

*The paper that encourages dreams, supports people and builds the community!*

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# "Tornado" strikes the Manyeleti

Obo's

Just when you least expect it – On Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021, at approximately 21:30 a brutal wind blew in, giving no precursor or warning.

The weather radar had no indication of such adverse weather, and the local residents were enjoying a lovely, peaceful, and calm evening. Coming in from the south it hit with speed and ferocity and was accompanied by some rain. The lightning in the distant mountains gave no hint of the unseen threat about to wreak havoc and instill fear in those in its path.

Early the next morning the Orpen Gate road, it looked as if a herd of angry elephants had passed through, destroying any low hanging branches and pushing over trees that got in their way.

Arriving in the Manyeleti Reserve and were met by a visible channel of destruction that had borne the brunt of the trail of destruction the night before. We were told this tornado that came up suddenly, with winds over 100km per hour! Veld grasses were flattened, branches were torn off trees, while others uprooted. Some trees were simply snapped in half like matchsticks! Some of the electricity poles were blown over, plunging homes into darkness.

The winds had already torn into the settlements of Welverdiend and Hluvukani, blowing roofs off houses, collapsing walls, and inflict-



ing injury on many people. Medical staff was called in to attend to the injured at the nearby Tintswalo Hospital.

Residents in Welverdiend and Hluvukani, spent Sunday trying to repair the damage to their homes and shops.

Incredibly Tintswalo Safari Lodge was left unscathed, the residents oblivious to the carnage being perpetrated around them. Other camps were not so fortunate and there are stories of tents being blown away with serious damage done to buildings, equipment,

and vehicles. A FGASA assessor, Pieter Dunn, who was on assignment in the Manyeleti at the time and said "he had never experienced a wind with such force before. It was very frightening being alone in the camp and being totally helpless as havoc ensued

around me." It seems the "tornado" dissipated once it had crossed the Orpen Road, although the nearby Wildlife College experienced strong winds, no damage was inflicted there.

The SA Weather Service had issued a Level 2 warning of severe thunderstorms for

the area but had no knowledge of this occurrence and our query was the first they had received of this incident on Saturday night. SAWS is investigating this seemingly localized phenomenon but to date, there has been no further response from them.

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## Take me to your reader

David Batzofin

This is my first official edition as editor and I have to thank those members of the community that I interacted with recently for their warm welcome. That is one aspect that I enjoy about 'small-town-South-Africa', the sense of community and the interest in newbies in town. While sitting at a local coffee shop I was greeted by at least 6 people who had no idea who I was or why I was in town.

Kruger2Canyon is a community paper that has been around for almost two decades, so stepping into the well-worn shoes of the previous editor has been a daunting prospect for me. And this is where I require YOUR help. Seeing that K2C is a community paper I would like your input as to content and pictures.

Everyone has a story or perhaps knows someone

with a story. And in the current pandemic economy and the fallout, I am looking for uplifting and positive stories that will make the readers realize that they are not alone in these pandemic days.

How can you help? Submit your stories to [tanyapeter@mweb.co.za](mailto:tanyapeter@mweb.co.za) and I will make the magic happen...Each story that you submit needs to be accompanied by at least one high-resolution image that enhances that story that you have submitted. If possible, try not to have a specific time on your story, just in case we have to save it for a future edition.

I look forward to getting to read your stories and at the same time coming to know the community and all of you that live in the area covered by the newspaper. Till our next edition, stay safe and stay healthy...



## A view from the top

Mark Bishop

What are we going to bring to the party?

So we've done it! After some deliberation and plenty of discussions, and a small element of trepidation, I finally decided to take over the helm of the beloved Kruger2Canyon newspaper. We clearly have a long history to uphold but we as the team are all excited at the prospect and look forward to adding an alternative breath of fresh air to the publication.

It is difficult stepping into someone else's shoes – there's always that one stitch that keeps uncomfortably rubbing your toe. Whilst I am very wary of changing too much too soon, I do believe that the publication needs a revamp and a structure that will make it more enticing for you, our reader.

Of course, we as the team, must not forget that we are in Hoedspruit, for Hoedspruit and largely by Hoedspruit. The communal glue is something that we want to nurture and develop going forward. We must never lose sight of the fact that it is for the community that we publish our paper, to challenge, to excite, to reveal, to promote, to enjoy, to help, and most of all to have fun. We will do our best to be impartial, accurate, and have a level of journalism that will make you all proud.

