



December 2008

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**ZANDSPRUIT****DFA / EIA**

As was mentioned in our email last week, the DFA hearing was postponed from November 20th till December 5th. The reason, as also mentioned previously, is very simple – the Limpopo Tribunal wanted absolute clarity on the land claim issue from the Land Claims Commissioner as well as from the Land Claimants before granting the rights to develop. The way forward, was to negotiate with the Land Claimants so as to satisfy the Tribunal. This has been done and the resolve was to full satisfaction of all parties, including the Land Claims Commissioner, who, following the Maruleng Municipality and the Land Claimants, stated that Hoedspruit needs this development and therefore he would give us his full support.

It was agreed that the DFA Tribunal members would grant us the rights of development on December 5th, in an official Tribunal session. This was to be held without our presence as all other matters regarding the development had been discussed in previous hearings and there were no outstanding issues.

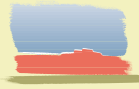
Unfortunately we have not yet received news from the Tribunal members and in spite of non-renting efforts from our side, we were not able to reach any of the Tribunal members prior to commencement of the holidays. As it seems fruitless to continue these efforts this time of year we will follow up this issue early next year.

In our previous newsletter we reported that as far as the ROD (Record of Decision on the Environmental Impact Assessment) was concerned, the Department of Environmental Concerns conducted a site visit and reported that a positive report would be issued to the Department, recommending that the development should get the green light.

A few weeks ago we received the officially stamped ROD from the Department, with no restrictions to the proposed development.



For full SDP please check our website.



First landing ZE Airstrip & Fly-in's

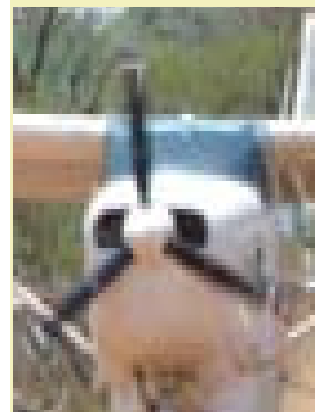
During November ground levelling and compaction works were carried out on the Zandspruit airstrip. Just before final compaction took place Hoedspruit had it's second major downpour of the season, which together with some repairs to the compaction roller caused a few days delay.

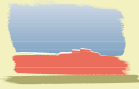
However, after all was repaired the final grading and compaction carried out Zandspruit now has a fine landing location.

At the beginning of December Martin could wait no longer and put the first successful landing on the renovated Zandspruit airstrip on his name.

The Zandspruit fly-in & safari brunch at the newly renovated Bush Camp for the Nelspruit Flying Club planned on the 8th November unfortunately had to be cancelled due to unstable weather conditions. We were forced to take a 'rain check' but hope to welcome them to the Estate early 2009.

Zandspruit has also been approached by the Mafeking Flying Club and as we always look forward to meeting fellow flying enthusiasts we look forward to showing them our achievements and developments.





Bush Camp renovation completed

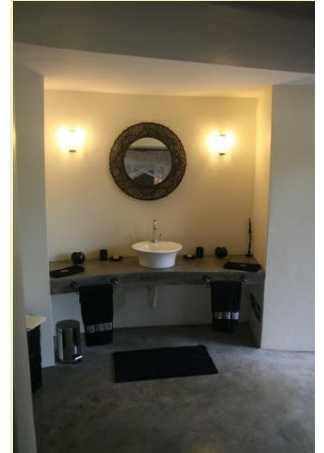
It's finished !! And we are excited about the outcome of the renovations.

Although the Bush Camp was already being used for functions even before the renovation works were completed (the poor builders would have to take out all their equipment every second week and carry it in again two days later!), in its completed state it certainly does justice to their efforts.

With due credit to the estate architects, Fortsch & Associates, the end result is truly stunning.

The briefing was to 'stay rustic and maintain as many of the original features as possible, while also creating a practical (and baboon proof!) structure'.

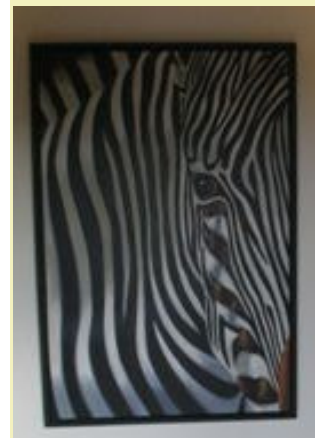
Sufficient pictures are included, but you should really come to see it for yourself!

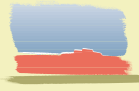


Bathroom in one of the rondawels



Interior design

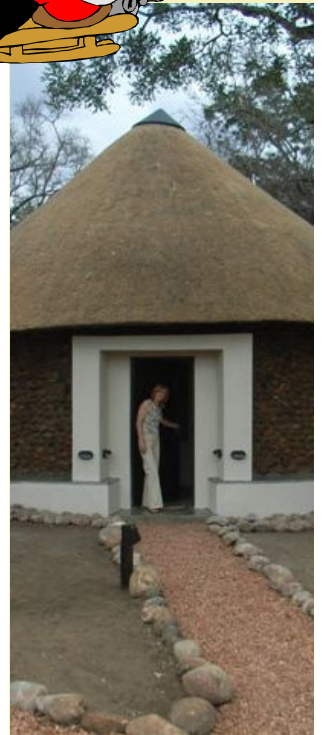




Bush Camp renovation completed

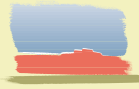
Peter and Marijke Oldhoff were the first guests to stay in the rondawels at the bush camp.

Peter and Marijke come from Holland and are well travelled. They were not phased by the thought of staying at the camp on their own. When asked, they said: "the first thing we did was phone the children and tell them we are on 1000ha estate and the only other inhabitants are wild animals".



