

The Chat

The Familiar Chat / Gewone Spekvreter (Cercomela familiaris)



'25 Volume
Uitgawe 15

New Chapters

in your life story

In our day and age, we are very stimulated by technology and media. On YouTube alone, it is impossible to watch all the available content, even in an entire lifetime. But I think the one thing that will always trump any form of media or video is a well-written storybook. The journey of moving from chapter to chapter with the story unfolding in front of your very eyes with every new page you turn. Your mind creating vivid pictures of the words that you are reading is making this story come alive. Different characters make their appearance in the story which you can relate to with real people you know. Some chapters in the book are filled with adventure and some have beautiful romance. A good storybook normally also has some hysterical humor some drama, and usually some sad and tragic chapters as well.

Have you ever wondered about your life as a storybook that is in the process of being written? With God and yourself as the main authors of this book. If you would take the time to ask someone about their life story today, you would find that everyone's life story has similar chapters. Some are filled with joy, adventure, and drama, and also unfortunately we find some sad and tragic chapters. Unfortunately for some people, the sad and tragic chapters never come to an end. It is as if the things that have happened in the past are continuing to define their life and choices today.

If you find yourself in this position I want to encourage you with this scripture found in Philippians 3:13... forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. God has placed the pen in our hands to put a full stop to our sad and sometimes tragic chapters of life. Every new day allows us to write new chapters in our life story. If we think about it, not all of us possess the power to change the things that happened in our past. These old chapters will always be a part of our life story, but they don't have to define and influence the rest of our lives. Some old chapters desperately needs a full stop, so a new one can begin. If we choose to look ahead today, our future holds clean white pages waiting to be filled with wonderful new chapters.

2025 is the perfect opportunity to start writing about the next chapters of your life! The great news for every one of us is that we don't have to write these next chapters on our own. God is eager to fill them with stories of faith and triumph amid our challenges. God wants to be part of our stories and would like to help each one of us, in the writing of these next chapters. My hope and prayer for each one reading this short message is that God would grant you the grace to put a full stop to all the old chapters of the past. So that the new chapters for 2025 can begin!

Pastor Gerhard Van Zyl, AGS Kathu



From the desk

of the Chairperson

Dear Resident,

I trust that the year is treating you well so far.

Time truly flies, and we must not take a single day for granted. The previous year was challenging for both the Estate and the greater Kathu area, particularly on the economic front.

The economy is in a difficult position due to declining growth in our country, coupled with the mining industry going through a tough period. However, we remain hopeful for this year! We have already noticed signs of improvement in the market as the year has started on a more positive note.

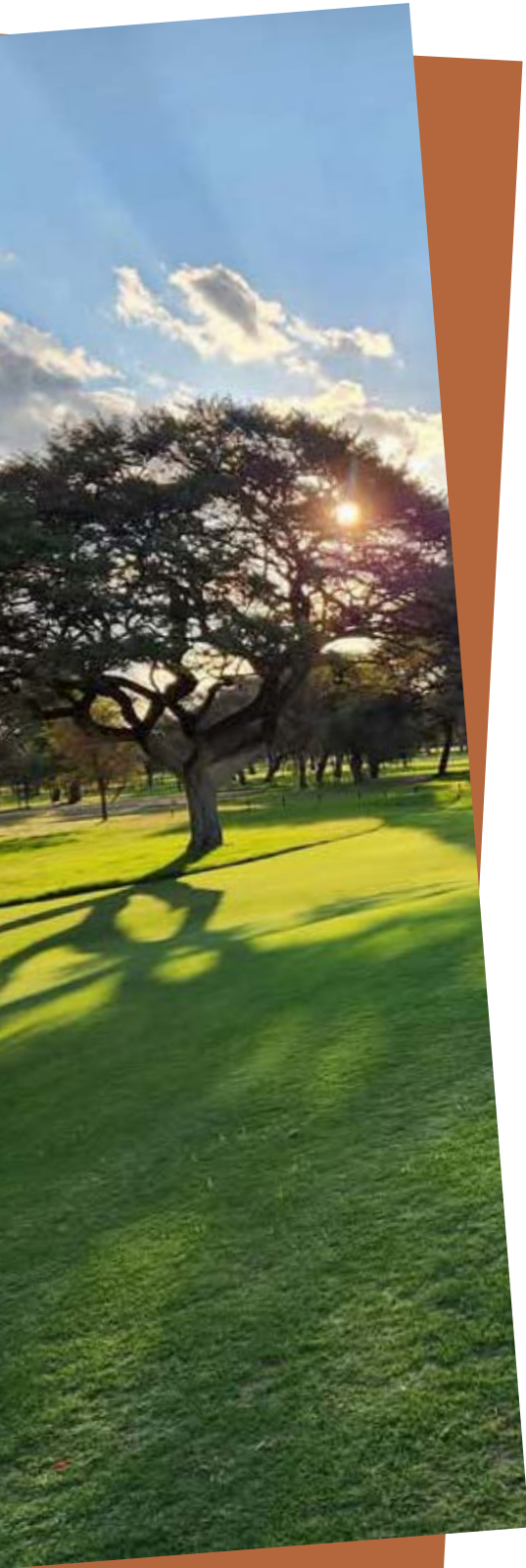
Additionally, we encountered some unforeseen challenges with dolomite in our area. The developers are assisting us by drilling four boreholes to gather the detailed information required by the Geotechnical Department and the NHBRC. We can also report that the Estate has been declared a D2 area, meaning that building activities can proceed, provided that specific requirements are followed for NHBRC enrollment and construction.