In this light, I am very happy and thankful to have David Batzofin on board to join the team as the Editor. He brings with him a wealth of journalistic knowledge and experience on which, I have no doubt, we will lean heavily.

What was surprising in our research within the community is the fact that most people enjoy a printed copy – it's my personal



this paradise, so let's ensure that we support it and nurture it to the very best of our abilities.

Besides local contributors (which we would like to encourage) we will tap into other experienced and respected sources, that can give us insight and comment from an outside perspective, that may ignite a spark to make us look at ourselves to see how we can improve, develop, initiate and prosper.

Our structure will target the community, the biosphere, nature, and wildlife, personalities, businesses, agriculture, lifestyle and leisure, things to do and see, places to go, achievements of individuals and companies and organizations, always promoting 'local first'. As a team, we want to be proud of what we do, what we can do, and what we will do, to make our piece on this rock hurtling around the sun, the paradise we all want and strive for.

We look forward to your ongoing support, as we will support you. Please tell us if we are delivering the goods, tell us what you want, and we will strive to deliver.

Here's to a fantastic journey ahead. Thank you for your support and for welcoming us into the community. May all South Africans return to a semblance of normality in our day-to-day life soon and we here at Kruger2Canyon are filled with excitement for the adventures that lie ahead.

preference too. With that in mind, what I want to ask of you, the community is to please tell us what you want to hear. It would be remiss of anyone venturing forth on this road to not ask our readership what they want. And we certainly don't want to focus on the bad news, there's enough of that going around. We want to celebrate the good news – the personalities, the companies, the newbies, the achievements, the good stuff! Stories that gives you the warm fuzzy feelings – and we all know that's in short supply right now.

The other part of what we are going to do is concentrate on local – "local is lekker" – and with this mouthpiece, we hope to promote and support "local" as the prime focus in our intent to produce a wonderful publication for all to read.

Besides bringing a new structure to the publication, a cornerstone that will allow us to build what we want to achieve is the biosphere – who knew that the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere was voted the eleventh best biosphere in the world!? I believe that this should be the foundation on which we build – with the people, by the people, for the people whilst conserving our beautiful natural resources and environments that we are so privileged to be part of. We are blessed to live in

## Prickly situation

Obo's

On the UK site, Mail Online, they report (with video) on Tim Baynham who resides at the Hoedspruit Wildlife Estate.

Around 21:00 on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Tim was in the kitchen and walked out for a few minutes. Nearing the kitchen on his return he heard a noise and on entering he was very surprised to be confronted with a very large porcupine staring back at him!

You can view Tim's encounter on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=c85dC6byxxk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c85dC6byxxk)

'When I heard the noise in the kitchen I quickly went to check what was going on. When I saw the porcupine there, I quickly chased it out' said Tim

He went on to say that he knows this particular por-



cupine (nicknamed Spikey) well. The area has numerous porcupines and they do try to get into houses occasionally. It seems that as soon as the porcupine saw Tim it exited the house and carried on foraging outside. In the Estate, homes are surrounded by dense natural bush and as a result, there are always animals present, anything from giraffes to squirrels can be spotted.

Tim said that they have had many animals in the house over the years - vervet monkeys, baboons, snakes, and monitor lizards. Returning home one day he discovered three warthogs in the kitchen and the lounge full of monkeys.

Just another day in Hoedspruit.

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# An introduction to the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region

Mark Bishop

You may well be asking what is a biosphere? In short, a biosphere is an area of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems promoting solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. They are learning areas for sustainable development under diverse ecological, social, and economic contexts. They are internationally recognized, nominated by national governments, and remain under the

sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located.

The wonderful and amazing part of this story is that we in Hoedspruit, are almost at the centre of the 11<sup>th</sup> best biosphere in the world and the best biosphere in Africa according to UNESCO! This is a massive accolade and tribute to all those involved within the biosphere. We will be profiling some key figures in the course of the following editions.

To appreciate how incredible the achievements have

been to date, let's look at the stats: Biospheres worldwide touch the lives of more than 250 million people. There are currently 714 biosphere reserves in 129 countries, including 21 transboundary sites that belong to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and we are at #11!

Our biosphere extends from just south of Giyani in the north to Graskop in the south and from Haenertsburg in the west to the Mozambique border with the Kruger National Park in the

east. It was officially recognized in October 2001 – a massive area of 2 474 700 hectares!

