

# whatsUp!

Waterberg News, Happenings and Events July/August 2019

## Waterberg Tourism Launches With A New Office



Tourism is the world's second largest industry yet the Waterberg has lagged behind in marketing its outstanding attractions. Newly formed **Waterberg Tourism's** launch kicked-off with a bang on Thursday July 25th at The Farmers' Hall.

Mayor Marlene van Staden who instigated the formation of the organisation opened proceedings followed by Ken Maud who had run with the idea. Ken has formed a great

team to drive this much needed and essential resource and

local operators, from 5 star lodges to small b&bs, have flooded in to support it. The new office opened the next day in the Zeederberg Centre and is already attracting visitors eager for information. This dynamic initiative will benefit every Waterberger.

<[www.waterbergtourism.com](http://www.waterbergtourism.com)>



## Top Awards For Waterberg Lodges

**Horizon Horseback Safaris** won the prestigious 2019 SAFARI GUILD AWARD for the 'Best Riding Safari' in Africa, an award they have won numerous times.

**Jembisa** won awards for 'Best Family Lodge' and best 'Family Safari Experience' in Africa, which they have also won several times. Congratulations both!

## Books For Leseding Creches

**Clive Walker** curator of **The Living Museum**, as always interested in and supportive of education, presented the WNC with a wide variety of books suitable for the pre-school learners at the Leseding creches which are supported by the Conservancy.



## WNC Landowner Workshop

Pretoria University's **Prof. Nigel Barker** came to the Waterberg on holiday and was amazed by the region's incredible topographic and bio diversity, inspiring him to explore the idea of establishing a research programme on the area. As such a programme would require the buy-in from landowners who would need to give the university access to their land, the WNC organised and hosted a workshop for landowners at The Living Museum.

Prof. Barker started with a presentation of his ideas and requirements which was followed by the workshop session with many questions being raised and answered. The workshop was a great success and we understand from the Prof. that he has already had follow-up from landowners who are keen to proceed.



## Vaalwater Library

A little known asset of our town is **Vaalwater Library** in the Municipal Centre. It is a vital resource for our local schools but like all libraries in the country it is under-resourced and although the librarian tries to keep up, they desperately need new books. The librarian is **Maria** contact her 0829451550



## June General Meeting



The June middle of winter general meeting was very well attended, the attraction possibly being the Caldo Verde and Gluhwein, or maybe, the stellar line up of speakers!

WWS chair **Lesiba Masibe**, with his **Waterberg Biosphere** hat on, gave us an update on the activities of that organisation.

Taking over when the Biosphere was in dire straits, Lesiba and his team have taken giant strides in turning it around. A

good news story.

Lesiba was followed by 'Elephants for Africa Forever' MD **Sean Hensman**, a fascinating talk illustrating the educational value of his operation and how much we can learn from these always interesting pachyderms.

Stepping in at the last minute as a substitute for flu-stricken Prof. Nigel Barker, **Richard Wadley** entertained us royally with his talk on the History of Churches of the Waterberg. We are all eagerly awaiting Richard's book **Waterberg Echoes** which is due out

imminently. Following the speakers, the members socialised while keeping warm with **Nick Heal's** Caldo Verde and **Marc Dieltjen's** Gluhwein.



## Book Review

**'Life Is Like A Kudu Horn' A Conservation Memoir by Margaret Jacobsohn.  
Jacana Media**

A remarkable book about a remarkable woman. Dr. Jacobsohn relates her many, sometimes hair-raising, stories about her move from Capetown to living in a Namibian mud hut in her ultimately successful drive to establish community-based conservation and then tourism in that country. Her battle against the establishment with its traditional, conservative, top down approach is only half the story. The many international awards Dr. Jacobsohn has received reflect her dedication, pure determination, and refusal to back down. A book for anyone interested in conservation or even how to beat the bureaucrats!! **Robin Taylor**

## Support for the Lapalala Wilderness School 'redrhino - inspired by wilderness.'

Redrhino offers one unique product; digitally printed, wilderness inspired scarves of silk and cashmere blends, featuring photography and art by South African artists.

Profits from the sale of the scarves are donated to the running of the School, with a particular focus on the Youth Development programme which educates young learners from disadvantaged rural communities in the essence of conservation. <[www.redrhinodesign.org](http://www.redrhinodesign.org)>



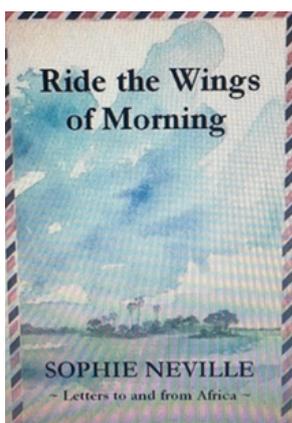
## DIARISE NOW

**The WNC PICNIC - Saturday, September 14th**

**See our Facebook page for details**

**Next general meeting Thursday August 29th at NG Kerk**

**With outstanding speakers on important matters for all Waterbergers**



## Commercial News

An advertisement for Afrihouse, an African décor store. The word 'Afrihouse' is written in a large, bold, black font. Below it, the tagline 'an African décor love affair' is written in a smaller, italicized font. The advertisement features several images of African-inspired home decor items: a brown leather chair, a gold-colored vase, a patterned cushion, a wooden elephant figurine, a lantern, and a blue shawl. At the bottom, the website address 'www.afrihouse.co.za / Vaalwater / 014 755 3505' is displayed in green text.



“Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing.”

Mark Twain

**Secretary: Sue Walker <[suew@africanfilmworks.com](mailto:suew@africanfilmworks.com)>**

**Editor: Robin Taylor <[robt@africanfilmworks.com](mailto:robt@africanfilmworks.com)>**

**Website <[www.waterbergnatureconservancy.org.za](http://www.waterbergnatureconservancy.org.za)>**

**Facebook <Waterberg Nature Conservancy>**



