



# KRUGER2CANYON

## NEWS

September 2024

The Farm House, R527, Zandspruit, Hoedspruit, Limpopo email: editor@kruger2canyon.co.za

## World Meteorological Organization scales back chance of La Niña forming this year to 60%



Over the next five months, the weather service sees drier-than-normal conditions over northeastern South Africa while the coastal southeast and central regions should have a wet spring and early summer Photo: iStock

Ed Stoddard

The World Meteorological Organization still sees the odds favouring the La Niña weather pattern forming this year, but it has lowered them to a range of 55% to 60% from 70% previously. The stakes are high: farmers big and small across southern Africa desperately need the rains that La Niña usually unlocks as hunger stalks the region.

There is a 55% likelihood of a transition to La Niña between now and November, which rises to 60% from October to February, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Wednesday in its latest El Niño/La Niña update.

This is a downgrade from the WMO's forecast in June when it saw a 60% chance of La Niña forming from July to September and a 70% prospect from August to November.

The stakes are high: farmers big and small across southern Africa desperately need

the rains that La Niña usually unlocks as hunger stalks the region in the wake of the drought triggered by the latest El Niño event, which faded around April/May this year.

South Africa's 2024 summer grains and oilseed crop, which includes the staple maize, is estimated to have declined 22% compared with last year while tens of millions of people face hunger in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi after the drought devastated the plots of subsistence farmers who rely on rain.

Thankfully, the WMO says the chance of El Niño redeveloping between now and February is "negligible".

But the prospects of a La Niña summer for this region, while still pretty good, have slowly been whittled down, with the timing pushed out further and further. And other forecasters have said La Niña is not likely to be as strong as previously expected.

The latest Seasonal Climate Watch issued

by the South African Weather Service on 31 August said that predictions "indicate the development of a La Niña state during the start of the summer season, however there is still significant uncertainty in the predictions".

Over the next five months the weather service sees drier-than-normal conditions over northeastern South Africa while the coastal southeast and central regions should have a wet spring and early summer. But it will be warmer than usual across most of the country, a state of affairs that will require good rains to replenish and maintain soil moisture and dam levels.

El Niño and La Niña are players on the global weather stage of what is known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle, which is currently in its neutral phase between the pair.

This cycle is linked to westward trade winds along the Pacific in equatorial latitudes. When they weaken, warm water

flows to the east, giving rise to El Niño (Little Boy in Spanish). La Niña (Little Girl) is triggered when trade winds are stronger than usual and channel warm water towards Asia. In the eastern Pacific, this causes cold water to "upswell" to the surface.

While natural, the events produced by the cycle have been becoming more extreme because of climate change linked to the burning of fossil fuels.

"The past nine years have been the warmest on record even with the cooling influence of a multiyear La Niña from 2020 to early 2023. The 2023-24 El Niño event started emerging in June 2023 and peaked in November 2023-January 2024 as one of the five strongest on record before dissipating," the WMO noted in its update.

*This article was previously published by Daily Maverick – Our Burning Planet*

**21** | **CENTURY 21**  
Wildlife Properties

www.century21wildlife.co.za | 015 793 1534

A WORLDWIDE LEADER IN REAL ESTATE

**BUY | SELL | RENT**



**MOPANE GROUP**

**" BUILD BETTER WITH LIMPOPO'S LEADING CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIER "**

015 781 1571

www.mopanegroup.co.za

**BU CO**  
HARDWARE • BUILDWARE

**HOEDSPRUIT**  
**015 793 0560**



# From the Editors desk

Bear with me whilst I have my monthly rant. Imagine coming home from a long day, only to be greeted not by the usual comfort of your home but by the chaos of an animal kingdom's version of a house party. That's exactly what happened when a troop of unruly baboons decided our home was their latest playground. It's a surreal scenario that could easily be mistaken for an episode of a wildlife documentary—if only it wasn't our reality.

The scene was nothing short of apocalyptic. The kitchen, once a sanctuary of order, now resembled a tornado's aftermath. Pots are scattered, contents splattered across the walls like a Picasso painting gone awry. The fridge and deepfreeze doors swinging open in a grotesque parody of its intended purpose, the contents pillaged and strewn about. A once-pristine living room transformed into a veritable jungle gym of shredded upholstery and toppled furniture. Every surface was a grim testament to the baboons' mischievous spree and lack of controlled hygiene. The smell ..... difficult to describe but it's like running into a wall of ammonia mixed with rotten blue cheese. And then the defecation - everywhere - and I mean everywhere, from on top of the beams, on the pictures on the wall, inside the drawers, fridge, on top of the cupboards, and some secretly hidden from view that one only finds a week after the invasion!

This is not just an unfortunate mess. It's a stark reminder of the intrusion that the natural world can impose on our carefully curated human spaces. While baboons might be fascinating to observe in their native habitats, their presence in a domestic setting is a harsh and invasive reality. Their intelligence and dexterity mean they don't just make a mess—they wreak havoc with deliberate precision. Baboons can open doors, pry open windows, and turn a secure home into a display of animalistic prowess. This is even more evident when monitoring patrols are not positioned to help protect the homes on the estate – then the baboon's rule!

The emotional toll of this invasion is palpable. Beyond the financial cost of repairs and replacements, there's a profound sense of violation. Your home, a place where you should feel safe and in control, is transformed into a chaotic mess that reflects none of the comfort it once provided. This experience underscores the fragility of our human constructs in the face of the wild. It's a reminder of how tenuous the barrier between our ordered world and nature's unpredictability can be.

The broader implication is a call for greater awareness and preparedness. As urban areas expand and encroach on wildlife territories, these kinds of encounters become more common. Ensuring homes are secured against such invasions and fostering understanding of local wildlife are crucial steps in mitigating these situations.

In the end, the baboon invasion serves as an unsettling reminder of nature's raw power. While we build our safe havens, nature, with its untamed force and unpredictability, is always just outside our door, waiting for its moment to remind us of who truly rules the wild.

Have a great month ahead!

## Love the Hoed<sup>®</sup> Titbits

### Koti rules!

Picking up on my rant about the baboons I have to do a shoutout to Koti Services. Now this is service! I called Rob after hours when I got home and saw the apocalyptic mess, and he said he would make a plan for a team in the morning – and they arrived en masse.

Courteous, and wonderful workers that sorted our house out in a day – with continual refresher updates and a follow-up to ensure all was done properly.

This is the kind of service one dreams of – well done to Koti Services, Rob and his team. Keep up the good work and thank you for a job very well done!

### PnP upgrade

PnP HDS has been a cornerstone of the community since its launch in March 2007. Initially seen as a bold venture, it has evolved into a modern retail experience that meets the demands of today's shoppers. The recent revamp has transformed the store into a fresh, efficient space that aligns with city standards while retaining the essence of the established brand.

After 17 years of dedication, they understand what customers truly want: a clean, inviting environment stocked with both beloved classics and innovative new products. Their focus on freshness ensures that they consistently exceed expectations. Looking ahead, PnP is committed to enhancing the shopping experience by introducing exciting offerings while maintaining the quality and service that their loyal customers have come to expect. With a clear vision for the future, PnP Hoedspruit is excited to continue growing and serving the community with excellence.



Scan here to get K2C News online

### Disclaimer:

The opinions expressed in the Kruger-2Canyon News are strictly those of the authors. Opinions are based on information that the authors consider to be reliable. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of the Kruger2Canyon News or its publisher, editor, staff, or members. The designations employed in this publication and the presentation of material therein, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever, nor do they warrant completeness and accuracy, on the part of the Kruger2Canyon News, the publisher, or editor.



### FNB service excellence

In a world where plenty people often have issues with banks, it was an absolute pleasure going into the FNB Hoedspruit branch and getting super, first-world service. Special mention to Ms Kgopelo (Daphne) Letebele who in a matter of an hour and twelve minutes had opened a bank account to my specifications, ordered the card and sent me on my way as a very happy, satisfied new client of FNB. The service was slick, information was superbly communicated and all in all it was a very pleasant experience.

Well done to FNB and Daphne – keep up the good work and excellent service!

