MEMBERS **NEWSLETTER** Apr 2021

CHANGE OF THE SEASONS!

Autumn...the season Keats called "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness", autumn is a season famous for turning leaves, cooling temperatures and darkening nights - a gorgeous time of the year! It marks the transition from Summer to Winter, where the mornings and evenings get that fresh crisp feel in the air as the temperature cools down considerably.

The arrival of night comes conspicuously earlier while the arrival of day is delayed further and further.

Now is the time to gather wood for the fireplace, dig out the sherry and brush of your favourite slippers...

GENERAL INFORMATION

As part of the great WELCOME TO THE FAMILY we would like to bring you up to speed with some relevant information.

Please meet the people responsible for the smooth and functional running of Ditholo Wildlife Estate at the **MEET & GREET** coming up. Please don't hesitate to contact them if you have concerns or questions.

NB: PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR BANK DETAILS HAS CHANGED!

NEW BANKING DETAILS:

DITHOLO WILDLIFE ESTATE HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION
ABSA BANK
CHEQUE ACC #: 4100 464 504
BRANCH CODE: 632005

MEET & GREET

Saturday,
15 May 2021

10:00 – 13:00
DITHOLO BUSH CAMP

If you have any questions, please contact Gerda (083 291 6113 | gerda@wbpm.co.za)

(Refreshments will be served. Please remember to bring your own chair)

RSVP: 07 May 2021 to Gerda

NEW BEGINNINGS

Newly appointed Estate Manager. Pierre is looking forward to meeting you.

Pierre van Nieuwenhuizen

GRASS CUTTING

Ditholo Home Owners Association renders a grass cutting service at houses. As part of the health and safety fire protection, the HOA will cut the grass and clear a 20 metre radius around your house once the growth slows down.

This is done only once a year for the expense of the HOA. This service will be done in June/July of each year.

We would like to remind you that the Estate's staff will gladly assist you with any of the following.

General Maintenance (Includes first hour, additional hours will be charged at R60 per hour)	**R150**
Additional Bush Clearance (The HOA will do one Bush Clearance once a year as part of fire prevention)	**R660**
Grass Cutting (Immediate area around the house and lapa)	**R400**

RULES of the ESTATE

Please visit our website under the Members Zone, for a full list of rules of the Estate.

We have highlighted some of the most important rules.

- No private vehicle may enter the game viewing area.
- No DRONE flying is allowed without permission.
- No pets are allowed.
- Please respect the peace and tranquillity of the bush veld by enjoying a quiet gathering without inconveniencing your neighbours.

7 Reasons you should make time for sunsets

Make time to watch the sun sets every single day, no matter where you are...

1. It can slow down time.
By witnessing the beauty and awe of the sunset, you can slow down your perception of time.

2 & 3. It doesn't take long and it forces you outside.
Just a 20-minute dose of fresh air promotes a sense of vitality.

4. It allows you to multitask in a healthy way.
You can take in the sunset in a variety of ways: while running, walking, biking or simply observing.

5 It will force you to put your phone down.
If you experience the sunset more regularly, you'll no longer feel compelled to see it through a screen.

6 It will help you appreciate life's gifts.
Being mindful of all the things you have to be thankful for can boost your well-being.

7. It will inspire you.
There is something inherently powerful and spiritual about sunsets, and we can benefit from incorporating such experiences into a regular ritual.

ESKOM

Due to the Eskom price increase of 15.06% on 01 April, the pre-paid electricity charges increased accordingly. The monthly fixed charge is now R118.39 and the energy charge is R2.22 per unit.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Download important documents and old news letters our website ww.ditholowildlifeestate.co.za

Under the Member Zone, you can use the *Username: Ditholo 01 & Password: Member.*

This page gives you access to various downloadable documents.

One of our members recently celebrated his 50th birthday with family and friends.

Thank you for sharing some of the great memories.

