

## NEWS FROM THE JHA BOARD – OCTOBER 2019

### AGM

The minutes of the 2019 AGM went out some days ago, as did the Powerpoint slides used by Simon Nicks in his presentation on the future of Jakkalsfontein.

### New Board

The following homeowners have been elected to the Board at the 2019 AGM:

Johann Louw (Chair, and all matters not covered by specific portfolios)

Thérèse Hulme (Conservation and Neighbourhood Relations)

Paul Judd (Architectural Review Committee)

Henning Pieterse (Legal Matters)

Stephen Woodhead (Finance)

Ant van Malsen (Vice -Chair and Internal Communications)

Koos Vosloo (Infrastructure)

### Day visitors, guests, and home rentals

The policy put in place on an experimental basis to monitor these three categories seems to be working well. We will wait and see how it functions over the summer season, and then we will ask homeowners at the next AGM to ratify it.

In case you forgot its main points, here they are:

If the homeowner is in residence, either the homeowner opens the gate him/herself, or the guard opens the gate after checking with the homeowner.

If the homeowner is not in residence, reasonable notice is given to the administration office or the entrance gate office of the estimated date and time of arrival, the number of guests, and the names of the guests. If homeowners have guests they would like to exempt from this rule (such as close family members or friends), they are welcome to submit a list of names to the office, who will pass it on to the gate. In practice this will mean that the guests whose names appear on such a list will be treated virtually the same as owners as far as access to Jakkalsfontein is concerned.

Short-term rental agreements (less than one month). Homeowners or rental agencies will be required to give reasonable notice to the administration office or the entrance gate office of the estimated date and time of arrival, the number of guests, and the names of the guests. When these guests arrive, one adult will be required to present a valid identification document (identification numbers will not be recorded). If short-term rental guests are allowed access by homeowners during times when the

gate is not staffed, guests will be required to present the identification document when they use the gate for the first time when a staff member is present. An entrance permit will be issued to persons who rent properties at Jakkalsfontein, together with a set of the guest rules. Such permit shall be displayed prominently in the vehicle in which the guest/s travelled.

### Nicks report

We expect to finalise the report by Simon Nicks of CNDV Africa by early December, at which point it will be distributed to homeowners. The Board will prepare a motion for consideration at a special general meeting (SGM) of homeowners, in particular how it will inform the Design Manual.

### Solar farm project

#### The SGM

We anticipate a special general meeting to make decisions about the solar farm project and the report by Simon Nicks. A tentative date is Saturday 25 April.

### 2020 Annual general meeting

The next AGM is planned for 26 September 2020.

### Research at Jakkalsfontein

We have given permission to Professor Bengt Oxelman of the University of Gothenburg in Sweden to collect leaves from plants of the genus *Silene L.* on the Reserve. One of its purposes is “to elucidate and improve our understanding of the evolutionary and biogeographical histories of South African *Silene* species, through providing and testing empirical genetic data which provide information their origins and diversification”. They have undertaken to share their findings with us.

Four researchers from the Universities of Stellenbosch and Toronto, with Genevieve Theron as the first author, published a paper in the journal *Ecology and Evolution* (May 2019), on reproductive traits of animal-pollinated plants in *Babiana ringens* (Iridaceae). The field work for this study was done at Jakkalsfontein, as acknowledged by the authors, thanking “Jakkalsfontein Private Nature Reserve for locality information and permission to work on their property”. The illustration below is from the paper.



### Nature conservation and neighbourhood relations

On 7 October, World Habitat Day, a group of fifteen grade 8 and 9 learners from Hopefield High School visited Jakkalsfontein with their teacher. Thérèse Hulme made the arrangements, and Steyn Marais did the presentation. The informal, interactive presentation was aimed at creating greater awareness about our earthly habitat, its age, its place in the universe, and the factors that sustain and threaten its fragile equilibrium. The learners made enthusiastic contributions to the conversation, which we hope will be the start of many more to come.

Some comments from the learners about their experience:

“It was fantastic! The fact that there are so many things that school can’t teach you.. like how old the earth is.. and all the theories about the dinosaurs and how life on earth started. Very interesting!”

“It was amazing. I haven’t thought before about space and how things out there actually work..”

“It was the best day in a very long time..”

Our thanks and appreciation to Thérèse and Steyn.





Jakkalsfontein nightlife (non-human animals), captured on our camera traps





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Who remembers this unusual event from 2008?



Johann Louw, Chair: JHA Board