilment of the service from the restaurant once the prize has been awarded.





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WILD KAROO

A journey through history, change and revival in an ancient land

Written by Mitch Reardon. Published by Struik Nature. Reviewed by James Clarke.

Mitch Reardon



oday there are more than 1 million springbok in the Great and Little Karoo and, possibly, as many outside. But over the previous several decades, the future of South Africa's most famous gazelle was cause for great concern.

Before the dawn of the 20th century migrations of springbok had, at infrequent intervals, criss-crossed the country in swarms. Sometimes their numbers filled landscapes kilometres across and up the sides of the hills.

The government even dished out rifles and ammunition to farmers who devised strategies worthy of a full-scale war - which is what it was, for the tides of springbok would, locust like, denude the fields of every blade of grass and crops. These spectacular migrations, climatically-driven, ended late in the 19th century – then the numbers crashed and there was real concern for the species' survival. In 1961 the springbok population in the Karoo was down to 96 000.

The saga of the springbok makes riveting reading and takes up 16 pages of Mitch Reardon's 224-page book which I believe is one of the best written, informative and just plain enjoyable of all the South African natural history books I've read in the past 60 years of reviewing such books. There's a lot if soul in this book, which tries to give a holistic picture but succeeds rather in describing the complexities of a unique piece of Africa under-appreciated by most of us even though it takes up 60 percent of South Africa.

THE BOOK FOCUSES ON:

• Local nature conservation in all its facets;

 The game, large and small – some recently reintroduced – plus birds, reptiles and invertebrates:

- The unique, arid-adapted flora;
- The landscape and geology;

• The history and lifestyle of the people

who have made a home here;
Plans to combine public and private protected land to create wildlife corridors between isolated parks, reestablishing old migration routes and so reversing some of the effects of human settlement.

The book should inspire young scientists and nature enthusiasts to take up a mission to probe even further this biologically rich but troubled semi-desert.

It took Mitch Reardon, a former ranger and wildlife photographer, three years and 4 000km of travel to draw much needed attention to the Great Karoo.



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