

BUSHtelegraph

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Come live the African Experience!!!



Feathered Romance /

To all our guests who drove up and down the airstrip over the past 3 months intent on getting to reception or the exit, here is a story for you to read and for us to tell.

All good stories have a beginning and this one is no exception. It did not begin in a land far-far away, but



rather right here at Mabalingwe adjacent to the airstrip. It began when a male ostrich and his partner decided to consummate their union. When that time arrived they scraped out a hollow on the ground and proceeded to do what all good birds do and that of course is to lay eggs. This she did on the 20 July 2010, but being very chivalrous and a dutiful hubby he did his part by keeping a beady eye and helping to incubate the eggs. The eggs were first seen on the 22 July 2010 by the rangers and there were 13 at the time. The number of eggs increased to 28 and later 36, but she subsequently kicked out 5 which left 31.

Spare a thought for our two feathered friends: they sat on those eggs day and night in the heat and cold for 61 days. Finally!!!!!!! The great day arrived on the 9 September 2010 and she heard and felt what she had been waiting so long to hear. She could only come to one conclusion - there was life as she knew it. This was confirmed when the first of her eggs started to crack open and a little beak poked out. With a little help from a proud parent the first fluff ball emerged, complete in every respect but very unsteady on its legs and looking for the warmth and shelter of mom and dad. Brothers and sisters were to follow and finally the family grew to nine very busy chicks.

If you drive down the airstrip now, you will no longer find the family at their birth place but you might well see two proud parents strutting along with seven very small but determined chicks following them. Unfortunately, two chicks were lost along the way, but if fairytales do come true maybe they will all live happily ever after.

Mabalingwe Rangers

It's a way of life!



MABALINGWE