

BRONBERG



Member's Newsletter June 2013

It is winter again and the busy season in the conservancy. Fire breaks are being made and we captured excess game. This is also a very sad time as we say goodbye to longstanding members of the conservancy who have shaped its character in so many ways. We welcome several new member families into the conservancy too.

Henriëtte
0824505922
26 June 2013

Game capture

The planned game capture operation finally took place over the period 7-8th June. Thanks to the Hennie Kieser, Jo Klerk and Mark Adcock who made the arrangements and helped to ensure that this went off successfully.

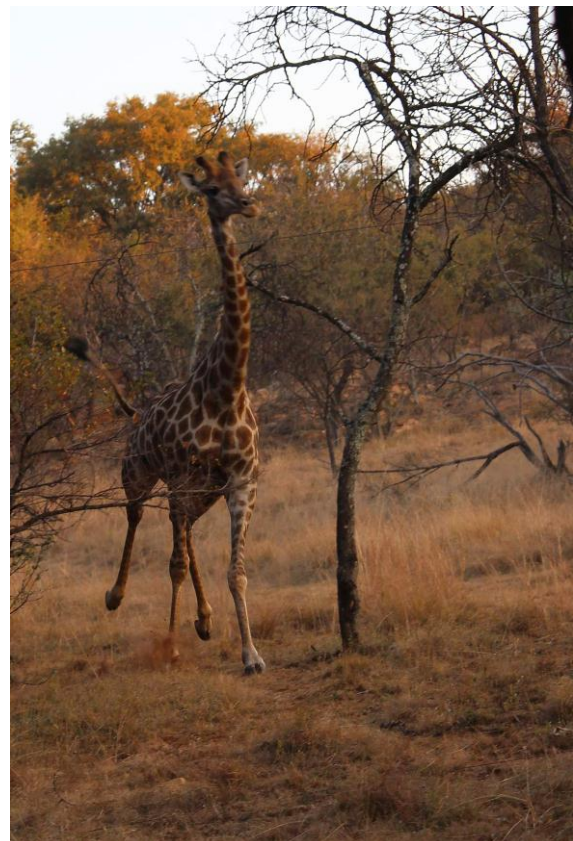
The giraffes were introduced into the Conservancy as an experiment in 2009. Although we have all enjoyed their presence it was becoming increasingly apparent that they were not thriving here despite members providing them with lucerne to help them through the winter months. The trees in the Conservancy were also suffering from over-browsing and to avoid further damage the decision was sadly taken to send the giraffes to new homes.

Accordingly, the game capture operation resulted in the removal of all four giraffes, as well as approximately 26 wildebeest, 16 zebra and 20 impala.

We were very sad to see the giraffes go, but nevertheless it is obviously the right thing to do if we are to maintain the Conservancy in a good state for the future.



The helicopter pilot had to do some tricky manoeuvres to get the giraffe to head in the right direction!





The last goodbye!

Sad times

We are all saddened to hear of the passing of Reinette Klerck's father, Ernest (Doep) Du Plooy on 19 June at the age of 76. Dup was a long time presence in the Conservancy and will be sorely missed by his family and friends. We will all miss his friendly presence and energy to do whatever was required in the conservancy.

Our thoughts are with Reinette, Joe and the family at this sad time.



Doep and Bettie in happier times!

Christine Molkenntin has also lost her brother recently, and Basie and Klein Van Zyl's son-in-law is seriously ill.

Derek Abson has been in ICU for more than seven weeks following a major operation for stomach cancer, and his future is also very uncertain. Our prayers are with Jane in this very difficult time.

A special tribute to Derek and Jane Abson



The Absons at the 2012 AGM

Derek and Jane Abson have been with the conservancy from the start, and have played an active role in its establishment and management and marketing through their passion and expertise. Jane has been chairperson for many years and has been instrumental in writing the environmental management plan and motivations for awards.

Together they have created a fascinating collection of photos documenting the unique plants, birds and features of the area. They have created the plant and bird lists and maintained the website (www.bronberg.co.za). They have also arranged and hosted many walks with interested groups, ranging from birder visits to walks by members of the botanical and dendrological societies.

They have planned to leave finally for the Richmond in the UK this month, but due to Derek's sudden illness and uncertain future

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Jane is still renting the property and still making a contribution by assisting with everything from the accounts to creating this newsletter.

Happy times

Mark Adcock has a new grandchild and we wish him and his family many happy years ahead!

New Conservancy members

The Absons' property, 49 Klipkop, has been bought by the Reynders family. They have sent the following message: "We recently had the privilege of buying Klipkop 49 from Jane and Derek Abson and look forward to becoming part of the Klipkop community. We are: Johan and Sandra Reynders with three children Janru (18), Mart-Marié (14) and Heinrich (8). We hope to have many happy years within this community staying at Klipkop. Unfortunately we won't be able to attend the AGM but will try to attend the next one. We look forward to meet you all."

Riaan and Judy Geldenhuys are now established at Plot 37 Rietfontein (previously owned by Tom Koekemoer). Riaan gave us some background information as follows: Judy and I have been married for 10 years now in December. We've been living in Pretoria since 1994. We started in a bachelors flat in Sunnyside, then moved to our previous house in Moreleta Park, which I refurbished. We loved the house, but the noise of DeVille Bois road nearby got worse as it got busier. So that's why we started looking for a place outside of suburbia. Judy is a bookkeeper at African Outdoor Sports. I am a Senior Architectural Technologist and partners with Joe & Reinet Klerck. That's also how I heard of the land for sale in the Conservancy. We would like to do some additions and alterations to the house in the near future. Other than that, we are just looking for a quiet life ahead in the tranquillity of the Bronberg conservancy.

Henry Windell has bought Plot 53 Klipkop (Patty Havenga's old property). Henry and

his wife Shireen have two daughters – Chloe (5 years) and Lexi-B (2 years). They have no immediate plans, but would like to have a weekend place to go and enjoy nature. They look forward to meeting some of the other Conservancy members soon.

Firebreaks

The burning of the Conservancy firebreaks is being done this year under the supervision of Harald Späth and team. They started with burning of the southern perimeter at the end of May and will resume the fire break burning this Friday. The entire perimeter of the conservancy will be burnt and if time permits there will also be a burn along the centre to split the area in two.

Please – do not try to burn your own firebreaks without proper controls, and give your support to Harald and his team in his efforts.

Please be aware that the Kiesers no longer have their Unimog to help out in case of veld fires – so we need to be especially watchful this year to prevent runaway fires!

Annual accounts

The annual statements and invoices have been mailed to everyone by Henriette. Thanks to Jane and Helen for many hours of assistance in getting the accounts consolidated and captured!

Please, try to arrange for your annual contributions to be paid timeously! The profit from the game capture has been allocated to the various member accounts according to shareholding and this is indicated on the accounts statements.

AGM Reminder

The Conservancy Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 6th July at 11am at Helen and Harald Späth's house. Please make every effort to attend. RSVP to Liz Adams (lizsentinel@yahoo.com) if you have not already done so.