

## Greetings Ntsirians

Last week in Oct, feeling like middle of winter! Temps plummeted, jerseys, jackets, beanies & Old Brown Sherry made a reappearance. This old weather thing, keeps us on our toes. We were blessed with 2mm rain, bringing us up to about 28mm for Oct. In comparison to the “green belt”, that area which falls under the mountains influence, stretches till just North of Kings Camp area, they’ve had plenty. The Nyosi River was flowing bank to bank recently, things a very different shade of green that side. Pray for rain please.



Photo: Peter Anderson #R13 Orange Breasted Bush Shrike

Our Sleeping Platform project is so-to-say complete, just waiting form our gates to arrive to be fitted at both ends of the stairs. Some changes have been brought about there, we’re moving away from the 24V DC system we had there, everything is now 220V AC. This means you should never plug in your spot-light into the deck plug outlet, I will mark that plug point as such, there will be fireworks if you do! The lighting is more user friendly, 2 way switches & all, so easily controlled from upstairs. I’ve re-opened the water body which lies to the front, still busy with “harvesting” river sand from there, this coming week should bring an end to our goings-on at the SP.

Rock defacement on our reserve!!!! Yes, you read right. We have the most lovely geological formations on Ntsiri/Ntsheli, I’m a rock nut, (hey, I even married one!), so possibly over-gagga about them, but regardless of that, they should never be carved out or defaced. In particular, I refer to a very large soap-stone like rock on Bateleur Gorge Rd, pics will be circulated by the Board. Members, please prevent you, yours & whoever, from doing such awful things. I will be acid-washing the writings off, let’s keep that slate clean for-ever-after.

Jaco, our workshop assistant, will be leaving Ntsiri soon, sights set on the USA. He did great for the months spent with us, we wish him all the best & a happy future. We looking for a replacement.

Great news re our Ground-Hornbill nest, it has eggs, expected to hatch early Dec. I've affirmed with Kyle, the researcher, he'll do a presentation at Ntsiri, possibly before Christmas, so look out for that.

Rhino matters are depressing, we all still in hectic shock over the 5 poached last weekend in our zone. The horror fact, rhino will be extinct in the wild by 2020, is looking all the more in focus, terrifying stuff, we cannot allow this to happen! I also found a date referring to elephants in the wild, 2030 !!!!!!! Poaching elephant in KNP has reared it's disgusting head. If you have ideas, as rhino owners, conservationists-at-heart, elephant lovers, come forward please. I've presented many, would happily do so even more, coming from the owners is better. Complete paradigm shifts required, doing nothing will fry ones conscience in the future.



Photo: Peter Anderson # R13 – Crash Of Rhino

Water matters, please know the drought conditions are not passed, stay in conservative mode & use water sparingly. Hopefully very soon we'll perform required bore-hole maintenance, getting them cleaned out, just a matter of removing particles, lime & debris from the abstraction points, improves yield & recharge rates at those points. Machinery required is large & noisy, so please bear with us doing that process, only a day or 2.

Impala lambs are not far off, sure this will happen any day now. My favourite thing in the bush, cutest by far 😊

God bless one & all, looking forward to seeing bunches of you in the Bushes soon.

Mark