

whatsUp!

Waterberg News, Happenings and Events February 2019

Outstanding Achievement from the Waterberg Academy

10 matric students, 10 passes, 16 distinctions -

What a wonderful result for head Mark Godfrey and his dedicated team. Leading the pack were **Lucy Calcott** and **Nadja Nortje** with seven and six distinctions respectively, really great stuff. Additionally earlier in the year Nadja was awarded her Junior Protea colours in archery representing South Africa at the World Championships in Calgary. We should all be proud of the Academy's accomplishments and high standard of broad-based education.



Cheetah Cub Orphans Surviving On Welgevonden Game Reserve



In August 2018 three cheetah cubs were found desperately calling for their mother. At only 7 months old they were too young to survive on their own and once it was realised that she was not coming back, (she was over 10 years old and her remains were finally found some weeks later) Welgevonden management decided that instead of keeping them in captivity they would attempt to feed them in the field. One cub was collared, an impala carcass was dropped nearby and much to everyone's delight the cubs came to feed.

The cubs are now over a year old and have amazingly survived, avoiding lions and other large predators, eventually making their own kills. Should the cubs survive to complete independence it will be a unique conservation success story for Welgevonden.

Carmen Warmenhove - Welgevonden Assistant Research Coordinator

Now Here's a Story - Starting Young!



This is Sue's great nephew Harry who lives in rural England. Sue sent him a 'Save the Rhino' badge and other STWR paraphernalia, with an STWR explanation. Harry who is six then produced this picture at school. His teacher was so impressed that Harry was asked to talk to the school about the plight of rhinos and he received the Head Teacher's award.

How about that for spreading the word?



Only One Baobab Species On The African Continent

I previously reported on an Australian team's research in East Africa which identified a new relatively high altitude species of baobab. The new species was named *Adansonia kilima* to differentiate it from *Adansonia digitata*. This discovery prompted further intensive research by a combined Wits University/University of Wisconsin team led by Glynis Kron of Wits resulting in a comprehensive academic paper which concluded the Australians had erred and proved that there was only one species (*A. digitata*) on the African Continent. A summary of this research is contained in the June 2018 issue of 'Veld & Flora.'



Richard Wadley. Image Robin Taylor

Another Successful Waterberg Trust Challenge Ride

Congratulations to all who took part in The Waterberg Trust's 5th sponsored ride. Ant Baber led a team of twelve riders from Ant's Hill to Jembisa covering 208 kms in seven days. Funds raised by this event support Lapalala Wilderness School, the Living Museum, Waterberg Welfare Society, Lethabo Kids' Club, the Northern Education Trust's school nurse and helped finance the high-tech security cameras that the WSI has erected around the Waterberg.



For more information <https://thewaterbergtrust.com>

Art And More In The Waterberg Raising money for our free-roaming Painted Wolves

The Black Mamba will be hosting an exhibition of Wild Dog art and photography by renowned local artists, **Liz Hunter, Clive Walker, Lyn Wadley**, photographer **Robin Taylor** and other artists.

March 21 - 23.

All proceeds after actual costs will go to the EWT Wild Dog Fund.



Painting Workshop t 24 Rivers Farm Waterberg, Limpopo.

29 to 31 March 2019

Waterberg artist **Elizabeth Hunter** is hosting a three day workshop by the renowned artist, **Erika van Zyl**, at the old school hall on the historic 24 Rivers Farm near Vaalwater. Limited accomodation is available or can be arranged nearby

Liz Hunter <emhunter24@gmail.com> cell: 083 368 9158



General Meeting Feb 14 2019

The first meeting of the year was extremely well attended with more than 60 members and guests. As always we had interesting speakers on diverse subjects.

Welgevonden's **Greg Canning** kicked-off with a discourse on the fascinating subject of spiders, yes fascinating, especially for people like me who are not spider people.

Greg was followed by **Luzanne Katz** of the **Baboon Rehabilitation Centre**.

Another animal people love to hate - yet should we? Generally baboons are shy and not aggressive to humans. It could be that the baboon problems we face are in reality problems caused by people. The Cape Point tribe are a case in point where the intervention of humans feeding them has created a group of dangerous animals. Luzanne certainly gave us food for thought on a contentious subject.

Our last speaker was **Carmen Warmenhove**, Welgevonden researcher, giving us the good news story of the orphaned cheetah cubs, the story covered earlier in this whatsUp! I wish I could convey Carmen's passion on this amazing story. She had the audience mesmerised with her tale of the cubs, a great way to end the formal part of the meeting.

After running the presentations for the speakers, braaimaster and EXCO member **Brad Algar** performed his usual magic, producing great woks and chicken rolls - maybe a new career Brad? Many members stayed for the social part of the meeting, There was much discussion especially on the baboon presentation, but of course this get-together gives members the chance to discuss the many subjects of mutual interest.



Book Review

Beat About The Bush Exploring The Wild - Trevor Carnaby - Jacana.



Now this is a book! A book you have to have if you've got the slightest interest in nature, wildlife, plants, trees or the environment. It is not a field guide (it's much too heavy), it is much, much more. It is a comprehensive guide to everything you ever wanted to know, and when you open it, many things you didn't know you wanted to know! Just a couple of examples:

Why is the sky blue and why do sunsets turn red? Why are insects attracted to light at night? Why do birds sing so much in the morning? Can birds see in the UV spectrum? How fast can hippos move on land and water? Why does the male lion have a mane?

I could go on and on but the more you delve into this fascinating book, the more you want to explore its pages. Educational, interesting and written in an easy understandable way - brilliant!

Robin Taylor

SOME COMMERCIAL NEWS



W Computer Services

Repair
+Laptops
+Pcs
+Data Recovery

Support
+Remote Support
+Call Out

Web-Design
+Design
+Hosting
+Domain Parking (.co.za)
+SSL (Security Certificate)

Internet
+Wireless (uncapped)
+Voip (voice over IP)

Courier Services
+Drop-off zone
+Courier

Sales
+Laptops
+Desktops
+Printers
+TV's
+Home Theatre Systems
+Small and Large Appliance

Please contact
356 Voortrekker Road, Vaalwater, (Zebra Building No2)
Wehan@wcomputerservices.co.za
082 824 0089

'When people talk about the good old days, I say to people, 'It's not the days that are old, it's you that's old' I hate the good old days. What is important is that today is good.'- Karl Lagerfeld

Next general meeting Thursday April 11th at NG Kerk

With top speakers on important matters for all Waterbergers

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Facebook <Waterberg Nature Conservancy>

Note - the WNC website is under re-construction and is temporarily unavailable