More than 60 projects have been implemented with partners in the region over the last 10 years. Since 2015 protected areas have been expanded by 74 010 hectares and there is a further 97 621 hectares in the process of being declared.

958 jobs have been created in the green economy. Currently, there are 170 Environmental Monitors in communities and supporting

host institutions. There is a 25% absorption rate into formal employment in the environmental sector and there are 55 small businesses (SMME's) that are being supported.

14 199 hectares of land has been restored and rehabilitated. A further 22 167 hectares have been cleared of alien invasive plants.

The biosphere vision is to partner with stakeholders, land-use sectors, and relevant bodies, to achieve a sustainable future for all life in the Kruger to Canyons

Biosphere.

We look forward to featuring their achievements and the people involved in bringing the biosphere into our everyday life. Follow this continuing story in future editions of Kruger2Canyon News.



## Walking the talk, David Byrne's birthday challenge

Heidi Lee Smith

"My 60th birthday was fast approaching and I was searching for a challenge that would help me make this a day to remember. I always struggle keeping my weight under control and getting enough exercise in," David Byrne confessed in an interview with *Kruger2Canyon* about his 'Great Walk'.

Through David's exposure to local rural community challenges and the severe food insecurity issues in this area, he was on the lookout for a means of addressing these issues.

"I took inspiration from Bruce Lawson," he told *K2C*. "He is an amazing guide who is always willing to push himself for a good cause (currently Burpees for Conservation) and by Benedicter Hlongos, who is always doing what he can to help feed people. So, I thought why not walk 1000 km in the 65 days before my birthday and ask people to sponsor me to raise money to help feed people? I discussed this with my wife, Arda van Dongen, who agreed that it was a good idea. Whether it was doable

or not was another thing! So, I announced it on Facebook and started walking on Feb 14, 2021.

Pledges over R52K have poured in from all over the world, 'It has been truly amazing,' says David whose target is to complete this walk on April 19th, the day before his birthday.

Funds raised will be split four ways; between Benedicter to help establish a new garden to feed local families (the goal is that the garden becomes self-sustaining), TryGive Nxumalo for his Community Garden initiative, Hlokomela for their health and food outreach work, and finally, Nourish for their food security program.

The project has not been without its challenges as shortly before starting David slipped and damaged his right knee.

After treatment, and a course of pain medication, the knee strengthened and the challenge was back on track. Beginning at 2 km per hour per day, he has gone from strength to strength, and aside from racking up kilometers and sponsorship, he has also collected blisters. And lots of those!

"When was in pain during my walk, the thought of all those who walk to work and back, struggling to survive daily is what kept me going and made my aches and pains seem minor by comparison," explained a very determined David.

When asked what he has learned, David answered: "That 1000 km is a long way! That your body will do what you ask it to do if you are determined enough. People are inherently good - and are willing to help if given an opportunity and if they have someone they trust involved in the effort.

David's health has improved due to this increased exercise and he has shed 6 kg to date. Add to that the funds are going to help a lot of people and it has turned out to be a positive experience all round.

"I'm just an ordinary guy that is pleased to have an opportunity to help. We have had a privileged life but it's only one or two generations back that both of our families needed help as well," David told *Kruger2Canyon*. "I could not have done this without the love and support of my wife, and encouragement of friends.



David Byrne

And finally, David shared some of the lessons he discovered along the way: Clouds are your friend | Walk in the morning if you can | A single pair of shoes won't last 1000 km | There's a lot of snakes on Leopard Rock | Don't freeze your

Camelbak completely solid | Blue Mopani worms are beautiful | Dung beetles sometimes hit the ground so hard and fast that they flip over onto their backs | Chameleons move extremely slowly | Being comfortable in your own silence is

empowering | Most people are generous and caring when given the chance.

Should you wish to contribute to this worthwhile fundraiser please contact David Byrne on Facebook or email [d\\_byrne@rocketmail.com](mailto:d_byrne@rocketmail.com)

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# “An African farming community inspired way of living, working, and trading”

Mark Bishop

The Farm House is one of the older buildings still standing in Hoedspruit and was the original homestead for the Happyland farm which was sold and became the well known residential wildlife estates we know today.

The farm was historically a cattle farm and some generations of farmers tried their hand at farming grain and rice. The farm was also used for hunting where the old farmers used to hunt lion that raided the old cattle kraals.