Daphne Letebele from FNB (right) The team during the opening of the recently revamped PicknPay

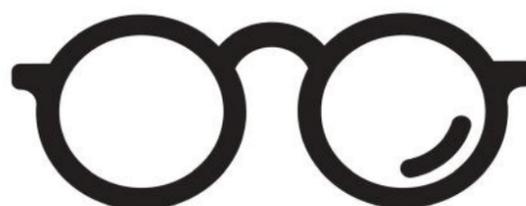


## September's trivia questions

- 1 What is the main ingredient of a *marron glacé*?
- 2 Only one woman's age at death is given in the Bible - who is it and how old?
- 3 In the 1976 Olympics who were the Yellow Bananas?
- 4 Amytis, supposedly the Princess of Medes, was the wife of who?
- 5 What Roman Emperor was killed by an overdose of laxative?
- 6 What was Louis 14<sup>th</sup> born with two of, that was very unusual?
- 7 'The Associated Powers' was the original proposed name of what organisation?
- 8 Which author published 59 new books in 1955?
- 9 If you have 'distrix', what condition would you have?
- 10 What did the ancient Greeks use instead of soap?
- 11 What country produces the most Brazil nuts?
- 12 Which country 'invented' French fries?
- 13 Which head of Government was the first to give birth in office?
- 14 The sale of what counterfeit delicacy outranged the French?
- 15 In February 1990 160 million bottles of what were withdrawn?
- 16 What is damson cheese?
- 17 What was the name of the ship that brought Dracula to England?
- 18 In the Tour de France, what colour jersey is the King of the Mountains?
- 19 Fuggles and goldings are varieties of what?
- 20 Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde is better known as who?
- 21 Britain's call it sellotape What's it called in Australia?
- 22 John Dunlop obtained patents for pneumatic bicycle tyres - what was his profession?
- 23 What is the most popular variety of Zoisite?
- 24 The Tracy brothers of the Thunderbirds were named after who?
- 25 What is the UK's most dangerous industrial occupation?

**KYK**  
OOGKUNDIGES

Practice Nr: 0468096



060 548 5387  
admin@hdlandman.co.za

SPAR Shopping Centre,  
Shop 1, Leadwood Corner,  
Hoedspruit, 1380

# Why do we usually sleep at night? What happens when we don't sleep? Expert insights into this essential part of our lives

K Scheuermaier, A Bentley, D Rae, F X Gomez-Olive Casas, G Lipinska, J Davy, J Davimes, N Chandiwana, O Olorunmoteni

**Sleep is as essential to our health as food and water. It is important to a number of brain functions, including how nerve cells communicate with each other. We sleep for a third of our lives and there are many restorative processes going on during sleep that are needed to stay healthy.**

**Why do we usually sleep at night? What happens when we don't sleep? On World Sleep Day, Nadine Dreyer asks a group of experts to tell us more about this essential part of our lives.**

## Why do we need sleep and why do we sleep better at night?

We sleep for a third of our lives, yet it is only when we cannot sleep or when we experience poor quality sleep that we really start noticing it.

During sleep, our muscle activity drops, our breathing slows down, and our heart rate and blood pressure decrease. At the same time our brain actively clears toxins, which cause neurodegenerative diseases.

It also consolidates memories, wiping out "useless" ones during deep sleep, known as slow wave sleep.

All this allows us to start afresh the following day.

Our lives are organised around our sleep-wake schedule. As we're a diurnal species, our master clock in the brain, which maintains many of our 24-hour rhythms, schedules our period of activity with daylight, and our period of rest with the night.

In some other animals, like rodents, evolutionary pressure has pushed those species to become nocturnal, which allows them to scurry and feed outside the view of their diurnal (daytime) or crepuscular (twilight) predators.

Not sleeping at the right time has been associated with poor health. Some of the side-effects are poorer cognitive performance, lower energy and worse mental health.

There's also a higher risk of developing neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and a higher risk of developing high blood pressure and diabetes.

After a poor night's sleep, we try to get on with our lives but research has shown this is not so easy. During the COVID-19 pandemic and the strictest lockdown, South Africans rated their sleep quality as poorer, with more insomnia symptoms. These were



Brain and brainwaves during sleep  
Image: Science photo lab Canva

both in turn associated with worse levels of depression and anxiety.

## What happens when we don't sleep?

Sleep is a state of vulnerability where a "rest and digest" state dominates over the "fight and flight" state when we are awake.

Our early sleep "scans" the environment before allowing us to dive into deeper stages of sleep.

When a rupture in this consolidated bout of sleep happens, we will start complaining "I haven't slept enough" or "I slept really badly last night".

Such ruptures include those induced by specific sleep disorders like sleep apnoea or insomnia.

Sleep apnoea leads to unconscious sleep interruptions due to upper airways obstruction and can lead to hypertension and increased risk of diabetes.

Research in rural Mpumalanga province in South Africa found one out of three older adults had moderate to severe sleep apnoea and this was associated with a higher risk of cardiovascular disease. Yet there is no treatment in the public health system for this common sleep disorder.

Certain situations disrupt sleep: parents tending to their young children, doctors being awake while on call, loud generator noises during night-time electricity cuts, mosquitoes, or worse, gunshots or sounds of violence waking us up from our slumber, signalling danger.

Sleep health inequity in South Africa is also driven by socioeconomic status.

A recent study on sleep in men and women

living in the urban township of Khayelitsha in South Africa's Western Cape province showed that poor sleep quality was associated with fear of falling asleep in a violent environment. Sleep was disturbed by strange noises, fear of attacks and dreams about past traumatic experiences.

## Electronic devices make it difficult to sleep. Why?

Even though our biology is meant to make us sleep at night, several societal, technological changes have progressively decreased our sleep opportunity.

Our sleep timing is controlled by our master circadian clock. This clock is exquisitely sensitive to light, so exposure to bright light and blue light such as that emitted from electronic devices such as smartphones shifts our bedtime to a later time.

In our recently published study of adolescent sleep in Nigeria, adolescents in urban areas slept less and sleep quality was worse.

Sleep duration was shorter, due to bedtimes being later but waking times in the morning similar to those of adolescents in rural areas. The use of electronic devices at night by urban Nigerian adolescents was associated with shorter sleep duration.

This is one example of a growing body of research that highlights the negative consequences of nocturnal tech use on sleep, even in African societies.

## What are key habits to help people sleep better?

The most important habit is to take sleep

as seriously as a healthy diet and regular exercise.

We advise the following:

- Keep regular wake times and bedtimes. This helps us sleep at the best time with respect to our master clock's rhythm. This in turn helps ensure a consolidated bout of sleep.
- Aim for an average of 7 to 9 hours of sleep each night.
- Avoid watching screens one hour before normal bedtime. If this is unavoidable, choose the lowest brightness and add the orange night screen setting. Rather read a book under a bedside light.
- Get outdoor light during the day to strengthen the master clock's circadian (near 24-hour) rhythm.
- Do some form of physical activity once a day. This helps build sleep pressure and also strengthens the master clock's rhythms.
- Avoid alcohol before bedtime as this is associated with disrupted sleep.
- Avoid caffeine and stimulants after noon.
- Try to sleep in a quiet, cool and dark or dimly lit environment.

**For more information, please visit the South African Society for Sleep and Health.**

**This article was previously published by The Conversation and is republished under a Creative Commons license.**

Karine Scheuermaier, Associate Professor in Physiology, Chair of Science Committee, South African Society for Sleep and Health, Member of the World Sleep Society, University of the Witwatersrand; Alison Bentley, Honorary Lecturer in Family Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand; Dale Rae, Director of Sleep Science and associate professor at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town; Francesco Xavier Gomez-Olive Casas, Research Manager at MRC/Wits Agincourt Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand; Gosia Lipinska, Associate Professor, University of Cape Town; Jonathan Davy, Senior lecturer, Rhodes University; Joshua Davimes, Senior Lecturer in Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand; Nomathemba Chandiwana, Principal Scientist at Ezintsha,, University of the Witwatersrand; Oluwatosin Olorunmoteni, Neurodevelopmental Paediatrician, Obafemi Awolowo University.

