# Restore your Spirit

DITHOLO WILDLIFE ESTATE

# MEMBERS **NEWSLETTER** Nov 2020

**IT'S NOVEMBER!**

In the United States and Canada, November is also known as National Beard Month or No Shave Month (also known as "No-Shave November") as a way to raise cancer awareness. Australians have a similar month where they grow a mustache or a full beard.

Gentlemen, why not join our MO-vember challenge and grow a mustache or beard! It is a great way of showing support for cancer patients and a whole month of NO shaving!

Send us your pictures at the end of November and we'll make a collage for our Facebook page!

**RULES**

We are experiencing an increase of visitors and guests ignoring the basic rules. We would like to appeal to all members to make sure that your guests are aware of the basic rules. It is compulsory to clearly display the rules in your house. We supplied A4 magnets for easy display on fridges and laminated A4 posters for visible display at any selected area of your house. Please pick up a magnet or some posters at the gate if you do not have it already displayed at your house.
The basic summary of the rules will soon also be handed out in a welcome pamphlet which will contain basic information and the layout of the Estate.

These are some of the rules that are causing the most problems:

**Private vehicles in the game viewing area:**
*Only golf carts and registered game viewer vehicles may by used for game drives. If you do not have a vehicle, please book a game drive at the Ditholo Game Lodge.*

**Littering**

**Drone flying which invades the privacy of other guests, owners and visitors.**

**Gatherings with loud music disturbing the peace and quiet atmosphere for other members and guests on the Estate.**

**Making use of the facilities at the Lodge without permission and even bringing own refreshments.**

**Not adhering to the rules and regulations with regards to COVID-19, as displayed at the entrance gate and signed for on the visitor's permit document.**

**Please help us to keep Ditholo Wildlife Estate the place where you can restore your spirit!**

**6 WAYS TO GIVE YOUR MIND A BREAK:**

"
1. Stop stressing
2. Stop worrying
3. Give rest to the problems weighing you down.
4. Lighten up
5. Forgive yourself
6. Forgive others

*- Germany Kent*
"

## BUSH CAMP

We upgraded the cushions on the furniture and invite all members to enjoy this facility during the day. It is a great stop-over for a refreshment break and to cool down in the pool.

Should you wish to reserve the bush camp for a specific day, please contact Gerda (gerda@wbpm.co.za) so that all other members may be informed of the restricted use. Other members, however, may still make a pit stop to use the restrooms.

## WWW.DITHOLOWILDLIFEESTATE.CO.ZA

We are super exited about our new website! Please visit us at our new address www.ditholowildlifeestate.co.za to enjoy the new, fresh look. Our Facebook page is also under new management and we wish to invite you to interact and communicate with us via this social media platform. Please share some thoughts and pictures or simply give us a thumbs up or comment! We are looking forward to connecting with you on Facebook!

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Invitations and documents for the 12th Annual General Meeting were sent out on 30 October 2020

Date: 21 November 2020
Time: 09:30 for 10:00
Venue: Ditholo Wildlife Estate Bush Camp

Please confirm your attendance by return e-mail by no later than Wednesday 11 November 2020.
Members who are unable to attend the General Meeting are requested to complete the proxy form. To be effective, proxy and nomination forms should be emailed to Gerda (gerda@wbpm.co.za) by no later than 12:00 on 20 November 2020, or be handed to the Chairman prior to the meeting on Saturday, 21 November 2020.

Meeting attendees will be required to provide satisfactory identification before being allowed to participate in the meeting.

# Fire Wise...

## COLLABORATING WITH WORKING ON FIRE TO MAKE DITHOLO WILDLIEFE ESTATE ECO EFFICIENT AND FIRE WISE.

A project was launched in September this year to gradually increase the grazing and fight against invasive plants.

The Working on Fire team did a great job of the first round of burns, and will continue burning about 30% of the farm on a rotation basis, over the next 4 years.

The team of more than 50 fire fighters were very disciplined whilst being on duty, but still had time to entertain us with their own version of the very popular Jerusalema dance on Heritage Day.

## WHILST WE ARE TALKING ABOUT FIRE....

We would like to remind you that the Estate's staff are not allowed to supply firewood. We will be more than happy to assist you with any of the following:

**General Maintenance** **R80**
(Include first hour, additional hours will be charged at R60 per hour)

**Additional Bush Clearance** **R450**
(The HOA will do one Bush Clearance once a year as part of fire prevention. It will consist of 20 meter perimeter clearance around houses as required by the insurance)

·**Grass Cutting** **R300**
(Immediate area around the house and lapa)

Please contact Dawid (083 432 5542) or leave a message for him at the gate (014 013 0291). You are also welcome to contact Gerda (083 291 6113) for grass cutting and bush clearing.

