

whatsUp!

Waterberg News, Happenings and Events February 2021



In 2020 Irish company **Red Rhino** donated R134,650 to the **Lapalala Wilderness School** through the sale of its limited edition silk scarves each featuring an original wildlife image. An increase over 2019's donation of R80,000, due partly to the launch of the Redrhino online webshop. Thanks to **Elizabeth Folgen and Paula Blomkamp**. Image Robin Taylor

Congratulations to Carmen Warmenhoven and the Welgevonden Team on the release of three orphaned cheetah cubs into the wild.

Orphaned cheetah cubs are typically removed from the wild and placed in captive facilities limiting their rehabilitation potential and conservation value.

After finding three ± 7.5 month old orphaned cubs alone on the reserve, the Welgevonden team took the decision to initially feed them with a view to the cubs eventually fending for themselves, rather than removing them to captivity.



The cubs first successful hunt at age ± 12 months was a warthog piglet. At 16.5 months they were fed for the last time and were considered fully self-sufficient. After 2.5 months of independence, 2 cubs were re-located to Majete Wildlife Reserve in Malawi. The remaining female has been collared, released back into Welgevonden and is thriving.

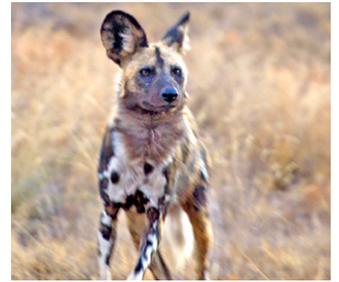


This is the first record of an orphaned cheetah being supplementary fed to independence in situ, then surviving in the wild without the need of removal to captivity. Extract of paper, courtesy **Carmen Warmenhoven et al.**

*“Tennis taught me so many lessons in life. One of the things is that every ball that comes to me, I have to make a decision. I have to accept responsibility for the consequences every time I hit the ball” - **Billie Jean King**. Source The Daily Maverick.*

The Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative (WWDI) partners with The Aspinall Foundation to place tracking collars on two free-roaming African wild dogs.

The WWDI is happy to announce that a GPS tracking collar was placed on an adult male in an African wild dog pack in the Waterberg on January 23rd. This represents one of two donated to WWDI by the Aspinall Foundation, a UK-based conservation organisation. These collars are part of a larger endeavour to collar 5 free-roaming dogs in the Waterberg.



African wild dogs are a globally endangered species, with less than 5000 remaining in the wild. WWDI endeavors to increase

territory available to African wild dogs in the Waterberg by working together with the community to decrease human-wildlife conflict, increase local tolerance, and foster a sustainable environment. These collars enable the WWDI to monitor the pack's movements, providing an early-warning system for the community and landowners as the pack moves through private lands.

The second collar provided by the Foundation will be placed on an additional animal in the Melkriver area as soon as possible. To achieve this WWDI is relying on landowners to report sightings of the dogs. For more information about the WWDI, to report a sighting, or to enquire about the movements of the pack, contact: **Reilly Mooney** at <waterbergwilddoginitiative@gmail.com>.

Reilly Mooney

WSI Virtual Fundraising Auction

The WSI (Waterberg Security Institute) represents 250 Waterberg farmers and residents in an area of 35000ha. Due to Covid 19 it was impossible to hold the 2020 annual fund raising dinner/auction and the WSI is planning a virtual auction for May 2021

The auction will kick off on Monday the 3rd of May as a silent auction. Anyone, worldwide, can participate in the auction and place their bid on the packages they are interested in from the comfort of home or office. The silent auction will close on Thursday the 6th of May at 10H00 and at 11H00 the boardroom auction will start. Each lot will then be auctioned off with the starting bid on which the silent auction ended. If there are no other bids, the package will be sold to the highest bidder of the silent auction. This way the maximum auction turnover will be generated.

The WSI needs hunting and accommodation packages to kickstart this remarkable initiative which benefits the whole Waterberg community.

Contact: **Annalie Smit** 073 470 9178 - <annalie@waterbergsecurity.co.za>

Great news from **The Waterberg Academy**

Under new head **Veron Rorich** The Waterberg Academy adapted to the very difficult circumstances posed by Covid 19 with a brilliant 100% Matric pass rate. Expect exciting things from the Academy with their dynamic fresh approach, introducing conservation and nature subjects alongside the traditional syllabus.



Tambotie Overysseel Ondersteunings Groep (TOOG) is a community driven organisation with the aim of supporting the residents in a number of aspects including but not limited to fire, security, medical emergencies, communication and training. Started in 2008, TOOG adopted a formal constitution in 2011. An

executive committee (EXCO) was appointed by the community and prides itself on being completely transparent with the residents' best interests at heart.

TOOG has always been very active, but in the last two years has grown exponentially and successfully to the degree that its operating model has been studied and copied by other districts around it. TOOG has over the past three years become completely independent, sourcing funds, training themselves and ultimately installing two, two-way radio repeater systems owned and operated by the community. More recently TOOG has installed a License Plate Camera Recognition network covering 70000 ha monitored 24/7, funded by the community and some sponsors.

TOOG is constantly expanding with new projects always on the go. Expect updates on TOOG activities in later issues of whatsUp!

Brad Algar

On the Commercial Side

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Cottage To Let

Lovely thatched riverside cottage on a game farm in the Waterberg, Melkrivier area. Main bedroom en-suite, small second bedroom with shower, open plan living area with kitchen. Would suit a retired gent/couple. R3750pm plus electricity. Available mid-March. Phone 082 876 2408.

Remember there is no cost to WNC members for advertising

We are always looking for articles for 'whatsUp!' - please contact the editor.

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