Updates & Progress on the Estate:

- We anticipate that building activities will pick up shortly.
- You may have noticed that we have completed the paving of Teiken and Teleskoop Slot.
- Work has begun on modifications to the western gate, particularly regarding the contractor's gate operations in the future.
- Unfortunately, we experienced lightning damage at the western gate. The damaged components have been replaced, but our IT provider is facing challenges in ensuring full functionality due to incompatibilities between the older and newer generation systems. We trust this will be resolved soon.
- Dassie Park is progressing well. We are currently taking stock before moving on to the next phase, which may include adding a pickleball court, trampoline, swings, and more. However, our security project remains a top priority and will proceed as the budget allows.
- Due to the growing populations of both impala and springbok, we are planning the capture and relocation of some of the rams at the most suitable time.
- The 10-hectare area has been fenced off, and owners are welcome to use it for walking or running. The entrance gate is locked, and keys are available at the admin office for a small fee to cover costs.
- We are pleased to report no security concerns at this time and extend our gratitude to Rhino Security for their continued dedication.
- Our garden competition is currently underway, and the winners will be announced on March 26, 2025, during a function on the grass at Dassie Park.
- You may have also noticed that the old speed control measures have been replaced with speed bumps. We are already seeing a positive impact on speed adherence.

Take care of yourselves, look out for one another, and stay safe.
Until next time!

Floris Kruger





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Green Thumbs of the Estate:

Gardening Competition Winners Announced!

We recently hosted a gardening competition, and the results are finally in! It's been amazing to see the creativity, dedication, and passion our residents have put into their gardens. From beautifully designed landscapes to vibrant bursts of greenery, every entry showcased a love for nature and a commitment to making our community even more beautiful. A big thank you to everyone who participated and also to Carla Barnard & team and all the sponsors for organising this successful competition and event!

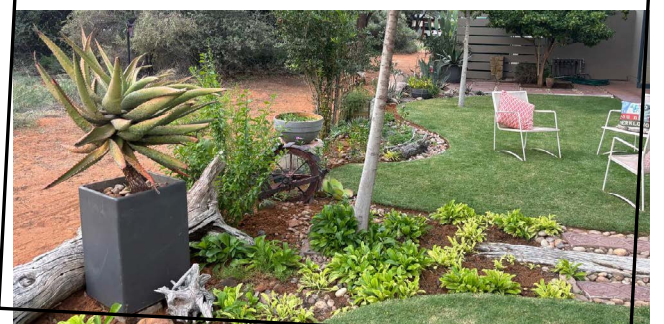
Without further ado, here are the winners - along with some stunning photos of their hard work!