### LAUGH A LITTLE

After being scolded for being so unruly, a young boy decides to run away. The child gathers his clothes, his teddy bear, and his piggy bank and announces, 'I'm running away from home!'.
The father decided to approach the matter logically. 'What if you get hungry?', he asked.
'Then I'll come home and eat!', bravely declared the child.
'And what if you run out of money?'.
'I will come home and get some!', readily replied the child.
The father asked one last question, 'What if your clothes get dirty?'.
'Then I'll come home and let mommy wash them.', was the reply.
The man smiled and exclaimed, 'This kid is not running away from home, he's going off to college!'

## THE FASCINATING NYALA ANTELOPE

The common name of the antelope is derived from the traditional Zulu word for the animal, inxala. Nyala are the most striking of antelopes and also exhibit the greatest sexual dimorphism (difference between the sexes). The females are relatively small, weighing between 55 - 68 kg by adulthood. Males are double the size, standing 110cm at the shoulder. They weigh up to 125 kg, although that still doesn't make them one of the 10 largest antelope species in Africa.

Females are characteristically striped along the ridge of the back with up to 18 white lines. These form the animal's camouflage, breaking up their solid outline and helping them to blend into their thicket habitats. The lines are known as disruptive markings.

Males carry 14 white stripes along the back and white spots on the flanks and belly (also disruptive markings). The lower part of each leg is yellow in colour and contrasts strongly with the rest of the body. A shaggy white-tipped mane extends down the backs and a fringe along the under neck and belly. Males have spiraled horns which females lack. The male's coat plays a vital function in social interactions with other males and is a form of visual communication whereby bulls express their individual impressiveness and superiority.

Although herds can reach up to 30 individuals, they usually live in loose groups of four to eight animals. All these groups are temporary. The dominant bull will happily allow other bulls to be in its group, as long as they remain submissive.

*Source: Africafreak*
*Worthog Lodge blog (Mabalingwe Nature Reserve)*

*Source: powerfulmind.co/secretary-bird/*

## THE SECRETARY BIRD

One of Africa's weirdest birds. It struts about the savannah with the head of an eagle and the legs of a stork. In reality, it is a bird of prey – with a family all to itself.

The Secretary bird possesses a snake-killing prowess that is the stuff of legend. Snakes form only a small part of the secretary bird's diet, which also includes insects, small mammals, birds' eggs, and other reptiles. Secretary birds use the thickened soles of their feet to stamp on their prey, stunning it and then swallowing it whole.

Studies of the secretary bird's feeding technique helped scientists to shed light on the hunting strategies of the prehistoric 'terror birds'. These were giant flightless predators that roamed the planet over 3 million years ago.

There are different theories about the origins of the secretary bird's name. One holds that the feathers behind the bird's head reminded 19th-century Europeans of the quill pens that secretaries tucked behind their ears. It is more likely, however, that the name derives from the Arabic saqr-et-tair or 'hunter bird'.

Do look out for views of the secretary bird on your next game drive!

**Gerda Barnard ■ 083 291 6113 ■ gerda@wbpm.co.za**

# NEW COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND INTERNET ACCESS

We have moved the Internet Wi-Fi to the entrance gate. This enabled us to install a VOIP telephone that will always be available.

When the Electricity is down you will have to make use of the many other contact numbers provided. The new number is 014 013 0291. You can call this number any time, day or night, if you need assistance during your stay.

Wilson or Phillemon will contact the correct person to attend to the problem.

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|---|---|---|
| Main Contact Number | Number for the gate NEW NUMBER!!!<br>WhatsApp | **014 013 0291**<br>078 171 2210 |
| Support Number | after hours/weekends | 072 759 4724 |
| | | |
| Estate Supervisor | Dawid Slabbert | 083 432 5542 |
| WPM Property Managers | Gerda Barnard (Managing Agent)<br>gerda@wbpm.co.za | 083 291 6113 |
| Pieter Engelbrecht | Anything game related | 072 450 1502 |

# *Photo of the Month*

Thank you Calven Ungerer for this aerial view which shows clearly how the recent rainfall at Ditholo Wildlife Estate is helping to fill up our dams.