# SPAR



# HOEDSPRUIT

WHERE SAVINGS ARE INSTANT, WHERE FRIENDS MEET FOR COFFEE and WHERE CARING IS PART OF OUR CULTURE

SPAR   
**Rewards**  
More for You

# 2U



KUDU STREET 53

HOEDSPRUIT 1380

015 7932305

HOEDSPRUIT1@RETAIL.SPAR.CO.ZA

# Chocolate cloud cake: courtesy of Richard Sax



Veggie Diva

This cake comes with a warning, once you have experience it there is no other chocolate cake quite like it. It is a combination of fluffy 'moussey' soufflé with a crispy, intentionally collapsed centre. This centre is filled with slightly sweetened cold cream that is the perfect partner to this flourless cake.

**Cake ingredients**

- 225g x best-quality dark chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 110g x unsalted butter, at room temperature and cut into cubes
- 6 x large eggs
- 200g x castor sugar
- 2 x tablespoons Cointreau
- Finely grated zest of 1 orange about 1 tablespoon

**Whipped Cream**

- 1½ heavy cream, very cold
- 3 x tablespoons icing sugar
- 1 x teaspoon vanilla extract

- 1 Preheat the oven to 180°C with a rack set in the centre. Line the bottom of a 20cm springform pan with parchment paper. Do not butter the pan and parchment.
- 2 Melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over but not touching gently simmering water in a saucepan. Stir it occasionally. When it's melted, remove the bowl from the heat and whisk in the butter cubes until smooth.
- 3 Separate 4 of the eggs. In a large bowl, whisk 2 whole eggs and the 4 egg yolks with 100g of the sugar just until combined. Slowly whisk in the warm chocolate mixture. Whisk in the Cointreau and the orange zest.
- 4 Using a handheld mixer in a separate bowl, beat the 4 egg whites until foamy, about 2 minutes. Gradually add the remaining 100g sugar and beat until beautifully glossy, soft peaks form that hold their shape but aren't quite stiff, about 5 minutes more. Very gently fold about a quarter of

- the beaten egg whites into the chocolate mixture to lighten it, then gently fold in the remaining whites. Scrape the batter into the pan and smooth the top.
- 5 Set the pan on a baking tray and bake until the top is puffed and cracked and the centre is no longer wobbly, 40 to 45 minutes. Be careful not to bake the cake beyond this point.
  - 6 Let the cake cool in the pan. The centre of the cake will sink as it cools, forming crater, this is what we are after! Let the cake cool completely on a rack.
  - 7 Remove the cake from the tin.
  - 8 Whip the cream, icing sugar, and vanilla in a large bowl until billowy, forming soft peaks.
  - 9 Using a spatula, fill the 'crater' of the cake with the whipped cream, swirling the cream to the edges of the crater. Garnish with orange zest and chocolate shavings.

# Picky view- The Coffee Bar @Driehoek

AE

We were not going to test out any culinary delights for the month, but that changed when we stopped to get some meat from the butcher in Driehoek. It was a wonderful, typical summers day and we went exploring as to what Driehoek had to offer – and we stumbled onto The Coffee Bar @Driehoek. Mid-morning brunch was beckoning and so we launched forth to explore the offerings.

Well – we were impressively surprised at what we got! The menus were adequate with more than enough selection of good wholesome food, and some of my special delicacies – pancakes! The service was good, and the area was clean, airy and comfortable.

We ordered a pancake: bobotie, chutney and banana; an omelette with mushroom and mince; and finally, the haloumi salad

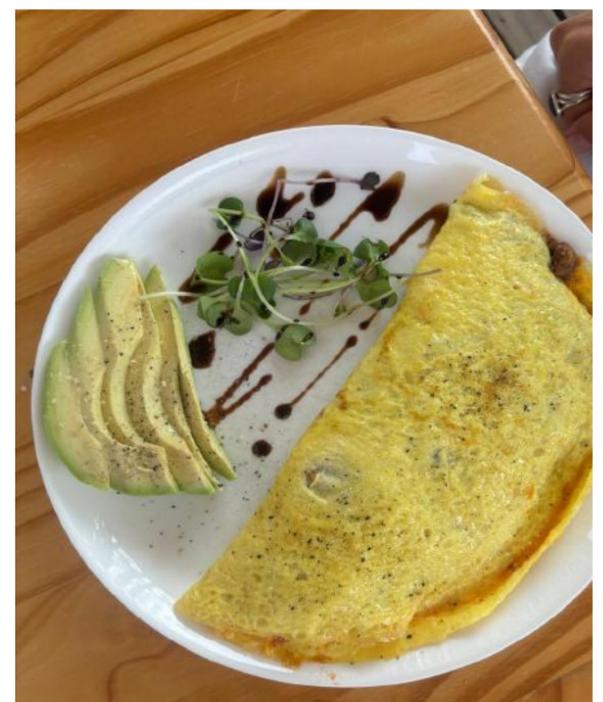
with caramelized nuts and seeds, fresh avocado, lettuce, mint, onion and basil pesto.

We were immediately struck by the freshness of the products and the great presentation. The pancake was scrumptious, tasty and the offering was well structured in terms of no one item overpowering another. The banana was also nice, firm, and ripe. The omelette was great, nice and fluffy, light, and the filling was well seasoned, tasty, and delicious. The haloumi salad was also a win - fresh produce, great cheese, crispy lettuce, and an interesting salad dressing that was a homemade vinaigrette.

I know this is short sharp and sweet, but this is the experience that we had, and everything was fantastic. This spot is truly recommended – take the slow drive and experience the offerings, you will not regret it!



The neat courtyard area of the Coffee bar @Driehoek (above). Halloumi salad (below left), bobotie pancake (middle) and mince omelette (below right). Images supplied



Reliable service, competitive pricing, and tailored solutions for your hospitality needs.



**Quality Dry Goods**

Specialised Oils and Vinegars	Nuts
Gluten-Free Products	Pastas
Tinned Foods	Dried Fruit
Sauces	Baking Goods

**Long-lasting Supplies**

NOW OFFERING FREE DELIVERY FOR ORDERS OVER R2000

+27 72 656 3639 • info@matumidistributors.co.za www.matumidistributors.co.za • Kiepersol, Mpumalanga

**CENTURY 21 Wildlife - Hoedspruit**

**Physical Address:**

Shop 20 & 21,  
Kamogelo Tourism Centre,  
Main Road (R527),  
Hoedspruit

**Contact Information:**

Business : +27 15 793 1534  
E-Mail : hoedspruit@century21.co.za  
Web Site : www.century21wildlife.co.za



SOLE MANDATE

**25% SHARE, PRIVATE LODGE R 3 000 000 IN BIG 5** Beds 5 | Baths 5 | Traverse: 7,500 ha

This 25% share offers you usage every 4 weeks. The camp is fully fitted and includes a game vehicle and two staff members for housekeeping and maintenance. The camp has 5 separate en-suite chalets, a central lounge and kitchen area, viewing deck, pool and boma have spectacular views.

**Rob Severin - 083 469 3820** Ref: 2289030



SOLE MANDATE

**RAPTORS VIEW WILDLIFE ESTATE R 6 150 000** Beds 3 | Baths 3 | Floor size: 294 m<sup>2</sup>

Located on the riverbed, the home features an open plan lounge, dining area and kitchen, with a separate scullery, strongroom and courtyard. The living area leads out to a covered patio. The pool and boma have views over the riverbed. Completed by double garage and back up power system.

**Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821** Ref: 2317128



SOLE MANDATE

**NDLOVUMZI NATURE RESERVE R 4 458 000** Beds 4 | Baths 4 | Floor: 176 m<sup>2</sup>

This tranquil home is situated overlooking the Olifants River and is surrounded by large riverine trees and rocky outcrops. The open plan living, dining and newly fitted kitchen are all under high vaulted ceilings that make this home light and bright, which makes this home appealing.

**Jason Jones - 083 267 4794** Ref: 2152063



SOLE MANDATE

**NTSIRI, GREATER KRUGER, BIG 5 R 8 000 000** Beds 4 | Baths 2.5 | Traverse: 3,651 ha

N'tsiri Nature Reserve is an exclusive, private use, Big 5 reserve where wildlife roams freely across the unfenced borders with the Kruger National Park, Klaserie & Timbavati. The kitchen is open plan to the living room with a separate scullery and storage area. There is a patio, boma braai and gazebo.