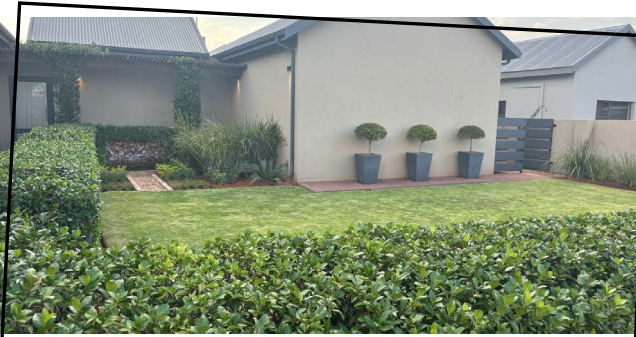
9 SNELLERSLOT, Congratulations Hannerie & Deon Du Toit!



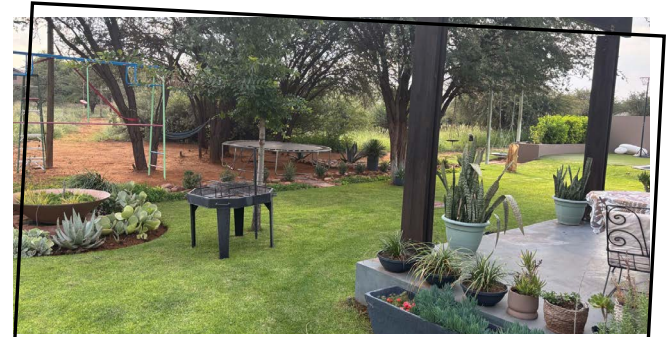
2 TELESKOOPSLOT, Zabeth & Antonie Grové



10 BOOMSLANG STREET, Linda & Eddie Harvey



5 MIERSHOOP STREET



6 ROOISANDSLOT



24 KALAHARI RYLAAN



3 BOOMSLANG STREET



22170 KALAHARI RYLAAN



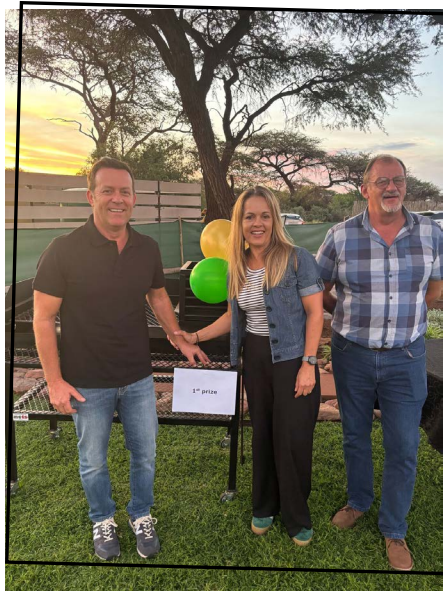
40 KALAHARI RYLAAN



THE JUDGES ON A ROLL



**THANK YOU
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WORKSHOP WAREHOUSE
FOR SPONSORING
THE PRIZES**





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Discover the Feathered

Friends of Our Gardens

Our estate is a haven for a variety of captivating bird species. With a little effort, you can attract these beautiful birds to your garden and enjoy their presence year-round. Here's a closer look at some of our regular avian visitors, their diets, and how to invite them into your space.



1. Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill (*Tockus leucomelas*) – Geelbekneushoringvoël

Description: Also called the “flying banana” due to its large, curved yellow bill, this charismatic bird has black-and-white plumage and a comical hopping gait.

Diet: Insects, small reptiles, seeds, and fruit.

Attracting Them: Plant indigenous fruit-bearing trees and shrubs. Keeping a natural garden with mulch and leaf litter will encourage insects, which hornbills love to forage for.



2. Swallow-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops hirundineus*) – Swaelsterbyvreter

Description: A dazzling green bird with a golden throat and a long forked blue tail. Its aerial acrobatics while hunting insects are a sight to behold!

Diet: Bees, wasps, and other flying insects.

Attracting Them: Avoid pesticides to maintain a healthy insect population. Open spaces with a few high perches (like a dead tree or fence posts) make perfect hunting grounds.



3. Red-breasted Shrike (*Laniarius atrococcineus*) – Rooiborslaksman

Description: A striking bird with a deep red chest, black upperparts, and a white wing patch. Often heard before it is seen, with its beautiful whistling call.

