



KRUGER2CANYON

NEWS

July 2025

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

Hoedspruit Private Hospital - World Class care in the heart of the Bushveld



Full article on pages 7,8 and 9

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From the Editors Desk

August is Women's Month – so let us all take a moment to admire, thank and be grateful for all the wonderful women in our lives. They are the mothers of the earth and without them the world would be a dismal place. Happy Women's Month to all you women out there.

Sadly there was a gathering of flashy sports cars in Hoedspruit – not really our gig to be honest. But, hey, let them come and enjoy our fare. The problem comes when the testosterone then gets too macho, and the drivers of these machines then literally do a solo drag race down the road. The road in question was the Zandspruit Boulevard.

They come to our town; they need to respect our culture in our town – and it is not one of racing cars down a road with engines howling.

Respect us – but that was not evident, and their behaviour was disgusting. If someone had walked out onto that road, which happens many times – then what? Rather they go elsewhere.

Some August dates to contemplate in history:

- August 1, 1834 – Slavery abolished in the British Empire
- August 2, 1934 – Hitler becomes Führer of Germany
- August 5, 1962 – Nelson Mandela arrested near Howick
- August 5, 1858 – First transatlantic telegraph cable completed
- August 6 & 9, 1945 – Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- August 8, 1963 – Great Train Robbery
- August 12, 1981 – IBM introduces the first personal computer
- August 13, 1961 – Berlin Wall construction begins
- August 15, 1914 – Panama Canal opens to traffic
- August 15, 1969 – Woodstock music festival begins
- August 18, 1920 – Women win the vote in the USA
- August 24, 1991 – Ukraine breaks away from the USSR (Russia)
- August 24, 79 CE – Mount Vesuvius erupts, destroying Pompeii
- August 28, 1963 – Martin Luther King Jr. gives "I Have a Dream" speech
- August 31, 1997 – Princess Diana dies in a car crash in Paris
- August 31, 1888 – Jack the Ripper strikes in London for the first time

Enjoy the Hoedspruit Private Hospital special – they are special, and we thank them. Hope you enjoy the publication. Have a great month ahead.

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Be yourself

Celebrating women in August

The Never-Ending Saga of Portion 39 – Hoedspruit's Contested Development Plot

An open letter to the community by a 'Concerned Resident'

Hoedspruit residents are once again being drawn into the tangled web surrounding Portion 39 of the Berlin Farm - a 33.5-hectare plot bordering the Hoedspruit Flying Club and falling within the town's boundaries. This patch of land has become the epicentre of a development debate stretching back over a decade, and it's heating up again.

The story began in November 2012 when a private developer proposed a high-density township on the site, pitching 564 erven. But the Maruleng Local Municipality (MLM) shot down the application, citing a lack of infrastructure - no water, no sanitation, and no roads - and an inability to supply the bulk services required. The developer's offer to purchase the property lapsed, and the plans were shelved.

Ironically, the very municipality that opposed the original application bought Portion 39 soon after. Their vision? A revenue-generating development in partnership

with Limpopo's Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA). But two subsequent Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) collapsed - blocked by local resistance and ultimately torpedoed when the municipality's own funding dried up.

Now, the saga has resurfaced with new intensity.

CoGHSTA has again earmarked budget for bulk infrastructure on Portion 39 for up to 600 sites in the 2024/2025 financial year. In December 2024, the MLM invited "innovative private proposals" to tackle informal housing issues through a turnkey development project on the property.

At a community meeting held on 18 June 2025, the Mayor of Maruleng revealed that a service provider had been appointed by CoGHSTA to drive a township establishment plan - this time for 405 stands. The mayor noted that "most issues have been dealt with" and the EIA public participation phase would begin "within 60 days."

Wheels start wobbling again.

By law, the EIA application should be driven by a property developer. Yet, no developer has been appointed. No clear township plan has been submitted. And the municipality's supply chain process for private developers remains incomplete.

This then begs the questions:

- How can an EIA proceed when the fundamental project details - including the developer - are missing?
- What infrastructure upgrades have been made since 2012 to support this scale of development?
- Why is public money being spent again on an idea that has twice failed environmental clearance?
- Why is the municipality championing a scheme it previously blocked - and that local residents continue to oppose?
- And where will the funds come from to support a project that could triple the town's population overnight?

With no proven track record in managing property development, critics argue that MLM has no business spearheading such a massive urban expansion - especially one so clearly out of sync with local sentiment and environmental constraints.

In the latest move, the EIA consultants scheduled a public participation meeting for 30 July 2025, where more information will be shared with residents and stakeholders. By the time this publication is distributed in and around Hoedspruit, that meeting should have taken place. But if past experience is anything to go by, trust is wearing thin. Has that happened again?

Your voice matters

If you live in Hoedspruit, it's time to speak up. This development could reshape the town's future, forever – be it for better or worse. Make your objections or comments known by contacting the EIA consultant: Tshifhiwa Netsianda on cell 083 923 6949, or by email netsiandat@limpearth.co.za.

Don't let this become a decision made without your say, all of us need to stand up and be counted.



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Phiring: a living model of Ecosystem-based Adaptation



Farmers share their knowledge on climate-smart agriculture (above left). Lessons learnt and lived at Phiring, are shared.

Images: Supplied

by Rešoketšwe Mafogo (Kruger to Canyons Pro-Nature Livelihoods Project Manager) and Lauren Booth

In Limpopo’s Sekhukhune District, on the edge of the Blyde River Canyon, the community of Phiring is demonstrating a quiet but powerful transformation. Situated in one of South Africa’s Strategic Water Source Areas (critical land that makes up just 10% of the country but supplies more than half of its surface water), Phiring is showing what is possible when people and ecosystems thrive together.

This transformation began through the launch of the Dinkwanyane Water Smart (DWS) Project in 2019, funded by the Government of Flanders and implemented in partnership between Kruger to Canyons Biosphere (K2C), Hoedspruit Hub and Conservation South Africa.

Originally aimed at addressing water shortages and land degradation, the project has since evolved into a fully-fledged Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA, a nature-first approach to building climate resilience) demonstration site maintained by the K2C Biosphere. This despite formal funding ceasing in March 2024. It now serves as an evolving, real-world example of how communities can build climate resilience by working with, rather than against, nature.

A living model of climate-smart land use

In Phiring, EbA is not just a theory, it is being lived, tested and refined on the ground. The Demonstration Site is underpinned by five core pillars: Rangeland Management, Agroecology, Eco-Tourism, Eco-Savings and Credit Groups and Conservation Agreements.

Local farmers are restoring rangelands with rotational grazing and erosion control. Households are experimenting with agroecological food gardens that nourish both soil and families. Traditional leaders are integrating sustainable land-use into governance structures, while women and youth take active roles in planning and stewardship.

These activities are helping to rebuild ecosystems, improve water security and support sustainable livelihoods in a region where climate vulnerability, limited market access, and the legacy of under-development continue to challenge rural communities.

Learning that travels

What sets Phiring apart is what’s happening on the land, but also how that knowledge is being shared. The site has become a vibrant learning hub, attracting local and international guests, including government departments, leadership programmes, school groups, researchers, universities and other learning institutions. Activities range

from research visits and peer-learning exchanges to overnight camping, guided hikes and day trips.

Regular peer exchanges, participatory monitoring and documentation ensure that the learnings emerging from the site are shared widely, positioning Phiring as a scalable model of green, community-led development. The site has also informed the development of a Conservation Agreement framework that ties community incentives, such as market access and training, to long-term ecosystem stewardship and tourism opportunities. This holistic approach is already inspiring similar efforts in neighbouring communities across the K2C landscape.

From resilience to opportunity

Despite being located on the renowned Panorama Route, Phiring has been long overlooked by mainstream tourism. That changed with the launch of the Ba-Dinkwanyane Tourism Association in 2023. Unlocking nature-based tourism has revived cultural traditions in the community and created visitor experiences that align with conservation goals.

Local families now host visitors in homestays that they have built and manage themselves. Community members were identified to train as site guides to the wealth of natural attractions like

the Sekweneng Waterfall and the Set-hunyeng Forest Trail, and the rich musical, culinary and craft traditions of the BaPedi people are being authentically shared with visitors. These experiences offer meaningful income for residents, particularly youth and women, while reinforcing the value of protecting cultural and natural heritage.

People and planet, in partnership

Phiring is now more than a place - it is a working model for how we can address climate change, restore ecosystems and create opportunities in even the most under-resourced settings. It proves that when communities are empowered and ecosystems are healthy, resilience follows, along with pride, purpose and progress.

For the K2C, having a physical site like Phiring grounds its strategies in lived experience. It strengthens partnerships, fuels learning and proves that ecosystem-based approaches are viable in our region and beyond, and that they are vital!

For enquires regarding the tourism opportunities at Phiring, contact the Ba-Dinkwanyane Tourism Association via Whatsapp on 060 701 9526.

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Hoedspruit Concerned Rate Payers Association – Working for You

The Hoedspruit Concerned Rate Payers Association (HCRPA) was formally registered with the CIPC on 4 June 2024 to give ratepayers in Hoedspruit a united voice. And barely a year later, that voice is being tested on multiple fronts - from illegal land occupation to sewage spills, flawed development plans, and failing public transport.

Illegal Land Occupation and the Plastic View Crisis

The HCRPA has been pressing the Maruleng Local Municipality to enforce both national legislation and municipal by-laws regarding the illegal occupation of land within Hoedspruit - specifically the dire, inhumane conditions in the area known as "Plastic View."