**Yvette Thompson - 083 655 7176** Ref: 2263609



**KHAYA NDLOVU GAME RESERVE R 10 900 000** Beds 4 | Baths 4.5 | Floor size: 450 m<sup>2</sup>

Beautiful home set on the banks of the dry riverbed. The large open plan entertainment area consists of a dining room, lounge and open plan kitchen. Khaya Ndlovu is a low density residential reserve with only 35 stands on 1,305 ha: it is home to 4 of the Big 5 animals.

**Yvette Thompson - 083 655 7176** Ref: 2209629



SOLE MANDATE

**KAMPERSRUS R 2 450 000** Bedrooms 3 | Bathrooms 2 | Floor size:120 m<sup>2</sup>

This home is a great option for first-time home buyers or those looking for an investment opportunity. The home has an open plan living room with the kitchen set to the side. Above the kitchen is a loft area which can be utilised in various ways. Property is fenced and pet friendly.

**Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821** Ref: 2247851



SOLE MANDATE

**RAPTORS VIEW WILDLIFE ESTATE R 4 900 000** Beds 3 | Baths 3 | Floor size: 360 m<sup>2</sup>

This spacious home is located in a quiet area. The living area has an open plan lounge and kitchen with a loft. The neat scullery has ample storage. The dining area and guest bathroom is set to the side of the living area. The main patio overlooks an attractive rocky outcrop, pool and boma area.

**Rob Severin - 083 469 3820** Ref: 2218613



SOLE MANDATE

**BLYDE WILDLIFE ESTATE R 4 950 000** Bedrooms 4 | Bathrooms 3 | Floor size: 310 m<sup>2</sup>

The expansive property comprises main house and separate cottage. The main house features an open plan living area with lounge, kitchen and loft area. The covered patio has beautiful mountain views. A well-established garden, a large pool and built in braai are also found in the outdoor area.

**Michelle Severin - 083 468 3821** Ref: 2238263



**KAMPERSRUS R 2 200 000** Bedrooms 3 | Bathrooms 2 | Floor size: 140 m<sup>2</sup>

This quaint property in Kampersrus features a main house and a guest cottage with a separate entrance. There are two large tanks for backup water, a double carport at the main house, a parking area at the guest cottage, two separate storage areas, and a covered outdoor workspace.

**Jason Jones - 083 267 4794** Ref: 2266388



**HOEDSPRUIT WILDLIFE ESTATE R 4 800 000** Beds 4 | Baths 4.5 | Floor: 286 m<sup>2</sup>

**COMMERCIAL** - This fully furnished and recently renovated guest house offers an open plan living, dining and kitchen area, leading to a patio with a raised viewing deck. Two carports, swimming pool and a fire pit area add to the features.

**Yvette Thompson - 083 655 7176** Ref: 2255810



**KAMPERSRUS R 2 800 000** Bedrooms 3 | Bathrooms 2 | Floor size: 220 m<sup>2</sup>

This double storey home is set in a wonderful garden and has great mountain views. Upstairs is an en-suite bedroom, open plan kitchen and lounge with a covered patio. Downstairs are two bedrooms, a bathroom and kitchenette. A 1-bedroom cottage in the garden offers income generating potential.

**Jason Jones - 083 267 4794** Ref: 2253232



**BLYDE BOTANICAL NATURE RESERVE R 6 300 000** Beds 4 | Baths 3.5 | Floor size: 980 m<sup>2</sup>

This home offers a feeling of space and scenic views. The property features a living room, dining room, well-fitted kitchen and scullery, study, TV lounge, patio with pool, a lapa, separate studio, double garage, carport and well-maintained garden. Birdlife is abundant in this secure estate.

**Rob Severin - 083 469 3820** Ref: 2298989



RENTAL

**HOEDSPRUIT WILDLIFE ESTATE R 13 500 pm** Beds 2 | Bath 1 | Floor: 72 m<sup>2</sup>

**Available immediately, unfurnished, not pet friendly** - This modern, newly built cottage has a separate entrance from the main house. It has an open plan lounge/dining area and kitchen. The kitchen is equipped with a gas stove and oven. There is a fire pit area to the side of the cottage.

**Michelle Herb - 071 652 9140** Ref: 2267362



RENTAL

**ZANDSPRUIT VALLEY, HOEDSPRUIT R 14 500 pm** Beds 3 | Baths 2 | Floor: 192 m<sup>2</sup>

**Available immediately, unfurnished** - Neat house with an open plan lounge, dining room and kitchen with sliding doors leading to a patio. The kitchen has extra cupboards, an island, extractor fan and space for a dishwasher. Prepaid electricity, and a gas geyser and stove.

**Michelle Herb - 071 652 9140** Ref: 2249385



**YOUR RENTAL PROPERTY, OUR PRIORITY**

- Tenant vetting
- Comprehensive lease agreements
- Property inspections
- PayProp system
- Peace of mind

**Michelle Herb - 071 652 9140**  
Rental Agent (Candidate Property Practitioner)





# PREMIUM · BESPOKE · COMMUNITY

Retail, Office, Lifestyle, Fine Dining and Conference Facilities



📍 1418 Zandspruit Boulevard, Hoedspruit, 1380, Limpopo, South Africa



Korongo Centre is situated right next to Korongo House in Zandspruit Boulevard

## OPENING 1 JANUARY 2025



### World-class Retail & Office Space To Lease

📍 1417 Zandspruit Boulevard, Hoedspruit, 1380, Limpopo, South Africa

### Book Your Space Now!



**RE/MAX**  
WILDLIFE PROPERTIES  
HOEDSPRUIT



+27 (0)82 055 9291 | +27 (0)15 793 0108  
remaxwildliferentals@remax.net



**CIRCLE WAY**  
CONSTRUCTION



# PREMIUM · BESPOKE · COMMUNITY

Retail, Office, Lifestyle, Fine Dining and Conference Facilities

📍 1418 Zandspruit Boulevard, Hoedspruit, 1380, Limpopo, South Africa



## TENANTS



**RE/MAX**  
WILDLIFE PROPERTIES  
HOEDSPRUIT

+27 (0)82 055 9291 | +27 (0)15 793 0108

remaxwildliferentals@remax.net



**CIRCLE WAY**  
CONSTRUCTION

# Schlegel's blind snake - *Afrotyphlops schlegelii*



Schlegel's blind snake (above) and one shedding its skin (below)

Luke Kemp  
African Snakebite Institute

**One of the largest blind snakes in Africa, this species can reach a length of 90 cm, although they are usually between 30 - 50 cm in length.**

It is a strange looking snake with a rounded tail and short stubby head, with a prominent rostral shield that forms a beak. The eyes are small dark spots and are covered by a scale, giving these snakes very poor vision. Colour is quite variable with juveniles usually being grey to blue with fine dark speckles or stripes down the body. As they

age, they shift to creamy yellow, white or golden brown, with dark blotches scattered across the body.

These large blind snakes live underground, using the hardened beak to push through soft soil. They feed on ants and termites - especially their eggs. They will also use the hardened beak to break into termite mounds in search of food. The body is covered in small, glossy scales which somewhat protect the snakes from the biting ants. The snakes usually raid the nests and egg chambers, eat as much as they can, and get out before the biting ants swarm the snake.

As these snakes live underground, they are not commonly seen. They may be

found when moving logs and rocks or digging trenches or doing other earthwork. However, when the decent summer rains set in, these snakes are often forced to the surface by rising groundwater and may then be commonly seen actively moving, often crossing roads or falling into swimming pools. They will also take advantage of the softer, damp soil and attempt to burrow into termite mounds after heavy rains.

Females can produce between 8 and 60 eggs depending on the size of the female. The eggs will take five to six weeks to hatch.

They are not easily confused for other snakes as they are quite unique looking but are often incorrectly referred to as mole

snakes. The blind snakes are completely harmless to humans. They may use a spike at the end of the tail to poke a hand of someone handling them. The spike doesn't break the skin but may give the illusion that the snake is biting. They are also known to secrete a foul-smelling liquid out of musk glands near the cloaca if harassed. These slow-moving snakes may also wriggle furiously if touched. As they are essentially blind, they feel quite exposed on the surface or when handled.