Diet: Insects, spiders, and small reptiles.

Attracting Them: Shrikes prefer gardens with thorny bushes and dense vegetation where they can hunt and impale their prey on sharp branches.



4. Groundscraper Thrush (*Turdus litsitsirupa*) – Gevlekte Lyster

Description: A bold and confident thrush with spotted underparts and a distinctive bobbing walk.

Diet: Insects, worms, small fruits, and seeds.

Attracting Them: These birds love short grass and open lawns where they can hunt for insects. They'll also appreciate a bird bath to drink and cool off.



5. Verreaux's Eagle-Owl (*Bubo lacteus*) – Reuse-ooruil

Description: The largest owl in Africa, with powerful talons, fluffy ear tufts, and striking pink eyelids. A pair of these magnificent birds has made their home on the golf course.

Diet: Small mammals, birds, reptiles, and even hedgehogs.

Attracting Them: Owls need tall trees for roosting. If you're lucky, you may spot them at dusk as they start hunting. Keeping artificial lights to a minimum will help nocturnal birds thrive.

HOW TO ATTRACT MORE BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN

Plant Indigenous Trees & Shrubs: Indigenous plants provide natural food sources like berries and insects.
Provide Water: A birdbath or shallow water dish can attract thirsty birds, especially in the dry months.

Limit Pesticide Use: Healthy insect populations ensure a steady food source for birds.

Create Safe Spaces: Dense bushes and trees provide shelter and nesting spots.

By making a few small changes, you can turn your garden into a birdwatcher's paradise, filled with song, color, and fascinating bird behavior. Enjoy the beauty of nature right at your doorstep!

Feathered Friends Spotted

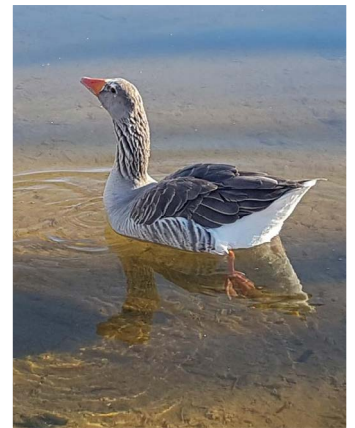
by our fellow residents



Pearl Spotted Owl
Carlene Hibbert



Chantell van der Westhuizen



Elize Spangenberg

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Plaveisel-Aanbouings -Restourasies
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Authentic Hungarian Goulash

Heart Warming Recipe

**Prep Time**

20minutes mins

Cook Time

1hour hr 30minutes mins

Total Time

1hour hr 50minutes mins

Course

Main Course

Cuisine

Hungarian

Servings

4 servings

Calories

673 kcal

A thoroughly authentic Hungarian Goulash with a richness of flavor that will satisfy both body and soul!

INGREDIENTS:

3 tablespoons butter
680 g yellow onions chopped
27 g quality genuine imported Hungarian sweet paprika
680 g stewing beef, cut into pieces
5 cloves garlic, minced
2 red bell peppers, seeded/membranes removed, cut into chunks
1 yellow bell pepper, seeded/membranes removed, cut into chunks
2 tomatoes, diced
2 carrots, diced
2 medium potatoes, cut into chunks
1200 ml beef broth (traditionally just water is used but beef broth adds so much more flavor)
1 bay leaf
1 teaspoon salt
0.5 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
0.5 teaspoon crushed caraway seeds (optional, not traditional in all regions)

Melt the butter in a Dutch oven or other heavy soup pot over medium high heat and cook the onions until beginning to brown, about 7-10 minutes. Add the beef and cook until the beef is just starting to brown, 7-10 minutes.

Add the bell peppers, tomatoes, and garlic and cook for another 6-8 minutes. (Note about peppers: Outside of Hungary it's very difficult to find the peppers they use there. The best ones to use in their place are red and some yellow/orange. Avoid regular green bell peppers as they have a starkly different flavor profile.)

Remove the pot from the heat and stir in the paprika, salt, pepper and caraway (if using) (note: paprika becomes bitter if at all scorched).