The old Farm House was a derelict building for many years and was acquired by Jake and Antonia Hoddinott. They have tried to restore grandeur to the old homestead with its quaint and simple charm. The development embodies everything that is good and wholesome about countryside living coupled with modern amenities.

The produce for the shops and eatery have been sourced from farms and farming communities bringing the best natural, hand-crafted, tasty, healthy and delicious goodies for all to enjoy. One will be able to order supplies, have a meal, pick up a ready-made meal for later, grab a special bot-

tle of wine, shop for your fresh farm supplies or just arrive and find a sunny spot to have a drink and relax or find a secluded refuge to get some uninterrupted work done.

There are several businesses that have taken the opportunity to make up the community, all sharing the same ethos, and about to enjoy an African farming community inspired way of living, working and trading. The Farm House Eatery is a place to come and enjoy a delicious and healthy bite to eat. Build your own meal, breakfast accompanied by a healthy smoothie or fresh fruit juice, a sandwich or wrap with only your favourite ingredients, a homely hot meal of the day or a special dietary request such as gluten-free, banting or vegetarian. You could also pick up a ready-made meal to take home and heat and eat later.

Antonia is an internationally trained plant-based chef so the vegan and vegetarian options are world-class. The dessert offerings are not only delicious but also good for you!

The Sun Bar on the café patio is idyllic to say the least. Sunsets on farms are like no other. One can enjoy a unique cocktail, fine wine by the glass or a classic beer

on tap in big farm glasses.

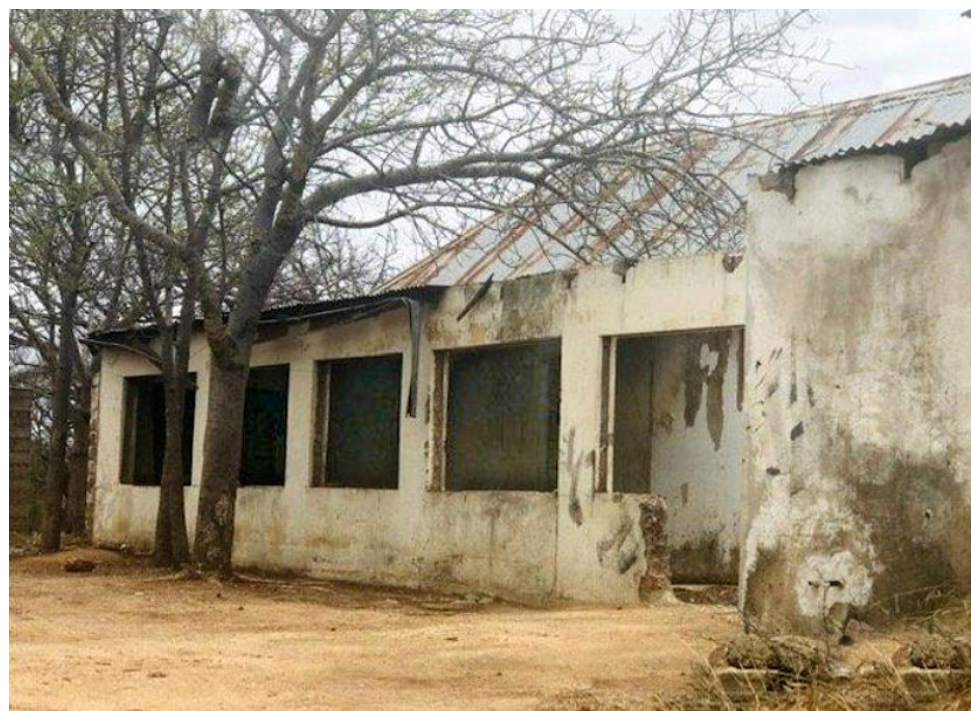
For special celebrations you can hire the bar area or you can have a private function in one of our pods

The Farm Shoppe has all your basic farm supplies such as vegetables, milk, eggs, butter, fresh breads and artisanal meats. Only ethically sourced, farming community ingredients are used and offered.

Also available are prepared varieties of platters and finger foods for kids parties, work functions, birthdays, memorials and weddings. Menus can be tailored to suit each customer.

One can also order supplies! Bulk and wholesale orders are put together every Monday (so orders need to be received before 9am on a Monday) for collection at a time that is convenient for you later that week. A provisions list is sent to you and you select what you need. It gets packed and will be ready and waiting for you when you come to town or alternatively these can be delivered at an additional charge.

