

whatsUp!

Waterberg News, Happenings and Events December 2020

Museum Opening

A major Waterberg event will be the opening of **The Walker's Living Museum** on **December 16**. The Museum is a major addition to our tourist attractions, a wonderful educational tool for schools and an 'essential visit' for all Waterberg visitors. For complete information see 'commercial news' below.

Birding Big Day



Team Waterberg organised by **Warwick & Michele Tarboton** and **Richard Wadley** was again very successful with 21 teams - about 54 people taking part, collectively recording 283 species on the day, an outstanding achievement, placing the team 9th countrywide. Winners were a Nelspruit based team with 335 species a new South African record. The Waterberg champs were **Hamish and Terri Rodgers** with 176 species. Well-done Team Waterberg and special thanks to **Michele, Warwick and Richard**.

Waterberg Tourism During And Post Covid.

The Covid pandemic has had a severe impact on tourism dependent Waterberg. The most notable signs are the absence of overseas visitors for both photographic and hunting safaris.

However, the Waterberg has a huge advantage, we are just two hours from Gauteng. Gautengers are gatvol of being cooped up in cities and are longing to get away for breaks in wide open spaces with fresh air, no traffic, and sparse populations. At the same time, they are wanting things to do during their visits. **Waterberg Tourism** has been inundated with enquiries for restaurants, cycling, game drives, spas, hiking trails, birding, and photographic opportunities. The lodges and businesses that will survive and come out even stronger are those that embrace the community and adapt to the changing market. **Ken Maud**

WNC AGM



We had two outstanding speakers to close out the WNC year. Our own Waterberg scientist **Phil Calcott** brought us right up to date on the latest developments and advances in solar power, showing exactly how the sector has developed and improved as well as reducing prices dramatically, bringing solar power very much within the reach of a much larger number of people.

And if you thought you knew the current status of our Painted Wolves (Wild Dog - *Lycaon pictus*) think again! WNC member EWT's **Derek van der Merwe** gave us a comprehensive, fascinating update. The move to Lapalala, the collaring of the dogs, the breakouts from the reserve, the re-capturing and of course the new pups. Derek had his audience enthralled - it was like a suspense movie!

After 6 years of keeping the WNC on track, **Sue Walker** stepped down as secretary, as did **Robin Taylor** after 4 as chair,

The Committee has appointed **Brad Algar** as the new chair and **Nikki McCartney** as secretary both having proved their worth, bringing new ideas and energy to the organisation. **Welgevonden** Researcher **Carmen Warmenhoven** was voted on to the committee

The meeting ended with a 'masked braai' observing proper social distancing!!

Ride for Rhino 2021

Organised by **Waterberg Rhino UK** and **Ant Baber**, who will again lead the 300 km ride, **Ride for Rhino 2021** has been postponed until the end of April. This event raises substantial money for local communities and we will give more details closer to the time.



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The Living Museum

Opening date, December 16 - 2020. Hours, Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 5pm, Sunday 10 am to 1pm.

Cost to visit the museums during the holiday season, adults R75.00, pensioners R50.00, Children R35.00 - up to age 6 free.

Guided tour with **Swikhiri**. Adults R150.00, Pensioners R100.00, Children R70.00.

Booking times, 10 am and 2 pm.

Livingstone Lounge and T garden - free. Covered parking. No pets allowed.

Covid protocols. Masks to be worn please.

Refreshments: Coffee, tea, beer, wine, cool drinks and milkshakes.

Front of House, **Swikhiri and Caroline**. Contact: **Rene**, 060 473 1410

It is too easy in these times to become complacent about Covid 19, we are all getting tired of wearing masks and practising Social Distancing but it is important if we are to beat this pandemic, so let's all follow the rules and keep the Waterberg safe.

From the WNC and the whatsUp! team we wish everybody a happy and safe festive season.

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

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