Add the beef broth, bay leaf, return to the stove and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium, cover and simmer for 40 minutes. Add the carrots, tomatoes and potatoes. Return to a boil, reduce the heat to medium, cover, and simmer for another 30-40 minutes or until the beef is nice and tender. Add salt to taste. Remove the bay leaf.

Serve with some crusty bread and, if desired, a dollop of sour cream.

Enjoy!

Meet Kathu's Common Snakes:

Our Slithering Co-Residents

Living in Kathu, Northern Cape, means sharing our beautiful environment with a variety of wildlife, including some fascinating snakes. Understanding these creatures can help us appreciate them and coexist safely. Here are five snakes commonly found in our area:



1. Cape Cobra (*Naja nivea*)

Description: The Cape Cobra is a highly venomous snake measuring between 1.2 to 1.4 meters in length. Its coloration varies widely, including shades of yellow, brown, and black.

Habitat: This species is prevalent throughout the Northern Cape, inhabiting arid savannas, fynbos, bushveld, deserts, and semi-desert regions.

Venom: *Highly venomous; bites require immediate medical attention.*



2. Puff Adder (*Bitis arietans*)

Description: A stout-bodied snake averaging 1 to 1.5 meters in length, the Puff Adder has a distinctive chevron pattern along its back, varying in color from yellow to brown.

Habitat: Widespread across sub-Saharan Africa, including the Northern Cape, it favors savannas, grasslands, and open woodlands.

Venom: *Highly venomous; bites can cause severe pain and require immediate medical attention.*



3. Boomslang (*Dispholidus typus*)

Description: A slender, arboreal snake reaching up to 1.8 meters in length. Males are typically bright green, while females are brown or grey.

Habitat: Found in various habitats, including savannas and forests, the Boomslang is present in the Northern Cape.

Venom: *Highly venomous; however, bites to humans are rare due to the snake's reclusive nature.*



4. Brown House Snake (*Boaedon capensis*)

Description: A non-venomous snake measuring between 60 to 120 centimeters. It has a brown body with lighter stripes running along its length.

Habitat: Common in urban and rural areas, including the Northern Cape, it often resides in homes and gardens, feeding on rodents.

Venom: *Non-venomous.*



5. Western Tiger Snake (*Telescopus polystictus*)

Description: A colorful nocturnal snake that is orange-pink to salmon pink above with 52–75 dark blotches on the body and tail. It typically measures around 60 centimeters in length.

Habitat: Inhabits rocky areas or hides under the bark of trees in the Northern Cape region.

Venom: *Mildly venomous; poses little threat to humans.*

TIPS FOR ENCOUNTERING SNAKES

Stay Calm: If you encounter a snake, remain calm and avoid sudden movements. Most snakes are non-aggressive and will retreat if given the opportunity.

Keep Distance: Maintain a safe distance and do not attempt to handle or provoke the snake.

Try to take a picture for identification and send a whatsapp to the security group to assist with removal. Keep an eye on the snake if you can, from a safe distance.

DETERRING SNAKES FROM YOUR HOME

Eliminate Hiding Spots: Clear away piles of debris, wood, and tall grass where snakes may hide.

Secure Entrances: Seal cracks and gaps in your home's foundation, walls, and doors to prevent snakes from entering.

Use Plants: Some plants naturally repel snakes, including Lavender, Marigolds, Rosemary, Onion & Garlic plants and Lemongrass.

By understanding and respecting these remarkable reptiles, we can safely share our environment with them.

GOLF DATES 2025



5 APRIL:	RPU GOLF DAY
17 MAY:	BANA GOLF DAY
31 MAY:	KGJL GOLF DAY
20 JUNE:	PRECISION HYDROLOGICS GOLF DAY
16 AUGUST:	LAERSKOOL KATHU GOLF DAY
11 OCTOBER:	HIGH SCHOOL KATHU GOLF DAY
18 OCTOBER:	MANITOU GOLF DAY
14 NOVEMBER:	SISHEN GOLF DAY
29 NOVEMBER:	KATEXAS GOLF DAY

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What's New in Town?

Exciting Additions to Kathu!

Kathu may be a small town, but it's always growing! Here are some of the latest spots making life more delicious, fun, and convenient.