Summons was issued to five respondents, including the municipality. Only the Maruleng Local Municipality bothered to file an answering affidavit. After months of drawn-out legal wrangling, an interim court order was handed down by the Limpopo High Court on 11 March 2025. The municipality has since filed what the Association deems a "flawed and inadequate report" on the current occupants of Plastic View.

Despite repeated efforts, the HCRPA has received no meaningful update on how the municipality intends to resolve this long-standing humanitarian and legal mess. Ur-

gent legal action is now back on the table.

Portion 39 - Déjà Vu in Berlin

The HCRPA has also been active in challenging the proposed development of Portion 39 of the Berlin Farm - the controversial plan to push through 400 - 600 residential units on land that's already failed two Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). Legal representatives for the Association successfully halted a previous EIA, which was withdrawn by consultants in October 2024.

But the proposal is back - again. A new EIA process kicked off on 1 July 2025, and the Association has already registered as an interested and affected party. Legal counsel will continue to respond throughout the process to ensure that development isn't forced through without due diligence, infrastructure improvement, or public backing.

Sewage, Water & Accountability

Few issues have had a more damaging impact than the ongoing sewage spills that plagued Southern Cross Schools and Raptors View Wildlife Estate for 18 months. The HCRPA didn't just complain - they acted.

Working alongside the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation (DWS) enforcement division in Nelspruit and the Deputy Minister himself, the HCRPA forced the

Mopani District Municipality to repair the failed wastewater transfer station on Leguan Street.

Even more significantly, a criminal case has been opened against four Mopani officials, with two further cases now joined by DWS and prosecutions are expected to move forward in the coming months.

Looking ahead, the HCRPA is preparing a proposal for a public-private partnership solution to the broader water and sanitation infrastructure issues across Maruleng. This was presented to the national Deputy Director General of Water Affairs and Sanitation at a meeting in Hoedspruit on 24 July 2025.

Great North Transport - No Longer 'Great'

Transport is another major concern. The declining safety and reliability of Great North Transport - a state-owned company under the Limpopo Provincial Government - has become impossible to ignore. The HCRPA plans to engage with the company and other key players in the coming months to understand the root of the dysfunction and explore realistic solutions.

What's Next?

Future focus areas will be driven by the needs of the Association's growing membership - ratepayers who are no longer will-

ing to sit back while governance fails around them, standing up and being counted.

Get Involved. Speak Up. Contribute.

The HCRPA has, through its actions, clearly stated that if you care about Hoedspruit's future - from fair development to functioning sanitation, legal land use, and safe transport - get involved. Join the HCRPA, add your voice, and if possible, help contribute financially to help fund legal and advocacy efforts, to ensure that we can act effectively on behalf of all rate payers in our community.

For more information contact the association on email at hoedspruitcrpa@gmail.com.

The HCRPA is a registered NPC. All financial contributions go directly into the NPC's dedicated bank account.



University of Parma and the Southern African Wildlife College Sign a Collaboration Agreement

In an exciting development following the accreditation of the Southern African Wildlife College's (SAWC) Applied Diploma in Natural Resource Management, the SAWC recently signed a collaboration agreement with the University of Parma, Italy (UNIPR), facilitated by Nzatu, to promote international cooperation and mutual support.

The agreement underpins the parties' joint objectives in the sectors of higher education, research, training and the promotion of sustainable practices, as well as cultural exchange. Promoted by the University Centre for International Cooperation (CUCI) of the University, the agreement also lays the groundwork for joint research activities and the exchange of faculty students, especially in the field of the master's degree course in Ecology and Ethology for Nature Conservation.

The collaboration was recently further bolstered in a meeting held at the Cascina Ambolana of the University, attended by Theresa Sowry and Jeanné Poultney representing SAWC, the Rector's Delegate for relations with Africa Roberto Valentino, Deputy Director of CUCI, the Director of the Department of Chemical, Life, and Environmental Sustainability Sciences Roberto Corradini, Michele Sofisti and Andrea Chiesi from Nzatu Europe, and the professors of the Master's degree course in Ecology and Ethology for Nature Conservation Donato Grasso, Cristian Capelli, Claudio Ferrari, Tiziano Travain, Antonio Bodini, Francesco Nonnis Marzano.

The agreement includes several exciting cooperation activities, including the exchange of professors, researchers and students, the joint realisation of publications, academic journals and other types of publications that may be of interest to both parties. In addition, the joint creation and development of research projects and innovative educational activities in areas of interest, as well as hosting



The group from SAWC and the University of Parma

Image : Supplied

conferences and workshops, is envisaged.

This agreement, which addresses sustainability and nature-based solutions for biodiversity and climate change mitigation by way of mainstream natural and environmental sciences, has been facilitated by Michele Sofisti and Andrea Chiesi from Nzatu, a company founded by two Zambian sisters with the mission of promoting regenerative agriculture.

The collaboration synergistically combines the academic research capabilities of UNIPR with the established field conservation practices of the SAWC, paving the way for high-impact initiatives throughout Southern Africa thanks to the presence of Nzatu as the implementing partner.

The objectives of the partnership thus

include a shared commitment to sustainable development, education, and environmental conservation, creating a platform to integrate regenerative agriculture into conservation landscapes, and better coordinating activities on the ground.

The University of Parma is a public university located in Parma, Emilia-Romagna, Italy. Organised into ten departments, it is one of the oldest universities in the world with a rich history that spans over 1000 years. It comprises an academic community of more than 35,000 people, including 33,000 students and 2,000 teaching staff, researchers and members of the technical administrative staff. For more info, please visit: [https://](https://www.unipr.it/en)

www.unipr.it/en

Nzatu is a regenerative agriculture model that works to produce sustainable food without interfering with natural resources and preserving wildlife habitat. Founded in Zambia by local sisters Gwen and Denise Jones, Nzatu promotes regenerative agriculture practices in Africa that support nature-based solutions with the aim of creating social impact in rural communities, protecting wildlife and biodiversity, and mitigating climate change through reforestation projects. This includes training and supporting small scale businesses involved in honey and coffee bean production. For more info please visit: <https://nzatu.com/>

CENTURY 21 Wildlife - Hoedspruit

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Contact Information:

Business : +27 15 793 1534
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Website : www.century21wildlife.co.za



SOLE MANDATE

FREESTANDING SMALL-HOLDING, LIVERPOOL R 2 630 000
Land size: 16 ha

This property offers a large footprint and infrastructure to continue with small scale farming options. The main residence is a 3-bedroom farmhouse. There is also a guest cottage and another incomplete unit. Ideal for a renovation project or to live a self-sufficient lifestyle.
Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2395197



DUAL MANDATE

RAPTORS VIEW WILDLIFE ESTATE R 4 900 000
Beds 4 | Baths 2 | Floor size: 306 m²

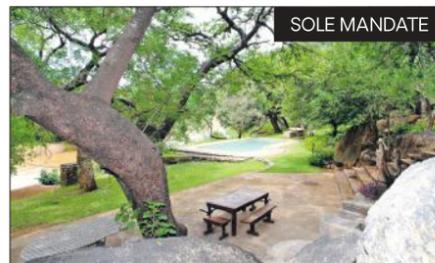
Spacious home in a private setting with mountain views and mature bushveld trees. Features open-plan living, large patio, loft, laundry area, and aluminium doors/windows. Main bedroom includes indoor/outdoor shower; second bathroom also has an outdoor shower. Double carport.
Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821 Ref: 2386256



SOLE MANDATE

COMMERCIAL: Hoedspruit Wildlife Estate R 8 470 000
Beds 6 | Baths 6 | Floor: 780 m²

Guest house with 6 spacious en-suite guest rooms and owner's quarters. Colonial-style home with a wraparound patio, pool, bar, central lounge, and dining area. Rooms include bath, shower, aircon, minibar, and DSTV. Sold fully furnished as a going concern, without liabilities. Backup power & water.
Rob Severin - 083 469 3820 Ref: 2380743



SOLE MANDATE

NDLOVUMZI NATURE RESERVE R 4 458 000
Beds 4 | Baths 4 | Floor: 176 m²

This tranquil home on a 21 hectare property overlooks the Olifants river and is surrounded by large riverine trees and rocky outcrops. The open plan living, dining area and newly fitted kitchen are all under high vaulted ceilings that make this home light and bright, adding to the appeal.
Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2152063



SOLE MANDATE

HARMONY - 50% SHARE R 4 400 000
Bedrooms 4 | Bathrooms 4 | Farm size: 342 ha

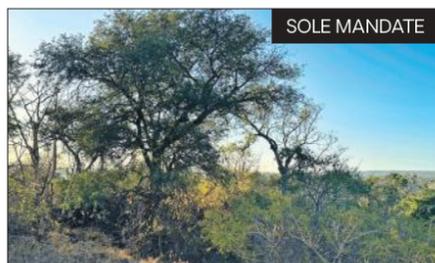
50% share in unspoiled wildlife farm with no visual pollution. Includes exclusive use of 2 houses, bush camp, stables (max 6 horses), and build rights for private home or lodge. Features include staff housing, shared infrastructure, dams, granite koppie, and diverse wildlife. No hunting permitted.
Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2380828



SOLE MANDATE

LISSATABA NATURE RESERVE R 795 000
Stand: 7,000 m² | Reserve: 2,500 ha

Last remaining stand and located on a ridge with views of the Drakensberg mountains. No neighbouring stands giving it maximum privacy. Features interesting trees and rocky outcrops on the stand.
Rob Severin - 083 469 3820 Ref: 2372468



