



MABALINGWE NEWSLETTER JUNE 2016

Dear Shareholder

We cannot believe we are already on the threshold of the second half of the year and what a productive year it has been for Mabalingwe so far. We continue to work hard and dream big and we're excited at the prospects that the rest of 2016 holds. For now, we are happy to share the latest news and developments with you.



Mid-Year Catch Up

“Believe in your abilities and you will achieve greatness.”

Mabalingwe believes that greatness is not a function of circumstance; but rather a matter of **conscious choice and discipline**. This philosophy paid-off when we not only achieved **Gold Crown status**, but were nominated as one of the **top five Gold Crown Resorts in the large category**, at this year's RCI OSCAS Awards Ceremony. **We are extremely proud of this recognition and will continue in our pursuit of excellence.**



■ Have you perhaps “herd” the great news? **The Mabalingwe family has grown** – the Reserve has seen the addition of **three elephant calves, three rhino calves and three buffalo calves**. It seems as if three's a charm and guests that have spotted the calves have been delighted and entertained by these “babies” playing and interacting with their respective herds.

■ **Moving to entertainment** of a different variety... during the Easter weekend and March school holidays, the musician, **Albert de Wet performed at Mabalingwe**; there is nothing like a bit of live entertainment and our guests truly enjoyed every singing moment of it.

..... New Additions to the Mabalingwe Family

Let the Good Times Roll...

“Collect moments not things.”

One of the most popular additions to Mabalingwe in the last year has been the **Eco-tainment offering**; which saw the appointment of our **expert Eco-tainer, Hein** and with that, the establishment of the **Eco Club and Eco Teen Club**. There is something very special about our younger guests being able to get out in the fresh air and learn something new, like how to make a fire with kindling, or how to tell the difference between a Velvet Bushwillow and an Acacia Karoo.

Our Eco-tainer has also spent many hours working on **Mabalingwe’s new walking trail**. The route allows guests exclusive access to the magnificent bushveld surrounding the Lodge and we decided to name the route: **“Live Long Walking Trail”**; an appropriate name, if you look at all the health benefits that are associated with hiking.

But what truly makes this activity so loved by our valued guests, is their opportunity to **get up close and personal with nature**; to notice every wild flower, tree, bush and critter. To breathe in fresh air and spend quality time with loved ones – without technology interfering; to take in every chirp, creak and howl –whether they listen to the diverse calls of the different birds found in the Reserve, or hear the wind whip and whistle through the grass, or pick up the hums and stridulating of beetles.

Take the family on the Live Long Walking Trail for a hike (or a gentle stroll!) and create moments and memories that will last long after the holiday is over.



“Live Long Walking Trail”

“Leave nothing but footprints. Take nothing but pictures. Kill nothing but time.”



About the Upgrades ...

“Celebrate your every victory; especially the small ones.”

We **aim to improve in every way**, every year and celebrate every development, no matter how big or small. With that said, allow us to update you on the first part of the year’s **upgrades and renovations**.

We understand that coming home to your **home-away-from-home** is not only exciting, but also important to you. Your unit is a big part of that. It is where the family can come together round a table and have **yummy home-style meals**, enjoy a braai; or just sit and chat as you take in the matchless views of the South African bushveld. It is your slice of paradise. It is for this reason that we constantly strive to improve your accommodation experience.

To ensure you only have the best peaceful sleep, we are in the process of **replacing all pillows in the units**, with high quality new ones. Mabalingwe is also progressively **replacing all living room couches** and 15 sets have been placed in units thus far. There are **new ottomans** in all units too, with **colourful scatter cushions** that match the newly painted walls in the lounge area.

We get it – there is absolutely nothing as perfect as an **egg-and-bacon-brekkie** with all the trimmings, when on holiday. Just think **fried tomatoes, mushrooms, crispy bacon, eggs** done your way, **baked beans and toast with butter**... maybe even some marmalade or jam for that extra slice of toast. Now the family can gather around the **kitchen counter** - seated on the **colourful new kitchen stools** - and enjoy a hearty breakfast, to start your holiday days the right way.

Happiness with the family often means being **beside the pool**. If you prefer the milder waters of our heated pool, you will be happy to know that Mabalingwe has recently **restored and painted it**. So whether you like to paddle, put your feet in the water, or swim like Chad Le Clos, feel free to do just that.

On the topic of **pools**, we decided it would be a great idea to build a **new braai at Ingwe’s pool**; and we are also busy working on the gardens in this area.



Other upgrades at Mabalingwe include **water management**; work on the **Main Entrance** and **new signage** being put up.

At Mabalingwe, we believe in being **water-wise**. Our motto is “save the water here and there, don’t waste it anywhere” and so, we have implemented a **water-saving system** to ensure that our **plants and grass get enough water**, but that the water is managed in a responsible, water-wise way.

As you may know, Mabalingwe’s **Main Entrance burnt down** after lightning struck in January. We are happy to announce that the Entrance has not only been **rebuilt**, but looks better than ever! Sticking with the Main Entrance – we have made the Resort **sign at the entrance luminous**. Now guests that arrive after dark won’t miss the turn off to their home-away-from-home ever again.

Mabalingwe understands that your heart lies with us and we are always looking to see where and how we can add value to the place you love. One of the projects recently undertaken in this respect was the re-mapping and **re-naming of the Resort’s roads**, for your convenience. This included the addition of rock-mounted plaques to guide you along your way.