WORKING ON FIRE -SEPTEMBER CONTROLLED BURNING PROJECT

The effect of the controlled burns, done in September, are still being monitored by Working on Fire.

Two of the three zones that were burned, are showing impressive results. Grazing has increased miraculously.

Unfortunately zone two did not meet the expectations we hoped for. This is due to lack of burning fuel.

Working on Fire is planning a follow-up.The carrying capacity needs to be examined in order to determine the required actions for the next phase.

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

KEEP CALM WE'RE ON IT
Road & Bridge Maintenance

Heavy rainfall can lead to numerous hazards. Unfortunately our roads and bridges pulled the short straw this year.
Repairs will start as soon as conditions allow. We would like to thank all the members for your patience. Please continue to avoid the affected areas.

What causes heavy rainfall?

Heavy rain is one of the hallmark signs of climate change. As the atmosphere warms, more water evaporates from soils, plants, lakes, and oceans.
For every additional 1°C of warming, the atmosphere is capable of holding an additional 4 percent of water vapor. So when this additional water vapor condenses into precipitation, it leads to heavier rain — or when cold enough, heavier snow.

DIG IN & GET THOSE HANDS DIRTY
Dam cleaning underway

Since our chemical treatment in 2019 didn't show the desired results, we had to get our hands dirty and start weeding the invasive plants ourselves. A dedicated team started on 6 April to pull out all unwanted plants from our dams. This will continue until we have our lovely dams back to their natural

SAD GOODBYES

Dawid will be leaving Ditholo at the end of April. We would like to thank him for all his hard work over the last 6 years and wish him all the best for the future.

Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them; that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like." Lao Tzu

FOR NATURE'S SAKE

Hippo Relocation - Moving a Giant

How do you move a hippo?

I mean: it's a great, big lumbering animal with the weight of a car!

Why did we have to move them?

Due to the extremely territorial nature of the hippopotamus we had to sell the two youngest members of our hippo pod.

When young male hippos reach a certain level of maturity, they're typically kicked out of the herd by the dominant male.

More often, a young male will join a herd of bachelors and bide his time until he can attract a herd of his own.

Due to the limitations put in with fencing, we have had to intervene and move the hippos ourselves.

It is no small feat moving these large and temperamental animals.

We are extremely happy to announce that our move went smoothly and the baby hippos have settled extremely well in their new environment.

FUN FACT

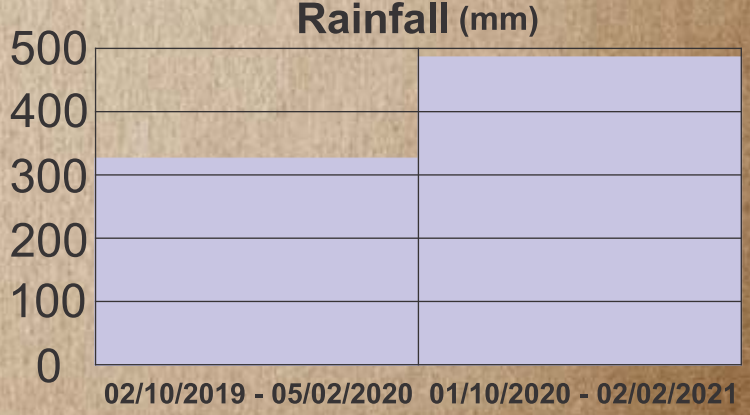
* Female hippos have a gestation period of eight months and have only one baby at a time.
* At birth, the calf weighs between 23 to 50 kg.
* Baby hippos are called calves.
* At 5 to 7 years old, the hippo calf is fully mature.

Source: By Alina Bradford - Live Science Contributor November 01, 2018

SIGNING OFF ON A HIGH NOTE:

Petrichor - is the earthy scent produced when rain falls on dry soil...
"Whenever it rains, and its earthy scent, the petrichor hits my senses, memories come flashing and I go back in time." Shon Mehta

Be safe, be healthy and take care until we meet again!



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