

MABALINGWE NATURE RESERVE SHAREHOLDER NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018



Dear Valued Shareholder,

We absolutely love the warm weather, bright blue skies and lush greenery here at your home-away-from-home. We've barely had a moment to spare with 2018 flying by the way it has, and what a year it has been!

As we move towards the end of the year, and the lovely Festive Season which will soon be upon us, we would like to thank you for another incredible journey! We hope that the jolly season is spent surrounded by loved ones, and that you return in the New Year, refreshed and ready for the next Chapter. For now though, allow us to walk you through the latest news and events from your favourite Nature Reserve.

Accolades and Accolades – Mabalingwe Shines On:

RCI Annual Awards Ceremony – Not only did Mabalingwe Nature Reserve receive the RADA Award for being affiliated with RCI for 30 years, but we also placed in the Top Four Best Resorts! Mabalingwe held on to its Gold Crown Resort title for 2018 and is looking forward to next year's ceremony.



TripAdvisor – Each year TripAdvisor identifies the top 10%, globally, of all the listed accommodation options with a rating of 4/5 and higher. Thanks to every individual that shared their lovely experience with us, a Certificate of Excellence Award was bestowed on us!



Relax,
Replenish,
Reinvigorate...



At the brand-spanking-new Mbali Day Spa!

“Within you there is stillness and a sanctuary to which you can retreat at any time and be yourself.”

Enjoy a moment of everlasting bliss with our range of soothing treatments – perfect to begin your day anew, or unwind with the setting of the sun. Each treatment has been specially crafted by trained professionals, and our range of products by TheraNaka™ will ensure a relaxing and soothing experience. Now you can experience ultimate relaxation on the doorstep of the bushveld...

Operating Hours: Enquire at Reception

Bookings Essential:

Tel: 014 001 7011

Email: nicky@mabalingwe.com








- Plant Pots Makeover -


What we've been up to:

Let's kick things off with the many refurbishments and upgrades that have taken place at Mabalingwe! Not a comment, experience or moment go by where we aren't reviewing the Resort to see where, and how, we can make subtle, and big, changes to ensure your home-away-from-home gives you a great experience every, single time!

 **Fresh Water Aplenty.** We recently installed 150 water meters across the property to better manage this precious resource and overall water usage on the Resort. This gives us the opportunity to better assess where improvements can be made, and in which areas.


 **Wet Towels – The Unwelcome Kiss of the Linen World.** We are all too familiar with how it goes. You enjoy a refreshing shower, and the mirrors are all steamy – life is great, and you wrap your dry, clean towel around your body, only to discover that it is not dry and clean, but wet and unwelcoming. No one wants that experience! So we've solved the problem by implementing a plan for 2019; we will be installing more towel hooks on all bathroom doors, as well as new rails outside for swimming towels.

Mirror, mirror on the wall... Mirrors not only help us stay  looking our best, but they add another dimension to the room and any space. For this reason we took on a little DIY project of our own and revamped some picture frames, so that the units which needed attention have more mirrors.

 **Winter Swimming is Sorted!** We've opened our suggestions box and listened to what all our guests have to say to get this project up, running and finalised. Another one of our swimming pools, situated next to an existing heated pool, has been converted for warm winter splashing! We hope you enjoy the new heated swimming pool. We appreciate all the feedback we received to make this happen.

 **A Fresh Coat of Paint.** As the days turned into weeks, and the weeks into months, our Kalahari Oasis Pub décor began needing some TLC. A lovely artist, Amanda Clingen, spent some time with us recently to bring our painted elements back to life with her natural flair and paint brush. A few of the rustic-looking vehicles, some corrugated iron posters, and the bucket bar stools all received a fresh coat in beautiful hues. Let us know what you think at yourresortstory@oaks.co.za.

 **A Splash of Colour and Art.** The Kalahari Oasis Pub wasn't the only thing which received a splash of new paint. Many of our guests mentioned that they wouldn't mind the inclusion of a bit of colour around their home-away-from-home Resort and we took all these comments to heart, quite literally, and gave the plant pots a lovely makeover – after all, "change is as good as a holiday". We updated the pots with a soft grey and hint of red, while also adding on some steel artwork pieces.

 **A Word From the Chairman.** It was decided that a new sewerage system be built. The magnitude of undertaking this project, for a Resort the size of Mabalingwe can be challenging, but we are well prepared and managed.