The Farm House is an exceptional venue for celebrating special occasions, for both children and adults. With the Eatery, Shoppe and Bar (not open on weekends) you can have an exclusive use, which makes it suitable



The old farmhouse prior to construction

for weddings and corporate retreats. There are flexible catering and bar service options or one can hire the venue for ones own use and bring in ones own catering. Like a farm where seeds are planted and crops later harvested, The Farm House is a place for small businesses to set down roots and grow. There is an exciting co-office concept called The Work Shop for small businesses to have an affordable, comfortable, homely yet professional base to work in.

As the businesses outgrow their space and for more established businesses there will be several ‘out-buildings’ added, that will be of the same look and feel as the Farm House. The idea is to create a synergistic community.

The Kraal is an open-air function venue tucked in to the indigenous gardens of the Farm House. The boma can be hired for events and special occasions.

Opening hours will be from Monday to Friday 7AM –

7PM with Saturdays and Sundays open for special occasions and private functions only.

Come and visit at Stand 1426, Zandspruit Estate, on the R527, behind the prominent Vodacom tower on the outskirts of town next Campfire Properties.

Lets get there and enjoy the offerings. Cheers!

For further information contact: [admin@thefarmhouse.africa](mailto:admin@thefarmhouse.africa)

## Time to say goodbye

Riaan Fourie

Well, it's almost time to say goodbye, for a second time. It looks like the imposing trophy that enjoyed a prime spot in our Rangers' office will finally find its way to a new owner.

It's hard to believe that it's been almost two years since Safari Guide of the Year 2019 in the Marekêle game reserve. Apart from the tension that comes with any competition, everyone

involved was enjoying the fruits of their labour - a booming safari tourism industry. Little did we know, as we were cracking jokes around the campfire, that the world and tourism as we knew it would be turned on its head.

What struck me most during the competition was the camaraderie and the sharing of a vast pool of knowledge. I would be lying though if I said that there wasn't THAT constant question: 'which guide is ahead in the standings? Who nailed the tracking? What was that last bird call? It was a competition after all.

The judges remained tight-lipped about who they had pegged as the favourite, and even a constant flow of very generous Jonny Walkers, could not persuade them to divulge even the slightest hint.

It came as a massive surprise when I was named the winner. I managed to scrape together a single category



win - that of storytelling, but consistency proved to prevail on the day and a couple of close second places gently nudged me over the line.

It was almost a year later when our industry started to unravel at the seams. During this time the realization set in, even more so than previously, that we as professional guides had a pivotal role to play in the success of South Africa's tourism industry.

Two years later, and the trophy still sits idle in its place overlooking a rather disorganized rangers office. Rather than being a champion for two years running, I see myself as a mere custodian of this coveted prize. I'm keeping it safe for the next recipient, a guide who



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will have a much greater responsibility than me to see safari guiding and tourism navigate turbulent waters to reach the heights that it once did.



# How to start a Vegan kitchen in a safari lodge



Hayley Cooper, CEO – Wild Dreams Hospitality  
Certified Vegan Hospitality Consultant

Hayley Cooper

With veganism booming both internationally and locally here in South Africa, the safari lodges must recognize this fast-growing movement and are not only “getting by” accommodating vegan guests but start attracting them to their lodges. Now is the time for innovation.

One major aspect of this is, of course, the food. Consider this your step-by-step guide on how to start a vegan kitchen...

**Step 1.** Do some research to really understand your vegan customer, what their wants are, what their needs are, and why this is. If you do not understand them then you may be setting yourself up for failure before you have even looked at the food.

**Step 2.** You should review your current menus and see if you have any dishes that are already vegan that you

were not aware of, or any that can be easily tweaked to be made vegan, think vegetable soup served on a winters night at your boma dinner, remove the cream or replace it with coconut cream & ensure you only use veggie stock – simple, that is now always going to be vegan.

**Step 3.** In addition to reviewing your standard menus look at all the “extras” your lodge serves, such as, the cookies, rusks, cakes, muffins, game drive snacks and see what you can veganize here as standard. Think morning muffins, where typically you have one standard recipe which you change the flavour of daily, why not use an amazing vegan muffin recipe as standard instead.

**Step 4.** Create some excellent, nutritionally balanced vegan meals for your menu, they need to look and taste great and fit into the theme/style of your lodge.