**Check out the website on [www.africansnakebiteinstitute.com](http://www.africansnakebiteinstitute.com) – and get your FREE App on the link <http://bit.ly/snakebiteapp>**

## Sliding baseline – a concept that affects all aspects of our daily life

Mark Bishop  
*"We must see nature as a process within which man exists, splendidly equipped to become the manager of the biosphere"* - IL McHarg

The concept of a sliding or shifting baseline was first postulated by the Scot, Ian L. McHarg (1920 - 2001), a Professor and Chairman of Landscape and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania, and arguably the most important environmental planner and landscape architect of the 20th century.

He published his manifesto "Design with Nature" in 1969, in which drawing on his ecological wisdom, he put forward that the way to best modify and occupy earth, is when it is planned and designed with careful regard to both the ecology and character of the landscape. Ian McHarg recognized the need for us to understand the medium we inhabit as well as how we shape it, and it us.

**The concept of a "shifting baseline" has become increasingly relevant in discussions about environmental degradation. It refers to the gradual acceptance of a deteriorating environmental state as the new "normal."**

The concept of shifting baselines was brought into the public light in 1995 by fisheries scientist Daniel Pauly. He observed that fisheries scientists often used inaccurate "baseline" population sizes when assessing the health of fish stocks. These baselines were frequently set at the point when scientists began their careers, rather than at the original, untouched state of the fishery.

As a result, decades of decline in fish populations were often overlooked. What was once considered a thriving ecosystem might have been severely depleted, but the current state was perceived as normal because it was the only reference point available. This is a classic example of the phenomenon, known as shifting baselines, and how they can mask significant changes in ecosystems over time.

Anecdotal evidence of historical population levels can be unreliable, leading to mismanagement of the environment. When we lose sight of what was once considered "natural," we become less sensitive to environmental changes and more likely to tolerate negative impacts. Shifting baselines can have profound consequences for both ecosystems and human well-being.

### The psychological factors

One of the primary reasons for baseline shift is the human tendency to adapt to changing circumstances. When we are exposed to a gradual decline in environmental quality, our brains gradually adjust to the new conditions, making it more difficult to perceive the negative changes. This phenomenon, known as "habituation," can lead to a sense of complacency and a diminished awareness of environmental problems.

On an individual level, shifting baselines have increased our tolerance to environmental degradation, including wildlife population decline, increased pollution and loss of natural habitats. This is because people will evaluate the severity of environmental degradation by referencing it back to their own cognitive baseline.

Additionally, the "normalization of deviance" plays a significant role in baseline shift. This occurs when people become accustomed to seeing or experiencing negative behaviours or outcomes, leading them to accept these as normal or acceptable. In the context of environmental degradation, this can result in the acceptance of pollution, deforestation, and other harmful practices as inevitable consequences of human progress and in some case, animal re-population and/or animal over population.

### The economic and social factors

Economic factors also contribute to a shifting baseline. The pursuit of economic growth often leads to environmental degradation, as industries prioritize short-term profits over long-term sustainability. When economic development is seen as a priority, environmental concerns may be relegated to a secondary position. This can create a situation where people are willing to tolerate environmental damage in exchange for economic benefits.

Social factors can also influence a shifting baseline. Cultural norms and values can shape our perceptions of the environment and our willingness to accept environmental degradation. For example, in societies that prioritize individual achievement and material wealth, environmental concerns may be seen as less important than personal gain. Additionally, the lack of public awareness and education about environmental issues can contribute to a shift in baseline reference, as people may be unaware of the consequences of their actions or the importance of environmental protection.

### The consequences

The consequences of shifting baselines can be far-reaching. As we become accustomed to a degraded environment, we may lose our ability to appreciate its value and to recognize the negative impacts of environmental change. This can lead to a loss of biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, and public health problems.

Furthermore, a shifting baseline can make it more difficult to address environmental challenges. If we accept a certain level of environmental degradation as the norm, it becomes more challenging to mobilize public support for conservation efforts or to implement policies that aim to protect the environment. This can perpetuate a cycle of environmental decline and limit our ability to create a sustainable future.

### Addressing shifting baselines

To combat shifting baselines, it is essential to raise awareness about environmental issues and to promote a culture of environmental stewardship. Education and public outreach can help people understand the importance of environmental protection and the consequences of environmental degradation. Additionally, it is crucial to develop policies and regulations that prioritize environmental sustainability and hold individuals and corporations accountable for their actions.

By challenging the status quo and working towards a more sustainable future, we can prevent or reverse the shift in baseline reference and protect our planet for generations to come.

# Bite and sting season is upon us - prevention



Eastern bark spider (above) and tick bite lesion (above right)

Images supplied

Tim Baynham  
Wildlife Safety Solutions

It is the beginning of the bite and sting season. At this time of year as the weather begins to warm up, we start to see a marked increase in snake, insect and arachnid activity. Below are some helpful tips on reducing your chances of a painful encounter or worse.

## Spiders

Spiders are typically portrayed in a negative light by society and popular media, in reality the majority of spiders are in fact completely harmless to humans and play a crucial role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. That being said, there are a handful of species in the area which are potentially medically significant. Most notably are the button spiders, violin spiders and sac spiders. There is even some debate as to whether sac spiders should even be considered medically significant as there appears to be little hard evidence to support this claim.

Legitimate spider bites, in other words bite cases where the bite has been physically felt and the offending spider seen and correctly identified are rare. Generally speaking, their fangs are relatively small and consequently it is virtually impossible for them to even penetrate human skin. Most bites occur when the spider is accidentally squashed against the skin. Shaking out bedding, clothing, shoes and being mindful as to where you place your hands will greatly reduce your chances of a bite.

## Ticks

What may be surprising to some is the fact that ticks are arachnids, as adults they have eight legs. They are well known as significant vectors for transmitting various diseases to both humans and animals.

Exposure to these external parasites typically occurs when walking through grass and other vegetation, or when interacting with animals. Wearing long pants, closed shoes and spraying insect repellent on your legs and feet will help to limit this exposure. It is also advisable to conduct a physical examination of your clothing and body after being out in the bush, to remove any ticks which may be on your person.

## Scorpions

Most scorpion species are not dangerous to people. As a rule of thumb scorpions with thick, fat tails and small pincers are more venomous than those with thin tails and large pincers. The Transvaal thick-tail scorpion (*Parabuthus transvaalicus*) is highly venomous species commonly found in the Hoedspruit area.

Scorpions are predominately nocturnal so keep screen doors closed at night. There are often gaps under doors and it is beneficial to fit aluminium door seals (draft stoppers) with the rubber strip, to prevent scorpions and snakes from entering under the door. Use a torch at night so you can see where you are placing your feet, and wear closed shoes. Be sure to check clothing, bedding and shoes before

use. And be careful when grabbing that piece of firewood for your weekend braai.

## Wasps

Solitary wasp species tend to be rather docile, however the social species such as the paper wasps can be very defensive around their nests. Typically, they build their distinctive nests in sheltered locations, for example under the eaves of a roof, under carport roofs, in pipes or under decks. Pay attention to your surroundings when working in and around your home to avoid disturbing a nest.

## Other invertebrates

There are many insects and other invertebrates which have the capability of either delivering a painful bite, sting or releasing a noxious chemical in defence. Soldier ants of many species can bite and sting. Centipedes have a modified pair of front legs that look like fangs which they use to inject venom. Assassin bugs have a curved piercing mouthpart called a rostrum which they use to inject their venom. Of course we are all familiar with the honey bee which can be very defensive of their hives. All the above mentioned bite and sting precautionary/preventative measures are applicable for reducing chances of a painful encounter

## Snakes

Hoedspruit is home to many snake species, including seven highly venomous species. Never attempt to capture,