"We are in process of replacing our current Sewerage Plant. Our current plant is outdated and is not functioning at optimal levels. As part of this process all the sewerage pipelines are being replaced as well. The new plant will have a lesser impact on the environment and the discharge will be used to create a wetland which should increase birdlife viewing opportunities. The negative to this is unfortunately the cost involved. This cost will however be funded from reserves and no additional levies will have to be raised on our Members." The project commenced in August of this year and will be completed early 2019.



- Outside Kalahari Oasis Pub -




- New Heated Swimming Pool -



- Towel Hooks In Bathrooms -

Loads to Love...

Mabalingwe Nature Reserve offers something for every member of the family. It is our goal to provide all of our visitors with an authentic bushveld experience; one where they will make everlasting holiday memories. We want you to enjoy your experience with us, and make the most of it, so take a look at these bucket list items you might still need to try (or want to try again)!

 **Visit the Eco Centre.** Take the family on an adventure with any one of our specialised game viewing drives, such as our: Night Drive, Bird Viewing or Sunset Cruise Drive. We've also paid special attention to this area for the kiddies. Twice a week we offer young ones an opportunity to be Game Rangers! These sessions include learning about animal tracks, filtering water to drink, starting a fire without firelighters (a great trick to show dad next time he lights a braai!), making their very own pot-bread and identifying various flora and fauna in our biome.

 **Pop by Boeretroos Coffee Shop.** With a selection of freshly baked goodies and good, strong coffee – this is not one you want to miss! The Coffee Shop is located at the Recreational Area and guests can purchase a number of "tuisnywerheid" (homemade) treats, and jars of delicious preserves.

Enquire in store about our daily specials and our cake selection, which are prepared fresh each day.



Enjoy a famous moment at Kalahari Oasis Pub. This iconic pub became famous with the hilarious Castrol Oil Adverts, which featured one of our very own actors, Ian Roberts, and is now a favourite pit-stop for many of our guests. Hidden in the dense bush of the Nature Reserve, this little treasure puts a smile on many faces! Enjoy ice-cold refreshments indoors or take a seat on the "stoep" (patio) for your very own stardom moment.



Experience a birds-eye-view at Vultures View Bar. A space for the more mature visitor, Vulture's View is the perfect spot to unwind after a long day in the hot sun and to enjoy a wide range of refreshments. Many guests enjoy sundowners at this location and watching the hippo pod in the dam below, as they pop out of the water, and send lazy yawns into the sky.



Take a picture while partaking in any, or all, of the above-mentioned activities and send them to us!

We love seeing what our Shareholders are up to and may even feature your images on our Facebook page.



- Kalahari Oasis Pub Decor -

- Kalahari Oasis Pub Decor -

- Hein, Head Ranger -



- Summer Slaw -

Recipe Corner

Summer has arrived! And with it our cravings for fresh produce, crunchy sweetness and all things healthy (maybe not ALL things). This super-simple, packed-with-flavour, and colourful coleslaw is the perfect accompaniment to lemony pork chops, straight from the coals. Make sure to try this one at one of your next Mabalingwe braais!

Tastes like Summer!

Cook: 15 minutes

Serves: 6

-  **1 Baby Red Cabbage, Sliced into Ribbons**
-  **1 Fennel Bulb, Sliced into Ribbons**
-  **2 Granny Smith or Pink Lady Apples, Thinly Sliced and De-seeded**
-  **10 Baby Radishes, Sliced into Thin Discs**
-  **1/3 Cup Plain Greek Yogurt**
-  **1 Tbsps. Extra Virgin Olive Oil**
-  **1 Tbsps. Lemon Juice**
-  **1 Tsp. English Mustard**

Salt, Pepper and Lemon Zest, To Taste

How to make this crunchy slaw:

STEP 1: Slice all the fruits and vegetables as mentioned above and mix together in a serving bowl.

STEP 2: In a smaller bowl, mix together the: Greek yoghurt, olive oil, lemon juice, English mustard and seasonings. Taste-test to your preference.

STEP 3: Serve to guests in a bowl to portion out for themselves.

It's that easy!