**Step 5.** Label your menu clearly so that your vegan guests know exactly what they can and cannot eat. There can be no confusion, does your V = vegan or vegetarian? Do not forget to label your drinks menu too!

**Step 6.** Make sure you have protocols in place in the kitchen to avoid cross-contamination, such as, are you using the deep fryer to fry battered fish as well as your chips? Are you using the same chopping board that you cut up a steak on to cut up your tofu?

**Step 7.** Make sure both the kitchen staff and the FOH staff such as the servers, bar staff, hosts are trained in understanding vegan customers, what dishes on the menu are vegan, what ingredients are used, how each is cooked, and how to serve vegan customers. For example, are they going to offer vegan butter or olive oil/balsamic vinegar with the bread rolls, did they give

them the bread rolls without the egg wash on?

**Step 8.** Advertise you are vegan-friendly! I cannot stress how important this is. Doing marketing about this and being as detailed as possible is critical. Use food photos to showcase your new vegan options, show photos of your staff being trained, talk about what you have in place to ensure your vegan guests have the same experience as your traditional guests, and if they come to your lodge, they will not need to worry about anything & can just relax, like everyone should when on holiday.

This may sound a bit daunting and if you need assistance creating a vegan-friendly environment in your lodge (above & beyond the food) then reach out to me for a free consultation.

[havlev@wilddreams.co.za](mailto:havlev@wilddreams.co.za)  
[www.wilddreams.co.za](http://www.wilddreams.co.za)

## Inspired to help others

Heidi Smith

African Summer Spa is turning a new leaf and starting a new season, while still staying the same.

Biancé Janse van Vuuren is the new owner of this well-established Spa in Hoedspruit told Kruger2Canyon that she has always been inspired to help others, and this was the reason she pursued a career in skin and beauty therapy.

Biancé is a born and bred Hoedspruit-girl and she is thrilled to be back ‘home’ after completing her studies at ISA Carstens Somatology in Pretoria. Biancé has a love for the community of Hoedspruit and the fact that Hoedspruiters help one another and always stand together.

‘It is my passion to assist my clients with issues they may be having. When something is troubling them health or beauty-wise, to be able to provide them with a holistic solution is extremely satisfying,’ says Biancé with confidence.

Biancé also likes to give

clients homocare advice so that they can further benefit from the focused spa treatment when they return home. She explained that ‘often, skin issues can be solved with diet and not only through the application of skin products because she rightly explains you are what you eat.’

The opportunity to purchase African Summer Spa was a ‘Godsend’ says Biancé. It was after a holiday job at the Spa that Biancé and Thelma Van Reenen Mathewson (the previous owner of African Summer Spa) agreed that Biancé’s work ethic made her the ideal person to take over the reins.

Biancé says it is a great honour for her to be entrusted with a spa of such a high calibre. She accepts that it will take tenacity, extremely hard work, and commitment, but she says she was raised to ‘work hard for what she wants to achieve and to always put others first.’

‘My vision is always to help others to help themselves,’



Biancé Janse van Vuuren at work

## Cheshire crash crusaders

Ava and 28 of her friends (all primary-aged children) plus two teachers and a big sister have raised over £1000 for Rhino Revolution UK!!! They have been riding their bikes, scooters, roller skates, or walking 100 miles during the Easter holidays.

Thank you to all of these fantastic families for helping to protect rhinos for the next generation!

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Ava

Coming soon...watch this space...



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# How to improve your wildlife photography

Michael Tucker

Wildlife photography is a beautiful art form that can be extremely technical and often difficult to master. However, understanding your equipment, having a good understanding of your subject, and a little bit of patience (ok, lots of patience) will improve your shots.

## Get off "Auto"

Even the latest and greatest digital cameras, packed with cutting-edge technology, cannot ever give you the results in Auto mode compared with the more manual modes available on most decent cameras. Learn the basic modes and settings, and always shoot on them. The improvement in your shots will be instant. Try and use the 'aperture priority' or 'program' mode as a starting point. At least then you will be able to "aim" using focal points and have control over your exposure.

## Focus on the eyes

Your camera will allow you to use various auto-focus techniques to ensure that you can focus on the animal's or birds' eyes. Some of the newer digital cameras also have advanced animal eye tracking features built into them, however, the older cameras still give you the ability to focus exactly where you want to. That is the cornerstone of any good photograph and gives you the ability to unleash your creative and artistic flair.