SOLE MANDATE

ELEPHANT ROCK ECO ESTATE R 750 000
Stand size: 2,400 m² | Estate size: 240 ha

Lovely stand with mountain views, natural shade, and cul-de-sac privacy. Pet-friendly estate with 5-year build window and no transfer duty. Building packages available. Secure eco-estate with outdoor activities and wildlife.
Calin Leppan - 082 824 9482 Ref: 2388805



SOLE MANDATE

COMMERCIAL: Hoedspruit Wildlife Estate R 7 850 000
Beds 7 | Baths 7 | Floor: 433 m²

Luxury thatched guest lodge sold as a going concern with all movables. Includes 5 guest rooms, owner's unit, pool, bar, dining areas, fitted kitchen, staff room, garage, and 6 guest carports. Lodge leased until Feb 2028 - rental income in place.
Rob Severin - 083 469 3820 Ref: 2385693



SOLE MANDATE

MODITLO WILDLIFE ESTATE R 10 000 000
Beds 5 | Baths 4.5 | Floor: 386 m²

A modern bush home in a quiet area featuring an open plan lounge and dining area, kitchen with a centre island, scullery, courtyard, covered patio and pool. Three of the bedrooms are en-suite. The home is sold partially furnished. Three carports complete the property.
Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821 Ref: 2198230



SOLE MANDATE

LEOPARD'S LANE New Development R 2 850 000
Beds 2 | Baths 2

Modern, off-grid 2-bedroom home with open-plan living, patio and built-in braai. Features guest toilet, single garage (convertible to a third bedroom), gas stove, solar power system, and water tank. The listed price includes VAT, no transfer duty applicable.
Calin Leppan - 082 824 9482 2384460



SOLE MANDATE

BLYDE WILDLIFE ESTATE R 4 900 000
Bedrooms 4 | Bathrooms 3 | Floor size: 310 m²

This 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 - 083 469 3821 Ref: 2238263



SOLE MANDATE

HOEDSPRUIT CENTRAL R 3 900 000
Bedrooms 3 | Bathrooms 2 | Floor size: 200 m²

Versatile home with main en-suite bedroom, and 2 additional bedrooms. Features open-plan living, separate kitchen, aircons, ceiling fans, covered patio, pool, landscaped garden, and built-in braai. Includes separate building with bedroom, bathroom, storerooms, and triple carport.
Michelle Herb - 071 652 9140 Ref: 2388191

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RENTAL

ZANDSPRUIT BUSH AND AERO ESTATE R 50 000 pm
Beds 4 | Baths 3 | Furnished

Availability on request, not pet friendly - Modern bushveld living with an emphasis on comfort, space and connection to nature. Expansive open plan living area, feature wall, dining area and fully equipped kitchen. Covered patio with seating area, breakfast bar, built-in braai and boma.
Michelle Herb - 071 652 9140 Ref: 2397813



RENTAL

MODITLO WILDLIFE ESTATE R 35 000 pm
Beds 3 | Baths 3 | Furnished

Available from Nov 2025 to Feb 2026, not pet friendly - Home in quiet area with spacious open-plan lounge, dining, and kitchen. All bedrooms en-suite, air-conditioning, mosquito screens, solar power, pool, large shaded deck, and enclosed patio. Includes weekly cleaning and pool service.
Michelle Herb - 071 652 9140 Ref: 2384978



The K2C Cycle Tour: A Decade Old and Better Than Ever



The leading group cyclists riding strong along the 104km route (above), another group below and the beautiful sunset sky and cyclist silhouette (bottom) Images: Supplied

Lovelle Henderson

If you ever feared the hornbill was disappearing, the sight that greeted early risers at Timbavati Airfield on Saturday, 21 June, would have lifted your spirits.

At 5:30am, 172 cyclists – their jerseys emblazoned front and back with vibrant hornbill artwork by local artist Warren Cary – gathered to celebrate the 10th edition of the Rotary K2C Cycle Tour. This year, the endearing hornbill family took centre stage, both in theme and spirit, setting the tone for a ride through the wild heart of the Lowveld that was anything but ordinary.

As dawn broke, pelotons launched in 10-minute intervals across the golden veld. The energy was palpable, perfectly captured in the words of a poem: “A flash of casque – the hornbill flies across the veld – a kingly sight with wings that beat with all their might...”

And so too did the cyclists take flight, riding strong through 104km of pristine wilderness, weaving through the iconic private reserves of Timbavati, Thornybush and Kapama.

By day’s end, the ‘winged riders’ returned, dusty and exhilarated, to the rhythmic beats of the Southern Cross drummers. As they crossed the final arch, cheers erupted. Family members greeted them with hugs and pride. Some riders headed for a bush shower or icy plunge pool before enjoying a well-deserved glass of wine – the latter expertly curated by Hoedspruit sommelier Amanda Smith and Vineyard Friends.

More than just a ride, the K2C Cycle Tour is a celebration of community, conservation, and connection. Over the past decade, it has grown into a standout event on the local calendar – not just for its environmental ethics and scenic splendour, but for the spirit it embodies, and the catalyst for social interaction, storytelling and enjoyable fun.

So, what makes K2C so special?

Months of behind-the-scenes planning

by Rotary ensure a seamless experience. But it’s the soul of the event – the camaraderie, the hospitality along the route, and the heartfelt togetherness of the broader community, and the good fellowship experienced by everyone – that is what truly sets it apart.

Lodges open their gates, offering snacks, support, and encouragement. Rotary’s now legendary 42km Breakfast Stop fuels early legs, while Kapama’s elegant luncheon spread left many riders in awe. Tired and dusty but triumphant cyclists shared stories late into the night, lounging on borrowed bales of lucerne (later destined for Raptors View Wildlife Estate’s winter feed).

Some pelotons arrived later than expected – held up by real-life encounters with Africa’s giants. Breeding herds of over 100 elephants required respectful detours, while another group eased quietly past a herd of buffalo, holding their breath so as not to disturb. These unscripted moments in the wild made the event even more unforgettable.

Even those behind the scenes found the day remarkable. Sam Hamman, the newly appointed Executive Head of Southern Cross Schools and a support rider on the day, described the experience simply: “The K2C was a remarkable event.”

Participant Tessa Shellard echoed the sentiment, writing: “Please allow me to extend my thanks to both you – Tony Patten – and the Hoedspruit Rotary Club for an amazing K2C. We were most fortunate to have Sean Fairhead as our guide – he was incredible and added another dimension to the ride. Another highlight was the Saturday evening supper catered by Stoned Olive – this was wonderful and far better than last year!”

Though the event draws cyclists from across South Africa – and even further afield – Rotary has worked hard to keep the K2C grounded in local community values. Organising Committee Chair Michael Henderson spearheaded an inclusive approach, ensuring Hoedspruit locals feel part of the journey.



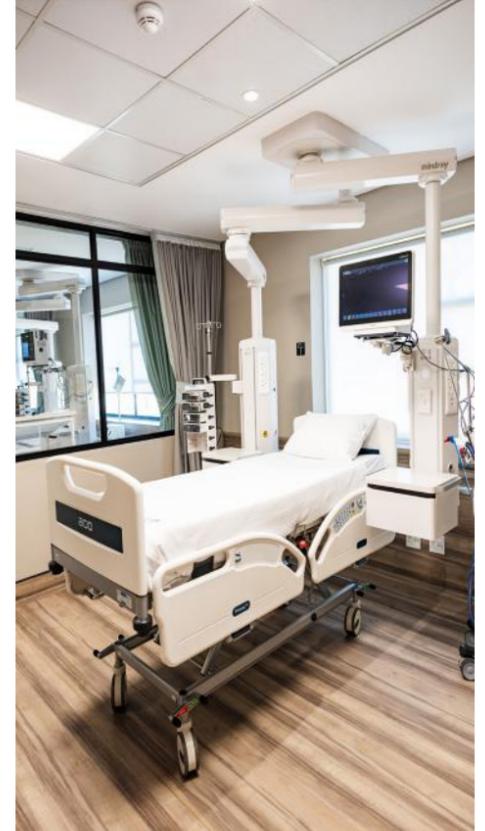
It’s thanks to this ethos that so many contribute: La Bamba’s generous donation of bunches of bananas for riders, sweetie packs from Seeds of Light, and WiFi access at the hangar courtesy of Letaba Networks, keeping riders connected throughout.

As the shortest day of the year faded into starry skies, stories continued around the fire – some humorous, some heroic – but all woven together by a sense of achievement and shared experience.

Bookings are already open for next year’s event, set for 20 June 2026 – and with 35 riders already signed up, it’s clear the K2C’s popularity continues to soar.

As the poet Ameja so aptly put it: “The heavy flap of its wings – the hornbill proud and loud is absolutely a wonder of God’s creation.” And so too is this beloved cycle tour – a proud and loud testament to community, and the enduring joy of the ride.

Hoedspruit Private Hospital: A New Era of Healthcare for Limpopo



Nurses on Nurses Day (top left and above), Marietta van Vuuren, the Hospital Manager (above). Theatre 1 (middle), and Adult ICU (right).