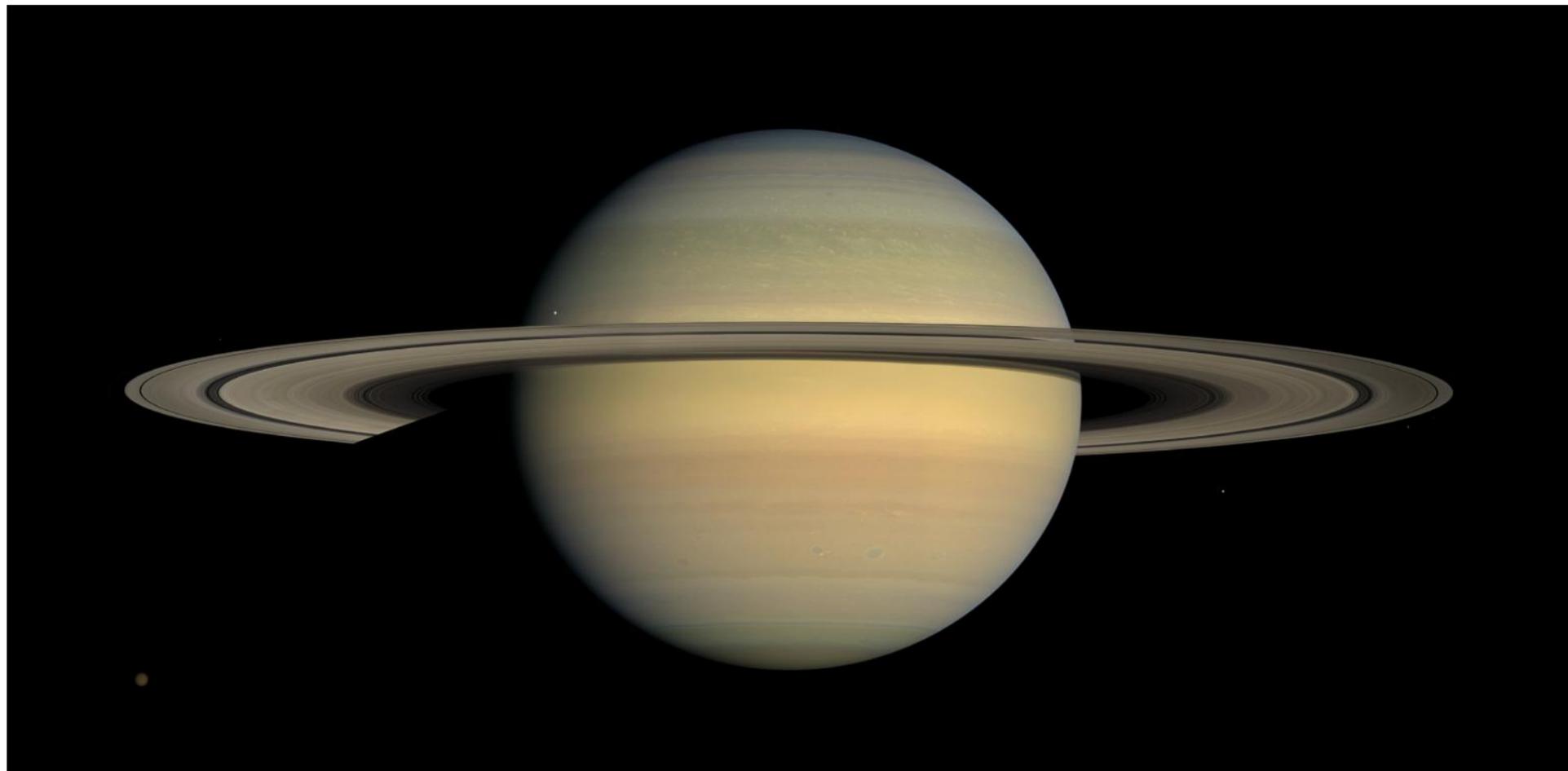
handle or kill any snakes, just leave them alone. Never handle any dead snakes that you may come across. Always wear long pants and closed shoes when walking in the bush. Avoid walking in long grass and thick vegetation. Keeping doors and windows closed, when possible, will help to prevent snakes from entering your home. Always pay attention to your surroundings and be careful where you place your hands and feet. Use a torch when walking at night and stay on paths or walkways. Keep your gardens neat and tidy to avoid attracting snakes and their prey.

**For more information on venomous animals, awareness training and talks, as well as a professional 24hrs problem snake rescue service, contact the author at Wildlife Safety Solutions: 073 934 6156; [info@wildlifesafetysolutions.co.za](mailto:info@wildlifesafetysolutions.co.za); [www.wildlifesafetysolutions.co.za](http://www.wildlifesafetysolutions.co.za); [FB Wildlife Safety Solutions](https://www.facebook.com/Wildlife-Safety-Solutions), [Instagram wildlife\\_safety\\_solutions](https://www.instagram.com/wildlife_safety_solutions)**

## Trivia answers

- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1  | Chestnuts   | 12 | Belgium  |
| 2  | Sarah, Abraham's wife, 127 years old, in Genesis 23:1 | 13 | Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan                     |
| 3  | The officials because of their uniform colour)        | 14 | Truffles - white dyed black                    |
| 4  | Nebuchadnezzar  | 15 | Perrier water because of benzene contamination |
| 5  | Nero - by his aunt                                    | 16 | A solid preserve                               |
| 6  | Two deciduous teeth                                   | 17 | Demeter  |
| 7  | The United Nations                                    | 18 | White with red polka dot                       |
| 8  | Enid Blyton   | 19 | Hops   |
| 9  | Split ends of hair                                    | 20 | Oscar Wilde                                    |
| 10 | Scented olive oil                                     | 21 | Durex tape                                     |
| 11 | Bolivia   | 22 | Veterinary surgeon                             |
|    |   | 23 | Tanzanite                                      |
|    |   | 24 | Mercury 7 astronauts                           |
|    |   | 25 | Trawling                                       |

# Lord of the Rings



Ben Coley

Look to the east soon after sunset and you will notice a bright object nestled between the zodiacal constellations of Aquarius and Pisces. Further inspection with a pair of binoculars will reveal that this luminous stellar object is not a pinprick of light, but rather a slight oval. You are looking at the great gas giant, Saturn.

Of all the cosmic gems in the night sky, no one object has inspired more excitement and wonder. Saturn, and its iconic ring system, remain the jewel in the crown of our solar system. Through a telescope, the view is simply awe-inspiring, revealing a glowing yellow sphere encircled by a glistening thin disc. Many of the famous telescopic objects require some knowledge, or an explanation at least, to fully appreciate what you are looking at, but no such embellishment is required for Saturn. It is the highlight of any evening and people's first views are normally accompanied by exclamations of amazement and disbelief. It truly speaks for itself and has turned many a casual stargazer into an avid astronomer!

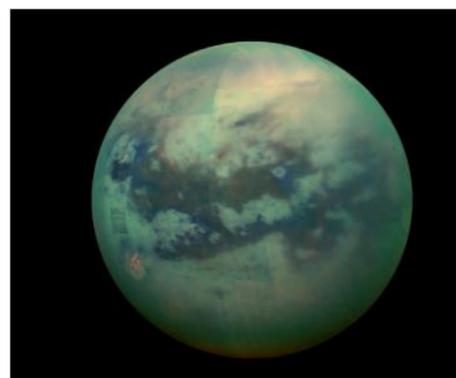
We are set to enjoy great views of Saturn for the next 5 months as it slowly ebbs from east to west across our night sky, so here are some mind-bending facts about the mighty 'Lord of the Rings'.

Saturn is Jupiter's father in Roman mythology but in Greek, Saturn is Cronus (Jupiter is Zeus). In Greek mythology, Cronus was told of a prophecy that he would be overthrown

by his own children. To ensure his long reign, Cronus had a habit of swallowing his children, including Demeter, goddess of agriculture, Poseidon and Hades. When his wife bore his sixth and final son, Zeus, she tricked Cronus into swallowing a rock. Zeus was raised in secret and once fully grown, fed Cronus an emetic, causing him to disgorge his brother and sisters. Together they waged war on the Titans, eventually securing the rule of the gods.

Saturn (and Jupiter) are giant balls of hydrogen that contain sufficient mass for gravity to have sculpted them into a sphere. Beneath the gaseous cloud tops that we can view through a telescope, the hydrogen behaves more like a liquid thanks to the immense pressure. Right at the planet's centre, we think there is likely a small rocky core. Despite Saturn's huge size, it is light enough that should there be an ocean big enough (its diameter is about nine times that of our Earth), it would float!

Saturn's rings were first viewed by the Italian astronomer Galileo, but he was unable to resolve their features. He thought that Saturn may be a triple planetary system and described Saturn as having 'ears' jutting out from its sides. It was Christopher Huygens who first noted their true nature and described them as a disc of material around the planet. As equipment improved, Giovanni Cassini discovered that the system is made up of multiple concentric rings with gaps in between. The largest of the gaps is now called the 'Cassini Division' and can



Saturn (top) Saturn during equinox (above left), Cronus (above right), Titan (opposite).