Find recipes and other interesting reads on our blog! Visit: <https://www.mabalingwe.co.za/blog/>



- Juan Viviers -



- Hennie van Rooyen -



- Elaine Mulder -

Behind the Mabalingwe Magic:

There are so many faces that play a major role behind the scenes to ensure your holiday is the best it could possibly be. While each member of our Team is cherished and special, we can't, of course, feature all of them here. So, on this occasion, we would like to introduce a few of our latest members:

Juan Viviers

Position: Operational Manager | Joined us: February 2018

Juan recently took on being the Mabalingwe Operational Manager, but you may have seen him about before! He was originally a part of our Housekeeping Team, before being promoted to this new role. Juan has been a part of the VRS Group for approximately 16 years, and has a wealth of knowledge and skills that he brings to the Team.

Favourite Motto/Quote is: **“Go out there and make a difference, but remember to make time for yourself.”**

Hennie van Rooyen

Position: Financial Administrator | Joined us: June 2018

Hennie has breathed new life into our group of Finance Fundies and is one of the great Financial Team Members who ensure that our budgets are being allocated effectively and efficiently to keep Mabalingwe Nature Reserve gleaming!

Favourite Motto/Quote is: **“Three C's in life are: Choices, Chances, Changes. You must make a Choice to take a Chance or your life will never Change.”**

Elaine Mulder

Position: Stock Control Supervisor | Joined us: June 2018

Elaine recently joined the Mabalingwe Team to oversee stock and to make this corner of the Resort more effective and efficient. Her vibrant smile and energy do not go unnoticed and her attention to detail is unwavering! As an addition to the team, her presence adds another layer of care and precision into our Stock Control Operations.

Favourite Motto/Quote is: ***“Sometimes you find yourself in the middle of nowhere, and sometimes in the middle of nowhere you find yourself. That is when you set your goals higher and learn something new and accomplish those things you wished for, because in the end you’re stronger and bolder. Stop limiting your success. Be proud of what you overcome.”***

We would like to officially welcome all of our new Team Members into the Mabalingwe Family! The Mabalingwe Team is looking forward to working passionately at keeping your home-away-from-home unit and Resort functioning optimally.



- Sunset at Mabalingwe -

Expand your Holiday Portfolio:

Make every moment a memory by purchasing an extra week or few, and let the fun times with family and friends multiply! This is the opportunity of a lifetime, so soak up the beautiful surrounds of the resort and spend quality time with loved ones. For more information, please contact Uni-Vate Properties at info@univateproperties.co.za



- Giraffe -

Rhino Coin

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT RHINO COIN, THE NEW CRYPTO CURRENCY WITH A CONSCIENCE?

Rhino Coin is a cryptocurrency that is being hailed as “a creative mechanism to add value to rhino horn without actually trading physical horn”.

It’s a cryptocurrency with a conscience, established to provide a sustainable source of income to help protect and conserve Rhino. Rhino Coin is Crypto-Conservation!

Compared to other cryptocurrencies, the difference is that this currency is underpinned by real “blood free” rhinoceros horn.



Rhino Coin, a cryptocurrency with a conscience, defined to conserve our rhino.

You can become a guardian of the rhino and benefit from it in more ways than you can imagine!




www.rhinocoin.com

 www.cornuex.com


Make a difference and stand a chance to **WIN a tropical-style getaway for two, for nine nights!** Go to goo.gl/fe1bby to find out more





It's never dull at Mabalingwe!

 We're forever striving to go the extra mile and to provide our visitors with a matchless experience. From the moment you walk through the Reception doors, right until the Mabalingwe entrance starts fading in your rear view mirror – every detail and every moment are filled with family fun!

 Check-in days are super exciting for us and we just cannot wait to get your holiday started! Each week we take special care to transform our Reception into a festive and welcoming space with our great entertainment team, sweet treats and refreshing beverages. Check-in is made easy with our friendly Front of House staff and our Team gets to chatting with every guest about what's happening that week. All the while, elated families munch on freshly popped popcorn, tasty sweet treats and ice-cold fruit juice.

 Our weekly Meet-and-Greet events are another favourite amongst visitors. Every Tuesday, guests gather at our Entertainment Centre and take part in our Nature Quizzes. These quizzes are formulated by our knowledgeable Game Rangers and cover a scope of interesting facts about the flora and fauna in the region. Guests nibble on freshly baked muffins, pastries and buttery scones, as well as quell their thirst with refreshing drinks.