Local Correspondent

In the heart of Limpopo’s lowveld, where the rhythms of the bushveld meet the pulse of one of South Africa’s most dynamic rural towns, something extraordinary is taking shape. Hoedspruit Private Hospital, a 72-bed state-of-the-art facility, has opened its doors with one clear mission: to transform the standard of healthcare in the region while positioning Hoedspruit as a medical destination of choice in southern Africa.

More than just bricks, mortar and machines, this hospital represents a leap forward in rural health access. With advanced technology, highly qualified specialists, and a philosophy rooted in dignity, ethics and people-first care, Hoedspruit Private Hospital is poised to serve the growing local community and also neighbouring towns, rural settlements, and the increasing number of international visitors who flock to the area each year.

Bridging Gaps, Elevating Standards

Until recently, residents of Hoedspruit and surrounding areas often had to travel long distances for specialist care, surgical procedures, or advanced diagnostics. Emergency

situations often meant risky transfers to Polokwane, Tzaneen or Nelspruit, with precious hours lost. The arrival of this modern facility changes that equation.

“We wanted to create a space where people could receive top-tier medical care without having to leave their community,” says the hospital’s Manager Marietta van Vuuren. “But we also saw the need for something more – a centre of excellence that meets international standards while staying rooted in local realities.”

From its inception, the hospital was designed to serve multiple audiences: local residents, patients from across Limpopo and neighbouring provinces, and tourists - both domestic and international - visiting the Kruger National Park, the Blyde River Canyon, and other iconic destinations in the region.

Comprehensive Care Under One Roof

The hospital’s service offering is broad and comprehensive. From general medicine and surgical services to highly specialised units like paediatrics, orthopaedics, ICU, NICU, maternity care, and a 24-hour emergency unit - this is healthcare without compromise.

The emergency department features five exam cubicles, two dedicated resuscitation

bays, and dedicated paediatric emergency care - a rare offering in rural settings.

Each ward is purpose-built to support comfort, dignity, and recovery. The maternity unit, for instance, includes modern delivery rooms linked to theatres in case of complications, while also offering breastfeeding support and postnatal education. The neonatal ICU, equipped with advanced incubators and parent-friendly design, reflects a deep understanding of both medical and emotional needs during early life stages.

Meanwhile, the paediatric ward caters to a wide range of childhood conditions - from acute infections and chronic diseases to trauma and post-surgical care - all within a secure, child-friendly environment.

World-Class Talent, Right at Home

Behind the technology is a team of medical professionals whose collective experience spans the globe. From highly regarded general surgeons and paediatricians to anaesthetists, gynaecologists, and orthopaedic specialists - the hospital has assembled a formidable talent pool.

One such example is Dr Paul Jacobs, a general surgeon with credentials from the University of Pretoria and Walter Sisulu University, offering a range of surgical services. The paediatric team includes Dr Richard

Alexander, an authority in neurodevelopmental paediatrics, and Dr Given Maila and Dr Lehumo Makwela and both has a special interest in Neonates.

Anaesthetists Dr Caroline Robertson and Dr Retief van der Reyden both bring years of experience in high-pressure public and private theatres. The orthopaedics unit boasts the likes of Dr Gavin O’Brien, known for his work with Springbok athletes, and Dr Maketo Molepo, whose academic accolades include a PhD in Anatomy and a passion for robotic-assisted surgery.

Obstetrics and gynaecology services are led by all-star teams like Drs Dikgale and Mashela, co-founders of Limpopo’s first all-female-run OBGYN practice, and Dr Donald Monareng, whose specialisations range from high-risk pregnancies to specialised gynaecology.

Dr Cecilia Coccia is a Specialist Physician and Gastroenterologist who did her Gastroenterology Fellowship at Groote Schuur in Cape Town. She furthered her studies and completed the European subspeciality examination ESEGH(UK). Her goals are to improve patient quality of life through appropriate diagnosis and management of medical conditions.

Cont. on page 8

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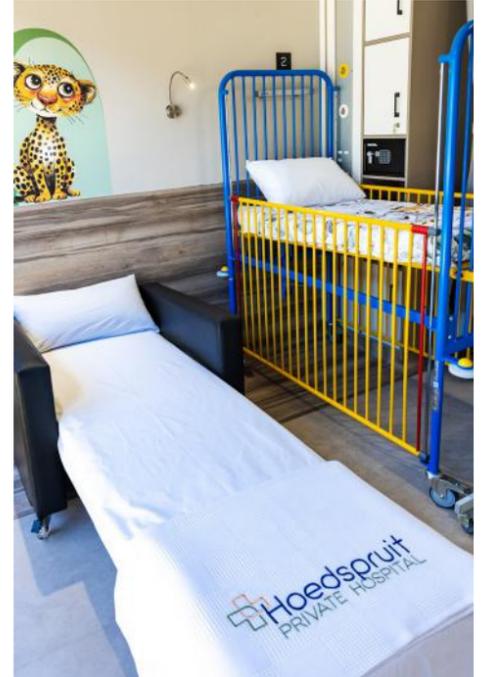
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Hoedspruit Private Hospital: A New Era of Healthcare for Limpopo



Cont. from page 7

Dr Justice Gweshe will join the Hospital in September as a Specialist Physician. Dr. Gweshe has over two decades of experience as a medical practitioner in the private and public healthcare sectors. His experience encompasses provision of specialist clinical services in internal medicine, clinical teaching and management of health services across all levels.

A host of sessional specialist ENTs, nephrologists, plastic surgeons, ophthalmologists, urologists, oncologists, and more - ensure that the hospital can handle an exceptionally wide range of health needs.

A Strategic Healthcare Hub

What makes Hoedspruit Private Hospital more than just another private facility is its location. Nestled within a thriving tourism corridor that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors annually, the hospital is well-positioned to offer peace of mind to tourists needing urgent or elective care.

Medical tourism is a growing global trend, and Hoedspruit now finds itself in a position to attract patients from across southern Africa and beyond. Whether it's a safari-goer needing emergency attention or a cross-border patient seeking specialist care, the hospital's infrastructure, language-friendly staff, and hospitality-minded service approach set it apart.

At the same time, the hospital addresses a deep and persistent gap in local access to quality care. "Our intention is not just to treat illness," says Marietha van Vuuren, "but to improve the entire health ecosystem - from prevention and diagnosis to recovery and long-term wellness."

Technology Meets Compassion

Technology is at the heart of this transformation. From integrated digital radiology to AI-powered CT scans and MRI, Hoedspruit Private Hospital is keeping pace with international benchmarks.

Mammography units offer high-resolution 3D imaging with tomosynthesis, enabling

early and accurate detection of breast cancer. Ultrasound capabilities span obstetrics, cardiology, neonatal, and vascular diagnostics. Mobile X-ray units enable bedside imaging in emergencies. And the Somatom Go Top CT scanner delivers low-radiation, high-precision diagnostics for trauma, cancer screening, and internal injuries.

The MRI features the MAGNETOM Flow - one of the first sustainable, helium-independent MRI platforms in the country, combining speed, comfort, and image clarity.

Investing in Wellness, Not Just Illness

Beyond surgery and scans, the hospital is deeply invested in promoting wellness. The inclusion of the Keystone Café - a conscious eatery rooted in local sourcing and healthy living - speaks to a broader vision. "We're not just about treating people after they're sick," says the café's manager. "We want to nurture bodies, minds, and communities."

The café champions sustainability, community agriculture, and the growing global "Sustainavore" movement - promoting

food choices that serve both the body and the planet.

Looking Ahead

The future of Hoedspruit Private Hospital is one of expansion and integration. Plans are already underway to grow community outreach programs, launch health education campaigns, and extend referral networks with national and international institutions.

By creating local jobs, supporting regional healthcare initiatives, and improving access to quality care, the hospital is not just a clinical centre - it's an engine of socio-economic development.

As the sun rises over the bushveld and Hoedspruit continues to evolve into a key node of tourism, business, and community life, its new hospital stands as a symbol of what's possible when vision meets action. Whether you're a local family, a visiting tourist, or a regional patient seeking better care - the doors are open, and the future looks healthier than ever.

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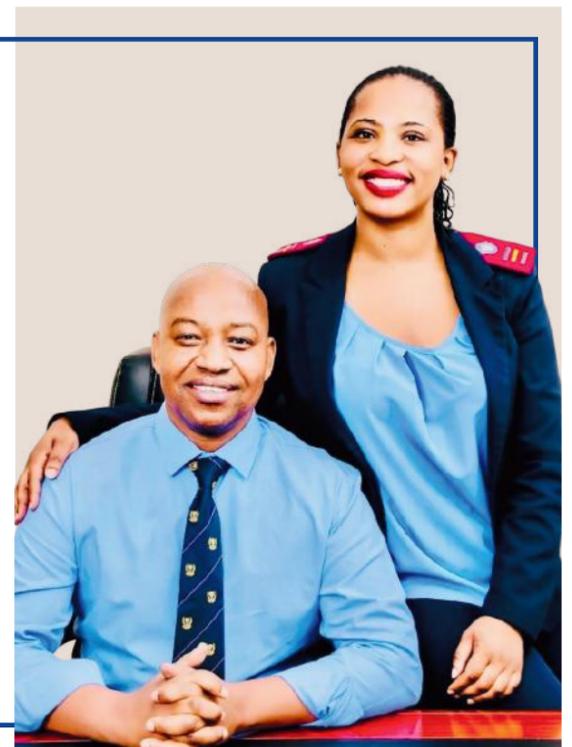
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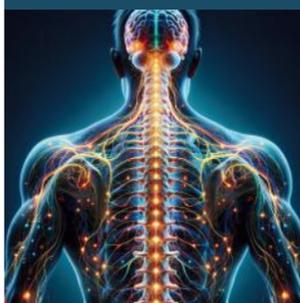



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The event of the year – The Hlokomela Bush Party

Desiré Wright

Who says the bush is only for game drives, bush walks and game viewing? No ways, the Hlokomela Bush Party brings the party to the bush in the most epic way ever.