## Use continuous autofocus modes

AF-C or AI Servo (manufacturer dependent) is a setting where the camera

will continually focus. This is particularly important in Wildlife Photography as your subject can move at any time. Even the smallest turn of a head can change your focal distance. By using this mode, you ensure that your subject stays in focus. Some more advanced systems also allow you to fine-tune this focusing system, allowing advanced tracking systems and the ability to avoid possible obstacles.

## Always process your RAW images

So many people mention that they never "Photoshop" their images. However, there isn't a professional photographer out there that skips this crucial step. A RAW image requires a certain amount of processing to take place after the photo was captured. This is a vital step in ensuring that your colours are accurate, your sharpness is on point and the file created is exactly how you "saw" it. Your digital camera manufacturer will include image processing software with your camera. There are also many popular third-party image processing programs like Adobe Photoshop available. It is vitally important to process your RAW image as it holds all the data from the image. Jpg images are compressed which means they don't store all the finer details. This is a major issue, especially when you are looking to print large images.

**About Michael Tucker**  
Hosts training workshops and safaris along with various online training platforms. [www.big5photos.com](http://www.big5photos.com) – "Your wildest dreams"



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## Get to know your birds



Casper Badenhorst is a bird guide based in Hoedspruit and takes birders on day trips to the Kruger National Park, Mariepskop, Magoebaskloof and the Panorama Route. You can contact him at [info@birdingandwildlifesafaris.com](mailto:info@birdingandwildlifesafaris.com).

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# Hlokomela implements Partial Payment System

Heidi Smith

**HOEDSPRUIT** – As of 1 April 2021, Hlokomela is implementing a Partial Payment System (PPS) to ensure the organization's continued financial sustainability, whilst still retaining its ability to serve the most vulnerable people in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region at a below-average cost. This comes after more than 2 years of research and piloting to guide the organization in the development of a suitable fee structure. For the past 15 years, Hlokomela has been offering free health care services in the Hoedspruit area specifically focused on the agricultural sector and local tourism industry. Whilst the organization started as an HIV awareness clinic, the range (and quality) of services on offer have grown tremendously with Hlokomela seeing over 30 000 patients annually. However, these services and volumes

of patients come with a lot of additional costs that are not covered by the government or any one funder.

The PPS fee structures however make it possible for local employers, their staff, and the general public to access quality health care at a very reasonable cost.

The three options are as follows:

**Option 1: Hlokomela Employers Health Club (HEHC)**

Employers pay a monthly subscription fee to Hlokomela based on the average amount of employees they have in their business over 12 months.

The subscription fee gives the employers & their staff access to all Hlokomela's services at a reduced rate. Employees contribute to the fee of some services, thereby splitting the cost between the employer (70%) and the employee (30%).

This option is perfect for large-scale operations such as farms, packhouses, and lodges.

**Option 2: Hlokomela Health Card**

Individuals can purchase a Hlokomela Health Card at a once-off fee that entitles the holder to unlimited consultations with a professional nurse for one full year. Cards are individualized with the holder's name, surname and ID number.

This option is perfect for individuals to access Hlokomela's basic services multiple times per year. By buying a Hlokomela Health Card, you are supporting Hlokomela by partially paying for your own consultations.

This option is also perfect for employers to support staff members in small businesses or individuals with domestic workers and gardeners. Some specialized services

are excluded and an additional service fee may be charged for those services at a reduced rate.

The cost per card per individual is R500 per year. Cards are valid from March 2021 till March 2022.

**Option 3: Walk-in rates**

Hlokomela is still open to the public but a fee per service is charged on most services.

Please note, Hlokomela continues to offer certain services free of charge as per the organization's memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Department of Health. Patients covered by the MoU pay for additional services not included in the MoU. To make it easier for these patients we will transfer them to other government facilities if they wish to do so.

For more information email us at: [mj@hlokomela.org.za](mailto:mj@hlokomela.org.za)

PRIMARY CONSULTATIONS ARE NURSE BASED. CARD ONLY VALID FROM MARCH 2021 TO MARCH 2022. SOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES ARE EXCLUDED. ONE CARD PER PERSON. SOME MEDICATION INCLUDED. CONSULTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. T'S & C'S APPLY.



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## Timbivati Traverse

Hayley Cooper



Grant at start

Would you be brave enough to run in the wilds of the African bush surrounded by nature in all her glory and home of our Big five animals?