← First guests, Peter and Marijke Oldhoff





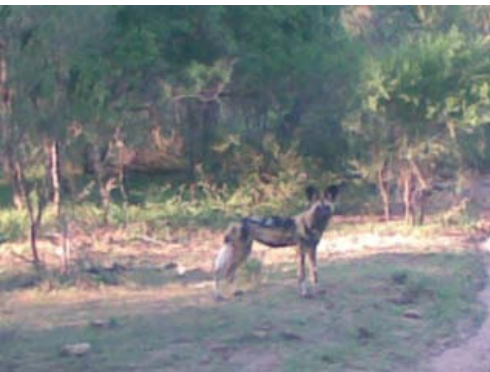
Farm Management

Wild dogs spotted

Just before the summer holidays some students from the Southern Cross Schools went on a birding expedition on Zandspruit.

Although they spotted many species of birds, the highlight of the birding trip turned out to be the wild dogs which they spotted.

Early November Mike's guys had picked up wild dog spoor on the estate and after checking the location to be sure it was not Kiesha's (the Cowden family's English Pointer) spoor everyone was looking out for the dogs. In the meantime there have been several more wild dog sightings.



The wild dogs seem to migrate between various farms in the area. Although there are no known cases of wild dogs stalking humans, they are (as are all the animals on the estate) *wild* and not domestic. If encountered, enjoy their presence but treat them with respect.

Water Works

In order to retain more of the precious water the wet season provides, restorations have also been carried out on some of the

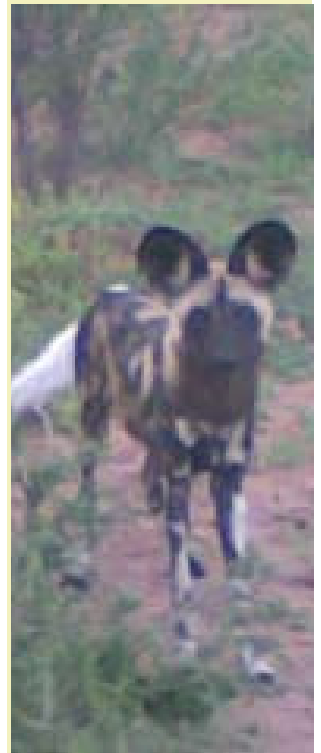


existing dams and crossings on the estate.



The dams in the wilderness area are all full to the rim and in the deeper parts the Sandspruit is also retaining large amounts of water.

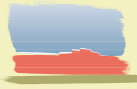
The first rains resulted in water cascading over the old dam wall in the riverbed as well as filling quite a large area in front of the lodge site. The natural water courses are being monitored closely for erosion control purposes.



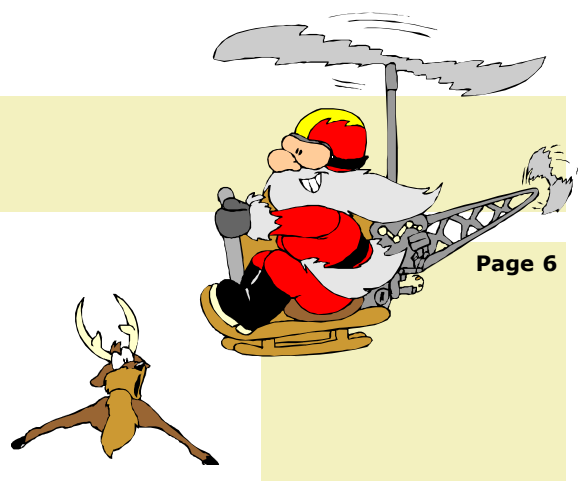
Wild dogs spotted on Zandspruit



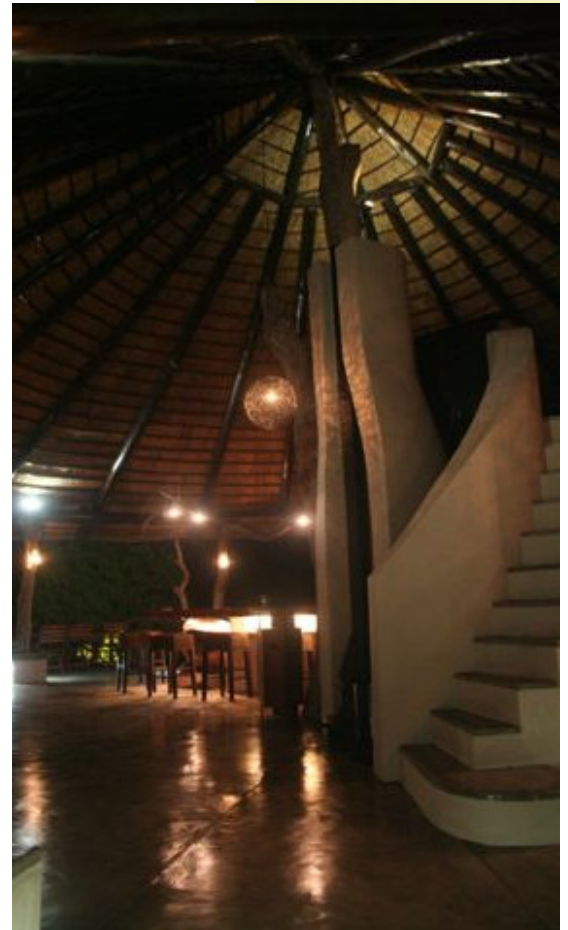
Water damage inspection team



Bush Camp by night



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Should anyone wish to visit the farm and / or Bush Camp, look at their stands or to take a drive through the Wilderness area, please contact us.

Best regards to all,

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Gerrit Jan (072 915 3050)

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www.zandspruit.co.za