The 11th instalment of the Hlokomela Bush Party was hosted for the first time at Wild Rivers Private Nature Reserve on Saturday, 28 June 2025. The event was well attended, and guests were treated to the best that restaurants and lodges had to offer.

Thornybush, The Travelling Chef, Tanda Tula, Mad Dogz Café, Black Chilli Eatery, Moditlo River Lodge, Cape Vulture Lodge, Stoned Olive, and Gracious Living Retirement Haven went all out to prepare top notch harvest tables.

Guests arrived at the venue via shuttle, while others made use of convenient VIP parking facilities on the reserve.

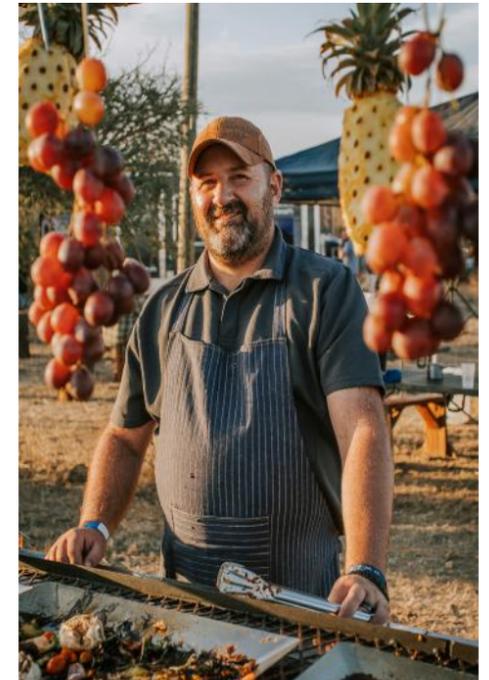
The Roots of Rhythm traditional dance group officially opened the festivities as the sun set over the Lowveld with glasses tinkling to good health and prosperity.

As the sun sank away, the party got underway with a tune to suit every taste from the SilentDisco SA DJ.

Thank you to every business and all the volunteers who contributed to make a success of this fundraising event for Hlokomela (Hoedspruit Training Trust).



A group of guests having a wonderful time at the bush party (above), delicious harvest table and the Roots of Rhythm Dancers



For more info on Hlokomela, please visit www.hlokomela.org.za or call 087 550 0387 to find out how you can get involved in next year's Hlokomela Bush Party. The provisional date is 27 June 2026.

Kariega Foundation: Building Conservation Through Community



Mark Bishop

In South Africa's Eastern Cape, where sweeping valleys meet dense thicket and Big 5 roam free, one organisation is proving that lasting conservation starts with people. The Kariega Foundation, a non-profit trust based at Kariega Game Reserve, is showing that wildlife protection and community development don't just go hand in hand - they're inseparable.

"As custodians of this wilderness, we know that to protect it forever, our work must benefit not only nature, but our neighbours too," says CEO Lindy Sutherland. "Sustainable conservation demands we build it through community."

That belief has shaped the Foundation's work since its registration in 2009, evolving into a practical, people-powered approach that combines habitat protection, species conservation, education, and empowerment.

A Blueprint for Change

Kariega Game Reserve sits at the convergence of two of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots - regions of exceptional ecological importance. From this globally significant location, the Foundation runs scalable, community-rooted programmes with mea-

asurable impact. Their work spans biodiversity protection, the safeguarding of endangered species such as rhino and cheetah, the upliftment of local communities, and the development of sustainable funding and job creation models. This isn't just about saving landscapes - it's about transforming lives.

From Anti-Poaching to Ubuntu

Since launching its flagship Save the Rhino campaign in 2012, the Foundation has expanded its reach dramatically. By 2024, 95% of its Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) - a skilled, tech-supported team protecting high-value wildlife - are from local communities.

The Foundation's strategy is multifaceted. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons are delivered weekly across schools, helping children develop resilience, empathy, and leadership. Community food gardens are cultivated to improve food security and sustainability. Digital literacy hubs, equipped with computers and training staff, connect under-resourced learners to opportunity. And the Ubuntu Cup, a vibrant regional sports league, now engages more than 400 young players in meaningful team-based activities that promote inclusion and pride.

"We focus on education, skills development and real empowerment," says Sutherland. "That's how conservation becomes



self-sustaining."

Milestones That Matter

The Foundation's work is backed by years of tangible progress. Kariega's protected area now stretches to 12,000 hectares, following strategic land acquisitions and donations. New habitat has been secured for lions, elephants, and cheetahs, and 25 kilometres of the Bushmans River is under active protection. Field Guide training, aligned with FGASA standards, ensures a high level of professionalism among community-based rangers.

Partnerships with local schools have deepened, and community members now play active roles in ecological restoration, alien plant control, and special needs education. Many who were once unemployed are now educators, gardeners, wildlife protectors or administrative staff - key parts of a functioning, resilient conservation network.

Conservation That Feeds Futures

What sets Kariega apart is its unwavering emphasis on long-term sustainability. The Foundation isn't interested in charity or dependency. Its model is designed to create skills, jobs, and self-sufficiency. Whether it's youth leadership development, digital literacy, or enterprise start-ups, each programme is a building block in a wider, fu-



ture-facing strategy.

This vision is grounded in the Foundation's belief in human potential. As Sutherland says, "Our people are our most valuable resource. When we invest in them, everything we dream becomes possible."

The sentiment echoes the words of Sir David Attenborough, quoted in the Foundation's latest report: "If working apart we're powerful enough to destabilise the planet, surely working together we are powerful enough to save it."

Looking Forward

In 2024, the Foundation's reach has grown stronger than ever. Special needs education projects are underway. The new Liggerman Educational Centre is under construction. The Ubuntu Cup continues to build community pride and youth engagement. And nine thriving gardens are actively feeding surrounding communities.

The Kariega Foundation's model - conservation through community - is not only working, it's creating a template for how the rest of the continent might follow.

Wildlife can survive. Communities can thrive. And the land can heal - when the work is done together.

For more information or to get involved, visit: www.kariegafoundation.com

Choosing the Right Binoculars for Birding: A Birder's Essential Guide



Giving Conservation Wings

Binoculars: An Investment, Not a Toy

The first and most important consideration is value. Like any good tool, binoculars are an investment. While it's tempting to grab a cheap pair and "see how it goes," low-end optics often lead to frustration: poor clarity, eye strain, and a discouraging experience that can sap your budding enthusiasm. Instead, it's better to wait and invest in a decent-quality pair that suits your needs and budget.

Reliable mid-range brands like Nikon, Vortex, Kowa and ProtUp offer excellent optics for those starting out or upgrading. For those looking to go all-in, premium options from Swarovski Optik, ZEISS, and Leica are known for exceptional clarity and build quality - but come with price tags to match. Whichever tier you're in, check the warranty and after-sales service. In South Africa, Whylo Distributors is the go-to service partner for both Vortex and Swarovski, known for their strong support and turnaround times.

And yes - it's true - some birders have recorded 80% of the world's bird species using the same pair of binoculars for decades. A quality purchase today could be with you for life.

Consider Your Use: Casual or Committed?

Before settling on a model, ask yourself how you plan to use it. Are you hoping to spot birds during the occasional family holiday? Are you keen to participate in citizen science projects or join bird clubs for regular outings? Or are you a professional field guide or an obsessive lister, for whom binoculars are a daily tool of the trade?

Your level of commitment matters. Casual users may opt for compact, lighter-weight models with moderate specs. Those out in the field regularly - especially in challenging

habitats - should consider durability, optical quality, and ergonomic fit more seriously.

Fit and Feel: Try Before You Buy

No amount of online research can replace holding a pair of binoculars in your hands. Every model has a different weight, balance, grip, and eye relief - and not all will feel right for you. Head to a specialist birding event or optics store and try as many as possible. Pay attention to how it sits in your hand. Will it tire your wrists after 20 minutes? Are the eye-cups comfortable? Is the focus wheel smooth and responsive?

Birds are quick. A stiff or awkward focus wheel can cost you a perfect view. And while image sharpness is king, comfort is queen. You want a pair that feels like a natural extension of yourself - not a strain.

Built for the Wild

Let's be honest - birding can be messy. Whether it's misty forests, salty coastlines, or arid bushveld, your binoculars need to keep up. Look for models that are waterproof, fog-resistant, and built from durable materials like rubber-armoured or magnesium alloy bodies. Plastic-bodied models tend to fall short when exposed to the elements.

Durability isn't a "nice-to-have" - it's essential. If you drop your binoculars in the mud during a weekend away or find your lenses fogging up in the Drakensberg, you'll want a model that's made for real conditions, not just pretty displays.

Decoding the Jargon: Magnification, Lens Size, and Field of View

The moment you start shopping, you'll run into numbers like 8x42 or 10x32. These figures can be confusing at first, but they're critical in choosing the right binocular for your birding style.