Images: supplied by Celestial Events



easily be seen in long exposure photography.

Saturn's famous ring system was formed when an icy moon ventured too close to the planet, and the tidal forces tore it to shreds, the debris collecting as a thin disc orbiting the planet. The majority of the rings are made from ice, interspersed with dust and rocks, and span the width of six Earths! Despite their huge diameter, the rings are incredibly thin. Believe or not, at their thickest point, the rings are no more than one kilometre thick and average only about 10 - 100m! It is estimated that there is more ice in the Antarctic ice sheet than in the entire ring system. It is amazing to think we can view such a delicate structure from 1,5 billion kms away, but ice has a high albedo and thus the rings reflect a huge proportion of the Sun's light.

Saturn's largest moon is called Titan and

is unique amongst the solar system as being the only moon with an atmosphere. Like Earth, Titan has a nitrogen rich atmosphere but contains no oxygen or water vapour. Instead, it has clouds of methane above its surface and there are hundreds of seas and lakes filled with liquid hydrocarbons such as methane and ethane. This makes it the only other known body with liquid on its surface. Titan is of great interest to astronomers and astrobiologists since it offers a glimpse into Earth's atmospheric evolution and more importantly, its chemistry could possibly harbour life. NASA's dragonfly mission is scheduled to launch in 2029 and will be equipped with a helicopter that will scour the surface for more information on this unique world.

Contact Celestial Events SA for more information at +27 (0)79 575 0900 email: [celestialeventssa@gmail.com](mailto:celestialeventssa@gmail.com)

# The weeping Boer-bean - *Schotia brachypetala*

The weeping Boer-bean is a stunning and adaptable tree native to southern Africa. It is renowned for its vibrant red flowers, which attract a variety of wildlife, and its numerous practical uses. This medium-sized tree is characterized by its wide-spreading, densely branched crown and rough, brown bark. Its leaves, which change colour throughout the year from reddish copper to glossy dark green, provide a beautiful visual display.

Its versatility, striking appearance, and ecological importance make this tree a valuable and fascinating addition to any landscape. This hardy and adaptable tree thrives in warm, dry climates and is commonly found in bushveld, deciduous woodlands, and scrub forests, often near rivers or termite mounds.

This medium to large tree boasts a wide-spreading crown and a single trunk that often branches low down. It can reach heights of up to 22m, but typically grows between 11 - 16m tall with a spread of 10 - 15m. The bark is rough and brown or grey-brown, while the leaves are reddish to coppery when young, eventually maturing to a glossy dark green. In warmer climates, the tree remains evergreen, but in colder regions it may become deciduous, losing its leaves for a short period during the winter.

The tree's most striking feature is its abundant red flowers, which bloom from August



Random Harvest Nursery

To November. The deep red, nectar-rich flowers attract a variety of birds, insects, and mammals, making this tree a lively hub of activity during flowering season. The flowering time is somewhat irregular in that a tree in bloom may be a few metres away from one that has no sign of flowers. This irregularity is of value to the nectar feeding birds, and ensures a longer feeding season. The tree produces an abundance of nectar, the excess of which

drips from the flowers, and hence the name 'weeping Boer-bean'. The fallen flowers are also enjoyed by baboons, monkeys, insects, and antelope. In addition to its floral beauty, the weeping Boer-bean serves as a larval host plant for several butterfly species.

Beyond its aesthetic appeal, this tree offers a variety of practical benefits. The tree has long been valued by both indigenous peoples and European settlers for its myriad uses. Its bark, roots, seeds, and timber

have provided sustenance, medicine, and building materials for centuries.

A decoction of the bark has traditionally been used to alleviate heartburn and hangovers. Mixtures of bark and roots have been employed to strengthen the body, purify the blood, treat nervous heart conditions, and combat diarrhoea. Additionally, facial saunas have been conducted using bark and root infusions.

The seeds of the tree are edible after roasting. While they may be low in fat and protein, they offer a significant amount of carbohydrates. Locals and early European settlers and farmers are believed to have learned from the Khoikhoi about the practice of roasting and consuming the mature pods and seeds.

Beyond its culinary applications, the tree has also been a valuable resource for other purposes. The bark can be used as a natural dye, producing a red-brown or red colour. Its timber is highly regarded for its quality and durability, making it suitable for furniture. The sapwood, while pinkish-grey and less durable unless treated, is often used for various applications. The heartwood, on the other hand, is a dark walnut, almost black, and known for its hardness, weight, termite resistance, and fine texture. This valuable wood has been extensively used for furniture, flooring blocks, and was sought after for wagon beams.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

### BUSINESS / SHOPS / SERVICES

Celestial Events	079 575 0900
Chic Shack	084 381 7071
FGASA	011 886 8245
Fruitful Living	015 793 3703
Kruger2Canyon News	082 330 6060
Love the Hoed	082 330 6060
Matumi Distributors	082 601 4393
SPAR Hoedspruit	015 793 2305
Tops @ SPAR	015 793 2069
Vehicle License Department	015 793 0838

### CONSTRUCTION & INDUSTRIAL

BUCO	015 793 0560
Coastal Hire	015 793 0971
Mopane Group	015 781 1571

### SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

Drakensig Laerskool	015 793 3756
Drakensig Pre-primer	015 793 2401
Hoedspruit Christian School	015 793 2067
Lowveld Academy	015 793 3750
Mariepskop Laerskool	079 529 6071
Mariepskop Pre-primer	082 880 7069
Perspective Training College	082 787 4471
Southern Cross Schools	015 793 0590

### EMERGENCY - HELP LINES

After Hours Emergency Doctors	084 770 1741
Air Force Base Hoedspruit	015 799 2911
Africa Safe -T	010 590 6313
Ambulance AFB	015 799 2065
Alcoholics Narcotics Anonymous	082 258 4602
Ambulance Airforce Base	015 799 2065
Ambulance Services Limpopo	015 793 1581
Ambulance Tintswalo	101 77
Ambulance Services Swift	060 528 2784
Farm watch/ Plaaswag	072 310 0032
Fire Brigade AFB	015 799 2172
Fire Brigade Maruleng	015 793 0536
Fire Dpt Hoedspruit	015 793 0728
GKEPF Greater Kruger Enviro Protection Foundation	065 743 2224
Hoedspruit Clinic	015 793 2342
Hoedspruit Medical Rescue	072 170 0864

Hoedspruit Paws	078 431 3161
Hoedspruit Town Watch	072 812 2172
	082 683 2835
Hoedspruit Farm Watch	072 310 0032
Hospital AFB Drakensig	015 799 2065
Hospital Nelspruit Mediclinic	013 759 0645
Hospital Tintswalo	013 795 5000
Hospital Sekororo Gvt-The Oaks	015 383 9400
Hospital Tzaneen Mediclinic	015 305 8536
Maruleng Municipality	015 793 2409
Medical Rescue	072 170 0864
Med Centre Emergency No	084 770 1743
Protrack	015 793 2585
SAPS Station Commander	082 565 8253
SAPS General	101 111
SAPS	015 799 4000
SPCA Phalaborwa	071 519 7044
Victim Support Unit	082 940 0651

### MEDICAL & VETERINARY SERVICES

Counselling Ronelle Joubert	082 787 4471
DR Van Eeden (Dentist)	015 793 1876
DR D Verhagen	015 793 0606
DR A Polley	015 793 0606
DR Shivambu	087 260 1537
DR Werner Muller (Dentist)	015 793 1894
Dr L van Vuren (Dentist)	015 793 0845
Hlokomela	072 698 6538
Hoedspruit Clinic	015 793 2342
Hoeds Wildlife Est Pharmacy	015 793 1427
J Coetzee (Clinical Psychologist)	015 781 0012
Kyk Oogkundiges (Optometrist)	060 548 5387
ProVet Veterinary Hospital	015 793 0797

### REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY

Century 21	015 793 1534
Remax Wildlife Properties	082 643 3776

### TOURISM & THINGS TO DO

Eastgate Airport	015 793 3681
Hds Endangered Species Centre	015 793 1633
Jabulani Elephant Interaction	015 793 1265
K2C Biosphere Region	015 817 1838
Sky-Way Trails	013 737 8374



## Southern Cross SCHOOLS

A Pre-school, IEB Preparatory School and College nestled in Hoedspruit, South Africa



www.thescschools.com  
raptor@scschools.co.za  
+27 15 793 0590/1



**GO COASTAL**

## HOEDSPRUIT

Exceptional Service  
Competitive Rates  
High Quality  
Wide Range  
Delivery and collection

**015 793 0971 | 082 776 3668**  
Koedoe Str, Maroela Park, Shop 13  
hoedspruit@coastalhire.co.za www.coastalhire.co.za  
Serving all your equipment hire needs

## ZIPLINE adventures

**082 825 0209 / 013 737 6747 | www.skywaytrails.com**

# The fine line: politeness vs entitled behaviour

AI perspective 'correspondent'

In an era where social dynamics are rapidly evolving, distinguishing between politeness and entitlement has become more crucial than ever. While they might seem similar on the surface, these two behaviours represent vastly different attitudes and approaches to interpersonal interactions. Understanding the distinction not only fosters better communication but also promotes a more harmonious society.