 Special occasions and public holidays are certainly a reason to celebrate... Father's Day at Mabalingwe was a lovely sun-shiny day and we were quick to light the braais in the warm weather. Each father received a juicy boerewors roll and an ice-cold cold drink. Families spent time together under the Mabalingwe skies, laughing and enjoying each other's company. Every guest enjoyed the great atmosphere as well as the mouth-watering smell of the braais in the air.

 From the dashing dads to the great gals... moms, daughters, grandmothers, aunts and all other ladies were definitely not forgotten this past Women's Day! A very memorable event was hosted at Le Fera Restaurant and Bar, where Marius Dippenaar provided entertainment through his lovely singing. A lucky draw resulted in a few of our guests receiving prizes and Nicolene Muller, our Spa Manageress, gave a talk on the wonderful Spa products we make use of.



- Celebrating Women at Mabalingwe -



- Celebrating Women at Mabalingwe -



- Father's Day at Mabalingwe -



In the Thoughts of Our Visitors...

We have been receiving an influx of wonderful photos, experiences, and memories from so many of our Shareholders and guests this year and couldn't choose just one story to share. The excitement of the Spa opening, incredible sightings on the Reserve, and families reminiscing about memories they have shared together at Mabalingwe. Here is a collection of some lovely comments, messages and emails we have received during the last few months!

Svenn1980 – “I have been lucky enough to have been able to visit Mabalingwe many times over the past 20 years. Even to this day I get a tingle of excitement as I drive through Bela-Bela and know that I will be driving through the gates in a few minutes. When I am on the resort I know that it does my soul good to be there. The resort is always well maintained and the facilities are great. The staff are forever welcoming and always offer fantastic service. This is truly a wonderful resort to spend time with the family and unwind in the midst of nature.”

Carolinenkhumise - “Our visit to Mabalingwe Nature Reserve was so awesome. There is lot of activities to do for all family members without even paying a cent. A very big cold swimming pool, heated pool, tennis court just to mention a few. The smell of Dam water and fresh air was awesome. Animals were roaming next to our apartment and loved the experience of cohabiting with them.”



- Colleen Delaney's Mabalingwe Sunset -



-Linda McBride's Laughing Zebra -



- Wesley Wolmarans' Peeking Hornbill -



VRS Options

We've secured you a multitude of available destinations through some of our partners to give you more holiday options.

Visit www.vrs.co.za, click on Resort Shareholders and select VRS Options Info to find out more.





Important Notices

Closure Notice

The VRS Head Office will be closed from the 17th of December 2018 to the 03rd of January 2019. We will return for business as usual on the 04th of January 2019.

From the 18th to the 19th of December there will be skeleton staff available to deal with urgent enquires from 08:00-15:00; however, we do expect high call volumes and ask that you please contact us before then for general enquires.

Levy Payments

Please note that the levy increase for 2019, as discussed in the ASM, is 0.85%. Keep making ever-lasting memories with us.

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 time share week.) For alternative payment arrangements, please contact Property Admin: propertyadmin@oaks.co.za

We respectfully remind Shareholders that any weeks with outstanding levies may become subject to the tender process.

Spacebanking and Rentals

Please note that a request for spacebanking or rental, must be submitted to Property Admin a minimum of five months prior to the occupation date, to enable us to process them.

Please contact Property Admin at: propertyadmin@oaks.co.za.

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 2019 Calendar available on the following link:

<https://www.vrs.co.za/docs/2019/calendar/MabalingweCalendar2019.pdf>

Instruction Letters

Please complete and submit your Instruction Letter to notify us that you'll be occupying your week or if you'd like to update your personal information. It can be found here: <https://www.vrs.co.za/docs/2019/instruction/MabalingweInstructionLetter-2019.pdf>

VRS Website

Be sure to take a look at our website with a dedicated owner's page for our Valued Shareholders where you can download Calendars, Instruction Letters and Use Agreements. An exciting feature has launched too!

Return in the New Year, Refreshed and Anew...

We are so pleased to have had you along for the wonderful journey we have been on in 2018. We look forward to 2019 and all the great things that lie ahead! But before the New Year begins unfolding, we wish you all a lovely Festive Season with friends and family, and ask that you remember; "do not cry because [another year] is over. Smile because [we are blessed] to have experienced it".

We wish you and your family a wonderful Festive Season and a very Happy New Year.

Warm regards

Marjorie Forssman

VRS Managing Director



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