Your Special Place

“The secret to having it all is knowing you already do.”

There are many ways you can describe the truly spectacular **sunsets in the bush**. Some say that through a sunset you can see the gates of heaven and being able to enjoy such views while surrounded by nature is truly unique; it quiets minds, renews souls, and heals hearts. Along with **beautiful sunsets** there is often also the much enjoyed South African tradition of **sundowners**. We thought we would let you in on one of Mabalingwe’s exclusive dip recipes, to complement your sundowner snacks.



Mabalingwe Sundowners

Mabalingwe’s Seven Layer Sundowner Dip

Ingredients:

- 1 packet (30g) of taco seasoning mix
- 1 bottle of Koo’s three bean salad or fry one tin of red kidney beans in a bit of butter and salt (to taste)
- 450g cream cheese – softened
- 500 ml sour cream
- 1 jar (about 450g) of salsa
- large tomato, diced
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 bunch of spring onions, chopped
- 2 cups of grated cheese
- Half a cup of pitted and chopped black olives

Instructions:

- 1) Combine the taco seasoning and beans salad or fried red kidney beans and mix. Spread a layer of this mix in a large serving dish.
- 2) Mix sour cream and cream cheese. Spread over refried beans.
- 3) Top layers with salsa. Place layers of tomato, green bell pepper, spring onion over salsa. Top with grated cheese and garnish with pitted black olives.

Best **enjoyed with chips, nachos, or julienned veggies** (for a healthier option), your favourite drink and the **majestic sun** setting in the distance.

HELP MABALINGWE DRIVE DREAMS

“Charity begins at home but it shouldn’t stop there.”

There is no doubt that we rise by lifting others up and Mabalingwe loves to help the community as soon as a need arises. As a VRS Managed Resort, our particular focus is the **Driving Dreams Campaign** run by **African Blessings**, a non-profit company and public benefit organisation. African Blessings aims to uplift South African communities and spread hope in this beautiful country of ours. They are running a campaign to raise funds for a 34-seater bus. The bus will help to transport those involved in Foundations for Farming training initiatives, assist people in the community that need transport; deliver donated items to the community and its surroundings and transport Early Learning Centre children to and from excursions.

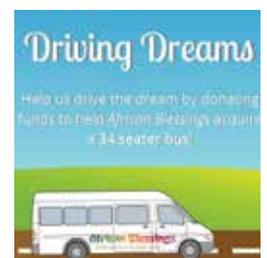
You can **help dreams come true!** How:

Look out for the **Driving Dreams collection points** at Reception for a cash donation;

or **EFT donation:**

- *Account Name: African Blessings*
- *Bank: FNB*
- *Branch Code: 250 655*
- *Account Number: 620 654 37 355*

“**Happiness doesn’t result from what we get but from what we give.**”



Plan of Action

“A goal without a plan is just a wish.”

The Resort and Management

The Resort and Management want our valued shareholders to continue to love Mabalingwe. With this in mind, **we have three plans** looking towards the future:

There’s a Way to do it Better – FIND IT!

As a **Gold Crown Resort** our guests expect the **highest standards**. We always strive to exceed expectations. How do we do that? **Through teamwork**, motivation, rewarding staff performance excellence and good communication. We’re excited to see what our future holds.

Turn Can’ts into Cans and Dreams into Plans!

We consistently ensure that all accommodation, facilities and the grounds are **maintained and upgraded**. Going forward, we will continue to provide you with **the best** Mabalingwe by far.

Keeping Home, Sweet Home!

All the plans and goals we set, help Mabalingwe **remain** your prized “home-away-from-home” and the **place where your heart is**. In the end, there is no place like home.



..... New Additions to Mabalingwe Family

In Closing

As the one-of-a-kind South African winter settles in, we wish you all things warm, toasty and cosy until we speak again. To leave you with some final words – advice from a tree: **“Stand tall and proud; go out on a limb; remember your roots; drink plenty of water; be content with your natural beauty and enjoy the view”.**

Warm regards

Marjerie Forssman
VRS - Managing Director

**TALK
TO US**

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VRS

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Trees Have been Labelled

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Checking in procedures: In the interest of safety, security and ensuring that only confirmed guests are allowed access to the resort, you will be required to produce both the reservation confirmation / guest certificate and your ID, and also to complete the indemnity form when checking into the resort.

Guest certificates: In the event that you are allowing a guest to occupy your timeshare week, the guest must be in possession of a valid Guest Certificate which is obtainable from Head Office prior to the guest's arrival. For more information or to obtain a Guest Certificate please email melissaq@oaks.co.za.

Levy payments: Levies must be paid in terms of the Use Agreement and no occupation or usage of any form is allowable until the levies have been paid. (This applies to usage, spacebanking, renting etc. of the timeshare week.)

Spacebanking and rentals: Please note that a request for spacebanking or rental, must be submitted to the Resort a minimum of five months prior to the occupation date, to enable us to process same. Please contact the Resort at: maggie@mabalingwe.com

Communication: To enable us to communicate effectively, please ensure that you keep us updated regarding your current contact details, and most importantly, your email address.

Occupation dates: Please note that resort calendars are linked to school holidays, and it is therefore vital that you check the annual calendar to ensure that you occupy the correct week. Please refer to the 2016 calendar available on the following link: <http://www.mabalingwenaturereserve.co.za/docs/Timeshare-Calendar2016.pdf>



Benches in the Gardens