Magnification is the first number - typically 8x or 10x. An 8x magnification is ideal for forest birding or dense bushveld where birds are close and quick. A 10x magnification gives you more reach, ideal for open landscapes and distant raptors. Neither is "better" - it's about what you need.

Objective lens diameter, the second number (like 32 or 42), refers to how much light the binoculars gather. A 42mm lens

gives you a brighter image, particularly in low light. A 32mm lens is lighter and more compact but may not perform as well at dusk or in dense cover. The choice again comes down to your specific needs and how long you'll be carrying them.

Field of view is equally important, especially when scanning large areas or following birds in flight. A wider field of view helps you track movement and find subjects quickly. New models, like the Swarovski NL Pure range, offer exceptional fields of view - even at higher magnifications - pushing the limits of what birders thought was possible.

Reviews, Resources, and Retailers

The birding community is filled with experienced users and generous advice. Before you buy, read reviews, watch comparison videos, and join online forums. BirdLife South Africa's YouTube channel is an excellent place to start - especially the optics segment featuring Dale Forbes from Swarovski and Andrew Whysall from Whylo Distributors. They unpack the essentials in a clear, friendly way.

When you're ready to make a purchase, check out BirdLife South Africa's online store, Shop for the Birds, which offers quality optics and supports local conservation efforts with every sale.

Welcome to the Flock

Choosing your first pair of binoculars is a milestone - one that signals you've moved beyond casual observation and into the world of dedicated birding. It's a step that comes with excitement, anticipation, and, yes, a bit of confusion.

But don't let the numbers overwhelm you. Trust your hands, your eyes, and your instincts. A good pair of binoculars won't just show you more birds - it'll open up a world you didn't even know was there.

So, take your time. Ask questions. Try things out. And when you're finally peering through that perfect pair, following a flash of colour through the treetops, you'll know it was worth every moment.

Happy birding.

John Kinghorn

Avitourism Project Manager : BirdLife South Africa

It often begins innocently enough. A glance out the kitchen window, a question posed on a morning walk—"What bird is that?" Before long, you're scouring treetops with your coffee still in hand, mentally cataloguing feather patterns, beak shapes, and calls. Your phone has quietly acquired a birding app. You know your sparrows from your finches, and your weekends are now planned around birdwatching outings. Congratulations - whether you realised it or not, you've become a birder.

For many, this transition happens gradually. Curiosity turns into fascination, and then into quiet obsession. And inevitably, one day, it hits you: your eyes alone are no longer enough. You need binoculars. Not as a luxury or fashion statement, but as a serious tool - an extension of your senses.

But buying your first pair of binoculars can feel as daunting as identifying an LBJ (little brown job) in bad light. With so many brands, specifications, and price points, how do you even begin? Here's what you need to know to find the perfect pair - for your eyes, your hands, and your birding ambitions.

FlySafair Launches New Route Between Cape Town and Hoedspruit

FlySafair



Press release
SAFAIR

Low-cost carrier FlySafair is excited to announce the launch of a new route connecting Cape Town and Hoedspruit, enhancing access to the central Kruger region and neighbouring Limpopo province. This new service complements the airline's existing route to Mbombela, offering travellers more options to explore South Africa's iconic safari destinations.

"As part of our ongoing efforts to expand our network and improve domes-

tic connectivity, we're excited to introduce this new route," said Kirby Gordon, Chief Marketing Officer at FlySafair.

"Hoedspruit is a gateway to the Kruger National Park and surrounding private reserves, and we're proud to offer travellers a more affordable and convenient way to reach this incredible region."

The new route will operate as follows:

- Cape Town to Hoedspruit: Flights will operate three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, with the first

flight departing on 2 October 2025.

- Fares start from R1,570 one way*, available via the FlySafair website and mobile app.

In addition to this exciting new route, FlySafair is also increasing the frequency of its Cape Town to Mbombela service, which will now operate daily. This enhancement offers even more flexibility for travellers heading to the southern Kruger region and surrounding areas.

Together, these routes provide direct access to two of South Africa's most beloved safari destinations. Hoed-

spruit, located near the central Kruger and bordering Limpopo, is surrounded by private game reserves and offers a rich wildlife experience. Mbombela, the capital of Mpumalanga, blends nature, culture, and commerce, and serves as a key entry point to the southern Kruger region.

These developments form part of FlySafair's broader commitment to making air travel more accessible across South Africa, while supporting tourism and economic growth.

Ethical and Professional Approach to Problem Snake Removal



Tim Banyan
Wildlife Safety Solutions

Tim Banyan, with all the tricks of his trade and a snouted cobra (right). Images supplied



A calm planned and methodical approach is key to a safe and successful relocation. Being able to capture the snake before it is spooked and becomes active is always much safer.

Once the snake is safely secured, the next crucial decision is relocation. Contrary to popular belief, you can't just release a snake "anywhere out there." A responsible relocation involves finding suitable habitat that mimics the snake's original environment and preferably within the snake's original home range. Other important factors to consider is the availability of prey, suitable cover and shelter for the snake, access to a water source, and low human density. The objective is to give the animal the best possible chance of survival while minimizing the risk of future human contact.

Each and every call out is an opportunity to educate the public about snakes, share snake safety tips and provide advice on as how to "snake-proof" homes or businesses. By replacing fear with understanding it is possible to shift public perception of these often-misunderstood reptiles and in turn promote coexistence between people and wildlife. The goal isn't just to move snakes, but to protect them and the ecosystems they serve, while at the same time ensuring public safety. Snake relocation is not just a service - it's a conservation mission.

For more information on scorpions, snakes, spiders and other 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; www.wildlifesafetysolutions.co.za, FB Wildlife Safety Solutions, Instagram [wildlife_safety_solutions](https://www.instagram.com/wildlife_safety_solutions)

With rapid urbanisation and encroachment into wild spaces, human-snake conflicts are on the rise and Hoedspruit is no exception. This rising conflict demands a skilled and ethical response. Problem snake removals aren't just about catching snakes; they require a professional approach to ensure safety, legal compliance, and the humane relocation of each animal. Snake rescue and relocation in South Africa is not a casual weekend activity. It is a legally regulated field governed by provincial conservation authorities and each province has its own permitting system.

Snake relocation isn't a matter of bravery or boosting your ego for facebook likes, it's about conservation and professionalism. The right equipment is vital for both safety reasons and for the humane treatment of the animal. This includes snake tongs, snake hooks, secure and ventilated transport containers, headlamps for night rescues,

ladders, safety equipment, bite-resistant gloves, inspection cameras and snakebite first aid kits. Additionally having a clear and comprehensive emergency protocol in place in the event of a bite is vital. It should go without saying that anyone who wishes to conduct snake relocations should have the necessary experience and knowledge to do so safely and humanely. Attending a half day "snake handling course" does not make you an overnight snake handler! Being bitten by a venomous snake may not only be life threatening or lead to a permanent disability, it can also be financially crippling.

No two snake call-outs are the same. The first step upon receiving a call is to perform a telephonic assessment of the situation. Asking questions such as what does the snake look like, is the snake still visible and is the snake contained etc.? These

questions help formulate a strategy before arriving at the scene. Once on-site and before any action is taken, a thorough visual assessment of the physical environment should be conducted in order to plan your approach and mitigate risks as far as possible. Take a moment to assess the human factors. Are there children, pets, or panicked adults nearby? Keeping bystanders at a safe distance is important, not just for their own safety, but also to reduce stress on the snake and to allow the person catching the snake to work efficiently without interference or distraction. If the snake is not visible identify any potential escape routes, and likely hiding places. Look for clutter, dark corners, or gaps in walls and roofs. A quick, careless approach can cause the snake to retreat further, increasing the risk to both the rescuer and bystanders on-site.

Why updating your South African tax residency status matters

South Africa has a residency-based tax system, meaning that tax residents are taxed on their worldwide income and worldwide assets. Non-residents are generally only taxed on South African sourced income. When a tax resident fails to formally update their tax residency status with SARS, it could have costly consequences.

Tax residency is different from South African citizenship and therefore foreign citizens can also trigger tax residency status in South Africa. Generally, if a person was born in SA and lived here all their life before relocating, they are South African resident. When that status changes, as a result of them for example having left permanently to live and work outside SA, they must place their change in tax status on record with SARS. This will be applicable even if they were born in SA, but never worked here, nor earned money here and never paid taxes here. A typical example could be someone who pursues studies abroad after residing and attending school in South Africa, and then accepts a permanent job offer after their studies abroad.

If a tax resident ceases tax residency in South Africa, it is vital to place the latest tax residency status on record with SARS for the

reasons set out below. The reasons are not exhaustive, but are in our experience, most pertinent.

Inheritances received from South African estates

The executors of South African estates may not just freely transfer funds abroad to foreign beneficiaries, due to exchange control regulations, unless the recipient is formally regarded as a non-resident for exchange control purposes. With formal or financial emigration no longer being applicable, non-tax residents who are still subject to exchange control regulations in SA still need to maintain a compliant SARS profile to apply for the Approval of International Transfer (AIT) tax clearance before being able to externalise an inheritance from South Africa abroad. This exchange control requirement applies to South African citizens, permanent residents and foreign nationals who were once domiciled in South Africa.