That is exactly what 22 runners will be doing on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July!

The Timbavati Private Nature Reserve is proud to announce the hosting of the very first 45km Ultra Marathon in support of Wildlife Conservation.

This event is called "The Timbavati Traverse" with plans of this being an annual event, which is great news if this sounds like something you are brave enough (and fit enough!) to do as we filled all entries for the event within just 48 hours of advertising!

This unique and prestigious opportunity will be run all in the name of conservation with all proceeds going to the protection and security of our rhinos.

With the ongoing and ever-increasing threat to our wild animals, we are con-

stantly having to up our game to counter the relentless pressure of illegal poaching of our natural heritage.

The illegal trade in Rhino horn and Ivory has reached record statistics internationally and Rhino horn currently reaches a price higher than gold.

With the unity and collective efforts and the dedication of many, from K9 units, rangers on foot, anti-poaching & aerial teams, and concerned citizens like you, we can make a difference in protecting our rhinos.

Last year following the cancellation of the World-famous Comrades Marathon due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Grant Murphy, Head guide and employee at Kings Camp in the Timbavati and a deeply passionate runner, took on the challenge to run a grueling 92 km distance through the Timbavati. His goal to raise much-needed funding during the Covid pandemic to support the Timbavati K-9 Anti-Poaching



Grant training

Unit. It turned out to be an incredibly special, memorable, and emotional day for all involved.

We decided then and there that this experience should be shared with other passionate runners and conservationists like Grant, and this could be the beginning of something special. In fact, Grant will be running again this year with fellow Kings Camp field guide, Remember Mashele who is also an avid runner.

This year's run will cover 45km of Timbavati wilderness bush roads as you journey through Big 5 country. The route is spectacular, with lots of waterholes, open plains, thicker bush, and most definitely wild! – No tar in sight.

The event is set for the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and we have some amazing sponsors, many of which are from the Hoedspruit community and we will be doing formal thank you's closer to the time. We also want to use this event to bring some people to the Hoedspruit area who may have not visited otherwise, many of whom will make

a long weekend out of it & experience some activities and meals here in town.

If you are interested in sponsoring a raffle prize then there is still time to get involved in this way, please get in touch with Hayley on [hayley@kingscamp.com](mailto:hayley@kingscamp.com)

Although the runners have paid to enter the event

which will go directly to the anti-poaching fund, each has set up a GivenGain donation page too, if you can support in any way please go to this link: [Grant Murphy is raising money for Timbavati Private Nature Reserve | GivenGain](https://www.givengain.com/Grant-Murphy-is-raising-money-for-Timbavati-Private-Nature-Reserve-GivenGain) and please share this link far and wide.

## Back on track .....

David Batzofin

Excitement mounting for the ever-popular Wildlife Estate Series, sponsored by Pam Golding Hoedspruit. On line Entries are open, should you want to register for the entire series this portal is open (<https://kzntrailrunning.co.za/races/wildlife-estate-series/>)

Should you wish to register for the first event of the series to be held at Hoedspruit Wildlife Estate on the 17th of April you can register for this event only using the link below. (<https://kzntrailrunning.co.za/races/wildlife-estate-series-hoedspruit/>)

Unique Finisher badges will be handed to everyone who completes their event, starting times will be as detailed below:  
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10 KM - 07H15  
5 KM - 08H00  
We look forward to seeing all our Trail Runners back on Trail.



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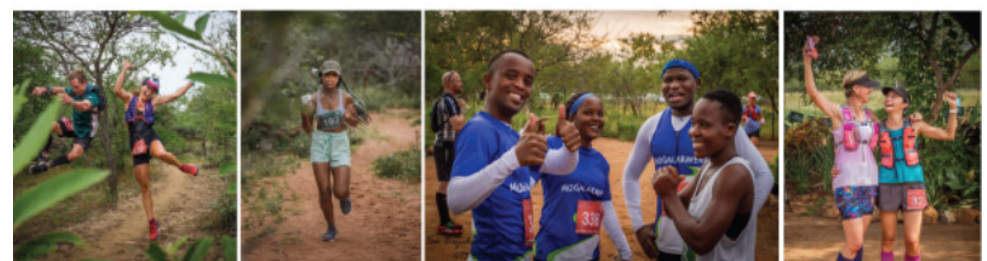
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