## Politeness: a cornerstone of respect

Politeness is a fundamental aspect of respectful social interaction. It involves adhering to established social norms and showing consideration for others' feelings and needs. The essence of politeness lies in acknowledging the rights and space of others while maintaining a cooperative and amiable demeanour.

A polite person is often characterized by their thoughtful gestures and considerate language. They use "please" and "thank you" regularly, listen actively, and demonstrate empathy in their interactions. For instance, when requesting a favour, a polite individual would phrase their request in a way that acknowledges the other person's time and effort, such as, "If it's not too much trouble, could you help me with this?"

Politeness is not merely a veneer of good manners but a genuine reflection of one's respect for others. It contributes to smoother interactions and fosters positive relationships. In professional settings, politeness can enhance teamwork, facilitate constructive feedback, and create a supportive environment. In personal relationships, it nurtures trust and mutual respect, paving the way for more meaningful connections.

## Entitlement: the misconception of inherent rights

Entitlement, on the other hand, represents a different mindset. It involves a belief that one inherently deserves special treatment or privileges, often without regard for the context or the impact on others. An entitled person may expect preferential treatment or automatic compliance with their desires, regardless of the effort or consideration required.

This attitude is frequently marked by a lack of appreciation and an expectation that others should accommodate one's needs without question. For example, an entitled individual might complain loudly if their demands are not met promptly, disregarding any inconvenience caused to others. They might say, "I deserve this," or "It's only fair that I get this," assuming that their desires are automatically prioritized over others'.

Entitlement can manifest in various contexts, from customer service interactions to workplace environments. In the former, an entitled customer might insist on a refund for a service they didn't use, despite the store's clear policies. In the workplace, an entitled employee might demand a promotion or raise without considering their performance or contributions.

## Navigating the thin line

The line between politeness and entitlement can be surprisingly thin, and navigating it requires self-awareness and sensitivity. One key difference is the underlying attitude driving the behaviour. Politeness stems from a place of respect and acknowledgment of others' rights, while entitlement originates from a belief in one's superior claim to certain benefits or privileges.

In practice, distinguishing between these behaviours often comes down to how requests and expectations are communicated. A polite request is framed with an understanding of the other person's perspective and limitations, while an entitled demand focuses solely on personal gain. Politeness fosters cooperation and mutual respect, whereas entitlement can lead to friction and resentment.

For example, consider a scenario in which a student asks a teacher for an extension on a project. A polite student might say, "I'm struggling with this project and was wondering if it would be possible to have a few extra days to complete it. I appreciate your understanding." In contrast, an entitled student might insist, "I need more time for this project. It's not fair that I have to rush through it."

## Cultivating politeness and addressing entitlement

Cultivating politeness and addressing entitlement involves fostering a culture of respect and empathy. In personal interactions, this means being mindful of how one's actions and requests affect others. In professional settings, it involves creating policies and practices that encourage mutual respect and discourage entitlement.

Educational and training programs can play a crucial role in promoting politeness and mitigating entitlement. Teaching the principles of effective communication, empathy, and respect can help individuals understand the importance of these values in their interactions. Additionally, organizations can implement clear guidelines and feedback mechanisms to address entitled behaviour and reinforce a culture of mutual respect.

## Conclusion

The distinction between politeness and entitlement is more than a matter of etiquette; it reflects deeper attitudes toward respect and consideration in our interactions. Politeness is an expression of respect for others, facilitating positive and productive relationships. Entitlement, by contrast, reflects a belief in one's inherent right to special treatment, often at the expense of others.

By understanding and practicing politeness while addressing entitlement, we can enhance our interactions and contribute to a more respectful and cooperative society. Recognizing the nuances between these behaviours helps us navigate social dynamics more effectively, fostering environments where mutual respect and understanding thrive.

Credit: ChatGPT 4o mini - chatgpt.com

## My 5 sent

Oupa Bobbili

Ons is in Suid Afrika baie geseënd met baie talentvolle mense. Hulle laat eintlik die 'Guinness Book of Records' na 'n feëverhaal lyk.

Die eerste groepie mense is ons gedugte kar wagte in Suid Afrika. Terwyl hulle karre oppas by 'n Mall in Bloemfontein, kan hulle 'n Tesla in Texas hoor 'start'. Ons almal het al daardie ervaring gehad. Jy kom rustig uitgestap met jou pakkies oppad na jou voertuig toe. En jy kan maar jou tyd vat om alles weg te pak. Dalk nog daardie skelm sjokolade eers eet voor jy ry. En jy kan maar jou tru-spieëltjies dophou so

veel as jy wil, hulle sal leeg wees.

As jy daai sleutel draai, en in jou spieëltjie kyk, dan groet daar 'n songebrande glimlag met oë wat diep in jou siel inkyk, met 'n handjie wat saggies vir jou fluister 'Kom, Kom, Kom'. Jy skrik eintlik, want 'n sekonde gelede was daar niemand gewees nie. Jou hande vroetel vir kleingeld terwyl jy stadig agteruit ry. Vir 'n onverklaarbare rede is jy nogal gehoorsaam aan die mens. Eers as jy weg ry haal jy weer asem en wonder weer "waar kom die mens vandaan." Neem in ag daar is niks vinniger as 'n jag luiperd op 200m nie, met gehoor beter as die van 'n kat nie en met beter sig as 'n arend nie,

behalwe 'n kar wag in Suid Afrika.

En dan is daar die reuk sintuig van 'n 'speed cop'. As jou lisensies op datum is en jou voertuig op die pad is, dan los daai mense jou uit. Laat daar nou een ding fout wees, bietjie te haastig, of die sitplek gordel is nie vas nie, dan skop hulle reuk sintuig in. Daardie mense ruik 'n R200 noot uit jou beursie uit nog voor jy by die ATM was.

Jy kan in jou oprit sit en oefen om jou sitplek gordel op spoed vas te maak. Jy kan dit professioneel doen, en in 'n breukdeel van 'n sekonde, maar glo my as jy om die draai kom en daai oorgewig, honger refle-

ktor baadjie staan daar, dan beweeg daai sitplek gordel nêrens heen nie. Dit is eers dan wanneer jy uitvind hoe effektief dit sal wees in 'n ongeluk, as jy hom maar net aangehad het.

Kom ons wees ook eerlik met mekaar. Ons soek die kar wag in die parkeer area. Dit is asof ons bietjie veiliger voel en gemakliker in en uit ry. Die verkeersmanne het almal maar gemengde gevoelens oor. Soos enige ander profesie in Suid Afrika is daar die goeie en die slegtes.

Lekker parkeer en veilig ry. Groete.



**VALENCIA**  
MAKING YOU AND YOUR HOME BEAUTIFUL

Hospitality, Homeware & Interior Décor Service

Tel: 013 752 7005 • info@valencia.co.za  
1 Valencia Drive • Nelspruit • valencia.co.za



- Linen • Towels • Curtains
- Blinds • Crockery • Cutlery
- Hotel Amenities • Uniforms
- Catering Equipment
- Carpets • Upholstery
- Appliances • Table Linen
- And Much More!



**MOPANE GROUP**



**READYMIX**



**SAND/STONE**



**BRICKS**



**PLANT HIRE**

015 781 1571