South African trust distributions

When income and/or capital gains are distributed to trust beneficiaries, it will generally be taxed in the hands of tax resident beneficiaries, with sometimes more effective tax

rates applying in their hands. Should similar distributions be made to non-resident beneficiaries, the SA trust would be liable for tax thereon at an effective rate of 45% (income) and 36% (capital gains) respectively and not the beneficiary. This means that the trustees of a trust should plan more carefully when beneficiaries relocate abroad and cease tax residency in SA. At the same time, there may be tax consequences on the receipt of the distribution in the country in which the beneficiary is tax resident, with some punitive tax laws applying in popular overseas jurisdictions like the United States of America and Australia. Reliance on double tax agreements would not help, as the trust paying the tax in SA and the individual paying the tax in their foreign country of tax residency, are not the same taxpayer.

Estate duty implications

As a South African tax resident, estate duty would generally be levied on worldwide assets at rates of between 20% - 25%. After a tax resident has ceased their South African tax residency, estate duty would generally be limited to South African assets only.

Compliance, penalties and the tax transp

agency era

Failing to formally update your tax residency status could lead to unnecessary challenges, that is you may continue to be taxed in SA on worldwide income and gains, you may be (unnecessarily) penalised for failing to declare offshore income while, pursuant to the global Common Reporting Standard (CRS) obligations, foreign financial institutions are most likely already reporting your financial holdings and income and capital gains thereon to SARS regardless of where you live.

Formalising your updated residency status is critical for optimal estate and tax planning. It can allow for easier flow of funds offshore from South Africa, prevent unnecessary penalties from SARS for non-compliance, simplify cross-border inheritance matters, and assist South African trustees to do prudent planning. Please note that capital gains tax may be levied in SA when you become tax non-resident. Fidelis Vox can assist with all the above matters.

Disclaimer: This article is for general information only and should not be construed as legal or tax advice. If you need any assistance with or more information on any of the above, kindly contact Marteen Michau at marteen@fidelisvox.co.za.



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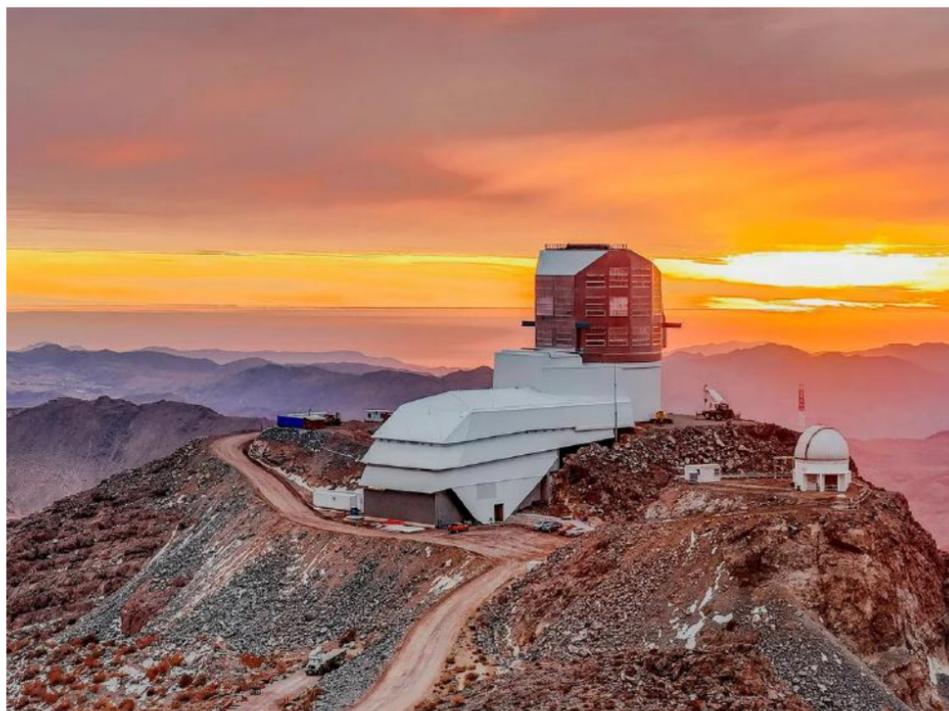
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First Light !



Ben Coley
Celestial Events SA

Nestled on a mountain top, 1500m above sea level in Chile, the latest great Earth-based telescope system recently captured its first photographs of the cosmos. Astronomers call this *First Light*.

Whilst James Webb (and Hubble) both do their work from the cold darkness of space itself, high above the refractive effects of our atmosphere, the Vera Ruben Observatory will aim its mighty gaze at the mysteries of the Universe from Earth. Despite this handicap, thanks to some incredible engineering and technological know-how, it promises to unlock the very fabric of space and time.

So, what makes Vera Ruben so special? For one, it has an 8.4m mirror. But other observatories boast similar mirrors – the South African Large Telescope (SALT) that is housed in Sutherland, has a 10m mirror! However, SALT, and other facilities, concentrate on very specific areas of sky, producing intricate details of deep space. With a field of view equating to the size of around 45 full moons, Ruben is designed to monitor large fields of sky at once. In fact, it will be capable of capturing the *entire* southern hemisphere sky, in exquisite detail, every few days.

This is possible thanks to its incredible digital camera, the largest ever built by mankind. A top of the range, full frame mirrorless camera records photos on its 35mm sensor at a resolution of 45 mega pixels. Ruben's camera sensor is 64cms and has 3200 mega pixels! To be able to display this image in full, it would require around 400 UHD 4K TVs!! To achieve this, the camera measures 3 metres in length, is 1.65m in diameter, and weighs in at a little under 3 tons. In order to reduce noise, and ensure a 'clean' image, the sensor is cooled to a teeth-chatteringly cold -100°C.

This ground-breaking technology will allow Ruben to capture great swathes of space in a very short time, allowing astronomers to attain a time-lapse of the heavens spanning more than a decade. The implications of this are legion, but at the forefront of its research will be unlocking the secrets of dark matter, monitoring objects like supernovae and pulsars in real-time as they change, and tracking 'Near-Earth Objects'.

NEOs are objects that could pose a danger to Earth, delivering an extinction-level event with little to no warning. Earlier this year, social media was awash with hysteria

that a recently discovered NEO had a chance of striking the Earth in 2032. Further observations of its orbital path have now seen the risk reduced to zero, but it was a timely reminder that this type of event is a real possibility, albeit unlikely. One just has to look at the surface of the Moon, or ask the dinosaurs, to realise their devastating potential.

On June 23rd, Vera Ruben released its first images. And they did not disappoint. The 65 million light year distant Virgo Cluster contains over 2000 gravitationally-bound galaxies and gave Ruben the chance to showcase its potential. The published images are only portions of its full field of view, but its capabilities are there for all to see. Ruben also captured the Lagoon and Trifid Nebulae, great stellar nurseries in the constellation of Sagittarius that are visible to the naked eye as a small faint cloud. The image gives an almost 3-dimensional feel, revealing vast swathes of glowing gas and countless glistening stars and clusters.

Even to those who may not fully appreciate the scientific data hidden within, the images are still breathtaking and do at least some justice to the unfathomable beauty and scale of the Universe.

Who knows what the future of space observation will bring, but with the Nancy Grace Roman telescope scheduled for first



Vera Ruben Observatory (top left) and Vera Ruben Camera (top right), part of the Virgo cluster (bove) and the Vera Ruben - Lagoon & Trifid Nebulae (below)
Images supplied

light in 2027, the Extremely Large Telescope (with its 39m mirror) in 2028, and NASA's future plans to put a 1km radio telescope in a crater on the Moon, we are truly living in a great age of discovery. The universe is under no obligation to make sense to us, but in trying to decode its chaos, we find the clearest reflections of ourselves.

See Celestial Events SA advert for contact details.

079 575 0900



CELESTIAL EVENTS SA



Bosveld Flames of Heritage: Hoedspruit Rallies Around Lowveld Academy

Local Correspondent

What began as a devastating event is quickly becoming a heartwarming story of community spirit, compassion, and coming together around the flames.

Earlier this year, when tragedy struck Lowveld Academy in Hoedspruit and a fire tore through parts of the school, the local community didn't hesitate. Within hours, neighbours, families, businesses, and volunteers were on the scene offering assistance, collecting essentials, and asking the most important question: "How can we help?"

Leading that response, as they so often do, were the tireless members of Hoedspruit Farm Watch. Their rapid action, coordination, and unshakable support once again reminded us of the strength, heart and empathy that runs through this town. From managing emergency responses to rallying support in the aftermath, their dedication to the safety and well-being of the Hoedspruit community never fails to amaze.

The Event

On Heritage Day, 24 September, that same community spirit will come sizzling to life in the form of the Bosveld Flames of Heritage Braai Competition, hosted at Bosveld Village in partnership with Inside Africa Tours. The event has been created to celebrate our South African heritage and the beloved tradition of braaing, but also to raise much-needed funds to help rebuild and support Lowveld Academy.

From early morning, the atmosphere will be filled with the sounds of crackling fires, clinking tongs, and cheerful laughter as the teams gather to compete in a proudly-local braai-off. With smoke rising and spices wafting, each dish will tell its own story of culture, flavour, and heart. Visitors can expect vibrant market stalls, a festive play zone for kids, and live music from local performers setting the tone for a day of celebration and purpose.

The true flame lighting up this event will be the spirit of unity. From the competitors to the crowd, every person who attends will play a role in making a difference.

"This is about more than just food and fun," says Krystle Woodward, part of the event organising team. "It's about turning pain into purpose. And the Hoedspruit community will show up in ways we never imagined."