Platō Coffee - Your New Favorite Caffeine Fix!

Good news, coffee lovers! Platō Coffee, located right across from the KGJL estate entrance, is serving up amazing brews that will make your mornings (or afternoons... or any time, really) so much better! Whether you're in the mood for a creamy cappuccino, a smooth flat white, or something a little adventurous, this is the place to be.

Bonus points? There's a play area for the little ones, so parents can sip in peace, and even a pickleball court for those looking to work off their caffeine buzz. Coffee and cardio - who knew they were the perfect match?

Mondays - Saturdays: 06:00 - 18:00
Sundays: 07:00 - 18:00



Santie's - A Taste of India at Heritage Mall!

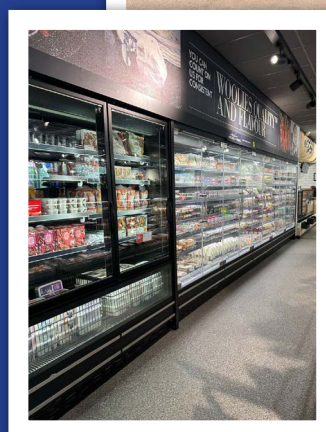
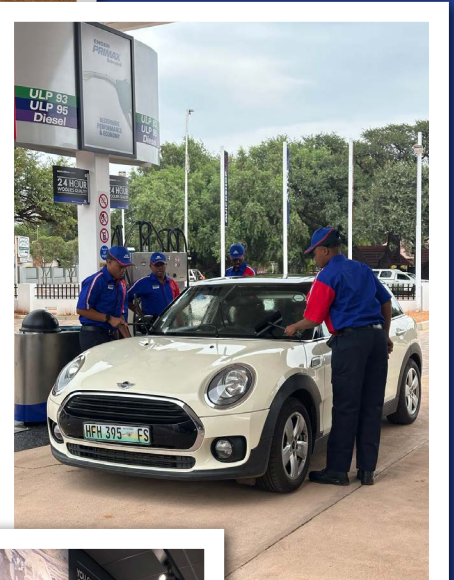
Spice up your life with Santie's, Kathu's very own Indian restaurant! Whether you're craving a rich butter chicken, fiery vindaloo, or a plate of perfectly spiced samosas, Santie's is the go-to spot for authentic Indian cuisine.

But that's not all - Santie also runs Santie's Spice World, where you can stock up on all the exotic spices, herbs, and flavors you need to bring a little India into your own kitchen. From fragrant garam masala to the best biryani blends, you'll find everything you need to create magic at home!

A Brand-New Engen with Woolies Express!

Need to fuel up - your car or yourself? The new Engen garage, just down the street, now comes with a Woolies Express! That means quick, convenient access to fresh snacks, top-notch coffee with baristas on call 24/7, and all the little luxuries that make Woolies, well... Woolies.

Whether it's a road trip pit stop or just grabbing some last-minute groceries on the way home, this new addition makes life in Kathu just a little bit easier (and tastier!).



Numbers

To Remember



IN CASE OF A SECURITY EMERGENCY:

RHINO SECURITY

- André Schoeman 082 319 5906
- Carel Reyneke 082 898 3060
- KGJL Rhino Control Room 066 466 9688
- Rhino Main Control Room 082 141 8111

KATHU POLICE: 053 723 9100/20/21

POLICE emergency 10111

Fire Department Office 053 739 7222

Emergency 074 123 0124

Lenmed Hospital 053 723 3231

IN CASE OF AN ENQUIRY REGARDING ELECTRICITY, WATER, SEWAGE, REFUGE REMOVAL:

Gamagara Munisipaliteit:

Office: 053 723 6000

Gamagara Municipality Call Centre:

053 004 0242 (Get reference number)

ESTATE OFFICE:

Administration 083 381 1294 / admin@kalaharigholf.co.za

Estate Manager 073 766 8306 / manager@kalaharigholf.co.za

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Animal Welfare:

- Marietjie 083 942 9658

- Izandri 083 336 9422

Fauna & Flora: Samantha 054 338 4800

Snake Removal: Freddie Ackerman 073 090 5246

Spiders And Bugs: Susan Myburgh 083 448 9272