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the generous sponsors and supporters that have made the event possible:

Inside Africa Tours, Bosveld Village, every local vendor, sponsor, judge, and donor who is giving of their time, talents, or goods - you are turning the flames into hope.

All funds raised on the day will go directly toward Lowveld Academy's rebuilding efforts, helping to restore infrastructure, and most importantly, the future of education for so many of our local children.

Let's fire up the braais, the beats, and the spirit of giving. Together, we rise.



BRAAI COMPETITION

@ Bosveld Village




R600 per team

R250 per stall

Closing Date for entries:
10 September



24 September

SCAN TO ENTER OR CONTACT

072 653 7237






Judging starts @ 13:00

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Participants crossing the finish line (top) and others making their way en route (right). Riders relaxing (above).

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Kulani Makharinge 060 631 6874

Candice Kuschke (Lymphoedema Therapist)
 071 382 8638

Orthotist
 Marius Goddefroy 082 557 0309

Occupational Therapists
 Kirsten Jordaan 084 208 4646

Cedrick Letebele 078 952 3667

Chrisna Goddefroy 083 466 5824

Sarah Wetten 079 666 6555

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Jeanetta Maree 071 413 2289
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“Safe from the Singularity? The Quirky Careers AI Might Never Crack”

AI perspective ‘correspondent’

As artificial intelligence continues its relentless march into the workplace - drafting legal documents, diagnosing illnesses, designing logos, and even composing symphonies - it's easy to imagine a future where the robots really are taking our jobs.

But before you trade your career for a rusty tin hat and retreat to a solar-powered bunker in the Karoo, take heart: there are still corners of the human world that AI, with all its silicon swagger, is unlikely to conquer anytime soon. In fact, there are entire professions that seem oddly impervious to machine mastery - largely because they rely on traits that algorithms haven't quite figured out, like genuine empathy, messy creativity, and good old-fashioned gut instinct.

So which careers are safe (for now) from the great AI takeover? Here are a few contenders - quirky, crucial, and undeniably human.

Wildlife Trackers and Field Guides

Sure, AI can identify a kudu by its shape or play the call of a fish eagle on cue. But could it smell the faint musk of a nearby leopard? Or tell a group of tourists, with absolute confidence, that a dung beetle rolling his ball up a hill is the highlight of the morning? Unlikely.

Wildlife tracking, especially in Big Five territory, depends on intuition honed over years, a deep understanding of animal behaviour, and a relationship with the land that no database can replicate. Also, AI doesn't do well in the bush when the Wi-Fi's dodgy.

Therapists and Psychologists

A chatbot might be able to suggest breath-

ing exercises or offer a friendly, “That sounds tough,” but when it comes to real human healing - those raw, messy conversations about grief, trauma, and existential dread - people want people.

Therapists don't just respond with logic. They lean in. They pause. They sigh in just the right way. They remember that thing you said last year about your father. AI, no matter how well-coded, lacks emotional depth, context, and the sheer unpredictability of a good therapist's velvet hammer.

Comedians

AI can tell jokes. Sort of. But its punchlines are usually about as funny as a tax return.

Stand-up comedy is a uniquely human alchemy: the timing, the crowd-reading, the courage to flop spectacularly, and the brilliance of improvisation. Comedy requires failure, and AI simply isn't built to fail charmingly. Until machines can understand the nuance of sarcasm, the pain behind humour, or why your aunt's obsession with pot plants is comedy gold - our comedians are safe.

Skilled Artisans and Craftspeople

From cobblers and woodworkers to violin-makers and metal forgers, the tactile intimacy of hands-on creation is far out of reach for most AI systems.

Yes, robots can assemble parts with robotic precision, but there's an artistry to imperfection that only humans bring to craft. A hand-thrown ceramic mug has soul; a machine-pressed one has symmetry. Guess which one sells better at a farmer's market?

Crisis Negotiators

Imagine a hostage situation. The stakes are high, adrenaline is spiking, emotions are

volatile. Who do you want on the phone - a calm, persuasive human who can build trust in seconds, or a robotic voice quoting from the DSM-5?

Crisis negotiation demands split-second judgement, reading micro-expressions, hearing what's not said, and adapting in real time. Machines can offer data, but they can't de-escalate rage with the human tone of, “I'm here. Let's talk.”

Teachers of Young Children

An AI might be able to read “The Gruffalo” aloud, but would it notice little Sipho's quiet sadness? Or celebrate wildly when Thandi finally masters her shoelaces?

Primary educators - especially those dealing with tiny humans - blend pedagogy with parenting. They mop up tears, interpret crayon-drenched artwork, and shape fragile confidence with warmth and wit. Try doing that with a circuit board.

Clergy and Spiritual Leaders

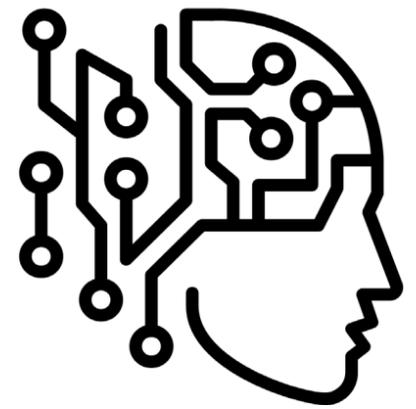
Whether it's a wedding, a funeral, or an existential midnight chat, spiritual leaders offer more than ritual. They bring presence, gravitas, and insight drawn from human suffering and joy. AI might recite scripture or pull inspirational quotes from a digital hat, but it cannot provide solace that feels sacred.

The divine, after all, doesn't compute.

Professional Taste-Testers and Sommeliers

AI can analyse flavour profiles and suggest pairings. But can it close its eyes, take a bite of aged cheese, and describe it as “a wild mountain goat pirouetting through a field of daisies”?

Sensory experience - the kind that moves poetry into product reviews - is still deeply



human.

Taste is subjective, emotional, and deeply personal. AI can detect chemical notes, but not whether that wine reminds you of your grandmother's Sunday roasts.

So, Where Does This Leave Us?

The rise of AI is no doubt transforming work as we know it. Some jobs will be automated, others enhanced - but many will continue to rely on the subtle, soulful stuff that machines can't mimic.

Careers rooted in emotion, creativity, physical nuance, and human connection are proving remarkably resilient. Ironically, as machines grow “smarter,” what makes us human becomes even more valuable.

So, if you're pondering your future - or advising a teenager who thinks TikTok stardom is a retirement plan - steer them toward work that machines can't fake. Think feeling over formula. Grit over algorithm. Heart over hardware.

And if all else fails, there's always stand-up comedy. Just don't ask ChatGPT to write your jokes.

Credit: ChatGPT 4o mini - chatgpt.com

My 5 sent

Oupa Bobbili

Kom ons praat 'n bietjie oor Innibos. Mensekinders was dit nou 'n lekker naweek saam met duisende ander mense. Kyk die mense wat die fees organiseer moet regtig hare op die tande hê. Hulle het aan so te sê aan alles gedink, genoeg kos en drank, genoeg stalletjies om die krediet kaarte te laat steun en kreun. Genoen vertonings om die mense aan die gang te hou.

Jy kan glad nie sê jy was verveeld, honger of dors nie. Seker die een ding waarvan ek die meeste gehou het, is jy het jou “spot” gemerk waar jy vir die hoof vertoning wil sit en die ander het dit respekteer. Ons het in

Illanga Mall gestop en daar 'n bussie gekry. Die drywers was ook goed in die fees ge-wees en ons het die hele tyd veilig gevoel. Citibug se manne was inderdaad goeie ambassadeurs vir die maatskappy. Knap gedaan manne.

Die tegniese spanne wat die hoof verhoog gedoen het is meer as net wêreldklas. Ek was verstom met al die ekstras terwyl ons kunstenaars op getree het. Van vuurwerke na die Bokke gewen het tot vlamme wat geblaas het as daar hoë note gesing was. Elke produksie was haarfyn beplan en uitgevoer. Maar een knaap het goed my aandag getrek en dit was 'n jong met die naam Wian. Hy is 'n kulkunstenaar, maar sy persoonlikheid

het meer my aandag getrek.

Lekker gelag vir Matie Van Graan. Van Boerboel broekies tot haar eie produksies, dit wil gedoen wees. Mel die storie verteller het Weereens die Boma Teater stamp vol gehad. Wynand Van Vollenstee het ons 'n lewens les of twee gegee, terwyl die lagspiere ook aan die gang gehou was.

Daar was ook ander teaters waar jy kon gaan sit en luister na ons land se talent, soos die Kyk Net en die Cell C tente. Nêrens was ons teleurgesteld geewe nie. Jy kon ook die van die bier deur die blaas ontslae raak sonder moeite. Oorgenoeg toilette en fasiliteite. Matte gegooi sodat die stof die minimum is, en ook nat gespyt. So hulle tot

aan die sinusse gedink toe hulle die fees beplan het.

Sal ons weer gaan? Beslis ja. Sal net vroeër slaapplek bespreek wat nader is. en my eie stoel vat. Hulle plastiek stoele bietjie ongemaklik vir die ou lyf. Baie vir mense gelag wat meer tyd aan bier as vertonings gespandeer het. En van die klere drag was regtig om van te lag. Maar oor die al gemeen, was almal super Vriendelik. Ons het geen aggressie beleef nie. Niemand het baklei nie, en almal het goeie respek teenoor mekaar getoon.

Eenkeer 'n jaar kom die Afrikaner bymekaar en geniet die taal sonder om geoordeel te word. Groete.

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